



**LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)**

I have so much on my mind that I'm finding it difficult to focus. First off, I hope that you each had a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving.

Next thought: When did giving "thanks" become synonymous with Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and now the Ten Days of Black Friday? Christmas decorations have been hanging in (some) stores since before Halloween; Christmas music has been playing non-stop on some radio stations; Christmas movies have been on the movie loop on various networks, a truckload of Christmas trees has been delivered down the street from my house; and last night while driving home I counted 15 homes within the last 8 mile radius of my house that had their outdoor Christmas lights up and lit already; the "elf on the shelf" at a friends' home made his appearance already! It's not my intention to come off sounding (slightly) Scrooge-like, that really isn't the point of this column. Rather, the point is: we've entered the season of Advent - the start of our new liturgical year! When we think about the start of a new calendar year, we come up with resolutions to improve ourselves physically, mentally, financially, etc. Advent offers us a special and unique time in our Church to once again look at what we place the focus on in our lives. During these 4 weeks of Advent we are given the opportunity to prepare a place in our hearts, homes, and lives to welcome Jesus once again. I've got a great way for your household, regardless of size, to begin your Advent journey: creation, blessing of, and daily prayer of an Advent wreath. "In the olden days," (I can tell I'm getting older because a lot of my stories now begin with those words.) I used to pick the greens, painstakingly attach 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. My favorite part of all of this: 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" of our Savior, the one who HAS come and IS to come. As you prepare you heart and home, please also take advantage of participating in some of the spiritual opportunities we are offering: reconciliation, Taize prayer, Scripture Study, Devotions, and other activities around the Aquidneck Island. **May your Advent days be filled with QUIET and HOLY EXPECTATION.**

Written by Colette Savaria (LIFE Coordinator)

**Advent Wreath Blessing:** O God, the evergreens on this wreath reminds 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, 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.

**Parish Advent Reconciliation Service** with St. Joseph Parish will be held on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:00pm at St. Joseph Church.

**First Reconciliation Classes:** Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30-4:45pm in Parish Center.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** will be held at the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, November 29 and also on December 6, 13, and 20. Plans for the Children's Christmas Pageant to be held at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass are starting to unfold. Children are needed to play the various roles in the Pageant. Please let Children's Homilists know if your child(ren) are interested. The only rehearsal will be after 10:30 Mass on December 20th

**Our Parish-wide Advent Evening of Taizé Prayer** will be held on Mon., December 14 at 7:00pm in the Church. 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. There is no preaching during this service. The leader for our evening prayer is Rev. Joe Upton, the Chaplain at the University of Rhode Island and Chaplain of The Prout School.

**Advent Scripture Study** will be held on Dec. 1, 8, and 15 led by Jane Parrillo. It will be held in the Children's Room in the back of the Church on Tuesday mornings from 9:45 to 10:30am.

**CHURCH SUPPORT – Nov. 22, 2015**  
**Weekly Collection \$6709.00**  
**Campaign for Human Development \$1927.00**  
*Thank you for your continuing generosity.*

**Community Action Committee (CAC)**  
**Giving Tree:** In the spirit of Christmas, the Community Action Committee has set up a Giving Tree in the Church Entrance. Parishioners are invited to take a tag and purchase an item of warm clothing for our area needy adults and children (no toys, please). Please place your purchase under the tree **with the tag on the outside of your wrapped gift** on Dec. 5/6 and Dec. 12/13. If there are no more tags available, please purchase a gift and make a tag clearly marked M or F noting the size and place your tag on the outside of the gift. **Thank you!**

**Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program Help:** St. Lucy's Social Service Ministry offers help in supplying Christmas presents to families in need in the local community. Please contact Colleen Earnshaw at 847-6153 (x 206) if you are interested in more information and/or how to participate in our Parish Adopt-A-Family program. Thank you!

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).

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**  
 Monday: Rom, 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37  
 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: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 14-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

**Parish Dinner/Dance Thank-You**

Deep gratitude is extended to all who supported the 2015 St. Lucy's fall dinner/dance. This event was a spectacular success thanks to the hard work of many who made it all possible. Also thanks to the Budziszek family for their support (Mike Sr., Bobby, Boiana, Mike Jr., Amanda and Richard). Thanks to the wonderful entertainers who danced beautifully: Lulu Conception, Tess Von Maluski, Myrna Blondal, Eeve Magpantay, and Maricel Santeere. Thank you to Dr. Carlos Fernando and Dr. Nila Fernando for their support and cake donation. Thanks also to Atty. Ron Mone, Master of Ceremonies, and his wife, Leny. Finally thanks to all who provided the logistics that made the night go smooth: D.J. Fogg (Music); Bert Villacorta and Dave Petrarca (Meal); Mike Budziszek Sr., Carlos Fernando, and Marshall Ronco (Drinks); Marie Lachapelle and Colette Savaria, (ticket collection); Colleen Earnshaw and Confirmation Candidates (food service and raffle sales); Marilyn Villacorta, Sister Sheila, Barbara Ames, Trish Petrarca, Nila Fernando and Elsa Ronco (Salads and Desserts); and the Parish Staff. Thanks to all the people who donated raffles, especially Nina Niego, and Trish Morrisette for making the raffles look special. The total profit for the fall dinner/ dance amounted to \$6049.00

*Fely Budziszek (Chairwoman) and, Fr. John O'Brien, Pastor*

**The Middletown K of C is holding its 2015 Christmas Clothing Drive.** Men's, women's, and children's winter wear (new or gently used) can be dropped off at the K of C Hall on Valley Road, Dec. 9 – 11 from 5 to 8pm.

**A Living Nativity**, presented by Cluny School, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10, at 6pm on the Cluny School grounds at 75 Brenton Rd., Newport. Live animals and choral music will enhance this annual reenactment of the "First Christmas" under the stars. This is a gift to the community expressing the true meaning of Christmas. Hot chocolate and sweets will be served before the 25-30 minute presentation. Please dress warmly and bring a flashlight. This event is free. The Rain Date is Wednesday, Dec. 16. Call 855-2252 or go to ClunySchool.org/Events for more information

**Cluny School Open House** for prospective families will be held on Dec. 11 from 10am to 12pm. Families will have the opportunity to meet the principal and faculty, talk with parents and students, and learn about the curriculum, tuition assistance, and more. Military discounts are offered. For more information call 847-6043..

**Become a Volunteer Ombudsman!** The RI Long Term Care Ombudsman program (located within the Alliance for Better Long Term Care) is seeking individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of residents living in Rhode Island long term care facilities. Become an advocate for improving their quality of life and care as well assist in empowering residents to become self-advocates. Training is provided. For more information please contact Deb Burton at 785-3340 or email [dburton@alliancebltc.org](mailto:dburton@alliancebltc.org).

**MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE**

Saturday, November 28

5:00pm (O) Deceased members of the John Hopf Family and Tom O'Connell Family

Sunday, November 29 **First Sunday of Advent**

8:00am (O) George and Helen Leeber

10:30am (B) Michael Sheeley, Deacon Robert Sheeley  
 Deceased members of the Legion of Mary

5:00pm (O) Bennie Lee Youngblood, Jr.  
 Mary Silveira, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 The Holy Forgotten Souls in Purgatory  
 Peter and Denise Betz: Renewal of Vows on the occasion of 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Monday, November 30

9:00am Thomas Roberts

Tuesday, December 1

9:00am Capt. Norma "June" Nunn, USN Ret.

Wednesday, December 2

9:00am Julia Jordan Finn

Thursday, December 3

9:00am Communion Service

Friday, December 4

9:00am Kaitlyn and Timothy Kramer  
 (living- Marriage Blessing)  
 James E. Keefe.  
 Holy Forgotten Souls in Purgatory  
 Edward J. Healy (Anniversary)  
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 7:00pm Devotions  
 7:50pm Benediction

Saturday, December 5

5:00pm (O) Manuel T. Mello  
 Howard L. Porter  
 Arthur Benner

Sunday, December 6 **Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00am (O) Cesario Family and Amelia Edward-Corbett

10:30am (B) George and Helen Leeber

5:00pm (O) Stanley Sekunda, Sr. (Birthday

Remembrance)

In the above celebrations:

O = Rev. John O'Brien

B = Rev. George Behan

**New schedules for Lectors, Altar Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers are available in the Sacristy.**