



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Lk 2:40



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

A merry and blessed Christmas to you and your family, and blessings on this day as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family! How appropriate that we look to and honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph so soon after celebrating The Nativity because the season of Christmas is filled with “family time:” a blessing, but at the same time, stressful. Our focus on *The Holy Family* is a reminder to look at whether or not we perceive our own family as a “holy” family. Since 1981, each of my siblings and I are VERY INTENTIONAL about phoning our parents to wish them a Happy “Holy Family Sunday” if we are not able to spend time with them. Let me explain the reason behind this intentional act. Way back in the olden days, my family had vacationed in Disney World (12/26-1/2/81) and on the Sunday we had all walked over to the location where the Sunday Mass was scheduled to be held (yes, in the those days, Disney actually scheduled a mass for guests). Many vacationers were in attendance, but not a priest. After a respectful half hour, we were all still waiting for the priest. We (disrespectful) five children went on our merry way while our parents chose to take a cab to a local Church for Sunday Liturgy. Lo and behold, when we all finally met up again for our Sunday Dinner, the five of us were “informed” by our parents that we had missed the celebration of the Holy Family. My parents “droned on” about how they were sitting in church on Holy Family Sunday – childless! (May I remind you of some lines in our first reading today: “*whoever honors his father/mother...take care of your father/mother...be considerate...kindness to a parent will not be forgotten...*”). The good old Catholic-guilt made a quick, yet short-lived visit to each one of the five of us. You have to laugh at that story, don’t you? We still do - and did - at our Christmas table again this year as we talked in anticipation of how 4 out of the 5 of us will celebrate Holy Family Sunday with Mom and Dad at dinner this year! Of course, we reminisced about what “horrible children” we were and how we’ve been redeemed by our parental models! We did also, in front of our parents, ask if we should all meet up to go to mass together – to which we quickly agreed, *why break tradition?* You do realize that the word holy does not mean “perfect,” don’t you? (Thanks be to God!) Today’s feast day reminds us that Jesus was part of a family, albeit one that faced extraordinary difficulties. The family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus looked out for and protected each other, all the while relying on God. To be holy doesn’t mean that you don’t have problems or that you are perfect, it means that you love and respect one another and turn to God for help in all circumstances and situations: good and bad. Pope Francis offered insight to families on how to live a happier, more peaceful family life – by using three phrases: “*May I?*,” “*Thank you,*” and “*I’m sorry.*” Pope Francis said, “*Although simple words, they are not simple to put into practice.*” The truth is, we can start with kindness and understanding toward the most important and significant people in our lives: our family members (and also

those that we spend a lot of time with: extended family, and perhaps our work-family and/or school-family). Once we choose to live with kindness and understanding as well as making use of those simple phrases in our lives, our holy family will grow stronger and will be more peaceful (and the ripple effect will begin to reach outward). Enjoy your celebration of Holy Family Sunday with your “holy” family! Merry Christmas!

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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

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.

St. Lucy’s Food Pantry is in need of replenishments during these winter months. Suggested items 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.

Theology On Tap, an event sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation, will be held Thursday, January 4 from 6 to 8:30pm. All young Adults, single or married, in the 20’s and 30’s are invited to Uncle Tony’s Pizza & Pasta, 46 Putnam Pike (Rt. 44), Johnston, RI. “**Habits: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**” will be the topic of conversation on the underlying secret to actually keeping a New Year’s Resolution. Social hour begins at 6pm followed by a presentation and Q & A at 7pm. There is no fee for this event, but a free-will offering will be collected. Visit www.discovercatholicfaith.org for more information.

The Knights of Columbus Museum, at 1 State St., in New Haven, CT, has a new exhibit, *Peace on Earth: Crèches of the World.* The show includes more than 70 Nativity scenes from artists across the globe. Open 10-5 daily. Free admission and parking. For more information call 201-865-0400 or go to kofcmuseum.org.

CHURCH SUPPORT December 23-25, 2017
 Weekly Collection \$7452.00
 Christmas Collection \$18,239.00
 Thank you for your continuing generosity.

YEAR-END CHARITABLE DONATIONS are happily on the minds 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.

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.

FORMED: Catholic Faith On Demand - FREE. *The Story of the Nativity.* The story of the birth of Jesus is often misunderstood. But this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings of Jesus’ origin. Also included are stunning works of art depicting the biblical story, and footage from the Holy Land showing the places where the Christmas story actually took place. Explore the true story of Mary and Joseph, Jesus’ miraculous conception, the birth of John the Baptist, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Star of Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus. Go to www.formed.org and use our parish code **B84KHM.**

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.

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
 During this holy season of Christmas,
 we ask for your blessing on all families.
 Let Mary’s openness to your wondrous ways
 be an inspiration to place all trust in you.
 Let Joseph’s courage provide hope
 during times of anxiety and uncertainty.
 Let Jesus’ life ignite all families with
 a spirit of light and love.
 May the grace that encircled the Holy Family
 widen to embrace all families.
 For this we pray. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 30
 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
 Tuesday, January 2
 9:00am (O’N) Kenneth Peckham
 Wednesday, January 3
 9:00am St. Lucy’s Parishioners
 Thursday, January 4
 9:00am (O) Communion Service
 Friday, January 5
 9:00am Sheila Dennis
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet,
 Litany to Mary
 7:50pm Benediction
 Saturday, January 6
 5:00pm (O) Domingos Rodrigues
 (Birthday Remembrance)
 Sunday, January 7, **The Epiphany of the Lord**
 8:00am (O) William and Mary Brennan
 10:30am (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
 12:00pm Baptism
 5:00pm (O’N) Christopher Grant (Living)

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

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.