



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

This weekend is known as *Gaudete* Sunday, celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent. *Gaudete* is a Latin word that means “rejoice,”

taken from the entrance antiphon as well as this theme being found throughout our readings. We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath also as a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is near. “*Shout for joy, O daughter Zion; be glad and exult with all your heart...the Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty Savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love...*” I want to be able to shout for joy! Really, who likes to be weighed down and stressed out? Isn’t having a heart filled with gladness and being renewed in God’s love a much more enticing option than to have a heart heavily burdened and feeling far from God? Today’s entrance antiphon is taken from Phil. 4:4-5: “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*” But let’s just continue with Paul’s letter to the Philippians a little further...“*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will fill your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*” Did you hear/read that? We’re told to have no anxiety! Imagine not being anxious with only 14 shopping days left until Christmas? How fortunate we at St. Lucy’s are that we have available some tremendous opportunities available for you to experience JOY during this season of Advent!

***Parish-wide Evening of Taizé Prayer** on Monday, December 12 in the Church starting at 6:30pm and is open to all adults and young adults (including our Confirmation students). **Taizé Prayer** is a meditative candle-lit service that centers around music, prayer, and silence - to quiet the mind, open the heart and feed the soul; offering a time of tranquility and solitude in the presence of God.

***St. Lucy/St. Joseph Parishes Reconciliation Service** on Tuesday, December 13 at St. Joseph Church at 7:00pm. You are invited to open your heart to clear out a space to be filled with Jesus’ immense love through the power of forgiveness, compassion and unconditional love!

***Giving Tree:** helping our neighbors who need a hand! ***Bible Study** on Tuesday mornings: growing stronger in the Word of God! ***Soup Kitchen**, 3rd Tuesday of the month: providing food, hospitality and compassion to those persons in need of a meal. ***Children’s Christmas Pageant** for young parishioners to share their gifts and talents by bringing to life the story of Jesus’ birth - and for those adults who have the special abilities to work with and guide these young people!

What will our Advent responses be to the invitations (and examples) that we’ve heard in the scriptures over these past weeks from Isaiah, St. Paul, John the Baptist, St. Peter, St. Andrew, the Centurion, Mary’s example, and the many other witnesses of faith be? The choice is up to each one of us: Yes, Lord, I truly want to live Advent and prepare my heart and home to receive you – OR – Yes, Lord, BUT – could you give me a few more days because I don’t want to miss out on _____ (fill in the blank).

Written by: Colette M. Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

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. If you donate through EFT, please list your names on the flower donation envelopes and indicate that you donated through EFT. **Decorating** will take place after the 9am Mass on Friday, Dec. 23. **All are invited and welcome to help out. Thank you.**

CHURCH SUPPORT – December 3/4, 2016
Weekly Collection \$6159.00
The second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.
Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Community Action Committee (CAC)
 As you know, the **Giving Tree** has been up in the Church. You are invited to take a tag (size marked on 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. If the tag is marked for children, please purchase hats, mittens, or scarves only (**no toys**). 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 aren’t any tags left on the tree, you may still purchase a gift! Just be sure to clearly mark on the outside of the gift as to whether it is for a male or female and the size.
Many thanks for your past and present generosity.

Soup Kitchen Needs
Tuesday, December 20, 2016
 4 bags oranges 2 cans powdered juice (lemonade)
 4 large loaves bread 4 btls salad dressing (Ranch or Ital.)
 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 Tuesday, Dec. 20. We served 87 meals in November. Thank you all for your 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.

Eucharistic Ministers are needed to bring communion to patients at local Nursing Homes. Please call Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x 205) for details. **Eucharistic Ministers are also needed to bring communion to patients at Newport Hospital.** Please contact Jesus Saviour Rectory at 847-1267.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, December 10
 5:00pm (O’N) St. Lucy Parishioners
- Sunday, December 11, **Third Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
 10:30am (M) Gary Varteresian
 5:00pm (O) Deceased members of the Hopf and O’Connell Families
- Monday, December 12
 9:00am Mark Dobrott
 6:30pm **Evening of Taize Prayer**
- Tuesday, December 13
 9:00am Bridget and Owen Carroll
 7:00pm **Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph’s**
- Wednesday December 14
 9:00am John F. Gawalt (10th Anniversary)
- Thursday, December 15
 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, December 16
 9:00am (O’N) Pope Frances – Birthday Remembrance
 Joseph A. Medeiros
 John F. Gawalt (10th Anniversary)
- 5-8 pm Devotions
- Saturday, December 17
 2:00pm Mass at Forest Farm
 5:00pm (O’N) Donald Winters
- Sunday, December 18, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am (B) Cesario Family
 Amelia Edward-Corbett
- 10:30am (M) Lisa Sylvia
 St. Columbus Cemetery
- 12:00noon Baptism
 5:00pm (O) John and Mary Lou Rogers

In the above celebrations:
 B = Rev. Gerry Beirne
 O = Rev. John O’Brien
 O’N = Rev. Tom O’Neill
 M = Rev. Eugene McKenna

Children’s Liturgy of the Word continues at 10:30am Masses on this Sunday, Dec. 11 and 18. **Rehearsal for the Children’s Christmas Pageant** will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 6pm in the Church. Children are invited to be readers, angels, shepherds, and travelers. Adult volunteers are needed to help with the children at the Rehearsal and the Pageant on Christmas Eve at 6pm Mass.

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



Christmas Schedule 2016
 Saturday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**
 Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Masses at:
4pm, 6pm and 10pm
 Sunday, December 25, **Christmas Day**
8am and 10:30am
No evening Mass on Christmas Day

Knights of Columbus Middletown/Newport Clothing Drive: Men’s, women’s and children’s winter wear, new or used clothing in good condition is being collected for those in need and those who are homeless. Suggestions include: coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, pants, and shirts. Please drop off clothing donations at the front entrance of the K of C Hall on 7 Valley Rd., Middletown from 5-8pm on December 14, 15, and 16 (Wednesday through Friday).

The Parish recently purchased more **CDs** from **Lighthouse Catholic Media** which are available at the kiosk at the Church entrance. There are some selections particularly appropriate for Advent and Christmas. Please leave your donation in the Kiosk box.

Holiday Events
An Advent Series has begun at St. Barnabas and will continue on Monday, Dec. 12, and 19 in the Church focusing on Mary. **10th Annual Living Nativity** at Cluny School, 75 Brenton Rd., Newport will be held on Monday, December 19 at 6pm (raindate December 21).

TOYS NEEDED!! The Martin Luther King Center is hoping to provide 395+ local children this Christmas with toys, gifts and gift cards.. **How can you help?** Donate new toys for children up to age 16 for Santa’s Workshop by Dec. 12. Volunteer at Santa’s Workshop; several guides, gift wrappers and more are needed. Call or email Nancy Harten to sign up. 846-4828 x 103 nharten@mlkccenter.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
 Monday: Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 /Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36
 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
 Sunday: Is 7: 10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24