

RENEW, REBUILD, AND REACH OUT: DISCIPLES IN HEARTFELT COMMUNION WITH JESUS CHRIST

WELCOME

We're Glad You Joined Us!

New to our community? We're so happy you joined us this weekend and we'd love to have you worship with us regularly. Come discover the peace that comes from following our Lord Jesus. Contact us at the parish offices so we can get to know each other better. (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311.



March 15 & 16, 2018 7:00 pm St. Monica Church More information to

come.

Lenten Parish Mission

with Rev. Jurgen Liias

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY "YES I CAN" PROGRAM

WE CAN USE... canned fruits, canned baked beans, instant rice, tuna, pancake mix, pancake syrup, cereal, mashed potatoes, peanut butter, and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the baskets located at the entrances to both churches.

Spring = Cleaning =

HELP OUR YOUTH SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

If you expect to have some Spring cleaning or clean-up projects around your yard this April, allow the youth of our community to help out on their annual service day on April 28th, 2018! Send your name to Mark Forrester at youth.stlm@gmail.com.

New Sunday

SCHEDULE

St. Monica Parish

7:30 a.m.

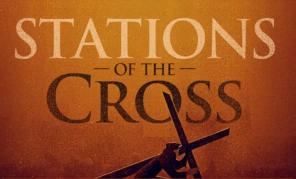
9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

St. Lucy Parish

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.



Every Friday During Lent

St. Monica Church: 7:00 p.m.

St. Lucy Church: **5:30 p.m.** followed by soup or pizza

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week
Laser Craze - North Andover
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Please pray for
Louise Fusco, James Casey, Evelyn
Chabot, Joseph McLaughlin,
Lucille Sirois, Donald Ganim, and

Marilyn Waters whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

Tanzanian priest feels the love serving here

By Yadira Betances Muldoon MethuenLife Writer

The distance between Methuen and Tanzania is close to 8,000 miles, but the Rev. Joseph Chacha Marwa has made the sacrifice to serve God's people in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Marwa, 45, is serving as temporary parochial vicar at St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes until the end of May.

A priest for 12 years with the Society of African Missionaries, Marwa is using his time at St. Monica and St. Lucy to celebrate Mass, preach, and visit the homebound and the sick bringing them Holy Communion.

"They are very attentive people," Marwa said of parishioners at St. Monica and St. Lucy. "They have welcomed me to their home as one of their own."

While he enjoys celebrating the Eucharist, preaching and teaching, one role he likes most as a priest is being with the people, which he said goes hand-in-hand with his favorite Bible verse, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" from the Gospel of Matthew.

"I feel good when I can make someone smile or make their day better. It all begins there and when they see that, they see the reflection of Christ just as I see Christ's image in them," Marwa said.

In introducing Marwa to the congregation, Pastor Bill Lohan wrote in the parish bulletin how it may be hard to imagine living and

working in a country so different from our own.

"Though priests who have given up having their own nuclear families for the sake of our kingdom have a special claim, I propose to you that those who make this sacrifice so far from their native land have an even greater claim to that love and support," said Lohan, who had known the missionaries while serving in Dedham.

The Society of African Missionaries was founded in Lyons, France, in 1856 and members come from Africa, Asia, Europe and America and many of the older priests in the order are from Ireland.

Born in Tanzania, a country in Eastern Africa, Marwa is one of seven children. He is proficient in English, French, Swahili and several Zambian dialects.

Marwa credits his parents' deep Catholic faith for his desire to become a priest. In fact his grandfather, who was a cattle trader, ceded part of his land to Maryknoll priests to build a church.

When asked why he wanted to be a priest, he admits "There was no straight answer."

While the ministry was always on the back of his mind, he thought of becoming a teacher. He joined the minor seminary to discern a call to ministry, but left and enrolled in a public school. It was then that Marwa said his love for ministry "came back very strong."

Finally, he joined the Society of African Missionaries in 1996 and was sent to Kenya.

"It wasn't easy to make that decision, but I said, 'If this is God's plan, let me try,' " he said.

He was ordained in 2005 in the Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania.

"On my ordination I was very happy because all my family was there and I had a feeling of fulfillment, gratefulness, responsibility and the beginning of another adventure telling the Lord, 'Here I am,' "he said.

During Marwa's years as a priest, he has served as a missionary in Tanzania, Liberia and Zambia.

He first came to the United States in 2014 to speak during Mission Appeal weekend in parishes in Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Chicago and Springfield, Mass. Marwa spent two months last summer at St. Margaret and St. Mary Parishes in Westwood. He had previously lived in the Society of African Missionaries regional house in Needham as he is now assigned to the Archdiocese of Boston.





See below for the Pick of the Week.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Doherty at (978) 270 - 3366 or bonnieocds@gmail.com. To quickly register for Formed please go to methuencatholic.formed.org.

We encourage you to extend an invitation to family and friends no matter where they live.

Access Code for our parishes: 9772VM

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Lectio: Prayer

"God, are you there?"

How often do we feel like our prayer is a one-sided conversation? In this moving and informative presentation on the art of Lectio Divina, Dr. Tim Gray reveals how praying with Scripture can be a powerful means of entering into an authentic dialogue and intimate encounter with God.

Watch on formed.org







"Makes understanding HOW to pray much more clear... I now understand why many "prayers" have gone unanswered— I simply talked AT God instead of listening first and then responding... Great course."

-Michael A, Clarksburg, MD

ST. MONICA SCHOOL



Congratulations to all of our eighth grade students who have been accepted to the high schools of their choice. We are most proud of them. In March those who applied will hear from the independent schools. Our students are prepared for high school and like all of us here at St. Monica School, the high schools will be most pleased with their academic work and with their moral and social skills. Well done teachers and parents!

The schools our children have been accepted to and/or will be attending are: Central Catholic High School, Presentation of Mary Academy, Austin Prep, St. John's Prep, Notre Dame Cristo Rey, Academy of Notre Dame, Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical High School, Wachusett Regional High School, Windham High School, Methuen High School and Pinkerton Academy. Students are waiting to hear from Phillips Academy, Brooks School and The Groton School.

MASS

INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 24

8:00 am (multiple intentions)

William and Margaret Collins

4:00 pm Stephen Bellingreri

Sunday, February 25

7:30 am Parishioners of St. Lucy and

St. Monica Parishes

9:30 am Kirk Walsh

Rose Kay Nancy Tardif Jeanne Brown

Raymond Arsenault

Donald Leslie

11:30 am Mary Fairbanks

Thursday, March 1

7:00 am Christine Ferguson

Friday, March 2

8:15 am

Saturday, March 3

8:00 am (multiple intentions)

Amy Waterworth Barbara Fitzgerald Armand Gonzales

4:00 pm Thomas and Dorothy Bresnahan

Sunday, March 4

7:30 am Michael Goosens 9:30 am Charlie Hanafin

Rose Hanafin (Living)

Rene Guilmet

Ellen Durette & William Endicott

James Chiara Matthew Brouder

James Baker

11:30 am Peter MacIsaac and

Johanna MacIsaac

ROSES FOR LIFE

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have been donated in loving memory of

Michael and Linda Giarrusso

Eugene Cusack

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Jeanne Brown

Theresa A. Rickley Evelyn Wildes Walter Wildes Jr.



If you would like to honor a loved one and support our activities, for a donation of \$10, we'll purchase a rose and place it in the vase before the statue of the Blessed Mother for a week. Please contact the parish office at (978) 683-1193.



This Sunday, February 25, the Catholic Lending Library will be available for free

lending of books/DVDs in the back of the church at the 9:30 Mass. Borrowed books/DVDs may be returned at that time or in the return box also located in the back of the church.

Join us for Tea & Treasure

Thursday, March 8 at 11:30 am in the St. Monica House.

For more information, please call Millie Stumpo at (978) 686 - 0339

OFFERTORY

February 18, 2018:

Regular Sunday Offering: \$9,954.00 2nd Collection: \$1,767.50 Ash Wednesday Collection: \$1,836.00

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.



Green Thumb Committee

We are looking for volunteers to help with plantings around the church beginning in the Spring.

For more information, please contact Sharon Tucker at tuck4ely@hotmail.com



Please visit our Lenten cross located in the chapel where you can write the name of someone you would like remembered in prayer. Please feel free to take someone else's cross and return it after you have prayed for them.

During Lent,
Eucharistic
Adoration on
Fridays will close
with Benediction
at 6:45pm for the
Station of the
Cross at 7:00 pm.





BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY



Thanks again to everyone who supported our Valentines Jackpot Raffle. The drawing was held on Sunday, February 18th and the winners of the raffle were:

\$200 Scratch Tickets: **Ruth Giordano** \$100 Market Basket Gift Certificate:

Melissa Chabot-Bonneau

\$50 Market Basket Gift Certificate: Ryan McCall

Our next Sodality meeting is **Sunday, March 18**th, **after the 9:00 Mass** and the praying of the Rosary.

We are a Sodality dedicated to the Blessed Mother in service to our parish and our community.

SINTENTIONS

Saturday, February 24

4:00 pm Douglas Knapp

Sunday, February 25

9:00 am Antonio and

Maria Fiasconaro

11:00 am Dominick "Rex"

Campone,

Tommy Campone, & George DiRuzza Angelina Maglia Anthony Rennell Mary Ahearn-Kim

Monday, February 26

8:00 am Wayne P. Janvrin

Tuesday, February 27

8:00 am Mary Cefalu

Wednesday, February 28

8:00 am Allan Roderick

Saturday, March 3

4:00 pm Parishioners of

St. Lucy and

St. Monica Parishes

Sunday, March 4

9:00 am 11:00 am Joseph Pipitone Vincent Bolis

Agostino Cocozza

Please remember the poor when leaving Mass today. Donation boxes are located at the entrances to the church. Thank you for your generous contribution.

MEN'S GUILD



Members of the Men's Guild invite all men of St. Lucy's Parish to come and take part in setting our schedule of events

You are invited to learn more about who we are, share in our meetings/ activities and offer suggestions as we come together to

support our Parish... Please bring a friend!!

Sunday, March 4, 2018 Guest Speaker: **Lori Mendoza** of the Si Se Puede Program

Immediately following the 9:00 am Mass in the church hall. Any questions pls call Larry @ 978-360-9256 or Jack

St. Lucy's Men's Guild - Our Guild is an association of men dedicated to St. Joseph who meet regularly to pray and encourage each other to be spiritual leader in their families, in their parishes, and in their community.

Bless, Lord Jesus, the newly baptized;

Declan Jude Hamel

Immerse him in the waters of your life and love. Seal him with the oil of gladness and strength. Illuminate his path with the light of your hope. Clothe him with goodness, kindness, and compassion. May his celebration be just the beginning of a long and fruitful journey with you. Amen.

OFFERTORY

February 18, 2018:

Regular Sunday Offering: \$6,399.00 2nd Collection: \$1,190.00 Ash Wednesday Collection: \$2,009.00

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.

St. Monica Parish: 212 Lawrence Street **St. Lucy Parish:** 254 Merrimack Street Methuen, MA

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack St • Methuen, MA 01844 Telephone (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311

methuencatholic@gmail.com www.methuencatholic.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

PASTORAL STAFF

Father William P. Lohan ext. 992

Pastor frlohan68@gmail.com

Father Joseph C. Marwa, SMA ext. 993 **Temporary Parochial Vicar (Full time)** chachamarwa2002@yahoo.fr

Father Joseph Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873

Weekend Assistant irenaiosbso2002@cs.com

Father Herb Jones, O. Carm ext. 111

In Residence

ext. 39 Deacon John Pierce

Permanent Deacon dnjbpierce@gmail.com

Deacon John Kobrenski jpk500@verizon.net

Permanent Deacon

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Isabela Peixoto ext. 29

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Karl Jackson

Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Mark Forrester youth.stlm@gmail.com

Confirmation Coordinator

Eric Berthiaume eberthiaume1@gmail.com

Music Director - St. Monica

Sharon Waning sharon.waning@yahoo.com

Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy

Kevin Fitzgerald

Facilities Manager (St. Lucy's) & RCIA Coordinator



Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Mondays at 10 a.m. Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

MARRIAGES. Please call the parish office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date and before booking a reception hall.

ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence St • Methuen, MA 01844

Telephone (978) 686-1801 saintmonicaoffice@verizon.net www.methuencatholic.org/school

SCHOOL STAFF

Sister Suzanne Fondini, mfic

School Principal

safondini@gmail.com

Sharon Tully

Administrative Assistant

PARISH SERVICES

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St. Lucy Parish

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00pm (for Sunday) Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation:

8:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 7:00 pm

St. Monica Parish

Daily Mass Schedule:

Thursday and Friday 7:00 am, Saturday 8:00 am

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 pm (for Sunday) Sunday: 7:30 am/9:30 am/11:30 am

Holy Days of Obligation:

4:00pm (prior eve)/7:00 am and 10:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Monica Parish St. Lucy Parish

Friday 6:30-7:30 pm Tuesday 4:30-5:30 pm Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

and any time by appointment

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays: 1:30 - 4:30 pm St. Lucy Church Fridays: 7:30 am - 7:30 pm St. Monica Chapel

For more information on Adoration at St. Monica's, please contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or (978) 270 - 3366 For St. Lucy's, please contact Ellen Wholley at (978) 682 - 8459. If school is cancelled due to weather, Adoration is also cancelled.

BAPTISMS. Please call the parish office.

St. Monica's Parish: 1st full weekend of the month

Saturday 12:30 pm/Sunday 1:00pm

St. Lucy Parish: 3rd Saturday of the Month 12:30pm

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