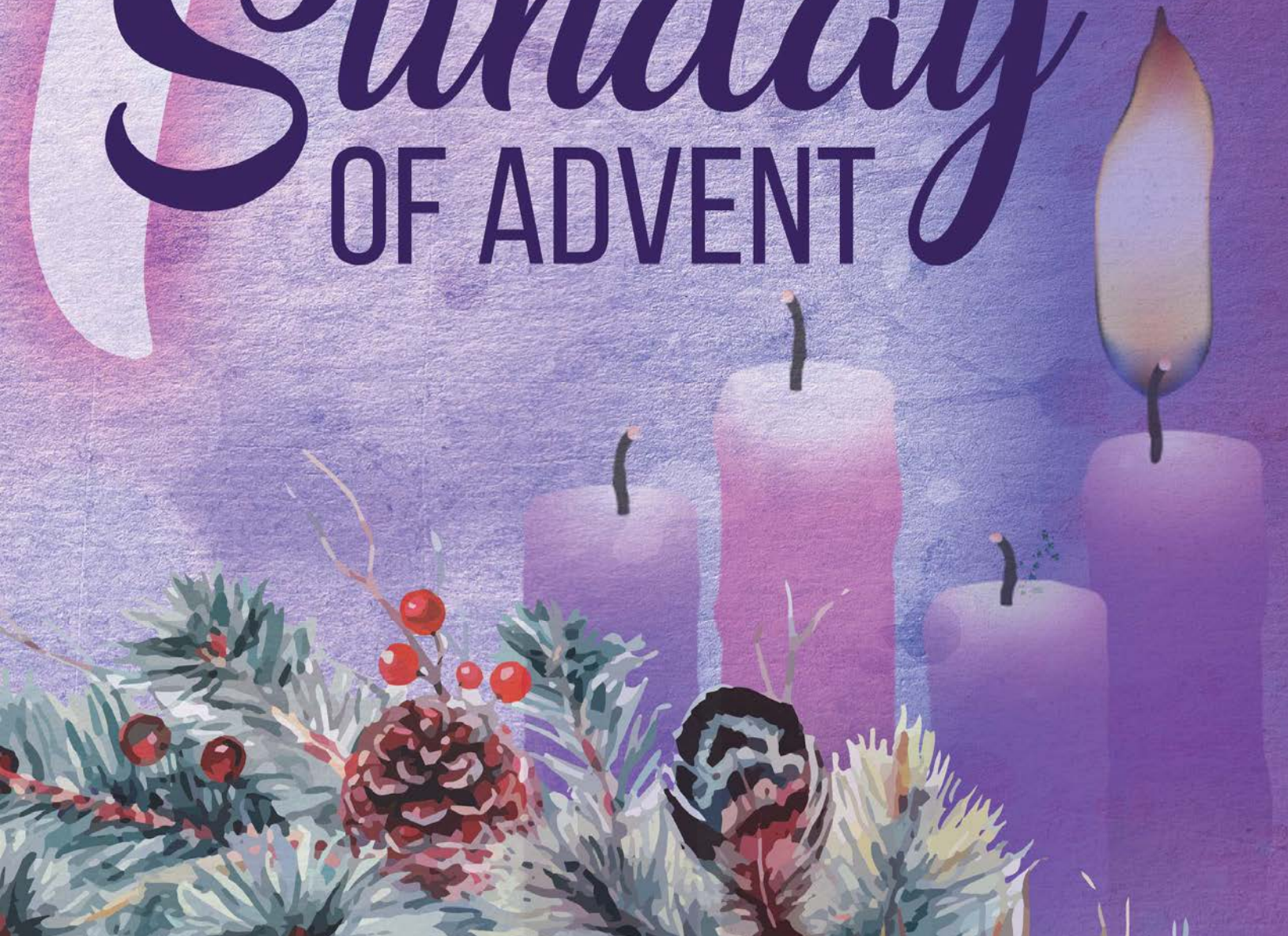


December 3, 2017

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



St. Monica Parish

St. Lucy Parish

Renew, Rebuild, and Reach Out: Disciples in Heartfelt Communion with Jesus Christ

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 Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873
Weekend Assistant irenaiosbso2002@cs.com

Father Herb Jones, O. Carm ext. 111
In Residence

Deacon John Pierce ext. 39
Permanent Deacon
dnjbpierce@gmail.com

Deacon John Kobrenski jpk500@verizon.net
Permanent Deacon

Kera Mansour ext. 26 methuencatholic@gmail.com
Business Manager

Carolyn Leocata ext. 28 carolyn.leocata@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant

Isabela Peixoto ext. 29
Communications Associate
methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

Karl Jackson ext. 35
Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

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, mfc

School Principal

safondini@gmail.com

Sharon Tully

Administrative Assistant

PARISH SERVICES

St. Vincent de Paul (978) 686 - 9573

St. Lucy Parish

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00pm (for Sunday)

Sunday: 8:00am/9:30am/11:30am

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: 7:30am/9:30am/11:30am/5:30pm

Holy Days of Obligation:

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Monica Parish

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

St. Lucy Parish

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

and any time by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC 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



Breakfast with Santa

Presented by
The Society of St. Vincent de
Paul of St. Monica's Parish

Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017
Time: After the 7:30 and 9:30 Masses

Place: St. Monica's School Hall

Adults \$5.00
Children \$2.00
Under 2 years free

Give your child and grandchild an unforgettable breakfast with Santa. See the excitement and joy on your child's face when they give Santa their wish list. Come and make this a truly magical experience for both you and your family.

Bring your camera and take a picture with Santa.



On your way out of Mass today, please take a copy of **The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests** located in the back of the church. We ask that each person takes one home to offer a couple minutes each day to pray for a priest.

The deadline for the December 24 bulletin is Thursday, December 14 at 10:00 am. Please email all submissions to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com. Thank you.

RCIA

Our next meeting is next Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 am in the St. Lucy schoolhouse.

We have returned to our regular office hours - Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm



Join us for the feast day of
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Friday, December 8

Mass Schedule:

4:00 pm (prior eve) - St. Monica's
7:00 am - St. Monica's
8:00 am - St. Lucy's
10:00 am - St. Monica's
12:30 pm - St. Lucy's
7:00 pm - St. Lucy's



Please join us to celebrate St. Lucy, patroness of St. Lucy Parish

Monday, December 11

Communal Penance Service
7:00 pm - St. Lucy Church

Tuesday, December 12

Advent Parish Mission
7:00 pm - St. Lucy Church

Wednesday, December 13

Feast Day of St. Lucy
Mass at 7:00 PM - St. Lucy Church



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We recommend you start with

Advent for
Discipleship Groups



Formed recommendations for the upcoming week:

Watch two movies, Nicholas, feast day 12/6, (runs 27 mins) and St. Juan Diego, feast day 12/9, (runs 36 mins) both created for young folks and based on historical facts. Also take time to read some Catholic basic facts about the Blessed Mother Mary on her feast 12/8. Download the ebook, Understanding Catholic Teaching on the Blessed Virgin Mary. You can access Formed.org by registering with the parish code: 9772VM, then entering your email address and a password. You will then use these to login and access all the Catholic content. If you have any questions, contact: Bonnie Doherty, 978-270-3366 or bonnieocds@gmail.com.

ST. MONICA PARISH

The Increased Offertory Campaign: THANK YOU!

Last Sunday, 206 parishioners indicated their intentions to increase their giving on their Commitment Forms for St. Monica's Increased Offertory Campaign. These commitments totaled an average of \$7.38 in increased weekly gifts, which would equate to an increase of 63% in their annual support of the parish. To those of you that made your commitment, thank you for your generosity and dedication to St. Monica Parish. Additionally, 70 families have requested to join electronic giving and 36 families have requested to join the envelope system. Some of you have not yet responded to the request from Father Lohan. You will find in church a confidential commitment envelope for your use. Simply indicate your intended increase and include it with your new, increased offertory in the basket today. Our parish has responded with great generosity and enthusiasm. We hope to have all parishioners involved by the end of this weekend.

ST. LUCY PARISH

The Increased Offertory Campaign: THANK YOU!

Last Sunday, 118 parishioners indicated their intentions to increase their giving on their Commitment Forms for St. Lucy's Increased Offertory Campaign. These commitments totaled an average of \$5.52 in increased weekly gifts, which would equate to an increase of 52% in their annual support of the parish. To those of you that made your commitment, thank you for your generosity and dedication to St. Lucy Parish. Additionally, 28 families have requested to join electronic giving and 29 families have requested to join the envelope system. Some of you have not yet responded to the request from Father Lohan. You will find in church a confidential commitment envelope for your use. Simply indicate your intended increase and include it with your new, increased offertory in the basket today. Our parish has responded with great generosity and enthusiasm. We hope to have all parishioners involved by the end of this weekend.

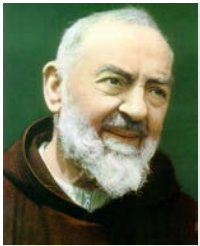
SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 17, 2017

2:00 p.m. St. Lucy Church

Advent Concert with Gregory Norbet

Gregory Norbet, formerly of Weston Priory, is a respected spiritual leader, composer, singer and retreat director. Some of his many compositions include "Hosea" (Come Back to Me) and "Wherever You Go" as well as new settings for Morning and Evening Prayer. Come join us as we **begin** a year of celebration for our **60th Anniversary** as a **Parish Faith Community! (1958 – 2018).**



The **St. Padre Pio Prayer Group** will meet on Tuesday, December 5 from 6:30-8:30pm in the chapel of St. Monica's Church. In addition to the recitation of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the evening's topic of discussion will include miracles attributed to Padre Pio's intercession, as well as other topics of interest within the Catholic faith. A St. Padre Pio relic is available for veneration. All interested are welcome.

17th Annual Project Warm & Fuzzy - Thank You

I wish to extend a heart-felt thank you to all who participated in donating to Project Warm & Fuzzy. It is amazing to see how an idea that started so small has become so incredibly successful. The out-pouring of support this year has surpassed all other years. Thanks to your kind hearts and generosity, many children and adults will stay warm this winter. I look forward to working with you again next year to make this project an even greater success. I would also like to thank the people who spent countless hours knitting and crocheting all year long. The personal touch gives an additional layer of warmth that can only come from something hand-made with care and love. I know some and others I have not met, but I thank you all for making this such a successful project and for contributing to the good of others. May God bless you during this Holy Christmas season and always.

Ashley Bolis,
 Founder, Project Warm & Fuzzy

A great reason to thank God- A priest assigned to ministry in our parishes!

This weekend it is with great joy that we welcome to the parishes of St. Monica and St. Lucy Father Joseph Chacha Marwa, SMA. Through the hardwork of the Clergy Personnel Office and the generosity of the African Mission Fathers, the community to which Fr. Marwa belongs, we are blessed to receive him here at our parishes. He will be with us for six months taking us through the end of May. At the beginning of June there is an annual rotation (like a clerical musical chairs) for priests who are free and willing to accept a new assignment. At that time we expect to receive a permanent parochial vicar.

Father Marwa is native of Tanzania in East Africa and has been a priest for 12 years and is in his mid 40's. He has served as a missionary in his native land and also in Liberia and Zambia. He prepared for the priesthood in Benin and the Ivory Coast. Most recently he has been residing in the SMA regional house right here in Dedham, MA. This past summer he spent two months helping at St. Margaret-Mary Parish in Westwood and received a ringing endorsement from the pastor there. I have known his community for many years, both through my service as a rookie priest in Dedham, and through my parents who have been supporters of the SMA priests in Dedham for decades. Many of the older SMA's are Irish born and have done great work in Africa. Father Marwa and so many of the relatively younger African-born SMA's are the fruit of the work of many of those Irish priests.

I had lunch with him a week ago and what impressed me most was his infectious smile. The saying goes "smiles cost nothing" and we all do well to remember that as often as we can. It may be hard for us to imagine living and working in a country so different than the one in which we were born. Though all priests who have given up having their own nuclear families for the sake of the kingdom have a special claim on our love, 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. I confidently assured Father he would be well received and treasured here, it was with absolute confidence in your kindness and love that I have no doubt that assurance will prove true.

ST. MONICA PARISH

ROSES FOR LIFE

Roses for Life have been donated
In loving memory of

**Michael and Linda Giarrusso
Cecile and Peter Checovich
Maureen Imielkowski
Robert and Nicolas DiBenedetto**

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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Annual Giving Trees

We have placed two Giving Trees at St. Monica's. The trees help to enable our parish community to assist our parish's families in need and bring the light and love of Our Lord into this special time of year. Tags listing specific gift requests are placed on both trees and we encourage you, if you are able, to take one or more tags and purchase the item(s) listed. The gifts should be returned unwrapped, or in a gift bag, and placed under the trees no later than **Sunday, December 10th**. If you have any questions, please direct them to Pat Wilkens, Nativity Program Coordinator, at 978-686-9573. Thank you.

The **Sanctuary Candle** for the month of December is given in loving memory of **Donald Stewart**.

OFFERTORY

November 19, 2017:

Regular Sunday Offering: \$10,475.00
Collection for the retired religious sisters: \$3,022.00
Grand Annual: \$37,974.00 (total to date)

November 26, 2017:

Regular Sunday Offering: \$10,857.00
SVDP Collection: \$3,184.50
Grand Annual: \$42,334.00 (total to date)

There is only one collection this weekend, on the Holy Day, Dec. 8th, and next Sunday. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2

8:00 am (*multiple intentions*)

Pamela Daveta
Joseph Rapisarda **(Living)**
Dalmazia Mesiti

4:00 pm

Sunday, December 3

7:30 am

Charles Booth Jr. and
Margerite and Charles Booth Sr.
Robert O'Connor
Dorothy and James McCarthy

9:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Charlie and Rose Hanafin **(Living)**

Violet Sayer
Marianne Paquette

James F. Sheehy
Jeffrey T. Middlemiss and
Joseph H. Petelle
Angelina Hyatt

11:30 am

Living and deceased members of
the Leslie, Wetzell, Monaco,
Vicari, and Kane Families

5:30 pm

Parishioners of St. Monica and
St. Lucy Parishes

Thursday, December 7

7:00 am

Christine Ferguson

4:00 pm

John Hartnett

Friday, December 8

7:00 am

Yvonne Soucy

10:00 am

Joseph Klufts

Saturday, December 9

8:00 am (*multiple intentions*)

Arthur Hamel
Ludwik Szablowski
Stanley Lewandowski

4:00 pm

Anthony J. Vittorioso

Sunday, December 10

7:30 am

John Scofield

9:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Manuel and Fernanda Cordeiro
Veronica Murray
Deceased members of the
Deshaies Family

Sr. Rachel Lessard

Joseph Quilty

11:30 am

Shaun Gurry

5:30 pm

Thomas Canney

ST. LUCY PARISH

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2

4:00 pm Guido and Guida Iannalfo

Sunday, December 3

8:00 am Parishioners of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes

9:30 am Ralph C. Belmonte Sr.

11:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Domenic & Mary Rotonelli
Guiseppa & Francesca Bevilacqua
Warren Finness
Maria DiFruscia
Anthony Longo and Longo & Rotondo Families
Bergeron & Roberge Families
Sharon Forgetta
Arcangelo, Giuseppina,
Gabriele & Giuseppe San Giorgio

Monday, December 4

8:00 am Albert DeSantis and deceased members of the DeSantis Family

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am E.J.M. (Living)

Wednesday, December 6

8:00 am Tony Longo

Friday, December 8

8:00 am

12:30 pm

7:00 pm

Saturday, December 9

4:00 pm Thursday Girardi

Sunday, December 10

8:00 am Domenic Bertolone

9:30 am Salvatore and Lee Privitera

11:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Angelo, Jack and Jennie Maimone
Grace Riccio and Betty Parson
Joseph J. Gilmore Sr.
Walter Cheltowski
Domenic and Margaret Nicolosi
Deceased members of the Sodality
Domenic Bertolone
Evelyn Mallica
Ann Jannetti

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY

The next Sodality Mass will be at 11:30 am next Sunday, December 10th followed by our Annual Christmas Dinner in the church hall. Yankee Swap \$10.00 Gift!!! Be creative!!! If you have not given your name that you are attending contact Ursula Maggio at 978-886- 0915.

OFFERTORY

November 19, 2017:

Regular Sunday Offering: \$7,328.00

Collection for the retired religious sisters: \$1,992.00

Grand Annual: \$34,434.00 (total to date)

November 26, 2017:

Regular Sunday Offering: \$6,702.00

Grand Annual: \$36,859.00 (total to date)

There is only one collection this weekend, on the Holy Day, Dec. 8th, and next Sunday. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.

SHARE THE NATIVITY...



This year during Advent and leading up to Christmas, we would like to place on display different nativity scenes. They can be of any size and pictures or banners are also welcome. All items will be returned after the holidays. The

scenes will be displayed in the lower church hall and will be available for viewing from Dec. 16th through Jan. 3rd. If you would like to have your nativity scene displayed here at St. Lucy, please drop it off at the office during the week or give it to one of the ushers before Mass. Please use the form below so that we have your contact info so each display can be returned. Let's truly celebrate together the "Reason for the Season" and begin a new tradition here at St. Lucy. Forms are also available in the magazine rack in the front of the church.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

ST. MONICA SCHOOL



News:

One of our former graduates, John Redman, was inducted as an Eagle Scout at a ceremony on Friday, November 24th. For his Eagle Scout project, John built shelves in the garage in the ranch home on the school campus so that the preschool could store their outdoor toys. He also collected donations and arranged for a fence to be built

around the preschool play area. When John's mother, Rose Maria Redman, was speaking at the ceremony she said John has two great loves, serving as an altar server at Holy Rosary Church at Corpus Christi Parish, and St. Monica Elementary School. We are most proud of John and all of his accomplishments, but most especially who he is as a person.

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*Sweatshirt, Gift Card to Uniform Store, Principal for a Day, and 2 Dress Down Passes!



St. Monica School PTO proudly supported by Salvatore's In Andover, Presents-The:

1st Annual Christmas Carnival!

In the St. Monica School Hall
212 Lawrence St. Methuen, MA 01844

GAMES FOOD FAMILY FUN!
RAFFLE BASKETS RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE



Saturday, December 16th from 4-7PM

*Pasta Dinner from 5-6PM

*Visit from Santa Claus at 4:30 and 5:30pm

*Grand Prize Raffle Drawing at 6:15!

(Dinner anywhere in the World for 2)!!

&

Sunday, December 17th from 9AM-1PM

*Santa Visit at 11AM



ST. MONICA SCHOOL

Saint Monica School Holiday Raffle *January 2018*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. \$150	2. \$50	3. \$50	4. \$50	5. \$50	6. \$50
7. \$150	8. \$50	9. \$50	10. \$50	11. \$50	12. \$50	13. \$50
14. \$150	15. \$50	16. \$50	17. \$50	18. \$50	19. \$50	20. \$50
21. \$150	22. \$50	23. \$50	24. \$50	25. \$50	26. \$50	27. \$50
28. \$150	29. \$50	30. \$50	31. \$150			

Please return this portion of ticket with payment to Sharon Tully in the School Office.

**We must sell 215 tickets. If we do not sell 215 tickets, we will have a 50/50 raffle and one winner will be drawn and the winner will receive 50% of the monies collected and the school will receive the other 50%.
(This raffle has always sold enough tickets to be held!)**

St. Monica School Calendar Raffle \$10 per ticket – checks made out to St. Monica School by 12/21/17

Name _____ Phone (REQUIRED) _____

Address (REQUIRED) _____

St. Monica Student who sold ticket: _____ (if purchased through a school child.)

Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize.
If there is only one winner due to 50/50, that child will win a prize (if a St. Monica Child sold ticket).

Dinner for 2 Anywhere in the World!?!

The prize includes round trip airfare, a dinner for two, and overnight accommodations. The winner will be drawn at our Pasta Dinner, during our Winter Carnival on Saturday, December 16th in our school hall.

Where do I get my tickets??

- **On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30-8:15am**, tickets will be sold in the School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$30.00 each. For St. Monica Families who have paid their \$125 Fundraising Fee, you will be able to purchase ONE ticket for \$5.00 (\$25.00 of the ticket cost is covered by your Fundraising Fee). Any other tickets must be purchased at the \$30.00 price. You must request and pay for your ticket. It will not be provided to you.
- After all weekend Masses, tickets will be sold in the back of the church. You may also call Kristen Snay at (978) 853 - 8128 or kristensnay@gmail.com for ticket sales. *You do NOT need to be present to win, but tickets MUST be bought in person. Cash or Checks accepted. Checks made payable to St. Monica School*



St. Monica PTO, Proudly Supported by Salvatore's Restaurant in Andover, Presents:



A Pasta Dinner!

To be held in the School Cafeteria, located at 212 Lawrence St. Methuen, MA 01844

Saturday, December 16th from 5-6PM

Tickets cost \$5 each, or \$20 for families of four or more people



Meet Father Cusack – *Embracing his vocation, embracing God's people*

Father Anthony Cusack grappled with his vocation as a young man. After hearing God's call to the priesthood, he embraced a life of service to every person placed before him in ministry.

Recognizing the growing needs of ethnic communities, Father Anthony broadened his pastoral skills by learning to celebrate Mass in both Spanish and Vietnamese. This enabled him to accept his first assignment at St. Ambrose and St. Mark Parishes in 2015.

Today, Father Anthony ministers in the heart of Dorchester. He engages the community in three very different languages. When summarizing his responsibilities, he describes personifying Christ: "The duty of the priest is, I think, to be Jesus to every single person he meets."

To help ensure priests like Father Anthony receive essential care as they live out their vocation, please support the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust through the special collection this Christmas.



To submit your special intentions for our senior priests at Regina Cleri to remember during Holy Mass each week, please visit clergytrust.org/intentions.

WAYS TO GIVE

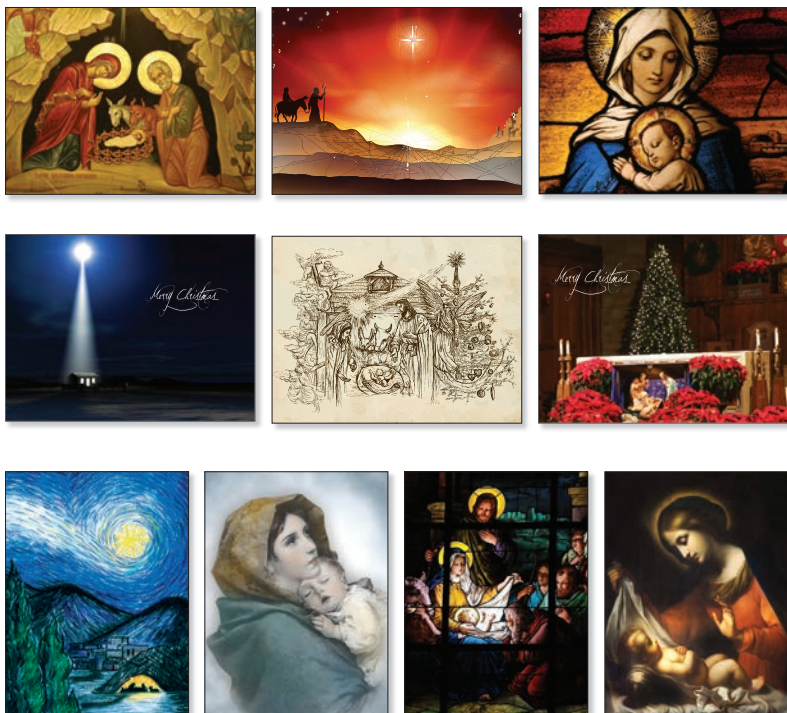
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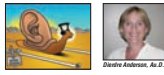

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