

January 29, 2017



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BLESSED

**“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.”**

- Mt 5:7-8

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

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methuencatholic@gmail.com
www.methuencatholic.org

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Father William P. Lohan ext. 992
Pastor

Father John A. Cassani ext. 993
Parochial Vicar

Father Joseph Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873
Weekend Assistant

Father Herb Jones, O. Carm ext. 111
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Permanent Deacon
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Deacon John Kobrenski ext. 39
Permanent Deacon

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Music Director
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Sharon Waning
Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy

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



Check out our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/

ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence St • Methuen, MA 01844
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saintmonicaoffice@verizon.net
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SCHOOL STAFF

Sister Suzanne Fondini, mfc
School Principal

Sharon Tully
Administrative Assistant

PARISH SERVICES

Prayer Line (978) 683-1193 ext. 41

St. Vincent de Paul (978) 686-9573
at St. Monica's Parish

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

Civic Holiday Schedule:

Normal Schedule at both Parishes

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

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

ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

ST. LUCY AND ST. MONICA ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Lucy's Church and St. Monica's Chapel. Please contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or 978-270-3366 for more information about adoration at St. Monica's and the parish office for information about adoration at St. Lucy's.

Tuesdays (St. Lucy) 1:30-4:30pm

*Fridays (St. Monica) 7:30am-7:30pm

***PLEASE NOTE! St. Monica - Late start at 9:30am on April 7, and May 5. REMEMBER: If school is cancelled due to weather, adoration is cancelled.** There will not be Adoration or Confession on Good Friday, April 14.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Mondays at 10 a.m.

Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

ST. MONICA PARISH

Friday 6:30-7:30pm
Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

ST. LUCY PARISH

Tues. 4:30-5:30pm
Sat. 3:00-3:45pm

and any time by appointment

WELCOME!

We're glad you could join us this weekend.

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.

In Father Lohan's absence, the Holy Hour for Parishioners on Monday nights at 7:00pm at St. Lucy's is suspended.

Readings for the Week of January 29, 2017

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146/1 Cor 1:26-31/
Mt 5:1-12a
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24/Heb 2:14-18/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112/1 Cor 2:1-5/
Mt 5:13-16

ST. LUCY/ST. MONICA ULTREYA

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
St. Lucy Parish Hall

All St. Lucy and St. Monica parishioners are invited to take part in a monthly Ultreya. This Spanish word means “Onward!” “Persevere!” “Hang in There!” Words of encouragement to each other as we travel on life's journey.

Ultreya this month will begin with the Liturgy and singing and includes voluntary sharing in small intimate and confidential groups, fellowship and refreshments that signify Christian hospitality.

Our guest speaker this month is Ed Murphy who has been invited to offer a personal witness of what life was like before Cursillo and how it is now after the Cursillo experience. Come support our dear friend!

All parishioners are invited to come and share in this monthly evening of praise and worship. Please feel free to invite a friend to join you!

**Blanket And Sock Drive
For Lazarus House Ministries**

Sponsored By The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality
Winter is an especially difficult time for our brothers and sisters living in poverty! Will you help? Throughout this month, St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes along with St. Monica School have been collecting new and gently used, clean blankets and new adult and children socks. Together let us bring warmth to our brothers and sisters in need. Look for the blue bins at St. Lucy's main entrance and large boxes at St. Monica's entrances. Sodality Chairpersons: Elaine Frangente (St. Lucy Parish) and Norma Hernandez (St. Monica Parish)

The Spiritual Trip of a Lifetime
Medjugorje
September 5th to the 13th, 2017

9 days, 7 nights, 2 meals per day

- Stay at beautiful Wojtyla Hotel dedicated to Pope John Paul II and next to St. James Church in the heart of Medjugorje
- Visit St. Anthony's Shrine and Divine Mercy Shrine
- Answer Our Lady's call “Come to me in Medjugorje”

To register, please call group leader Claude Langlois (978) 682 - 6012. Total cost: \$2,210 per person

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Plaza Azteca

552 Broadway, Methuen, MA
plazaaztecanewengland.com (978) 794 - 0908

This week's second collection supports various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Collection for the Church in Latin America funds the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm for more information.

There is only one collection next weekend.

Saint Rita Sodality of Corpus Christi Parish is sponsoring a trip to **Saint Rita Shrine and Historic Philadelphia** - April 18-21, 2017

Cost: \$599 per person (double occupancy)

\$579 per person (triple occupancy)

\$829 per person (single)

Trip Includes: transportation, luxury hotel, six meals, sightseeing, taxes, gratuities at hotel and restaurants
For more info, please call Maria Auclair @ (978) 683-3807. Everyone is welcome! !!!!!

 **Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Saturday, January 28

8:00 am *(multiple intentions)*

James M. Hourihan

4:00 pm Verna Tela

Sunday, January 29

7:30 am Lionel Bedard

9:30 am *(multiple intentions)*

Raymond Winning

Manuel Peixoto

Bruno Deshaies

11:30 am Mary Margaret Esposito

5:30 pm Francisco Antonio Tabares

Thursday, February 2

7:00 am Christine Ferguson

11:00 am (school Mass)

Friday, February 3

7:00 am Christine Ferguson

Saturday, February 4

8:00 am *(multiple intentions)*

4:00 pm Dick Conte

Sunday, February 5

7:30 am

9:30 am *(multiple intentions)*

James Kenyon

Charlie & Rose Hanafin (living)

Warren & Dorothy McGovern

Humberto Noguera

Graciela Noguera

Ana Rosa Osorio

11:30 am Mary Habib

5:30 pm People of St. Monica &
St. Lucy Parishes

Please pray for **Linda Murphy** and **Charles Pagano** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our Parish. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

STEWARDSHIP

January 22, 2017

Offertory: \$10,419.00

Grand Annual: \$49,785.00 (total to date)

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

St. Monica Parishioners

Please when using the Pollard Funeral Home parking lot make sure you park beyond the pillars, please do not park in the circle or in any spots before the pillars. We would appreciate if parishioners only use Pollards lot when there are no spaces available in the St. Monica lot. Thank you for your cooperation.



Catholic Lending Library

This Sunday, the Catholic Lending Library will be available for free lending of books/DVDs after the 9:30 Mass in the back of the church. Borrowed books/DVDs may be returned at that time or any day in the basket marked returns also located in the back of the church.

The St. Monica School Mass for February will take place this Thursday, February 2nd instead of Friday, Feb. 3rd. That day we will have our regular 7 am Mass and the school Mass at 11 am celebrated by Bishop Hennessey and Fr. Cassani.

Roses for Life have been donated...

In Loving Memory of

Michael & Linda Giarrusso

Carole Ann Battye

The **Our Lady of Peace Prayer Group** will be celebrating First Saturday devotions to Our Blessed Mother on Saturday, February 4th. We will be attending Mass at 8:00 am followed with praying the Rosary. All are welcome to join us.

 **Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Saturday, January 28

4:00 pm Lee Privitera

Sunday, January 29

8:00 am

9:30 am People of St. Lucy &
St. Monica Parishes

11:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Joan Rogers

Francis R. Covey Sr.

Eileen Joyce

Geraldine Miele

Monday, January 30

8:00 am Antonio & Battistina Iannuccilli

Tuesday, January 31

8:00 am Rose & Linda Savastano (living)

Wednesday, February 1

8:00am Peter DiBurro

Saturday, February 4

4:00 pm Peter DiBurro

Sunday, February 5

8:00 am Tony Waters, Mary Rita Costa &
Tony Somma

9:30 am Angelina Perillo

11:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Sandra Morrissey

Prayer for the Newly Baptized

Bless, Lord Jesus, the newly baptized;

Nicholas Joseph Cascio

Henry Joseph Christie

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

STEWARDSHIP

January 22, 2017

Offertory: \$5,352.00

Grand Annual: \$43,185.00 (total to date)

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

Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality

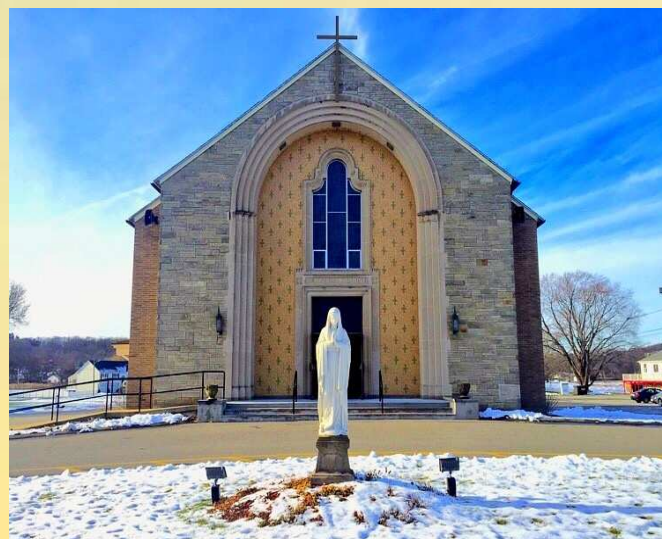


The **Valentine Jackpot Raffle** will be drawn on Sunday, February 19th in St. Lucy's Hall at 11:00 AM. Our next meeting will be on the same date after the drawing.

St. Lucy Men's Guild

Next Sunday, February 5th

Members are invited to gather in the vestibule for 9:30 Mass. The meeting will begin at 10:30 in the church hall (immediately following the 9:30 Mass). Guest Speaker is Angie Rizzo, President of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality. All men of St. Lucy Parish are invited to come and learn more about our mission. Bring a Friend



This year, for the forty-fourth time since the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, hundreds of thousands of people, mostly young people, have come together in Washington, DC, to peacefully demonstrate this disaster that has literally resulted in the destruction of approximately 55 million American lives since 1973, and has adversely impacted millions more. Our youth minister Sammie Moore and I have led a sizable contingent from our parishes to the March for Life this year. For me, it is always a privilege, and a great sign of hope, to see how many people there are who care so deeply about preserving what God has created.

The issue of abortion causes a great deal of controversy to this day. The fact that it is so contentious after all these years shows that great numbers of people, including many who have not received any particular instruction in ethics or moral theology, can see that there is a grave injustice done when an innocent human life is snuffed out for any reason whatsoever. This is a source of encouragement to those who fight against this great injustice, but there is still so much work to do. There are many who can agree that this is a great moral evil, but who prefer to maintain the status quo. Even some people who consider themselves to be "pro-life" are politically opposed to making abortion illegal.

I would like to propose that we see our position on this important issue in a different light, perhaps. I would propose that we look back to the Declaration of Independence, and the first right which the Creator has endowed us with, the right to life. All innocent human beings have a right to life. Under no circumstances may an innocent human being be directly killed. Of course, rights always come with obligations. We who live and who believe

that everyone has the right to live must do our part. Certainly we must all pray. Please pray that our efforts on behalf of the least of God's children will bear fruit, even if it does not happen right away. Let us also pray that we will all recognize that the issues around the right to life do not stop once a child is born.

We must do our best for those who are poor, and who may struggle with the idea of abortion. The work of pregnancy care centers is so important, in that they show young women that there are alternatives, and that they are loved. They also help young people to see that it is possible to live a life of chastity, even if they have made mistakes in the past. It is vital that we spread the message of forgiveness far and wide. God desires that everyone should come back to Him, no matter what.

We also need to be aware that the forces of evil are trying to soften our minds to the idea of physician assisted suicide, which will almost certainly be on our ballot again in 2018. We need to show that all life is precious, and that we never lose our dignity before God, or our fellow man due to age, illness, or disability. For our part, we can ask God to help us to live joyfully, even in the hard times, and to care for all of those who need us, and to give them everything they need. Living the Christian life is hard, which should not be surprising given what Jesus gave in order that we be saved, but Jesus assures us that He will provide us with all the grace we need to do what needs to be done. Please pray for everyone who defends the right to life, and especially pray that God will preserve the youth of our parish.

Fr. Cassani

SAINT MONICA SCHOOL NEWS



St. Monica/St. Lucy Parish will hold a **Protecting God's Children Training Session** at St. Lucy Schoolhouse on Saturday, February 11th at 9:00 AM. If you would like to register for this session, please call Sharon Tully in the School Office at 978-686-1801 and also register online at VIRTUS.ORG.

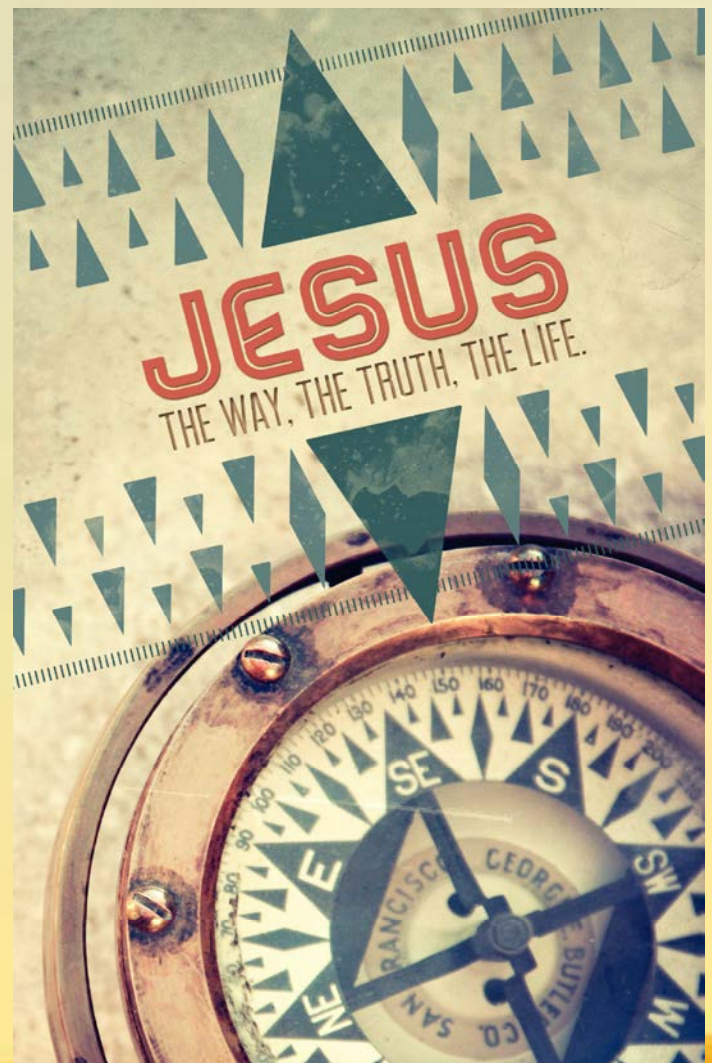


St. Monica School will have an Open House this week on Tuesday, January 31st from 9:00 – 11:00AM and also from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Please come and visit our school and take a tour with our Student Ambassadors. We would love to have you visit to see all the wonderful things about St. Monica School. Applications are being taken now for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Tully in the school office at 978-686-1801.

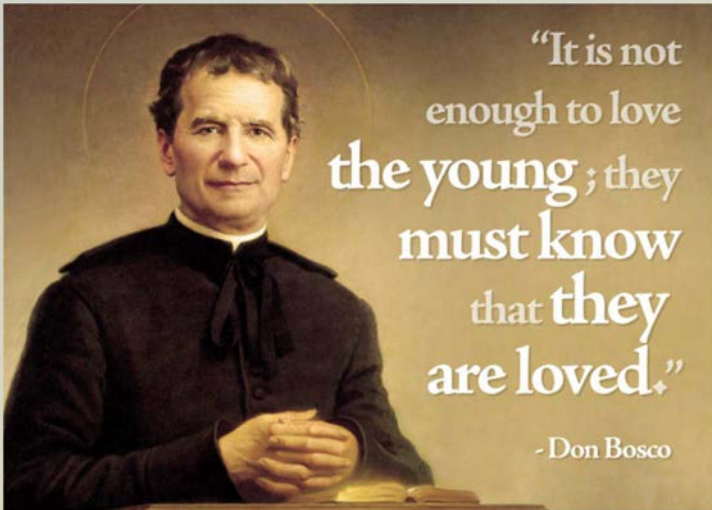
A poster for 'Catholic Schools Week'. At the top, the words 'CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK' are written in large, red, serif capital letters. Below the text is a photograph of six diverse young children standing in front of a chalkboard in a classroom. The chalkboard has 'TODAY'S LESSON: MATH' written on it, along with several simple addition problems: $3+3=$, $2+5=$, $3+2=$, and $3+5=$. A smiley face is drawn on the board. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo with a cross and the text 'CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' and 'Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service'. In the bottom right corner, the text 'COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, AND SERVICE' is written in black, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

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KNOWLEDGE, AND SERVICE

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**ON JANUARY 31 WE CELEBRATE
ST. JOHN BOSCO**



St. John Bosco, also known as St. Don Bosco, is famous for working with the youth. St. John Bosco started the Salesian order which is the largest single religious order in the world today!

**ON FEBRUARY 3RD WE CELEBRATE
ST. BLAISE AND ST. ANSGAR**



O glorious St. Blaise, who by your martyrdom left to the Church a precious witness to the Faith, obtain for us the grace to preserve within ourselves this divine gift, and to defend, without concern for human respect both by word and example, the truth of that same Faith, which

is so wickedly attacked and slandered in these our times. You miraculously restored a little child who was at the point of death because of an affliction of the throat. Grant us your mighty protection in similar misfortunes. And, above all, obtain for us the grace of Christian mortification, together with faithful observance of the precepts of the Church, which keep us from offending almighty God. Amen.

**ON FEBRUARY 2ND WE CELEBRATE
THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD**



Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. The Church at Jerusalem observed the feast as early as

the first half of the fourth century, and likely earlier. The feast celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the 40th day after His birth.

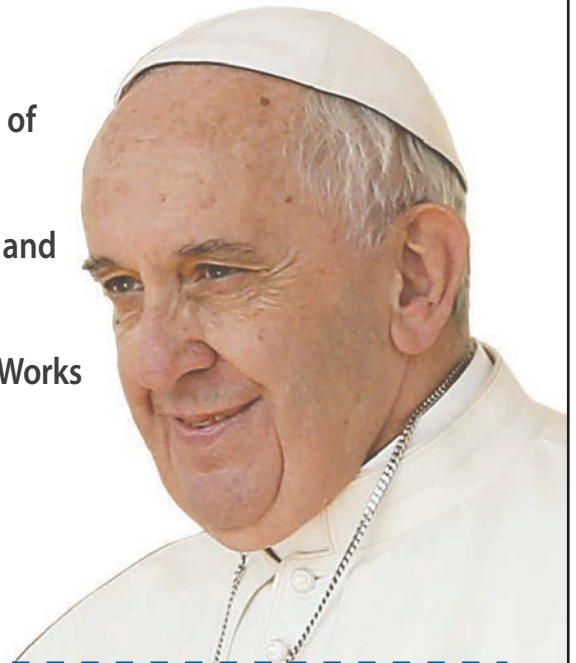
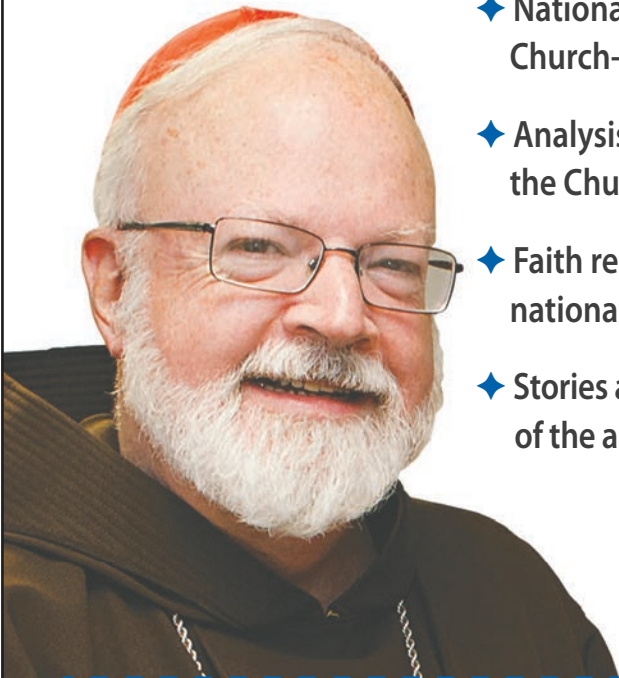


Father, you sent Saint Ansgar to bring the light of Christ to many nations. May his prayers help us to walk in the light of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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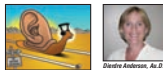


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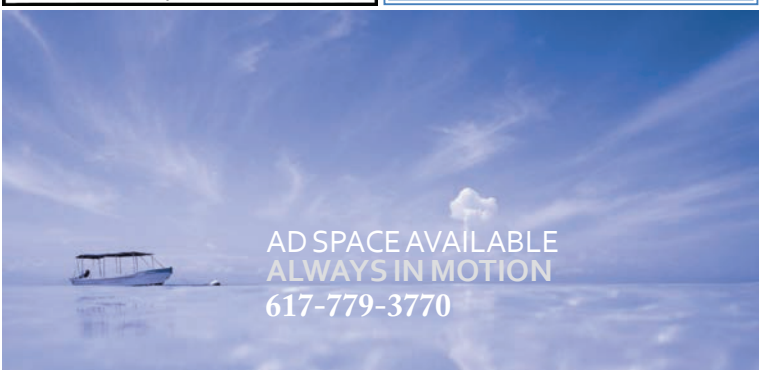
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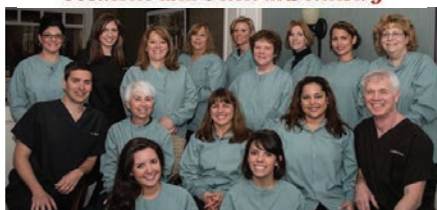
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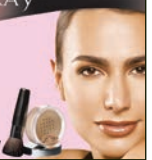


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