



"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." JN. 9:5



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I've had these two separate thoughts about this weekend swirling around, here goes. First is the very start of today's Gospel when Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Jesus: "who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" I saw the movie "The Shack" and this same theme about sin and punishment kept surfacing throughout – as it does in many of our own lives. When adversity, trouble, or even a death happens in our lives, we sometimes have a need to find out why. We want an answer, a reason, or something/someone to blame for this pain or hardship we struggle through. Oftentimes people ask, "How could God let this happen?" or "Why did God do this?" Jesus' reply to the disciples' question of who had sinned in today's Gospel was "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him..." Jesus then spat on the ground making clay with his saliva, smeared the clay on his eyes and told him to go wash. The blind man did as instructed and he came back able to see. God never gets exhausted by our doubts and questions, and as the most loving parent we could ever imagine – is with us and waits for us during our time of questioning. Like the man born blind, may our eyes be opened and may we see God's works and yes, God working in our lives. On to my second thought: today is "Laetare Sunday," the fourth Sunday of Lent. Laetare means "rejoice." To some people, rejoicing in the middle of Lent may sound a little strange when we are to be all about focusing on fasting, penance, and almsgiving. Christians viewed today as a day when the disciplines of Lent were lessened. A great thing to do as we arrive at the mid-point of Lent is to give ourselves a Lenten check-up: take your pulse on prayer/fasting/almsgiving and see whether or not any adjustments have to be made. Perhaps these might be opportunities to plug into as we begin the second part of our Lenten journey: although our Lenten Reconciliation service has already happened, the sacrament is always available on Saturday's at 4pm in the Church. Three sessions of our "Lenten Journey with Mary" remain (Tuesdays through 4/11, 9:45am or 7pm in the PC). Did I mention that there's daily Mass too? Mass at St. Lucy's is at 9am, but feel free to check out mass times at other churches that may fit your work schedule, doctor appointments, travel schedules, etc.

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

Our final LIFE celebration for the 2016-2017 year focusing on "Sacraments...transforming everyday life" will be on Sunday, April 2 (11:30-2pm) and Monday, April 3 (5:30-8pm) as we learn about the *Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick*. Participants who are unable to attend their regular session are expected to attend the opposite day; please take note of the time frame.

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



Lent continues in our fourth 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.

St. Lucy's "Lenten Journey With Mary" continues 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!

CHURCH SUPPORT – March 18/19, 2017

Weekly Collection	\$5846.00
Weekly Collection special gift	\$6505.00
Debt Collection special gift	\$1500.00

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Catholic Charity Fund Appeal

The Catholic Charity in-pew solicitation began last weekend and will continue this weekend. Thank you for your gifts that help many diocesan agencies provide for the physical, educational and spiritual needs of Rhode Islanders each year. Because of your generosity to the annual Appeal, over 11,767 students and their families are served through the Catholic School Office.

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..."

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

All Saints STEAM Academy is holding its annual Spring Tea to benefit the school's scholarship fund. Many beautiful items from local vendors will be raffled. The tea will be held at St. Lucy's Parish Center, on Sunday, April 23rd at 1pm. Tickets are \$15 each. For tickets and information, please call All Saints STEAM Academy at 848-4300.

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.

The Newport Council for International Visitors invites you to its annual "Great Decisions & Education Series 2017" (Key world events & Issues) presentation by Lt. Gen Juancho Sabban on the prospect of peace in the Southwest Philippines on Thursday, March 30 from 6-8pm at Portofino/Ramada Conference Center, 425 East Main Rd., Middletown. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call Doy Heredia at 848-0622, Peter Tarpgaard at 848-5142 or Anne Huot at 487-9414.

Beth Larcom, a freshman at Harvard College and a member of St. Lucy's Parish, has been accepted into the Varsity Catholic Mission Trip to Mexico for May 14-22 for the purpose of helping to coach sports and catechizing the youth. This trip is run through FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). To join Beth's Mission through donations go to focusonline.org/goto Beth Larcom or send gifts directly to Beth Larcom at 1813 Harvard Yard Mail Center, Cambridge, MA 02138 (payable to Focus with notation of Missionary ID #74804). Beth thanks you for your careful consideration and especially your prayers.

A Statewide Utility Clinic will be held on Monday, April 17th from 10am to 2pm at George Wiley Center, 32 East Ave. Pawtucket. National Grid consumer advocates will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding your electric or natural gas bill and services including payment plans. Please RSVP by calling the George Wiley Center at 728-5555 to schedule an appointment. You may also contact them through email: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

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
 Monday, March 27
 9:00am (S) Timothy P. Prendiville
 Tuesday, March 28
 9:00am (S) William C. Cella
 Wednesday March 29
 9:00am (S) Lisa Silvia (3rd Anniversary)
 Thursday, March 30
 9:00am Communion Service
 Friday, March 31
 9:00am (S) St. Lucy's Parishioners
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross
 8:00pm Benediction
 Saturday, April 1
 5:00pm (O) Helen Hunter (27th Anniversary)
 Sunday, April 2, **The Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 8:00am (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners
 10:30am (O) Roger Paschoal (1st Anniversary)
 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 this Sunday, March 26, and April 9.

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