LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)
I can’t believe that I just NOW remembered something that I wanted to share with you at the start of Advent. I came across it back in October and thought my memory would prevail! It’s called a “Reverse Advent Calendar.” For each day of Advent you add an item to a box and donate the contents to a Food Bank/Pantry during the Christmas season. I share this with you at this late date, going into our 3rd week of Advent because 1) it’s never too late to do something for others, and 2) today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day to rejoice that the Messiah is near – what better way to prepare our hearts for our Savior and to care for our neighbors, and 3) we all go food shopping at least once a week! I’ll start us off with the food suggestion for December 14 and continue: 12/14 – box of crackers; 15 – package of rice; 16 – package of oatmeal; 17 – box of pasta; 18 – spaghetti sauce; 19 – chicken noodle soup; 20 – tomato soup; 21 – can corn; 22 – jar of apple sauce; 23 – macaroni and cheese; 24 – box of cereal. The very end of the reflection on today’s Gospel from The Word Among Us reads: “So when you see Jesus on the cross in your church, when you hear him in his word and receive him in Communion, echo John’s question: ‘Are you the one my heart is searching for?’ Try to quiet your heart, and listen for his answer. Let him convince you of His love and His grace. And then rejoice with him.”
Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

The 2020 calendars for our Parishioners come from Catholic Extension’s Calendar Ministry which directly supports the growth and vibrancy in the Catholic Church in more than 90 American dioceses. Catholic Extension is the only provider of Catholic calendars that gives 100% of its proceeds to fund grants benefitting these dioceses. These grants help to strengthen ministries, foster leaders, and build churches. Please enjoy the gift of a beautiful calendar from St. Lucy’s.

Formed. A delightful Advent preparation time can be accomplished with the children’s program – Brother Francis: The Days of Advent. These videos provide a wonderful chance for parents and children to uncover and participate in the beauty of the Advent season together. Register for FORMED anytime at www.formed.org using the free parish code B84KHM.

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 Mary Howland at 860-817-0734 for more info and/or sign up. Any amount of time you can help will be most appreciated!

The directors, staff and residents of Lucy’s Hearth would like to thank you for your donation of $425.81 raised for Penny’s Prescriptions. They are extremely grateful for your support of their mission to help homeless parents and their children achieve housing and increased self-sufficiency.

The Third Sunday of Advent

SCRIPTUREReadings for the Week

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Is 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Lk 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-6/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Is 33:7-17, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-35
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45
Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-28

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). Pray for the unborn, the premature, and the fragile among us so that we may deepen our respect for life at all stages.

Soup Kitchen Needs
Tuesday, Dec. 17
Assorted finger desserts (cups, cookies, brownies, etc.)
2 loaves bread
4 bags oranges
50 Candy Canes
2 (1 pound) boxes butter (sticks only)

**St. Lucy’s Christmas Pageant will take place on Dec. 24 at the 6pm Mass. All children are invited to participate as readers, the holy family, angels, travelers, and shepherds. All costumes are provided. There is only one rehearsal which will take place immediately following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, Dec. 22.** Any questions please feel free to call 683-3231.

It is better to Light a Candle than to curse the darkness! Many volunteers (several candle bearers and one woman preferably dressed in blue to carry the infant to the crèche) are needed for the procession at 10pm Christmas Eve Masses. Sign-up sheets and instructions are available in the Narthex. Please consider being a bearer of Light

**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 for gift donations for those in need in our local community. Place your wrapped gift under the tree (with tag attached on outside). Gifts must be returned no later than the 5pm Mass on Dec. 15 for distribution at the Soup Kitchen on Thursday, 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.

The directors, staff and residents of Lucy’s Hearth would like to thank you for your donation of $425.81 raised for Penni’s Prescriptions. They are extremely grateful for your support of their mission to help homeless parents and their children achieve housing and increased self-sufficiency.

The Knights of Columbus Museum, at 1 State St., New Haven, CT has a new Christmas exhibit, Christmas in Europe. The show which will run through Feb. 2020 features more than 80 items. The Museum is open 10-5 daily with free admission and parking. More information at 203-865-0400 or kofcmuseum.org.