

St. Monica Parish

212 Lawrence St.
Methuen, MA

St. Lucy Parish

254 Merrimack St.
Methuen, MA

December 25, 2016

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

MERRY
Christmas

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
to men on whom his favor rests.” ~ LUKE 2:14**

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack St • Methuen, MA 01844
Telephone (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311
methuencatholic@gmail.com
stmonicamethuen.org • stlucymethuen.org
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

In Residence

Deacon John Pierce ext. 39

Permanent Deacon

Deacon John Kobrenski

Permanent Deacon

Sr. Rina Brunetti, pm ext. 34

Pastoral Associate in the Care of the Sick

Kera Mansour ext. 26

Business Manager

Carolyn Leocata ext. 28

Administrative Assistant

Isabela Peixoto ext. 29

Communications Associate

methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

Karl Jackson ext. 35

Director of Faith Formation

faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Samantha Moore ext. 36

Youth Minister

youth.stlm@gmail.com

Paul Jernberg ext. 27

Music Director

pfjernberg@gmail.com

Sharon Waning

Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy

Kevin Fitzgerald

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

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

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

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

St. Monica Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 6:30-7:30 pm

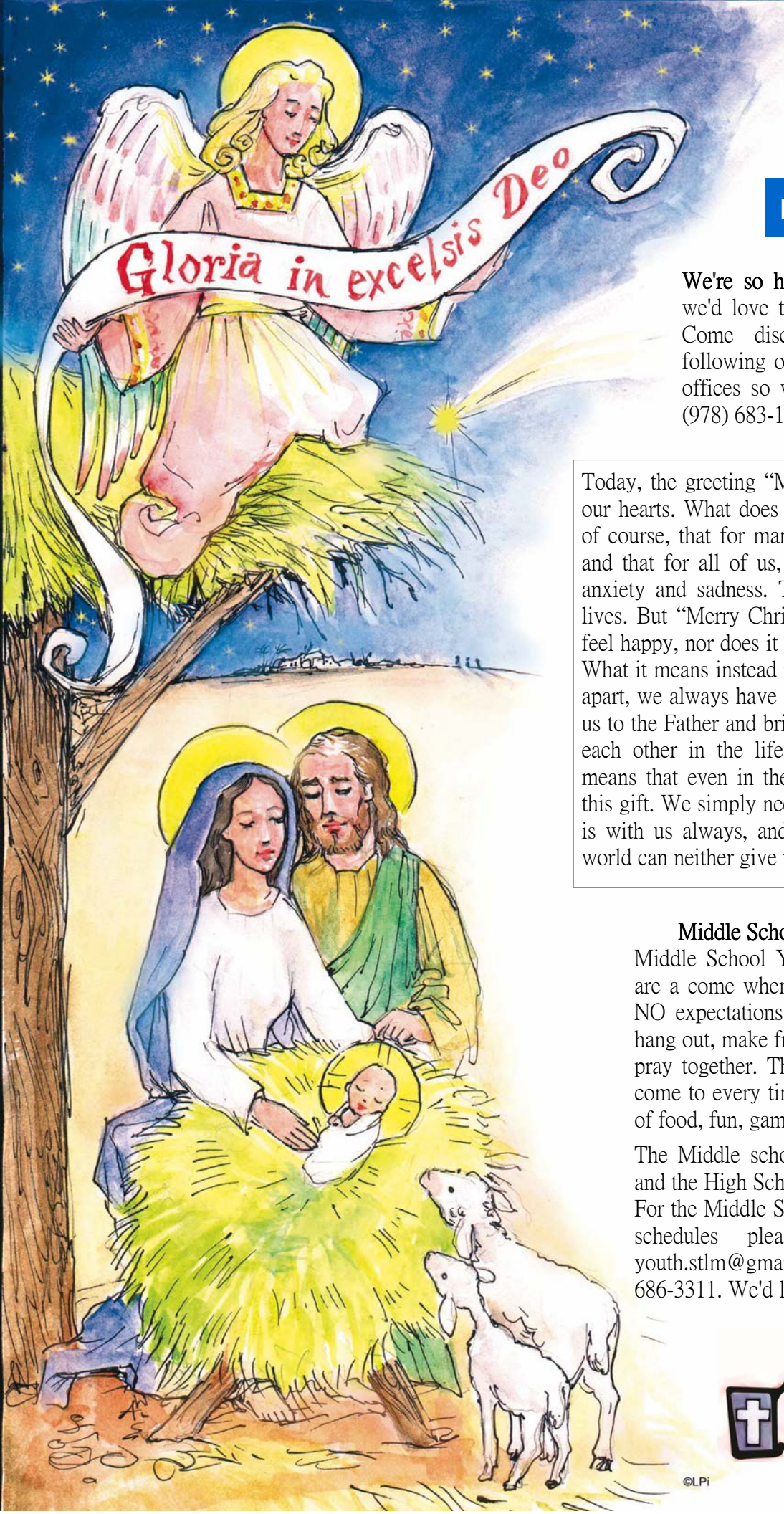
Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

St. Lucy Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

and any time by appointment



WELCOME!

**We're glad you could join us
for Christmas.**

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.

Today, the greeting "Merry Christmas" is on our lips and in our hearts. What does this simple greeting mean? We know, of course, that for many people, things are not merry today, and that for all of us, there are certain things that cause us anxiety and sadness. There is evil in the world and in our lives. But "Merry Christmas" does not mean that we always feel happy, nor does it mean that everything is going our way. What it means instead is that even if everything else is falling apart, we always have access to God. Christ has come to lead us to the Father and bring us a new relationship with God and each other in the life that never ends. "Merry Christmas" means that even in the midst of sadness, we can never lose this gift. We simply need to take hold of it and be faithful. He is with us always, and that brings a peace and joy that the world can neither give nor take away. Merry Christmas!

Middle School and High School Youth Group

Middle School Youth and High School Youth groups are a come when you can, as you are kind of groups. NO expectations, NO judgments. Just a safe place to hang out, make friends, talk about faith, play games and pray together. This is not a program that you have to come to every time although you are welcome to! Lots of food, fun, games and laughter as well!!

The Middle school youth group meets on Thursdays, and the High School youth group meets on Tuesdays. For the Middle School and/or High School youth group schedules please contact Sammie Moore at youth.stlm@gmail.com, or call her at the office at (978) 686-3311. We'd love to see you there. All are welcome!



Check out our new
Facebook page at
[www.facebook.com/
methuencatholic/](http://www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/)

Our Parish Office will be closed on
December 26th and January 2nd.

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

Coming In January!!!

Blanket And Sock Drive For Lazarus House Ministries

Sponsored By The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality

Again this year, St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes along with St. Monica School will be collecting new and gently used, clean blankets and new adult and children socks throughout the month of January. When shopping this Christmas season, consider picking up a blanket or some socks so that we can bring warmth to our brothers and sisters in need.

Beginning the weekend of January 7 and 8, 2017, look for the blue bins at St. Lucy's main entrance and large boxes at St. Monica's entrances.

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergyfunds.org

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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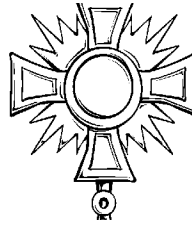
1580 Osgood St., North Andover, MA 01845

The **Saturday Morning Devotional Prayer Group** will celebrate the first Saturday devotion to Our Blessed Mother on Saturday, January 7th. The year 2017 will mark the 13th year in a row that our group celebrates the first Saturday of each month the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God. We celebrate first by attending the 8:00am Mass at St. Monica's, followed with the praying of the Rosary, then a short meeting about Our Mother Mary. All are welcome to join us!

Holy Hour for our Parishioners

Monday Nights at 7:00pm at St. Lucy Church

An hour dedicated to praying for an out pouring of the Holy Spirit for a rebirth of faith in our parishes, for a renewed energy in all of us who are here and for the touching of our hearts to become more active as we draw in the lost.



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! Late start 9:30am January 6 and February 3. There is no adoration or confession on Dec. 30 due to the holiday weekend. REMEMBER: If school is cancelled due to weather, adoration is cancelled.**

Snow Storms - Please remember that on weekdays there is no Mass on days when school is cancelled or if there is a delay. On days when Mass and school are cancelled the Parish offices will also be closed. On days school is not scheduled, we will not have Mass if the forecast is for 3 or more inches of snow in the hours leading up to the Mass. Masses for Sunday are nearly always held and are cancelled only if there is a major state of emergency.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel" (Is 7:14).

On behalf of the Faith Formation Office and all our volunteers, we want to wish all of our families, parishioners, and visitors a blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

We pray that you will experience the presence of Jesus Christ in your homes during this season so that you may become more and more confident in his abiding love for you.



Saturday, December 24

8:00 am *(multiple intentions)*

Ludwik Szablowski

Steven DiZazzo

Helen Corrizzini

Ruth Debois

4:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives

10:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives

Sunday, December 25

7:30 am For Your Deceased Relatives

9:30 am *(multiple intentions)*

For Your Deceased Relatives

Thurs., December 29

7:00 am

Friday, December 30

7:00 am Jim & Blanche Fawcett

Saturday, December 31

8:00 am *(multiple intentions)*

Jovita & Benigno Cunanan

4:00 pm Robert Putnam

Sunday, January 1

7:30 am

9:30 am *(multiple intentions)*

Charlie & Rose Hanafin (Living)

11:30 am Antoinette and Nemetallah Khalife

5:30 pm

Come and learn about the approved apparition of **Our Lady of Beauraing**. The talk will be given by Irene Tremblay on Wednesday, January, 25, at 10:30 am, at the ranch at St. Monica Parish. Please call Kathy Garon, 978-683-1193 ext. 119, to register for this presentation.

**St. Monica Parish & Our Lady of Fatima Centennial
1917-2017**

Honoring 100 Years:

Mass of Consecration to Our Lady

Jan 1, 2017, 11:30 AM

Feast of Mary Mother of God

Bishop Robert Hennessey Presiding

STEWARDSHIP

December 18, 2016

Offertory: \$9,663.50

Grand Annual: \$32,934.00 (total to date)

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society "YES I CAN" Program

WE CAN USE..... canned baked beans, canned pasta, Hamburger Helper, rice, strawberry jelly, and peanut butter.



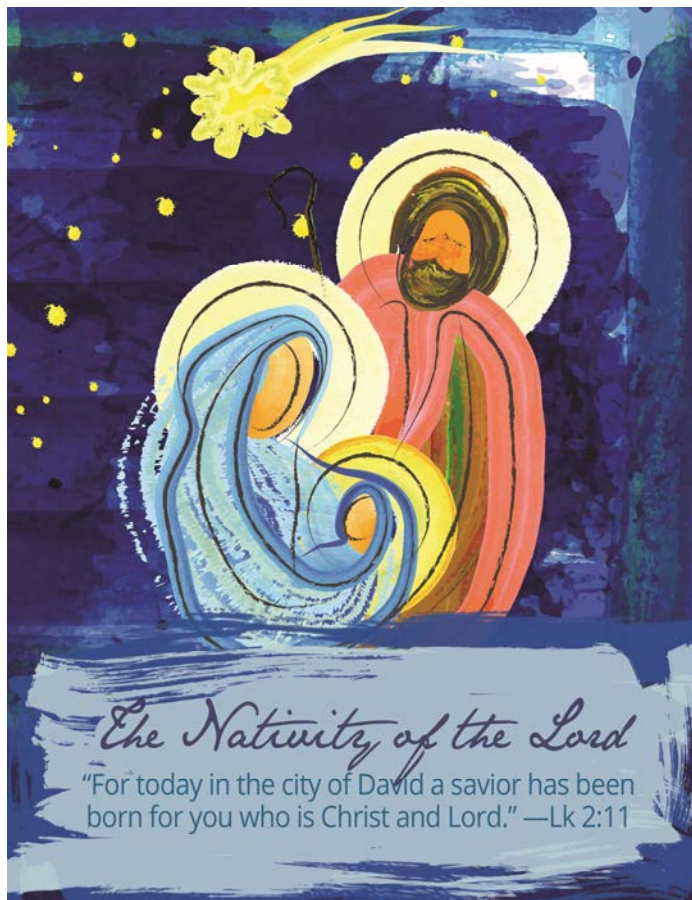
Roses for Life have been donated...

In Loving Memory of

Michael & Linda Giarrusso

Cecile and Peter Checovich

Please pray for **Joseph Kluffs** whose Funeral Mass was recently celebrated at our parish. May his soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.





Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives

7:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives

Sunday, December 25

9:00 am For Your Deceased Relatives

Monday, December 26

8:00 am Nicholas Gallo

Tuesday, December 27

8:00 am Mary & Frank Cefalu

Wednesday, December 28

8:00am Antonio Mercury

Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm The People of St. Lucy & St. Monica Parishes

STEWARDSHIP

December 18, 2016

Offertory: \$5,563.00

Grand Annual: \$24,660.00 (total to date)

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

A thank you to all who helped decorate our church for Christmas and to those who helped organize the Christmas Eve Mass in the Church Hall.



BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY NEWS

A great big "thank you" to all who made the Sodality Christmas party so successful and so much fun!!! The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality....what a wonderful group of women!!!

If you have been thinking about joining the Sodality, please come to our January 8th meeting after the 9:30 Mass and the praying of the Rosary. Our plans for 2017 will be planned. You are always welcome!

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



SHARE THE NATIVITY...

For Christmas, we are putting on display different nativity scenes. The size doesn't matter 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 now through January 8th. 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 at the front doors of the church.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2016

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18


Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

The Shepherds- A Conversion with Ordinary and Flawed Men



Often when I think about heaven I imagine what it would be like not just to be with God but what it would be like to be with so many people who lived in different eras of human history. I contemplate what it would be like to have unlimited time, which we will have in heaven, to talk with each one. I have often thought about with whom would I want to speak. Saint Pope John Paul II, Abraham Lincoln, there are so many amazing people to encounter. Right now you are probably imagining your own choices. As Christmas roles around, I often find myself thinking of another group of people that were not renowned in their own time, but have an important place in the history of Christianity- *the shepherds* in the hills of Bethlehem, who were the first, besides Mary and Joseph, to know that Jesus was born. I want very much to speak with them when I get to heaven. What was it like to see those angels in the sky and hear such an amazing message? What was it like to see that little baby and his mother, Mary, and Joseph? What was it like to be the FIRST to experience such a presence? We know shepherds were on the bottom of the social ladder which makes their “front row seat” “all the more profound. I would want to know what was on their minds that night in Bethlehem prior to the angels breaking through. What were their concerns, fears and sorrows? I'd be willing to bet they were a lot like yours and mine today. Perhaps they struggled in their personal relationships, finances, deep strain between adult children, a spouse, rejection of all sorts from those who should love us most, a sadness of not having hope that life would somehow improve. Maybe even a deep sense that something in life that should be there was missing, without the ability to put a finger on exactly what it was. Perhaps they were aware of their own personal sin in a way that seemed debilitating to them. I would ask about what the years after that night were like. How did your lives change? How was it after versus before? Were you able to see all of your problems and brokenness in a new light now that Christ had come to love you and save you? What was it like to know that this “*Good news for all the people*”, was really for YOU.

Each of us has come to Church on this great feast weighed down by our “stuff.” Our sinful or challenging “stuff” can distract us from realizing the amazing gift that we are to one another.

If you haven't been to church in awhile and your “stuff” has you doubting the good news is really for you, *IT IS!* The church is as Pope Francis says “a field hospital for sinners”, not a club for the religious elite. As a confessor I am familiar with the sinful “stuff” of humanity, and having heard confessions on four continents, I can tell you humanity is the same everywhere. As a sinner, I am too familiar with my own. I get “a front row seat” to God's gift of his mercy that he showers upon his people. Don't fear that anything keeps you from His love, or that your past somehow disqualifies you from being God's good friend. He loves you with a love words can't describe and He is thrilled you are here with us, as am I and the parishioners of our parishes.

How great to be shepherd, or a plumber, a teacher, a priest. We each have our own story we are writing, a story that includes our renewal in God's love. May we see the reality of Christmas with the newness with which the shepherds received this Good News! Merry Christmas to all.



SAINT MONICA SCHOOL NEWS

Holiday Raffle January 2017

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

We must sell 215 tickets or all monies will be returned.
All payments will be sent to winners at the beginning of February.

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

St. Monica School Calendar Raffle

\$10 per ticket – checks made out to St. Monica School

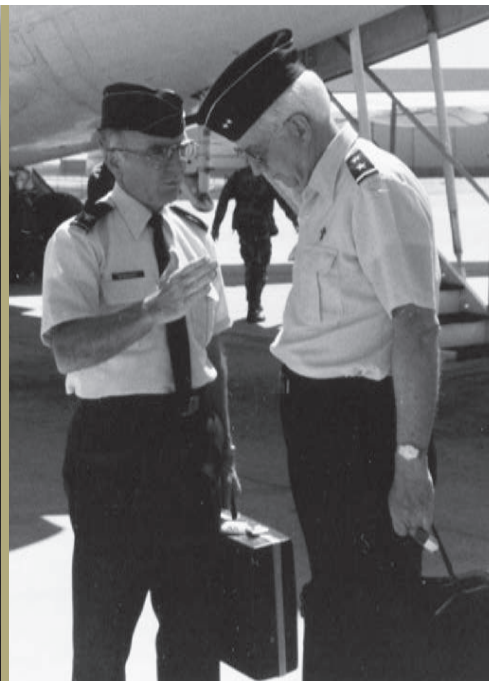
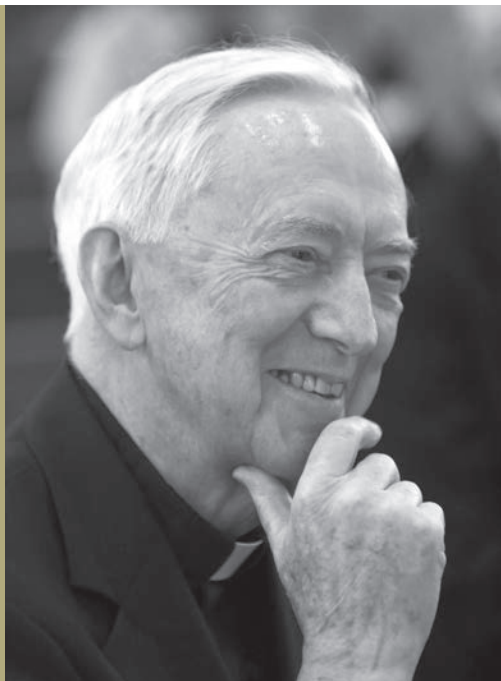
Name _____ Phone (REQUIRED) _____

Address (REQUIRED) _____

St. Monica Student who sold ticket: _____

Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize.





Good news.
Good works.
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Meet Msgr. McDonough— A Priest and a General

As a native of Boston, Msgr. John P. McDonough never dreamed he would travel the world, bringing the presence of Christ to our military serving abroad. But for thirty years, that's exactly what he did. As a two-star general, Msgr. McDonough's call as a military chaplain was to ensure that men and women were able to practice their faith—Catholic or otherwise—as they served their country.

Now at 88 years of age, Msgr. McDonough reflects on a priesthood well-lived and well-served. He resides at Regina Cleri, a retirement home for senior priests in Boston, where he ministers to his brother priests, celebrates Mass with them daily, and continues traveling to parishes around the Archdiocese to assist with services.

To help ensure priests like Msgr. McDonough are cared for as they age, please support the Christmas collection this year.

To see Msgr. McDonough's full video story, visit clergytrust.org.

Give online at clergytrust.org
or text PRIEST to 56512.

Msg. & data rates may apply.

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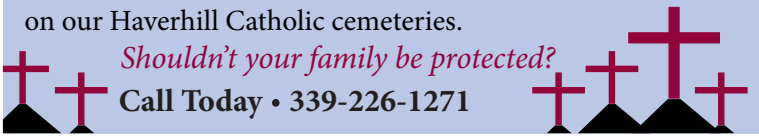
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5 Pitman Street, Methuen

The Catholic Cemetery Association

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"Important family decisions become far more difficult for family members left behind to make them."



Artist's rendering

Because of the increased demand among area Catholics, making cemetery plans for their family on a **PRE-NEED** basis, we have completed construction on the new **Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel Mausoleum** addition.

The Military Connection, Inc.
256 North Main St., Building K7, Andover, MA

978-273-9255 Staff Sgt. Eugene Smith (Ret.)

Providing services to all men and women who have served or are serving in the US Armed Forces.

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