Saint Lucy Catholic Faith Community (401-847-6153) Middletown, RI

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2019

LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)
What a week of “biggies” we’ve had, and are still to come in our Church calendar this week: the feast of St. Nicholas was Dec 6, the 2nd Week of Advent. Feast of the Immaculate Conception (both of these this year are on Dec 8), and of course, the Feast of St. Lucy (Dec. 13). When I was younger, I thought that we celebrated Feasts of St. Nicholas and Immaculate Conception because they are my brother’s and mother’s birthdays! In France families celebrate the Feast of Pere Noel with the children leaving their shoes out overnight, finding that they’re filled with little trinkets the next morning upon awakening. Some households celebrate gift-giving more on this feast day than Christmas. Third: St. Lucy. St. Nicholas (aka Kriss Kringle, Pere Noel, Santa Claus) is a model of the generosity that we, too, are called to live. St. Nicholas was generous because he LOVED GOD. His kindness and charity flowed from that love every day, not just during the holiday season! Speaking of love: today we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary as we honor God’s choice of Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God kept Mary free from original sin from the moment that she was conceived. Mary was filled with love and grace, as was evident in her “yes” to the seemingly impossible message from the Angel Gabriel as he appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. Mary models for us what the full meaning of the word “yes” is as a disciple; “yes” in (and to) all of life’s moments. Thank you, St. Joanna, for your inspirational words about Mary at our Advent Prayer Evenings. One of my take-aways: St. Mary is the face of our Church. St. Joanna challenged us to journey with Mary in a special way this Advent, perhaps also a challenge to you if you weren’t able to join us today. We light another candle as we enter into the 2nd week of Advent. The light of this week, seemingly insignificant, grows stronger and brighter as we come nearer to our Savior’s coming, the darkness will be banished as Jesus – the light comes into the world. In the Feast of St. Lucy, we remember that Lucy was tortured but remained faithful to Jesus. Lucy’s feast comes when we wait for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. Scandinavian countries have a special way of celebrating St. Lucy’s feast: a young girl is dressed in a white dress and a red sash (a symbol of martyrdom) carrying palms and wearing a crown of candles on her head. In Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung. A Hungarian custom is to plant wheat in a small pot on St. Lucy’s feast. By Christmas green sprouts appear, signs of life coming from death. This symbolizes Lucy’s gift of an eternal wedding feast, and ours. The wheat is then carried to the manger scene as the symbol of Christ in the Eucharist. St. Lucy, pray that we may be the light of the world! (This column is only so long, but I don’t want to leave out the rest of these amazing saints: Mary, Sts. Joseph and Jesus; Martin, Tessa and O’Brian; Cindy and Merrick; Josephine and Emmanuel; and many others.)

For a our educational moment about Advent click on Advent in Two Minutes at www.bustedhalo.com.

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

Formed. During the Second Week of Advent we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady (Dec 8) and St. Juan Diego Conception (Dec. 9) to whom Our Lady appeared. Recommended viewing Guadalupe: (The Miracle and the Message; 1531 A Story That is Not Finished Yet) and for children: Juan Diego (Messenger of Guadalupe). Not available on your TV? Go to www.formed.org using the free parish code B84KJH.

Advent Decorations: The blue banner across the front of the altar encompasses many symbols of our Advent journey. The seven candles on the left represent the seven “O” Antiphons – each titles of the coming Messiah. The star represents the Star of Bethlehem. The letter “X” represents Jesus whom we await. The Greek letters tau ro when placed over each other are a very early symbol reminding us that Jesus was born to die for us. Enclosuring these is another symbol called a mandoria. It is commonly used in art to highlight the figure of Christ depicted in sacred moments of His life. Let us reflect on these symbols during Advent as we anticipate the birth of the One who came to save us. Marantha!

CHURCH SUPPORT
Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2019
Weekly Collection
$5268.00
Electronic Giving
$ 645.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Religious.
Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and much more for the religious communities caring for aging members.

The Second Collection next weekend is for St. Lucy’s Building and Maintenance Fund.
Thank you for your generosity!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11M/18-12:14
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11M:17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 35:1-6, 10a/2M:5-10M:112-11

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 homeless 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.

Middletown/Newport Knights of Columbus 2019 Clothing Drive for the needy and homeless is from 5 to 8pm on Wed., Dec. 11th (9027) Dts. 12 and Fri., Dec. 13. Please drop off men’s, women’s, and children’s winter wear new or used clothing in good condition (coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, pants, shirts) at the K of C Council Hall Front Entrance on 7 Valley Road.

Soup Kitchen Needs
Tuesday, Dec. 17
Assorted finger desserts (cupsakes, cookies, brownies, etc.) 2 loaves bread 5 lbs Candy Canes 2 (1 pound) boxes butter (sticks only)
If you would like to help with any of the above items, please call Sylvia Bunster at 683-0320. You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tuesday, Dec. 17. With your help we were able to serve 87 meals in September. Thank you to all who helped make this possible!

Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Providence is constructing a new mausoleum at St. Anne’s Cemetery ( Cranston) to emulate the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. Call Bill at 944-8383 for more information and mention the Parish Incentive Program.

The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to help sort/bag Christmas gifts for area families in need. The dates are Dec. 16, 17 and 18 from 9am to 4pm. If interested, please contact Howland at 860-817-0534 for more info and/or sign up. Any amount of time you can help will be most appreciated!

Advent and Christmas Events
“Not the New Navy Choristers will present its Christmas in Song concert on Fri., Dec. 13 at 7:30pm at St. Lucy’s Church to benefit the Soup Kitchen and the Cramer’s Community Service in RI and Medical Missions for tribal people in the Philippines. For tickets/ad placements call Cecilia Heredia at 848-0622 or email linksholm0@gmail.com.

*Jamestown Community Chorus will present Christmas Pops at the Jamestown Rec. Center on Sat. Dec. 14 at 4pm and Sun., Dec. 15 at 3pm. For info call 423-1574 or Helen at 842- 8517.

*Breakfast with Santa at St. Barnabas Church on Dec. 15 which will include an Elephant Quilt (made by Fr. Peter) raffle. Call 683-1345 for tickets/info.

*Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast at St. Joseph Church Dec. 15 Noon Mass followed by a reception in the basement with mariachi, dance groups and much more.

Community Action Committee (CAC)
Giving Tree: In the spirit of Christmas, the CAC has set up a Giving Tree in the narthex of the Church. Parishioners are invited to take a tag and purchase an item of warm clothing for an adult in need from our local community. Suggestions for these gifts are sweaters, flannel shirts, earmuffs, thermal underwear, socks, mittens or gloves, hats, and turban-like. Suits are marked on the tags. Some tags are marked for children. Please purchase hats, mittens and scarves (no toys please). Place your wrapped gift under the tree (with tag attached). The Giving Tree will be on display later than December 14/15 for distribution at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Please note: if there are no more tags on the tree, you can still purchase a gift, make a tag, and mark size and M or F.

Visiting the Sick: When a family member is in the hospital, please notify Sr. Sheila Murphy at 847-6153 (x205)

written by: rev. o’ neill

“i am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more mighty than i. he will baptize you with the holy spirit and fire.”

matthew 3:11-12

mass intentions and church schedule

saturday, december 7
5:00pm - rev. t. mello

sunday, december 8, the second sunday of advent
8:00am (o’n) st. lucy’s parishioners
10:30am (o) george and helen leeper
12 noon baptism
5:00pm (o) st. lucy’s parishioners

monday, december 9
9:00am george e. silvia

sunday, december 16
9:00am christopher and teresa grant (living – 2nd anniversary)

wednesday, december 11
9:00am mr. and mrs. affie and joseph menassa

thursday, december 12
9:00am communion service

friday, december 13
9:00am o’n phillomena diulillo, anna masse
elsie vizzaccro (in honor of st. lucy)
5:00pm exposition of the blessed sacrament
6:00pm adoration and devotions
7:30pm navy chorister’s concert

saturday, december 14
1:30pm mass at grand islander
5:00pm domingo rodrigues
3:30pm cindy greenman

sunday, december 15, third sunday of advent
8:00am (o) the cesario family
10:30am martín curcis
5:00pm josephine and manuel mare

in the above celebrations:

○ – rev. john o’brien
○/n – rev. tom o’neill

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