



So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."Matt. 24:44



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

Today we enter into the new liturgical year as we begin our Advent journey. Advent is a beautiful season. The liturgical season that invites us to enter into learning how to wait – for grace Incarnate, Jesus, the reign of God. Advent, from the Latin word *Adventus*, means “coming.” Advent is not about one coming, but three comings that we wait and prepare for. We wait for the first coming: the remembrance of God coming to us through the birth of Jesus. We wait for the next coming that Advent calls our attention to: the coming of the presence of God among us “now” in the Scripture, in the Eucharist, and within our community. The final coming that we await and to which Advent points us to is: Jesus’ second coming. Wow, this is a lot of waiting in a complex, and frantically fast-paced society, especially during the time of year that we feel many more demands upon our time! This waiting time of Advent is one that allows us to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls by sweeping out the corners of our heart, to clear away the clutter in our minds and spirits, and make room for Jesus, helping us to (re)focus our lives. A great way to begin your Advent journey is in the creation of, blessing of, and daily prayer using an Advent wreath. “In the olden days...” (I can tell I’m getting older because a lot of my stories now seem to start with those words.) I used to pick the greens, painstakingly attaching them to a form until, voila: a wreath took shape. It was then adorned with 3 purple and 1 pink candle, and bows to match. Nowadays, I frequent my local nursery for a wreath and adorn it myself (but with very special candles this year!). My favorite part of this whole process? Praying the daily prayers before meal time when alone or with family or guests, experiencing the quiet of the dimly lit room and feeling the palpable *waiting/coming* of our Savior, the one who HAS come and IS to come. May your Advent days be filled with QUIET and HOLY EXPECTATION.

Written by: Colette M. Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

Advent Wreath Blessing

O God, the evergreens on this wreath remind us that your life in us never dies. Its circular shape shows us your love has no beginning or end. The light from its candles will grow brighter each week as Christmas draws near. Bless our wreath, Lord Jesus, and bless us as we prepare once again to commemorate your birth. May we draw closer to you in holiness, and may your Spirit grow in us, dispelling the darkness and sin of the world. Amen.

First Reconciliation Classes resumes on Thurs., December 1 from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center.

Advent Evening of Taizé Prayer will be held on Mon., December 12 at 6:30pm in the Church. This is a perfect opportunity to help quiet ourselves and slow down during this busy time of the year and enjoy Advent! A Taizé worship service, derived from the Taizé monastic community located in Taizé, France, involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, periods of silence, liturgical readings, and the use of icons and candlelight. This evening is geared for high school aged young people and adults. Please try to schedule yourself to be with us.,

Christmas Flowers: Christmas plants will be accepted in the Parish Connector until Thursday, Dec. 22. Special envelopes for flower donations are located in the pews. If you would like to have a loved one remembered during the Christmas season through your donation, please be sure to include those name(s) on your envelope or plant. **Decorating** will take place after the 9am Mass on Friday, Dec. 23. **All are invited and welcome to help out. Thank you.**

CHURCH SUPPORT – November 19/20, 2016

Weekly Collection **\$5331.00**
Human Development Collection **\$1966.00**
The second collection next weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious.
Friendly Reminder: For your convenience donations can now be made electronically. It is simple, secure, and convenient! Detailed instructions are on our web site (www.stlucy.org) or you may call the company directly at 866-307-7140.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Community Action Committee (CAC)

Thank you for your response to “Pennies for Prescriptions” for residents of Lucy’s Hearth. A total of \$368.37 was collected.

Thanksgiving Collection: **Thank you** for the twelve turkeys and two shopping carts full of non-perishable food which were delivered to the Salvation Army for the Thanksgiving Dinner last Sunday. Thank you also for the monetary donations that were used to help provide local and Parish families with a Thanksgiving meal.

The Giving Tree is set up in the Church this weekend. You are invited to take a tag and purchase an item of **warm** clothing for our area adults in need. Suggestions include flannel shirts, sweaters, earmuffs, thermal underwear, socks, mittens or gloves, hats, and turtlenecks. Sizes will be on the tags. If the tag is marked for children, please purchase hats, mittens, or scarves only (**no toys**). Please place your wrapped gift under the tree (tag on outside), and return it to the Church no later than the weekend of Dec. 17-18. If there are no more tags on the tree, you may still purchase a gift. Be sure to clearly mark the gift on the outside with male or female and the size.

Many thanks for your past and present generosity.

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 Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield want to thank you for your hospitality and support during our recent fundraiser “Support Our Sisters.” We were very happy to be with you and to reconnect with former students, classmates, and co-workers. Your concern in our time of need as we care for our infirmed and elderly sisters touches us deeply. We are most grateful for your generosity and prayers. You have our prayers always.

Peace and joy, Sisters Eileen Shea and Sheila Murphy

Holiday Events

“A Christmas Pudding” will be presented by the Portsmouth Community Theater at St. Lucy’s Parish Center Nov. 30 through Dec. 4 (Wednesday–Saturday at 7pm, Sunday at 1pm). This is a holiday sampling of seasonal stories and songs. For more information call Cindy Killavey at 847-5148.

Swanhurst Chorus presents *Beethoven’s Mass in C* plus other works Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8pm at Emmanuel Church, Spring & Dearborn St., Newport. Advance tickets \$20. Door \$25. Full-time Students \$19.

The Sounds of the Season. On Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3pm, the Gregorian Concert Choir, the Prout High School Chorus and Festival Orchestra will present a concert in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence to benefit Bishop Tobin’s **“Keep the Heat On” Campaign.**

The Prout School will hold the High School Placement Test for Admission on Saturday, Dec. 3 and 10 at 8:30am. Scholarships are available to applicants who do well on the exam. Prospective students may arrange for a tour or “Shadow Day” anytime by calling Sharon, Admissions Director at 789-9262 (x 514).

The Diocesan Office of Vocation invites all elementary and middle school students to submit drawings for the **Vocations Drawing Contest.** The drawing (8.5 x 11) must reflect a priest or a religious sister or brother serving others. Please submit all entries (clearly marked with your name, address, tel. no., grade and school or parish) to your teacher or catechists for submission to the Office of Vocations by Dec. 21. Prizes will be awarded. For more info, call Rev. Murphy at 331-1316.

12th Annual Christmas Exhibition: The Knights of Columbus at 1 State St. in New Haven, CT, has opened its annual Christmas exhibit and it will continue through Jan. 19. The show features crèches from Germany as well as many others from the museum’s collection. More information at 203-865-0400 or kofcmuseum.org.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Rm 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6 /Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30: 19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 26
 5:00pm (O) Frank P. “Mickey” Mello
 Sunday, November 27, **First Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am (O) Louis J. Rolando
 10:30am (O) Departed Members of Legion of Mary
 5:00pm (O’N) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
 Monday, November 28
 9:00am (O) Frederick Margolis
 Tuesday, November 29
 9:00am (O) Margaret “Peg” McCabe
 Wednesday November 30
 9:00am (O) Niles Maroney
 Thursday, December 1
 9:00am Communion Service
 Friday, December 2
 9:00am Michael Woll
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Devotions
 8:00pm Benediction
 Saturday, December 3
 2:30pm Marriage of Bridget Roche & Brian Mongeau
 5:00pm (O’N) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
 Sunday, December 4, **Second Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am (O) Ruth Carbone (26th Anniversary)
 10:30am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
 5:00pm (O) Manuel T. Mello

In the above celebrations:

O = Rev. John O’Brien

O’N = Rev. Tom O’Neill

An Advent Reconciliation Service with St. Joseph’s Church will be held at 7pm at St. Joseph’s at a date to be determined. Please take the time to make use of this sacrament in preparing your heart to receive our Lord this Christmas.

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