



"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:16-17



**LIFE** (Learning In Faith Experiences)  
**This 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday (meaning REJOICE).** Today and this week we celebrate with **JOY** and we

**REJOICE!** In our first reading we hear: "Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult with all your heart...the King of Israel is in your midst...you have nothing to fear." Our Psalm also tells us to "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among us is the great and Holy One of Israel." St. Paul tells us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: "Rejoice in the Lord always, rejoice! The Lord is near!" It would seem that happiness is a commodity that would be easy to find, and appears that some people have all the ingredients for happiness – wealth, fame, and power – but do not seem happy at all. I realize that this week of Advent is about **JOY**, which works along the lines of happiness but runs much deeper. In perusing my collection of varied Advent reflection booklets, I came across something quite intriguing in regards to this Advent day of rejoicing: The True Recipe for Happiness. This author, Jerry Welte, suggests that we "imagine happiness as a recipe, like baking a cake or a favorite dish, what would be the essential ingredients? Then, how would those ingredients be combined and in what amounts? Finally, how would we bake that recipe and serve it"? (Sounds a little familiar for our Nov. **LIFE** K-3/Parent group.) This might be a perfect activity for you, as an individual or as a household to try: write out your own recipe for happiness. Try to "perfect" this recipe until it's *just right* and then, serve it generously to everyone you encounter! Wouldn't it be awesome if this recipe caught on like wildfire?

Written by Colette Savaria (**LIFE** Coordinator)

**Our Parish-wide Advent Evening of Taizé Prayer** is 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. The leader for our evening prayer is Rev. Joe Upton, the Chaplain at the University of Rhode Island and Chaplain of The Prout School. This is the December **LIFE** for high school and adults.

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

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

**CHURCH SUPPORT – Dec. 5/6, 2015**  
**Weekly Collection \$6603.00**  
**This weekend's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation is a way to show your appreciation for those who have made a positive influence in your life and to help with their retirement needs.**  
*Thank you for your continuing generosity.*

**We are looking for your help** to bring Communion to two nursing homes in our Parish once a month. You would go with another member of the team. If you can help us out, please call Sister Sheila at 847-6153 x205.

**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 and has received an overwhelming response! Your purchases should be placed under the tree **this weekend with the tag on the outside of your wrapped gift.** 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. Your gifts will be distributed at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday. **Thank you!**

**Soup Kitchen Needs – Tuesday, December 15**

3 bags oranges                      4 loaves bread  
100 candy canes                      200 paper napkins  
6 extra-large sponges  
Assorted desserts (cupcakes, cookies, brownies)  
If you would like to donate 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. Dec. 15. Thank you all for your support. We were able to serve 67 meals in November.

**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: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23  
Thursday: Gn 42:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a /Lk 1:5-25  
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

**Christmas Flowers:** Christmas plants will be accepted in the Parish Connector no later than **Sunday, December 20.** 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. **Thank you.**

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

December marks the one year anniversary of our Increased Giving Campaign. As stewards of God's many gifts, St. Lucy's Parishioners have been very generous in sharing their time, talent, and resources. One aspect of that generosity has been seen in the significant increase in the weekly collections. Thank you for your response. We hope that you can continue to support St. Lucy's as we begin a new year.

For your convenience donations can now be made electronically. It is simple, secure, and convenient! Detailed instructions are on the enclosed flyer.

*With deep appreciation for your continuing generosity,*  
*Fr. John O'Brien*

**Jubilee Year of Mercy:** Cathedrals around the world will join together with Pope Francis in opening their Holy Door. Bishop Tobin will open the Holy Door of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1pm. The erecting of a Holy Door at a church of prominence during a Holy Year or Jubilee Year is a very ancient custom. For our generation this door is not only the threshold into a sanctuary or safe haven, but the gateway to God's Grace. Everyone is invited to attend.

**The Knights of Columbus** is seeking a Field Agent for a full-time career opportunity (with complete benefits package) representing their insurance program. Candidates must be eligible for membership in the K of C. For more information, please contact Michael Lehman at 921-4834.

**New CD's** from Lighthouse Catholic Media available in the Church Entrance include *Secrets of Divine Mercy*. Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have made it clear that Divine Mercy is at the very center of the Christian faith. Enter into the Year of Mercy with best-selling author, Vinny Flynn, as he shares his 7 Secrets of Divine Mercy, and Christ's message of love for each of us, and for the whole world.



**Christmas Schedule 2015**

Thursday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**  
Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Masses at:

**4pm, 6pm and 10pm**

Friday, December 25, **Christmas Day**

**9am and 10:30am**

**No evening Mass on Christmas Day**

**MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 12  
5:00pm (O) Mark Green  
Sunday, December 13, **Third Sunday of Advent**  
8:00am (O) Ruth Carbone (Anniversary)  
10:30am (O) Arthur Hines  
12:00noon Baptism  
5:00pm (B) Mary Ellis (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
Monday, December 14  
9:00am Julia Jordan Flynn  
7:00pm Advent/Taize Prayer Evening  
Tuesday, December 15  
9:00am (D) Michael and Deacon Robert Sheeley  
Bridget Carroll  
6:30pm ASA Christmas Pageant  
Wednesday, December 16  
9:00am Joseph A. Medeiros  
Thursday, December 17  
9:00am (D) John F. Gawalt (9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
Friday, December 18  
9:00am (D) Fred Gauch  
Sylvester S. Croy  
Pope Francis' Birthday Remembrance  
Mary Nunes  
5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00pm Devotions  
7:50pm Benediction  
Saturday, December 19  
1:30pm (ON) Forest Farm Mass  
2:30pm Marriage of Julianne Follett and Douglas Blynn  
5:00pm (O) Lawrence Gilleran (Birthday Remembrance)  
Sunday, December 20, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
8:00am (O) Amelia Edward-Corbett  
10:30am (O) Bernadette Moniz  
Adolfo Pedro Ganzon  
James Patrick Murphy  
5:00pm (O) Mary Nunes

**In the above celebrations:**

- O = Rev. John O'Brien
- B = Rev. George Behan
- ON = Rev. Tom O'Neill
- D = Rev. Robert Dunphy

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