



“Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

**LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)**

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent! It’s the shortest week in our liturgical year as it begins with the first Saturday evening mass (of Sunday) and will come to an end with the first

Mass of Christmas Eve on Sunday afternoon! This “week” of 24 hours or less seems to be a trick of liturgical time, or, perhaps (and a better thought) it’s a way of reminding us that God’s time is different from ours, and God’s plans are bigger than what we could ever begin to imagine. Only God would come up with a plan for the salvation of the world by starting with an angel coming to a young girl/woman, Mary of Nazareth. Only God would come up with a plan that an angel would visit a humble and obedient man like Joseph. Only God would keep turning to us, we who are made in his image and likeness, hoping in us. During the entirety of Advent we are to have been preparing our hearts and homes for the Savior to be with us. The message we are invited to reflect upon during this final 24-hour “week” of Advent, is that God wants to be with us! **God wants to be with us (you and me)!** Christ continues to be born in us through our unselfish kindness, gracious help, generous patience, understanding acceptance, compassionate care, and many other ordinary loving gestures – remember that, whatever you’re doing, it’s always through love that Christ enters our lives; enters our world. Thomas Merton’s writing emphasizes that God continues to bless the world with Christ’s love through our humanity: “*Christ is born in us today in order that he many appear to the whole world through us.*” We are the carriers and bearers of God’s love – what a wonderful gift and responsibility that we’ve each been given. Wishing you and your family a joy-filled Christmas season.

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

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.

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18  
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 /Mt 10:17-22  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40  
 Sunday: Sir 2:3-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/  
 Lk 2:22-40

**January 2018 Clements receipts will count twice** for all purchases made at Clements’ Marketplace in Portsmouth during the month of January 2018. Please place your receipts in the box on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for your participation.

Some needs for replenishing **St. Lucy’s Food Pantry** during these winter months include Peanut Butter, Jelly, Boxed Crackers, Pasta, Campbell’s Chunky Soup (beef and chicken), Chef Boyardee (all varieties), Progresso soups, Canned Vegetables (corn, peas, green beans, carrots) Canned meats, and Cereal. **Thank you**, in advance for your constant care of our neighbors.

**An Invitation to Pray for All Human Life:** The Office of Life and Family Ministry will sponsor the “Annual Respect Life Mass” on Saturday, January 13 at St. Paul Church in Cranston. The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will remain on the altar during Mass and will be available for veneration at the reception that will immediately follow the Mass. For more information and to R.S.V.P. contact :Carol Owens, Office of Life Family Ministry at 421-7833 (x218).

**2018 March for Life:** The Office of Life Family Ministry will be sponsoring a bus trip to Washington DC for the Annual March for Life on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion. The cost for the overnight ride is \$83.00 per person and will leave RI on Thursday, January 18. This year’s trip will take us to the Capital One Arena for the Youth Rally and Mass. There will be confession, Rosary, popular Catholic recording artists, presentation and a Mass for Life. For more information and to register, contact Carol Owens at 421-7833 (x218).

**YEAR-END CHARITABLE DONATIONS** are happily on the mind of some people these days. Please consider St. Lucy’s Parish as a beneficiary. Recently we had to make some repairs on the front of the Church and we also had to winterize the former Lucy’s Hearth. Donations for these projects (which totaled about \$15,000) and for our Debt Reduction (balance as of 11/21/17 = \$59,631.42) would be greatly appreciated. Thank you again for all your support of our Parish.

**Taking Time Out Retreats**

The **Spirituality for Everyday Living Mini-retreat series** will begin the New Year with “**Follow Your Bliss**” led by Peggy Patenaude on Wednesday, January 10 at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham, MA from 10am to 12:30pm. Pre-registration is required. Contact Peggy at 508-548-9149 or [timeoutretreats@comcast.net](mailto:timeoutretreats@comcast.net).

**Last Call:** “**The Story of My Life**”, a women’s retreat weekend, will be held at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, MA January 12-14. For more details see above contact information.

**CHURCH SUPPORT December 16/17, 2017**  
**Weekly Collection** \$6073.00  
**Reduction of the Parish Debt** \$2793.00  
*Thank you for your continuing generosity.*

**FORMED:** Check out **Catholic Faith On Demand** for recommendations for the Christmas Season. Use the Parish Code B84KHM. Registration is FREE

**The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe** will be visiting many Parishes in the Diocese of Providence from January 6 to 29, 2018. All are invited to attend the various Masses, Holy Hours, Presentations and Veneration opportunities during this time. For a schedule of the visits, please visit: [www.dioceseofprovidence.org](http://www.dioceseofprovidence.org) or email: [cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org) or call Carol Owens at 421-7833 (x218). **On Wednesday, January 17 St. Lucy’s will host the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.** The schedule of that day includes 9am Mass, Presentation, Rosary, Movies (*Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of Hope, The Blood and the Rose, Mystery of Guadalupe*), 12pm Angelus, 2pm Rosary, 3pm Divine Mercy, 6pm Holy Hour, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Presentation.

**A Christmas Prayer**

Lord, you came upon **A Midnight Clear**  
 To bring  
**Joy to the World**  
 and draw us near.  
 It was a **Holy Night** when you came from above,  
 to fill our hearts with hope and love.  
 Thank you.  
**Sweet Jesus Boy,**  
 for clothing us with  
**Comfort and Joy.**



**Christmas Schedule 2017**

Sunday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**  
 Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Masses at:  
**5pm and 10pm**  
 Monday, December 25, **Christmas Day**  
**9am and 10:30am**  
**No evening Mass on Christmas Day**

**MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 23  
 5:00pm (O) Domingos Rodrigues (Birthday Remembrance)

Sunday, December 24, **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00am (O’N) Frederick E. Glynn Catherine Cook, Katherine Zysk  
 10:30am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners

Sunday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**  
**5:00pm** (O) Amelia Edward-Corbett Federico Gaton, Ernio and Emelita Gaton Tonig Gaton, Veneranda Gaton Angelina Garcia  
**10:00pm** (O) Arthur G. Leonard (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)

Monday, December 25, **Christmas Day**  
 9:00am (O) Christopher and Teresa Grant (living)  
 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber  
**No PM Masses**

Tuesday, December 26  
 9:00am (O’N) Frank P. “Mickey” Mello

Wednesday, December 27  
 9:00am Theodore W. Croy

Thursday, December 28  
 9:00am (O) Genevieve and Wallace Mathison Rev. Deacon N. David Bouley (living)

Friday, December 29  
 9:00am (B) Deceased members of the Vincent F. McMahan, Sr. family Edward J. Healy Robert and Mary Ann Galkowski  
 11:00am Funeral Mass of Raymond Pratt  
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 7:00pm Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany to Mary  
 7:50pm Benediction

Saturday, December 30  
 10:00am Memorial Mass for Jean Winthrop  
 1:00pm Baptism  
 5:00pm (O) Capt. Stephen J. Belli, U.S. Army

Sunday, December 31  
 8:00am (O) The Betty and Spooner families  
 10:30am (O) Virginia Dosouto  
 5:00pm (O’N) St. Lucy’s Parishioners

Monday, January 1, **Solemnity of Mary**  
 9:00am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners  
**6:00pm** (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners

In the above celebrations:  
 O = Rev. John O’Brien  
 O’N = Rev. Thomas O’Neill  
 B = Rev. Bill O’Neil