



Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.  
Lk 2:20

**MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 31  
5:00pm (O) Capt. Stephen J. Belli, U.S. Army

Sunday, January 1, **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
8:00am (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners  
10:30am (O) Nila Fernando (living)  
Rev. Robert Dunphy  
5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

Monday, January 2  
9:00am Charles McClanahan

Tuesday, January 3  
9:00am David L. VonDerfecht

Wednesday January 4  
9:00am Capt. Stephen J. Belli, US Army

Thursday, January 5  
9:00am Communion Service

Friday, January 6  
9:00am Ron Assad (living)  
5:00pm Wedding of Luis McDougal and Katrina Burgess  
5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00pm Devotions  
8:00pm Benediction

Saturday, January 7  
5:00pm (O) Rev. Lucien Lussier

Sunday, January 8, **The Epiphany of The Lord**  
8:00am (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners  
10:30am (O) John Fabian (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

In the above celebrations:  
O = Rev. John O'Brien  
O'N = Rev. Tom O'Neill



**LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)**

The season of Christmas **continues**, although many have already removed their Christmas tree and decorations. I ended up decorating my tree nearly a whole week earlier than my "normal" timeframe of 12/22ish because my nieces were with me and we shared in this experience together. On Christmas eve, I hung my outdoor wreath and my Creche (manger) flag, am still writing out and mailing my Christmas cards, (thanks to free Sirius radio in my car and DVR'ing) am still enjoying the wonders of Christmas music and the joys of watching Christmas movies! The spirit of Christmas is lingering in the air this week (because of school vacation, families visiting, as well as "some" people who have these days as vacation from work), but I would like to just remind everyone that Christmas remains with us through the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus! Great news, isn't it? Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds follow the message given to them by the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. The shepherds visit is one that we are invited to make to the manger - seeking and finding the Christ-child and our salvation. Today's solemnity is about Mary, with the focus being that she is the Mother of God. In the Gospel we learn a few things about Mary: She "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" she marveled, took in, reflected and held all of the wondrous words and happenings in her life because of her "yes" in becoming the Mother of God. Another example that Mary teaches us is obedience to God, in her naming the child of God *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had instructed her. Lastly, Mary shows us how she and Joseph were faithful to their Jewish tradition through the circumcision of Jesus. Mary's continuous "yes" and steadfastness in these three aspects of the Christmas story is a wonderful challenge for us too as she models for us what being a disciple is all about. Her reflection upon the events in her life shows us that she was a person of prayer. We, too, are called to reflect upon these events and the moments/experiences in our own lives and be people of prayer. Because of her faith and attitude of prayer, Mary was able to be obedient to God and God's will. May her example of faith and prayer lead us to also be obedient and rely upon God. Mary's faithfulness to a community of faith kept her "grounded" and supported as she participated in God's plan of salvation for all. In Mary we are challenged to recognize how we should also be faithful to a community of faith, which will help us to be "grounded" in faith: seeing and knowing God's presence in our days. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Written by: Colette M. Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**St. Lucy's \*\*Snowball\*\* Pasta Dinner Dance Event 2017** will be held on Saturday, February 18, from 6-11pm in the Parish Center. Tickets are available through Fely Budziszek (849-1692) or at the Rectory office (847-6153) ext. 206. More detailed information will follow. This will be an evening filled with Dining, Dancing, Raffles, Friends, Fun, and More!!

Please **pray** for all the men and women who have served and who currently serve in the armed forces, and the military commanders who lead them. **Pray** for our homebound Parishioners and the sick of the Parish (including those in hospitals and nursing homes). **Pray** for the unborn, the premature, and the fragile among us so that we may deepen our respect for life at all stages.

The upcoming LIFE celebrations for January will be here before you know it! LIFE'ers will gather for this month's celebration on Sun., January 8 (11:30am-2pm) or Mon., January 9 (5:30-8pm) in the Parish Center to continue with the theme "*Sacraments...transforming everyday life*" focusing on the *Sacrament of Holy Orders*.

LIFE'ers who are unable to participate in your regular session are expected to attend the opposite day, please take note of the time frame (and contact Colette if you're aware of day-change). Reminder: participants should have completed the Dec. "Circle of Grace" take-home lesson plan before the Jan. sessions.

**CHURCH SUPPORT – December 24/25, 2016**

<b>Weekly Collection</b>	<b>\$6,475.00</b>
<b>Christmas Collection</b>	<b>\$17,257.00</b>

Our Parish will be taking a collection on January 22 to support Youth Ministry in our Diocese. Through the work of the Youth Centers, Mother of Hope Camp, Catholic Scouting, and Catholic Athletics, activities and opportunities are provided for the youth of this area which includes our parish. Spiritual formation, leadership training, athletic and social events are provided for all. Please be generous. The young people of today need us to share our faith and our support. It is an important investment.

**Thank you for your continuing generosity.**

**Bereavement Support Group:** A six week program on bereavement will be offered by Hospice of Visiting Nurse Services of Newport and Bristol Counties and Atria Aquidneck Place. Sessions are Wednesdays, 12-1:30pm on January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 15 at Atria Aquidneck Place, 125 Quaker Hill Lane, Portsmouth. This program is open to the public and free of charge. A complimentary lunch will be served. **Registration is required. RSVP by January 10<sup>th</sup>** to Mary Holland, MDiv, BCC, VNS Hospice Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator, 401-682-2100 ext. 1613, [mholland@vnsri.org](mailto:mholland@vnsri.org).

**Thanksgiving and Christmas Donations:** Thank you on behalf of St. Lucy's Social Service ministry and the many families who gratefully and joyfully received gifts of food, clothes, and toys through your kind and generous Thanksgiving and Christmas donations. We thank God for His grace and your kindheartedness that has enabled us to reach out and assist many families and individuals in need of a little extra help during the holidays this year.

**Food Pantry Donation from Diocese of Providence:** On behalf of Fr. John and St. Lucy's Social Service ministry we acknowledge and thank the Diocese of Providence, Bishop Tobin and Mr. John Barry for their very generous donation in support of the Parish Food Pantry outreach. This generous contribution will be used to assist many people and families within our Parish and local community.

**Christmas Thank You**

*As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season until the Baptism of the Lord on January 9<sup>th</sup>, it is good to pause to give thanks for some of the wonderful experiences we were enriched by during the past week.*

*Many thanks to so many people offering their time, talent and treasure in helping to make our liturgical celebrations so special. Thanks to the Music Ministry, the Worship and Liturgy Committee, those who decorated the Church and those who donated flowers, those who helped to set up our outside manger, the organizers of and the participants in our Christmas Pageant, the Lectors, the Extraordinary Ministers, Servers, and the Staff. Thank you also to all (including the Secret Santas) who donated Christmas presents for the Giving Tree and the "adopted" families, and to all who brought the homemade goodies to the Rectory.*

*As we begin the New Year 2017, may we continue to grow in our Christian faith by being good stewards of God's many gifts.*

*May God continue to bless all of St. Lucy Parishioners as we strive to build a Christ-Centered Light-Filled Community with a renewed devotion to Mary in the New Year.*

*With deep appreciation,  
Fr. John*

**Life Line Screening**, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will be in our community on Thursday, January 19 right here at St. Lucy's Parish Center. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for cardiovascular disease include: **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup – a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation - irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Register at [www.lifelinescreening.com/advantage.members](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/advantage.members) and receive your "Advantage" member discount and your Preferred Appointment.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 2:1-11
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12