MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE
Saturday, December 5
5:00pm (O) Francis O'Donnell (1st Anniversary)
David Minorly
Sunday, December 6, The Second Sunday of Advent
8:00am (O) The Cesario Family
10:30am (O): Relief for the Philippine typhoon and calamity in Consur Bicol Region
5:00pm (O'N) Manuel T. Mello
Monday, December 7
9:00am (O) Richard DeMeo (living)
6:00pm (O'N) Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception
Anthony Marzillo
Tuesday, December 8, Immaculate Conception
9:00am (O) Deceased members of Murphy and Stravato families
Wednesday, December 9
9:00am (O) Stanley Sekunda, Sr. (Birthday Remembrance)
Thursday, December 10
9:00am Communion Service
Friday, December 11
5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, St. Lucy’s Parishioners
7:30pm Benediction
Saturday, December 12
5:00pm (O) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
Sunday, December 13, The Third Sunday of Advent and Feast Day of St. Lucy
8:00am (O) Masse and DiLallo Families
10:30am (O) George and Helen Lebeer
5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy’s Parishioners
In the above celebrations:
O = Rev. John O’Brien
O’N = Rev. Tom O’Neill

LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)
This week of December is a very busy birthday week for me as I have numerous friends and relatives to celebrate these special observances with, of course this year’s celebrations will be very different than past ones. Some of these December birthday “babies” have helped me to keep up with celebrations in their proper order as my marching orders include that I am never, never, ever to combine a birthday present with a Christmas gift. I also keep in mind that birthday celebrations are to come before Christmas decorating or all other types of Christmas festivities. (I can, however, commence my Christmas shopping.) I share this with you because these birthday miles lead me to think of the Advent and upcoming Christmas seasons, inviting me to keep Advent preparations ahead of Christmas ones. Advent is the season that prepares our hearts and minds for the very special and sacred season of Christmas. Not only is this week busy outside of church, but within as well! We have a few Church calendar biggies this week: the 2nd Week of Advent (12/6), the Feast of St. Nicholas (also 12/6), the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (12/8), Our Lady of Guadalupe (12/12), and even though it’s next week, we look forward to the Feast Day of our Patron Saint: St. Lucy (12/13). The other day I was reading a short article called “Have Yourself a Drama-Free Christmas.” It really was quite intriguing and offered a few chuckles. Writing about traditions, the author, Cory Busse stated, “Traditions are organic. They happen because they mean something to those involved. Traditions in our culture are often not written out of obligation aren’t traditions, they’re burdens...Drama-free Christmas greets guests where they are, not where we wish they would be. Which is, of course, how Jesus greets us on Christmas day and every day.” These days we must look beyond our regular traditions and look to celebrate Advent and Christmas drama-free while “visiting” with our family and friends wherever they are, and not where we wish they were.
Written by: Colette M. Savaria

AED Recertification (Automatic External Defibrillator): There has come for everyone and all those volunteers who were certified in 2018 to be re-certified. Volunteers are asked to contact Carol Beck at the YMCA (tel. no. 847-9200) to reserve a place in the class on Sat., Dec. 12. Volunteers are deeply thankful for their willingness to serve St. Lucy’s Parishioners with these life-saving skills.

CHURCH SUPPORT
November 26/27, 2020
Weekly Collection $4994.00
Electronic Giving $1015.00

The second collection next weekend is the Annual National Collection for Retired Religious. Senior religious have been instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, and charitable agencies. Your gift will help provide medicines, nursing care, and much more.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial generosity!!

The Community Action Committee (CAC) Updates
*Pennies for Prescriptions: A total of $546.44 was raised to aid the residents of Lucy’s Hearth for their prescription needs. Thank you!*

*Giving Tree: Because of the ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic, the CAC is not setting up a Giving Tree but will be working with the McKinley Shelter. They and many organizations are not accepting wrapped gifts this year, but are requesting gift cards from Walmart, Dunkin’, and Stop & Shop only, in increments of $5 up to $25. As of today there are 30 residents at the McKinley Shelter. A staff member at McKinley will distribute the gift cards to their residents on Christmas Day. If you choose to participate, place the gift card in an envelope marked “Giving Tree” and place it in the collection basket. If you are not able to attend Mass, you may mail your donation to the Rectory, or drop it in the locked Drop Box outside of the Rectory. If you prefer to write a check or make a donation, we will gladly accept this and purchase the gift cards. All amounts of donations are welcome and accepted through Sunday, Dec. 20th. Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this challenging time. Stay safe and God Bless!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 1:10-12/Eph 3:1-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 5:15-17/Hb 11:1-6
Saturday: Zc 2:14-17/1 K 1:26-38

St. Lucy’s LIVING NATIVITY will be held on Sat., December 19 at 6pm immediately following the 5pm Mass, rain date is Sun., Dec, 20 at 6pm.) St. Lucy Parishioners are invited to be a part of this socially-distanced time of prayer and hopeful anticipation of the birth of Our Lord. Please come DRESSED WARMLY, MASKED UP, and bring BATTERY-OPERATED CANDLES to hold as we come together (standing in home pools) to welcome the Light of the World by sharing in the Advent of Christmas. Together while singing (behind our masks) traditional religious Christmas Carols, we will observe our young parishioners dressed as Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, and Angels at our Outdoor Manger on the West Main Road front lawn. As you know, there is a parking area in front that we hope our elder or physically challenged Parishioners will use so they may remain in their car and sing along through an open car window. This means that all able-bodied participants should park in the lot between the Church and Rectory. For families with children between grades 1-5 who would like to volunteer to participate in costume, please call Collette at 847-6153 ext. 201 or email her at stlucycollete@gmail.com.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference needs your ongoing support to answer the high number of requests for help with rent, utilities, and other necessities during this pandemic. You can support SVDP by placing your cash or check donation in the SVDP collection box on the wall in the Narthex or by becoming a benefactor with a tax-deductible donation given directly to the Conference. For more information on giving or membership contact stlucy svdp@gmail.com.

"Charity is the cement that unites communities to God and individuals to each other, so that he who contributes to the union of hearts in a community binds it indissolubly to God."  (St. Vincent DePaul)

Support for the Parish
Thank you for your prayerful and financial support during this strange and difficult time. Financial support is always gratefully accepted by any of these methods.
**Attend Mass and place your donation in the collection basket.**
**Mail your envelopes to St. Lucy’s: 909 West Main Rd., Middletown, RI 02842**
**Drop off your envelopes and donations by placing in the black lockbox at the front door of the Rectory.**
**On-line at stlucy.org, click the Giving Link, click on Parish Give and follow the prompts.**

Watch the newly recorded Mass On YouTube, our Website at www.stlucy.org or St. Lucy’s Facebook Page (St. Lucy’s Catholic Faith Community, Middletown RI).

Helping Hearts
We lift our prayers for those Parishioners and friends who have passed away during the months of October and November and for all those who mourn the passing of their loved ones. May God continue to offer strength, courage, and peace. Parishioners and friends of St. Lucy’s Faith Community who have gone on to live in Eternal Life include: Graziali Alvine, Robert Benevides, Michael (Mike) Brennan, Joan Desjardins, Alice DeVine, Anthony Farina, Anna Flaherty, Giao Franco Galarico, Paul Healy, Bisai Issi, Dorothy Keckler, Salvatore Loi, William McKay, David Murphy, Mary Rutledge, Antone (Tony) Santos, Geri Shenberger, Pat Tonken, and Lucy Vidimba.

The Annual KEEP THE HEAT ON Campaign has been started by Bishop Tobin. This is a program that helps struggling families with heating assistance after they have exhausted all other public and private means. If you would like to help, please send tax-deductible donations to Keep the Heat On, One Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903. For additional information please visit www.heatRI.com or call 421-7833.