



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

Today's Gospel passage is one that I find allows for the opportunity to do a reality check of "how am I doing?" in my life. "No one can

serve two masters; you will either hate one and love the other or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and another master." When I worked in retreat ministry with young people, I used to enjoy facilitating "values clarification" exercises because the outcomes were always eye-opening moments for participants (and a reminder for the leader)! Let me ask you this: What do you place the utmost value on in your life – at this very moment? Now, let me follow up that same question with these two simple questions: 1) What do you spend your money on? 2) What do you spend your (free) time doing? Do your answers to the follow-up questions (#'s 1 and 2) match up/agree with the answer you gave to what you value most in life??? Sometimes our words and actions do not reveal to others what we value, and who our God (or god) is. The liturgical season of Lent offers us the opportunity to either keep our priorities in their right order or to re-prioritize them. Lent begins on Wednesday, March 1st with our "kick-off" event: receiving ashes. Christians receive ashes as a sign of repentance where we pray (and say) that we will turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. During Lent we are called to deepen our spiritual lives through the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. By participating in these practices – like exercises we do for our physical health and well-being – improves our spiritual well-being by ridding ourselves of all unnecessary things and becoming more mindful of how God is working in our lives. Perhaps either instead of (or along with) giving up something this Lent, you could *do something* to grow closer to God? Perhaps you might want to further extend the official Random Acts of Kindness Week for your entire Lent (as a carry-over from last week's column)? A few other something's you could *do* might be: Pray the Sunday Scriptures before you go to Mass; Go to Mass (every weekend) and once during the week; if you don't have a cross/crucifix in your home, hang one; sign up for an online retreat or to receive daily Lenten readings; participate in St. Lucy's "*Lenten Journey With Mary*"; receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, these are just a few of the many possibilities. **Before Wednesday, I invite you to take two minutes out of your day to view a video explanation about Ash Wednesday and Lent by Busted Halo at <http://bustedhalo.com/video/ash-wednesday-in-two-minutes>
Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, February 25
 - 5:00pm (O) Frank P. "Mickey" Mello
 - Joseph F. Casey
 - William Nash (4th Anniversary)
- Sunday, February 26
 - 8:00am (O) Domingos Botelho
 - 10:30am (O) Joan Arnold (6th Anniversary)
 - 5:00pm (O'N) Bob Mello
- Monday, February 27
 - 9:00am Ann Cooke Shanahan
 - Martin Francis Cooke
- Tuesday, February 28
 - 9:00am Margaret Radic
- Wednesday March 1, **Ash Wednesday**
 - 9:00am Mass with distribution of ashes
 - Flora Manuel
 - Noon Service only with distribution of ashes
 - 7:00pm Mass with distribution of ashes
 - Emil Shavro (20th Anniversary)
- Thursday, March 2
 - 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, March 3
 - 9:00am (S) Charlene McClanahan
 - (Birthday Remembrance)
 - George Bunnewith
 - 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 7:00pm Devotions
 - 8:00pm Benediction
- Saturday, March 4
 - 5:00pm (O) Rev. Lucien Lussier
- Sunday, March 5, **First Sunday of Lent**
 - 8:00am (O) Betty and Spooner Families
 - Marge Skahill
 - 10:30am (O) Joe Kivlehan and Jim Betty
 - 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

In the above celebrations:

- O = Rev. John O'Brien
- O'N = Rev. Tom O'Neill
- S = Rev. Joseph Saji

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues at the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, February 26 and Sunday, March 5.

Bible Study is held every Tuesday morning beginning at 9:45am in the Family Room led by Jane Parrillo.

First Eucharist Classes continue on Thursday, March 2 from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center. Students are reminded to bring their text books to class.

Visiting the Sick: Please notify Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x205) when a family member is in the hospital.

Sigma Phi Sigma of Salve Regina Univ. will hold a Bake Sale after the Sat., March 4 Mass at 5pm and after the Sun., March 5 after 8am Mass to raise funds for the Mustard Seed Community in Nicaragua.

What Is LENT?

Why are there changes in the environment and music? Simply stated, Lent is a season in the liturgical year, just like Advent, that focuses on repentance. In Advent we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ. The environment and music are joyfully subdued with a sense of watching, an anticipatory starkness. During Lent, the focus is the renewal of our baptismal commitment through simple living, prayer and fasting in order to grow closer to God. In essence, the whole church is on a retreat with God. The visual and musical environment of starkness and simplicity helps us to focus on an attitude of repentance and contrition as we follow Jesus on his journey to the Cross, and our salvation.

Guidelines for Lent 2017: Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Good Friday is also a day of fasting. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less (only one full meal that day and no solid food between meals). Serious health conditions excuse a person from these precepts.

Save the dates for our Parish Lenten Journey. This Lent, in honor of the Diocesan "Year of Mary," rather than sponsoring a Parish Mission, we will host a "Biblical Walk With the Blessed Mother." This *Lenten Journey* consists of a presentation of a 4-part DVD series (by Edward Sri) through which, each week, we will learn a little more about Mary through the Scriptures and in visits to the places where she lived and traveled. We will also share in some quiet reflection and prayer. The dates of each of these *Journeys with Mary* are on the following **Tuesdays: March 14, 21, 28, and April 4.** A morning session will be offered, starting immediately following the 9:00am Mass and an evening session will begin at 7:00pm. Each *Journey With Mary* will be approximately one hour in length, and will be held in the Parish Center. All are welcome! Watch the bulletin for more information.

CHURCH SUPPORT – February 18/19, 2017
Weekly Collection \$4725.00
Reduction of the Parish Debt. \$4115.00
FYI: As of 1/13/17 the Parish Debt balance is \$93,389.15.
Thank you for your continuing generosity.

The Rosary Sodality of Jesus Saviour Church will host the **Marian Theatre Project** on Sunday, March 5 after the 10:00 Mass. Elizabeth Montigny will present "Walking With Our Mother" which is a scripture based presentation of the Passion of Jesus through the eyes of the Blessed Mother. The performance is about 20 minutes long and appropriate for ages 13 and older. Refreshments will follow. All are invited!

A Blood Drive hosted by Blood Center, will be held at the Newport Elks Lodge, 141 Pelham St. Newport on Saturday, March 4 from 11am to 2pm. Your one donation can help save THREE lives! Please join us, there will be light refreshments available for donors.

Many thanks to all who supported the St. Lucy's Snowball Dinner Dance!! The event was a spectacular success thanks to all whose hard work and dedication made it possible. A special thanks to Mike Budziszek, Jr. (Master of Ceremonies), Richard Budziszek who donated his 50/50 prize back to St. Lucy's Church, Nene Niego who secured a donation of a stay at the Marriott Hotel in Newport, Trish Morrissette, Boiana Budziszek, and Dr. and Mrs. Fernando. Finally, **thank you to all** who provided logistical as well as administrative support making the night go smoothly, and especially John Finnegan (DJ Fogg), Dave Petrarca (chef), Colleen Earnshaw and Confirmation candidates (food service), Lenny Lazado, Amanda Budziszek, Elsa Ronco and Bert, Nene and Susan Villacorta (administrative support), Mike Budziszek, Sr. and Marshall Ronco (bartenders), Sister Sheila and Barbara Ames (logistics), St. Lucy's Parish Staff, and many other anonymous helpers!!
 Sincerely,
 Fely Budziszek (Chairwoman)
 Fr. John O'Brien (PAstor)

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** 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
 Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Mk 10:17-27
 Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
 Sunday: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 /Mt 4:1-11

40 Days for Life: The Office of Life and Family Ministry and RI Right to Life will be co-sponsoring the Lenten campaign beginning Wednesday, March 1 through Palm Sunday, April 9. They are requesting parishes to adopt a day or for individuals to adopt an hour for prayer at Planned Parenthood, 111 Point Av., Providence or the Women's Medical Clinic, 1725 Broad St., Cranston during this 40 day period. If you are interested in learning more about the campaign, contact Carol Owens, Office of Life and Family Ministry at 421-7833 x 218.

Newport Council for International Visitors invites you to its **Great Decisions & Education Series 2017** (key world events and issues) 6:30 to 8:00pm at Portofino/Ramada Conference Center, 425 East Main Rd., Middletown. Come at 6pm to mingle with others and stay afterwards and swap ideas with guests and speaker. **Upcoming Events:** March 2, US Foreign Policy and Petroleum, Prof. Anand Toprani, PhD and March 9, Russian Security Policy, Prof. Thomas Fedyszyn, PhD. For more information, call Doy Heredia at 848-0622 or Peter Tarpgaard at 848-5142 or go to www.newportciv.org.