



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Mt 2:10-11

**MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE**

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)  
 12:00 noon Baptism  
 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners  
 Monday, January 9  
 9:00am Afife and Joseph Menassa  
 Tuesday, January 10  
 9:00am Jeffrey Hall Little  
 Wednesday January 11  
 9:00am Mark Dobrott  
 Thursday, January 12  
 9:00am Communion Service  
 Friday, January 13  
 9:00am Christine Pembrook  
 (Birthday Remembrance)  
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 7:00pm Devotions  
 8:00pm Benediction  
 Saturday, January 14  
 1:30pm Mass at Grand Islander  
 5:00pm (O) Domingos Rodrigues  
 (Birthday Remembrance)  
 Sunday, January 15  
 8:00am (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners  
 10:30am (O) Christopher Harding  
 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)**  
 Please pardon me for repeating this column, it's one of my favorites in celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. I remember my pleasant surprise while at the Epiphany Mass at my - what was new parish about 20 years ago. The Mass began with a practice of a tradition that I was unfamiliar with. The Priest stood at the main door, prayed a blessing and indicated our responses, while writing with chalk on the top beam of the doorway. Today, on this feast of the Epiphany, the writing above the doorway would read: **20 + C + M + B + 17**. If you were a visitor to my home, you would in fact see these numbers and letters on my doorpost as this is a custom that I so look forward to memorializing. A few years ago when I was visiting with my family in France, we visited a little German village. While walking I noticed these same markings on the doorframes of many homes, what a small world we live in! Although language and culture is different, faith and customs are shared. I, of course, seized the opportunity to teach my family about the WHY of this custom. The tradition of the Blessing of the Home on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is a custom originating in Germany and celebrated during the children's festival between January 1-6 (Three Kings Day). After a service at the local churches, children go from house to house to gather offerings for poor children in poor countries. They are dressed as the three kings and carry sticks with stars on the top. At the homes they sing songs and recite messages of Christmas. At each house they paint the letters and numbers, which are for the Latin *Christus Manionem Benedicat* (Christ bless this house). At the same time, the letters are the first letters of the names of the wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. May this tradition become yours starting this year (if it hasn't become a tradition/custom already)! Gather your family outside the front door or main entrance to your home. \*I mark the door that I use the most so that my seeing the letters on a daily basis constantly remind me to bring Jesus' light into my home and out into the world. Begin your blessing service by perhaps singing "We Three Kings" and by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Reader: "Loving God, the doors of our hearts and the doors of our home are open to you and to all who need warmth and welcome." Using chalk, write above the entryway: **20 + C + M + B + 17**. ALL: "We give you thanks for our home, for the gift of family, and for the blessing of friends. (The next part may be read by another family member.) Reader: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. "Help us to love and respect one another and make your presence known by the way we care for others. Keep us safe as we come in and as we go out each and every day. Bless our home and all who live here. May this blessing remain upon this house and upon all who live here. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Written by Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

**Bible Study** is held every Tuesday morning beginning at 9:45am in the Family Room led by Jane Parrillo.

This weekend is our January LIFE celebration as we develop our theme "Sacraments...transforming everyday life" with a focus on the **Sacrament of Holy Orders**. The Sunday, 1/8 celebration runs from 11:30-2:00pm, while Monday's celebration on 1/9 is from 5:30-8:00pm – both taking place in the Parish Center. Participants - please note the time frame on the opposite day if you are unable to take part in your regular celebration. Any Parishioner who hasn't had the opportunity to participate in a LIFE celebration is most welcome to join with us in this all-ages, intergenerational Faith Formation Program!

**Soup Kitchen Needs  
 Tuesday, January 17**

4 bags oranges 4 large loaves bread  
 4 bottles salad dressing (Ranch or Italian)  
 Assorted finger desserts (cupcakes, cookies, brownies)  
 If you would like to help with any of the above items please call Sylvia Bunker at 683-0320. You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tues., Jan. 17. We served 98 meals in December. Thank you all for your generosity.

**An Invitation to Pray for All Human Life:** The Office of Life and Family Ministry is sponsoring the "Annual Respect Life Mass on Saturday, January 21 at St. Paul Church in Cranston. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant and Rev. Msgr. Albert A. Kenney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, will be the homilist at the 9am Mass. The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will remain on the altar during Mass and will be available for veneration at the reception that will immediately follow the Mass. For more information and to RSVP contact Carol Owens, Office of Life and Family Ministry at 421-7833 x 218

**Vatican II, Mercy and You**, is a new CD from Lighthouse Catholic Media available at the rear of the Church. In this illuminating talk, Father Michael Gaitley recounts how Archbishop Karol Wojtyla, later Pope St. John Paul II, used the teachings of the Second Vatican Council with great success to help Catholics in his diocese live their faith to the full. Learn how Vatican II provides a map to help us enrich our lives through faith and effectively experience the good news of God's divine mercy.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Mt 3:13-17  
 Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28  
 Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39  
 Thursday: Heb3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45  
 Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12  
 Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17  
 Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

**A Community Blood Drive will be held by the Knights of Columbus (Council #256)** at 7 Valley Rd., Middletown, on Thursday, January 19 from 3 to 8pm. Free steak Dinner/\$5 Dunkin Donuts coupon for all donors.



**St. Lucy's\*\* Snowball\*\* Pasta Dinner Dance 2017** benefiting **St. Lucy's Church**, will be held on Sat. February 18, from 6-11pm in the Parish Center. Dance to the music of DJ Fogg Sound. Enjoy Pasta, Meatballs, Scrumptious Desserts (just to name a few menu items!), raffles, and so much more! Tickets are going fast so purchase them today by calling Fely Budziszek (849-1692) or the Rectory (847-6153 ext. 206). Prices: \$15.00 Adults/\$7 Children (ages 6-12)/ ages 5 and under free. Drinks, desserts, and Raffle donations are greatly appreciated, and can be dropped at the Rectory, (please label Snowball Dinner Dance) Thank you.

**CHURCH SUPPORT – December 31/January 1**

**Weekly Collection \$7444.00**  
**Solemnity of Mary Holy Day \$1875.00**

The Second Collection next weekend will be the annual collection for The Catholic University. 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).

**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 can identify risk factors for cardiovascular disease.. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Go to [www.lifelinescreening.com/advantage.members](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/advantage.members) to register and receive your "Advantage" member discount and your Preferred Appointment.

A request for assistance with a sick pet (cat) has been received at the Rectory. For more details, call Michelle at 602-0059.

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.