



"If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink', you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." JN 4:10



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I've been reading Matthew Kelly's book, Resisting Happiness, of *Dynamic Catholic* which also offers **BestLentEver.com** (Lenten program featuring daily videos). The premise of the book is that most of us think we are relatively happy, but at the time know that we could be happier. Not a book of theories, it's a look at why we sabotage our own happiness and what to do about it. Matthew talks about resistance, which he refers to as that "sluggish feeling of not wanting to do something that you know is good for you...the desire and tendency to delay something you should be doing right now." Right from the get-go he posed a simple example: when your alarm goes off in the morning, will you hit the snooze button or get out of bed? If you've hit the snooze button, you've lost your first battle of the day. He says: "resistance just kicked your butt. Resistance has broken your will before you've even gotten out of bed. You will most likely be its slave for the rest of the day." He goes on to say "resistance is your enemy." It will not quietly go away and leave you alone. You have to slay it like a dragon, and you have to slay it anew each day. It wears a thousand masks, many of them of which are so effective we don't even recognize resistance is behind them. Laziness, procrastination, fear, doubt, instant gratification, self-loathing, indecision, escapism, pride, self-deception, friction, tension, and self-sabotage are just some of the ways resistance manifests itself in our lives and causes us to settle for so much less than God has imagined for us. Resistance stands between you and the person God created you to be." In today's gospel, we see in the Samaritan Woman at the well how she'd been seeking happiness, trying to fill a space deep within but how powerful resistance was in her life – until she began conversing with Jesus and "heard" him speak of the *living water* that he was offering. It was as if this woman was able to finally and ultimately have her eyes opened and be able to see who and what would truly fill that hole in the depth of her heart, offering her true happiness and fulfillment. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 27) we read "The desire for God is written in the human heart because humans are created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw woman and man to himself. Only in God will (s)he find the truth and happiness (s)he never stops searching for." You and I are constantly invited to share in this happiness, this living water, by slaying resistance in our lives – naming that resistance and inviting God to fill that hole deep within our heart that **only** God can fill. We always have the opportunity, but many times over during this season of Lent, to slay the resistance in our lives in a special way, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This grace-filled opportunity to experience God's generous love, mercy and compassion is available to us at our Lenten Reconciliation Service on Monday evening starting at 7pm right here in St. Lucy's Church. Let me ask you the same question that Matthew posed at the start of his book and that I repeated at the start of this column, will you choose to hit the snooze button or choose to wake up(?) by participating in this invitation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

First Eucharist Classes continue on Thursday, March 23 from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center.

Our final celebrations of **LIFE** will quickly be upon us: **April 2 (11:45-2pm) & April 3 (5:30-8pm)** when we will finish up our year-long theme: "*Sacraments...transforming everyday life*" focusing on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Heads-up to all participants as this is a quick turn-around time between sessions. Thanks so much!



Lent continues in our third week!
 "Give alms, Pray to your Father, Fast without a gloomy face." (Mat 6:1-18). Please try to make time for prayer, fasting, almsgiving. To assist you, Lenten prayer books and Operation Rice Bowl containers are still available at the doors of the Church.

**Soup Kitchen Needs
 Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

- 4 bags oranges
- 4 bottles Parmesan Cheese
- Assorted finger desserts (cupcakes, cookies, brownies)
- 4 large loaves of bread
- 2 bottles liquid dish soap

If you would like to help with any of the above items, please call Sylvia Bunker at 683-0320. You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tuesday, March 21. We served 78 meals in February. We were also able to provide additional meals to the McKinney Shelter. **Thank you!**

St. Lucy's "Lenten Journey With Mary" starts on Tuesday, March 21 and for the next three consecutive Tuesdays with a morning session (after 9am mass) and an evening program that starts at 7:00pm. Both sessions are held in the Parish Center and are a little over one hour in length. During this "Diocesan Year of Mary," especially in this liturgical season of Lent, St. Lucy's Parish offers you the "Great Adventure of taking a Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother." This prayerful study reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. You will experience the Gospel through the eyes of Mary and get a vivid glimpse into her daily life. Seeing her in this way will lead you to a deeper relationship with the Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus. This "**Lenten Journey With Mary**" consists of a DVD presentation, sharing of Scripture, quiet reflection, and prayer. All are welcome!

Sigma Phi Sigma National Mercy Honor Society of Salve University extends gratitude to all who supported their **Bake Sale** for the Mustard Seed Community in Nicaragua. A total of \$465.00 was raised because of your generosity!

CHURCH SUPPORT – March 11/12, 2017
 Weekly Collection **\$5252.00**
 Debt Collection **\$3039.00**
Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Catholic Charity Fund Appeal

Thank you to all who already have made donations to the Catholic Charity Fund Appeal. This weekend we begin our in-pew solicitation. The 2017 Catholic Charity Appeal is the way by which every Catholic shares in the work of our diocese and the mission of the Church. Our \$63,000 goal can be reached with your continuing support. Let us continue to pray together for the success of this most important Appeal with the following Prayer for Our Lady of Providence, Patroness of the Annual Catholic Charity Appeal:
Dear Mary, Our Lady of Providence, we turn to you in prayer, and we seek your assistance as we begin our Annual Catholic Charity Appeal. Inspired by your own example of service, we ask that you guide our works of love; help us to offer generous assistance to all who turn to the Church in their time of need. Through your intercession, may we grow in faith, hope and love; inspire us to be generous in supporting the Catholic Charity Appeal, and allow us to see the face of Jesus in all those we serve. Fill our hearts with a compassionate spirit, so that the Church in Providence may always fulfill your Son's command to "Love one another as I have loved you." Now filled with hope and confidence we pray: "Hail Mary, full of grace..."

Gabriel's Call is a Diocesan program which reaches out to Mothers-to-be by providing access to social services, providing needs for babies, and providing support, love, and spiritual help. Service days are held locally at Jesus Saviour on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9 to noon. For more information, please see the pamphlets on the table at the entrance of the Church or call Carol Owens at 278-4508 (email: cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org).

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:5-9/Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered at various Catholic Parishes during this holy season of Lent.

- St. Lucy, Middletown – March 20th, 7pm**
- Holy Ghost, Tiverton – March 24, 7:30am – 7:30pm
- Jesus Saviour, Newport – March 25th, 11am- 2pm
- St. Luke, Barrington – March 25th, 2pm-4pm

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.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, March 18
 5:00pm (O) Iolanda O'Loughlin
- Sunday, March 19, **The Third Sunday of Lent**
 8:00am (O) Joseph Keeley
 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber
 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners
- Monday, March 20
 9:00am Cass Shoppell
 7:00pm Joint Parish Penance Service with St. Joseph's Church
- Tuesday, March 21
 9:00am Deacon Bob and Michael Sheeley
- Wednesday March 22
 9:00am Richard Stone
- Thursday, March 23
 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, March 24
 9:00am (S) Phil Reilly
 Ann Quigley (1st Anniversary)
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross
 8:00pm Benediction
- Saturday, March 25
 5:00pm (S) Frank P. "Mickey" Mello
- Sunday, March 26, **The Fourth Sunday of Lent**
 8:00am (S) Eileen McCarthy
 10:30am (Mc) Deceased members of the Hastings family
 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
- Mc = Rev. Gene McKenna

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, March 19, 26, and April 9.

Reminder: The Property and Finance Committee will meet Monday, March 20 at 4pm at the Rectory. Financial packets will be available at a later date.

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