



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I remember the very first Epiphany at my present Parish. 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 + 16**. 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 (and I hope this year becomes one of your customs too!). 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 custom of the Blessing of the Home on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, is a one that originated in Germany and is 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’s not 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 the letters are a constant reminder to me. Begin your blessing service by perhaps singing “We Three Kings” and by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Using chalk, write above the entryway: **20 + C + M + B + 16**. *Pray: Peace be to this house and all who live here. During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany. Through the guidance of a star, the coming of Jesus was made known. We celebrate Christ made known to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding in Cana. Today Christ is made known to us! Today this home is a holy place! The Magi came from the east to Bethlehem to adore the Lord. “They went into the house, and when they saw the child with His mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and presented them to him.” (The next part may be read by another family member.) Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing: 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. We give you thanks for our home, for the gift of family, and for the blessing of friends. 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 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)

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... MT 2:10-11

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, January 2
 - 5:00pm (O) Captain Stephen J. Belli, US Army
- Sunday, January 3, *The Epiphany of the Lord*
 - 8:00am (ON) Betty and Bill Brennan
 - 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber
 - 5:00pm (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
- Monday, January 4
 - 9:00am Julia Jordan Finn
- Tuesday, January 5
 - 9:00am Captain June Nunn, USN Ret.
Michael “Mickey” Blank
Rick Quarry
- Wednesday, January 6
 - 9:00am Larry Settle
- Thursday, January 7
 - 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, January 8
 - 9:00am (D) Captain Stephen J. Belli, US Army
Bernard Dutille
Margaret Considine Shalloo
 - 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 7:00pm Devotions
 - 7:50pm Benediction
- Saturday, January 9
 - 1:30pm Mass at Grand Islander
 - 5:00pm (O) Domingos Rodrigues
- Sunday, January 10
 - 8:00am (O) Lucy Levada – Birthday Remembrance
George and Mary Bannon
 - 10:30am (O) John Fabian (9th Anniversary)
 - 5:00pm (O) St. Lucy Parishioners

In the above celebrations:

- O = Rev. John O’Brien
- ON = Rev. Tom O’Neill
- D = Rev. Robert Dunphy

CHURCH SUPPORT – Dec. 26/27, 2015

Weekly Collection \$6,106.00
Christmas Collection \$16,717.00
The 2nd Collection this weekend is for Diocesan and St. Lucy’s Youth Ministry.

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).

Thank you for your continuing 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 also for our homebound Parishioners and the sick of the Parish (including those in hospitals and nursing homes).

Friendly Reminder: There will be a Liturgy Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 5 at 4pm.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
- Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Community Action Committee (CAC)

Giving Tree: A sincere thank you to all Parishioners who brought gifts for the Giving Tree for distribution at the local Soup Kitchen in December. Remaining gifts were given to local organizations. Your generosity certainly brightened the holidays of those less fortunate.

Unused Cards for Inmates: The CAC will be collecting **unused** Christmas cards and all occasion cards for distribution to the ACI inmates and juvenile offenders at the RI Training School for their personal use. There is a need for cards written in Spanish due to the large percentage of those who speak only Spanish. Cards may be deposited in the appropriate baskets at the entrance of the Church. Thank you!

New CD’s from Lighthouse Catholic Media available in the Church Entrance include *So Help Me God* by Dr. Scott Hahn. He reveals that the Sacraments are the ordinary means by which God empowers us to do His will. You will discover that the Sacraments do not make holiness easy, but they do make it possible.

St. Lucy’s welcomes our newly baptized Parishioners:

- Andrew Paul Tremblay**
- Nicholas Myron Tremblay**
- Elliott Francis Tremblay**
- Sons of Elizabeth and Ryan Tremblay

12 Days of Christmas

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah of Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese-a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit – Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids-a-milking were the eight Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords-a-leaping were the ten Commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.

The Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, CT is featuring its 11th annual Christmas exhibition: *Joy to the World: Creches of Central Europe*. The exhibit includes 75 Nativity scenes on loan with origins in seven different countries. Also on display are crèches from the museum’s permanent collection including a 120 foot Neapolitan diorama. On Saturday, Jan 16 at 2pm there will be a presentation of “The Polish Nativity: A Beautiful Palace for the King of Kings” by Marek Czarnecki, a Connecticut artist and iconographer. The museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm. For more information, call 203-865-0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org.

The Catholic Center at the Univ. of Rhode Island is preparing to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2016. In order to compile an up-to-date database the Center is trying to reach out to all Catholic alumni and all those who were involved in the Center in the past still living throughout our Diocese. For more information, please contact Fr. Joseph Upton at 874-2093 or by email at rhodycatholic@gmail.com.

The Diocesan Office of Life and Family Ministry is planning two events in January. The **Annual Respect Life Mass** will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 9am at St. Paul’s Church in Cranston. The main celebrant will be Bishop Thomas Tobin with Rev. Adam Young, pastor of St. Paul’s, as the Homilist. The **Annual March for Life** will be held in Washington DC. The bus will leave RI on Thursday, Jan 21. The cost for the overnight ride is \$80 per person. For more information on these events call Carol Owens at 783-3218.