

MASS INTENTIONS are available. Call the office to have a Mass celebrated for your living intention or the repose of the soul of a deceased family member, or another specific intention of the Church. Mass intentions are published so the entire community may come together and pray at the Lord's table during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Since this is a public announcement, "special intentions" or "private intention" are not appropriate to be published here but should be brought to Mass on your own.

- Saturday, Nov. 27: Vigil, 1st Sunday of Advent**
 5:00pm Peter Feighan, Michael Feighan
- Sunday, Nov. 28: 1st Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am The Deceased of St. Columba's Cemetery
 10:30am Aurelio (6th Anniversary) and Hilaria Villacorta
 5:00pm Frank P. "Mickey" Mello
- Monday, Nov. 29: Advent Weekday**
 9:00am Michael Cutter
- Tuesday, Nov. 30: St. Andrew, Apostle**
 9:00am David Paul Murphy (1st Anniversary)
- Wed., Dec. 1: Advent Weekday**
 9:00am Janice Kaczynski
- Thursday, Dec. 2: Advent Weekday**
 9:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
- Friday, Dec. 3: St. Francis, Xavier, Priest**
 9:00am Engracia Simmons
- Saturday, Dec. 4: Vigil, Second Sunday of Advent**
 5:00pm Elaine Layton (1st Anniversary)
- Sunday, Dec. 5: Second Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am For the people of the Parish
 10:30am Gregorio Barandiaran (1st Anniversary)
 5:00pm

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH SCHEDULE
 (all meetings in the Parish Center unless noted)

- Tuesday, November 30
 6:30-7:30am Men's Prayer Group (Church)
 9:30am Bible Study
 6:30pm St. Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting
- Friday, December 3 (Church)
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet
 7:50pm Benediction

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING: O God, the evergreens on this wreath remind us that your life in us never dies. Its circular shape shows us your love has no beginning or end. The light from its candles will grow brighter each week as Christmas draws near. Bless our wreath, Lord, and bless us as we prepare once again to commemorate your birth. May we draw closer to you in holiness, and may your Spirit grow in us, dispelling the darkness and sin of the world. Amen.



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences – our all-ages Parish Religious Education Program)

In today's Gospel, Jesus advises the disciples (and us) against the fatigue that can overwhelm us if we let the anxieties of daily life consume us. Many people can relate to this kind of exhaustion that Jesus warns of. We may be worried about a family member's health, job security, our child's education, finances, or any number of other concerns. Jesus does not promise an end to our worries and fears, but tells us that we will have the strength to cope and manage if we stay focused on Him and committed to prayer.

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent, which also marks the beginning of a new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings challenge us to consider what's most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and his second coming. A wonderful way to begin our Advent journey can be by making use of an Advent wreath in your home. When praying the daily prayers before meal time either alone, with family, or with guests: *experience* the quiet of a dimly lit room, feel the palpable waiting for/coming of our Savior, the one who HAS come and IS to come. May your Advent be filled with quiet rather than anxiety, and with holy expectation.

Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

CHURCH SUPPORT
 November 20/21, 2021

Weekly Collection	\$2643.00
Electronic Giving	\$1002.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$1202.00
<i>Thank you for your prayerful generosity!!</i>	

WERE YOU AWAY RECENTLY? When away due to weather, illness, travel, or unforeseen events, we invite you to make up your missed offerings which greatly impact our budget and subsequently our ministries. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and donations.

ON LINE GIVING – fast, secure, convenient. Have you considered electronic, on-line, giving? It's a convenient way to make your offerings to your parish according to your own schedule: weekly, monthly, etc. You control all the information and only you have access to your personal data, banking or credit card information - the parish does not. All the parish receives is a report of your generosity. Now that we are traveling once again, on-line giving ensures your parish receives your generosity even if you can't make it here on Sundays. Visit our website and click on the "Parish-Giving" logo, our e-giving partner. stlucy.org

OUTREACH NEWS

COMMUNITY ACTION GIVING TREE: Due to on-going COVID-19 restrictions, our committee **will not** be setting up a tree with tags again this year. We will, however, be working with the McKinney Shelter and Lucy's Hearth to aid our local area adults/families in need. We will be asking for gift cards to **WalMart and Stop & Shop only** which will be distributed to the 41 residents at the McKinney Shelter and the 15 families at Lucy's Hearth. When you attend Mass you may bring the gift card in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" and place it in the collection basket. If you are unable to attend Mass, you may mail it to the rectory or drop in the locked black box outside of the rectory.

PLEASE NOTE: We are requesting that gift cards be purchased in increments of 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 dollars only (a \$50 donation would be two \$25 cards instead of one \$50). If you prefer to write a check or make a cash donation, we will purchase the gift cards. Please mark "Giving Tree" on your donations which will be accepted through Sunday, December 19th.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEWS: There are still a few days left to purchase a beautiful bouquet at Stop & Shop in Middletown to benefit St. Lucy's SVDP Conference. SVDP will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 'Bloomin' for Good bouquet purchased during November. To learn more about the Vincent de Paul conference, contact us at stlucysvdp@gmail.com.

PENNIES FOR PRESCRIPTIONS: Thanks to all parishioners who deposited money in the jars for "Pennies for Prscriptions". A total of \$400.00 was collected!! This amount will aid the residents of Lucy's Hearth for their prescription needs. We appreciate your continued support!

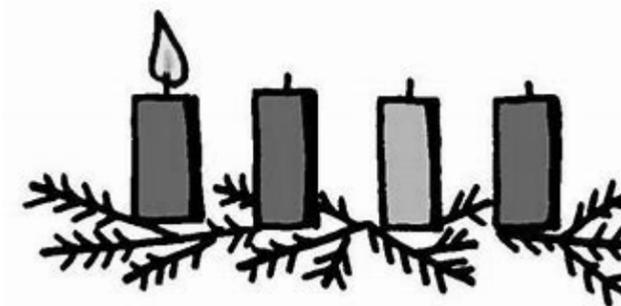
NEW BULLETIN COMING IN JANUARY
CALLING ALL SPONSORS!

Beginning late January, we will have a new weekly parish bulletin. The new format will be a multi-page, full color edition. In order to do so, we have engaged the services of a third-party publication company, Liturgical Publications, Inc.



Mary Hoffman from Liturgical Publications, will be reserving advertising sponsorships beginning the week of November 29th, a portion of the revenue is returned to the parish. We are asking local business owners to please consider taking a new ad. We appreciate your help since the revenue from these ads makes this bulletin possible. For more information or to advertise, please call Mary directly at 860-836-8486. We thank you in advance for your consideration and generous support of the weekly bulletin and its sponsors.

Remember, it is the advertising support which makes our bulletin possible. Please consider reciprocating our sponsors' generosity by supporting them with your business. Thank you again!



ADVENT WEEK I: Advent, the season in preparation for the Lord's birth, is also the beginning of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays before Christmas and is set aside as a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. IN doing so, we remember two important principles of our faith: the final coming of the Lord and the incarnation of the Lord as the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

THE ADVENT WREATH: The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the day of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

(www.usccb.org: "about Advent Wreaths")

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER / FEAST OF ST LUCY: Monday, December 12th from 6:30-7:15pm. Adults and teens will gather in the church, younger parishioners and friends, (grade 6 and under) are welcome to gather in the Parish Center,

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The High School Placement Test will be administered for incoming 9th grade students on Saturday, December 4th or Saturday, December 11th. For more information about **Prout High School**, please call Admissions Director Sharon DeLuca at 789-9262, ext. 514 or go to www.theproutschool.org For information about **Bishop Connolly High School** go to BishopConnolly.com

Middletown/Newport Knights of Columbus 2021 Christmas Clothing Drive for the needy and homeless: Men's, women's and children's winter wear (new or used clothing in good condition) will be accepted. Suggested donations include coats, jackets, sweaters, hats scarves, gloves, pants, and shirts. Please drop off clothing donations at the Knights of Columbus Council Hall front entrance at 7 Valley Rd., Middletown on Wednesday, December 8 to Friday, December 10 from 5 to 8pm.