LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

In today’s reading of the story of the Annunciation we hear of Angel Gabriel visiting Mary with news of her carrying God’s own Son in her womb. When I reflect upon this reading, my mind moves towards various “pictures” of this event. There’s the scene taken from the movie The Nativity where Mary is sitting alone and quiet under a tree when the wind picks up and Gabriel appears to her to announce the Good News. Two additional pictures that have stuck in my heart and mind come from modern-day scenes depicted in pieces of artwork that brought to life my many conversations of this scripture passage with teens. The first picture is of a young girl wearing a dress and saddle shoes, and she’s standing in the entryway of a school. In that painting, I noticed in her face confusion and shyness, and she appeared slightly withdrawn, perhaps taken aback by her angelic visit proclaiming sudden, overwhelming and confusing news. Another picture depicting the Annunciation is that great painting of Mary sitting with a young woman wearing a headband while sitting in her very much lived-in bedroom: the bed was totally unkempt, clothes and belongings strewn about the dimly lit room, cell phone on the floor with the face of it lit up, and, of course, the teen’s door was closed. Also in the scene was an effervescent wave of light falling across one corner of the room. How, do you think, would Gabriel come to Mary in our world today? Would it be through text, LinkedIn or Instagram — or in the quiet hush amid the throbbing music ringing in a young person’s ears, or in the middle of a night filled with cramping for exams? Regardless of the circumstances of how we imagine Gabriel coming to Mary bringing him the announcement of her carrying and being made mother to God’s own Son, Gabriel came to a heart brimming over with faith and love for God. Gabriel came to a heart filled with purity and hope in the promise of the coming of a Savior. What fills our hearts in these final days of Advent that needs to be let go of or emptied in order to ensure room to welcome the birth of our Savior again in us, within our world, and the Savior who will come again in glory? In this last week before Christmas may we, like Mary, say “yes” to live in complete faith and obedience so that Jesus may live in each one of us. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas! Written by: Colette M. Savaria

CHRUCH SUPPORT
December 12/13, 2020

Weekly Collection $4048.00
Immaculate Conception $ 620.00
Electronic Giving $1797.00
Retired Religious Collection $1067.00

The second collection this weekend is for St. Lucy’s Building and Maintenance Fund

Thank you for your prayerful and financial generosity!!

The Community Action Committee (CAC) Updates

*Giving Tree: Because of the ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic, the CAC is working with the McKinney Shelter. They and many organizations are not accepting wrapped gifts this year, but are requesting gift cards from Walmart, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Stop & Shop only, in increments of $5 up to $25. As of today there are 30 residents at the McKinney Shelter. A staff member at McKinney 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 cash 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

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

**Fifth Sunday of Advent**

Lk 2:16/Col 3:12

Is 9:5

Sg 2:8

1 Sm 1:24

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 Giving, and follow the prompts.**

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