



1st Sunday
in Advent



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I hope that you each had a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving! While on the subject of Thanksgiving, 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 mid-October; Christmas music has been playing on a loop on some radio stations; Christmas movies have been on the air since before Halloween. By the time I sit down to watch a Christmas movie on Christmas night (the first day of the actual Christmas Season), guess what: there probably won’t be a Christmas movie to be found (thank goodness for DVR’s)! Oh, I almost forgot – this past weekend was a big weekend to put up Christmas Trees too. I apologize if I’m starting to sound Scrooge-like, that really isn’t the point of this column. The actual point that I’m attempting to get to is: It’s 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 the focal point is in our personal lives. During these 4 weeks (actually 3 weeks and almost 1 full day) of Advent we are given the opportunity to prepare a place in our hearts, homes, and lives to welcome Jesus once again. My Advent journey always begins with appropriating 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 – of course NOW I add some special Advent candles “gifted” to me. My favorite part of this Advent Wreath ritual: 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. May your Advent days be filled with QUIET and HOLY EXPECTATION. Speaking of quiet and holy expectation, I hope that you’ll join with me, our staff members, and other Parishioners at Monday night’s *Advent Evening of Taize Prayer* from 6:30-7:30pm in the Church!!

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

Advent Wreath Blessing

This week we begin the season of Advent, when the days grow short and darkness closes in. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus who is the light of the world. Lord God, bless this wreath and bless us as well. May this wreath remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reconciliation Class is on Thurs., December 7th from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center. Bring your text book.

Our combined Parish **Advent Reconciliation Service** with St. Joseph’s Parish will be held on **Tuesday, December 12** at 7pm at St. Joseph’s Church.

St. Lucy’s Christmas Pageant: Come and be part of the annual St. Lucy’s Christmas Pageant that will take place at our **5pm Christmas Eve Mass**. Participants are needed to be readers, members of the holy family, angels, shepherds, and travelers. There is only one rehearsal which will take place after the 10:30am Mass on December 17 in the Church.

Visiting the Sick: Please notify Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x 205) when a family member is in the hospital

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.

CHURCH SUPPORT – November 25/26, 2017
Weekly Collection **\$6763.00**
Thank you for your continuing generosity.

The second collection next weekend will be on behalf of all retired Men and Women Religious in the Diocese of Providence and their Religious Communities.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
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: Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

Holy Land Gifts: Representatives of the Holy Land will display hand crafted, olive wood religious items next weekend (Dec. 9/10) in the Church entrance. The sale of these items helps to support the Christians who are a minority living in the Holy Land. These items make unique Christmas gifts.

FORMED: Catholic Faith On Demand. Celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons with the many wonderful movies, books audio presentations and studies on FORMED. Registration is easy and FREE. Simply go to formed.org and use the Parish Code B84KHM. This is a gift from St. Lucy’s to YOU! Enjoy it today!

The Diocesan Office of Life and Family will offer a special **Our Lady of Sorrows Bereavement Support group, “Coping with the Holidays,”** in St. Lucy’s Parish Center on two Monday evenings, 12/11 and 12/18 from 7 to 8:30pm. For information, contact: Peter A. Magnotta at 421-7833, ext. 217.

Middletown/Newport Knights of Columbus 2017 Christmas Clothing Drive for the needy and homeless will be held Wed., Thurs., and Fri., Dec. 13-15 from 5 to 8pm. Please drop off clothing donations at the front entrance of the K of C Hall at 7 Valley Road. Needed are men’s, women’s and children’s clothing in good condition (coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, pants and shirts).

Bishop Tobin’s 25th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 1pm in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. If you are interesting in attending the Holy Mass celebration of this significant milestone and reception to follow, please speak with Fr. John.

Community Action Committee (CAC)
****Giving Tree.** In the spirit of Christmas, the CAC has set up a Giving Tree in the Church. Parishioners are invited to take a tag and purchase an item of **warm** clothing for our area needy adults. These gifts will be distributed by the committee at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, December 19th. Suggestions are: flannel shirts, sweaters, earmuffs, thermal underwear, socks, and mittens or gloves, hats and turtlenecks. Sizes will be marked on the tags. (Some tags are marked for children – we ask that you purchase hats, mittens, or scarves only – NOT TOYS, please). Take a tag, purchase a gift, **attach the tag on the outside of your wrapped gift**, and return to the Church to place under the tree on the weekends of December 9/10 or 16/17. **Please note: If there are no more tags on the tree, you can still purchase a gift, make a tag, mark it M or F and note the size.** We appreciate your help and thank you for your generosity.
****The CAC wishes to thank you for your donations to the Pennies for Prescriptions** for the residents of Lucy’s Hearth.
****A total of 14 turkeys and several bags of non-perishable food were delivered to the Salvation Army for their Thanksgiving Dinner** on the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. We also thank those who made monetary donations that were used to provide families from the local and parish community with a Thanksgiving meal. Your generosity certainly brightened the holidays of those less fortunate. Your continued support and generosity throughout the year is truly appreciated!

Holiday Events
***The Newport Navy Choristers present “Christmas In Song”** on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30pm at St. Barnabas Church, Portsmouth. For more information, call 849-1135.
***All Saints STEAM Academy, 915 West Main Rd.** will hold their **4th Annual Holiday Craft Fair** on December 9th from 9am to 4pm at the School.
***The Sounds of the Season** concert will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 3pm at Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. For more information, call the Cathedral office at 331-2434.

Christmas Flowers: Special envelopes for flower donations are located in the pews. If you would like to remember a loved one through your donation, please be sure to include those name(s) on your envelope. Details for donations of plants and decorating the Church will follow in later bulletins.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 2
5:00pm (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
Sunday, December 3 **First Sunday of Advent**
8:00am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
10:30am (O) Betty Raffa
5:00pm (O’N) Confirmation Mass of Commitment
Monday, December 4
9:00am Larry Settle
Celeste & Manuel Mitchell
6:30pm Advent Evening of Taize Prayer
Tuesday, December 5
9:00am Rocco Piccirilli
Wednesday, December 6
9:00am Deacon James Rudnik
6:00pm ASA Christmas Pageant
Thursday, December 7
9:00am Communion Service
6:00pm (S) **Vigil Mass**
Friday, December 8, **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
9:00am (O) Mary Farias
Sgt. Michael F. Paranzino
Stanley Sekunda, Sr.
(No evening Mass)
5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Litany to Mary
7:50pm Benediction
Saturday, December 9
1:30pm Mass at Grand Islander
5:00pm Manuel T. Mello
Sunday, December 10,
8:00am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
10:30am (O) Gary Varteresian
12:00 Noon Baptism
5:00pm (O’N) St. Lucy’s Parishioners

In the above celebrations:
O = Rev. John O’Brien
S = Rev. Saji Joseph
O’N = Rev. Thomas O’Neill

Children’s Liturgy of the Word continues at the 10:30 Mass this Sunday, (12/3), 12/10, and 12/17.

Praying With Icons. During Advent our icon of Mary will be placed to the left of the sanctuary. There will be a booklet on the meaning of icons, how to pray with an icon, and the identification of our particular icon. Chairs will be placed in front of the icon so that time outside of Mass may be spent with Jesus and Mary in preparation for Christmas.