



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

Today's Gospel story describes some amazing things. The resurrected Jesus passes through locked doors and appears in body – not as a ghost or a spirit – to his disciples while they are hiding behind locked doors. The disciples' feelings run the gamut: they're terrified for their lives because they were Jesus' followers. They were trying to each deal with their own tremendous grief of Jesus' ghastly crucifixion and death. They each also are trying to get a handle on guilt, of their own personal betrayals of Jesus, while all the while trying to figure out the next step. These followers of Jesus, who knew him intimately, were all dealing with these issues in their own ways, by talking, crying, yelling, and even – like Thomas, needing to get away from the others of the group. When, in that locked room, Jesus somehow appears among them saying: "Peace be with you." Instantly their fears and dread are gone and replaced with joy. In this Gospel we read that Thomas was not with the others, and when he was told of Jesus' appearance, he didn't believe them. To me, the disciple Thomas is easy to relate to! If you've ever had someone close to you die, there's a time following their death that you may "feel" their presence so strongly that you may think that you've seen them for a fleeting moment; perhaps sitting in their favorite chair, or at table, or some other familiar place. I would bet that Thomas thought the other disciples had "seen" Jesus in that same type of *deja-vu*, flash-back moment before he so boldly challenged Jesus' presence by his lack of belief/trust saying that he'd believe when he saw with his own eyes and touched with his own hands. How cool is it that our Savior loves us so much that he appears, yet AGAIN to help Thomas, and patiently greets him with "Peace be with you." Of course, if I were Thomas, I'd have been really shocked and befuddled, questioning whether or not this appearance was staged for my "questioning nature." Then, after realizing that, in fact Jesus was REALLY standing in front of me, guilt more so than his peace would be running rampant inside of me. Of course, in my stubbornness, I'd still have to stick by my words and need to see (not so much touch) Jesus' wounds. Perhaps this may sound familiar to you? Thomas... I feel badly that he has been dubbed with the lasting moniker of "Doubting Thomas." What about Thomas the disciple who, in his weakness experienced doubts, but whose heart was transformed by Jesus' patient and merciful love and proclaimed Jesus "My Lord and My God!" Alleluia, he is risen; he is risen indeed!

Written by: Colette, LIFE Coordinator

First Eucharist Rehearsal for students and parent will be held on Thursday, April 27 from 3:45-4:45pm in Church (snacks will not be provided). Parishioners are asked to continue to pray for our children who will be celebrating their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 30th at the 10:30am liturgy. Our young parishioners who will receive Jesus in this special Sacrament of love for the first time include: Lauren Batzle, Lily Briere, Destyni Butler, Kaylee Butler, Jameson Gauch, Gabriel Gomes, Bellarae Guertin, Max Harvey, Madeline Jones, Katie Martin, Joaquin Pacheco, Liam Sequira, Richard Vira, Jacob Wilson, and Moses Weiss.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 22, **Second Sunday of Easter**
 5:00pm (O) Dominick Formica (10th Anniversary)
 Sheila Dennis

Sunday, April 23, **Divine Mercy Sunday**
 8:00am (O) Camille Mazzoni
 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber
 3:00pm **Divine Mercy Chaplet**
 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

Monday, April 24
 9:00am William C. Cella
 7:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal

Tuesday, April 25
 9:00am Joseph F. and Agnes V. Casey

Wednesday April 26
 9:00am Frank P. "Mickey" Mello
 7:00pm **Confirmation**
 Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, Celebrant

Thursday, April 27
 9:00am Communion Service
 3:45pm First Eucharist Rehearsal

Friday, April 28
 9:00am (S) Deceased members of McMahon family
 5-8pm Devotions

Saturday, April 29
 2:00pm Mass at Royal Middletown
 5:00pm (O) Svea Steele

Sunday, April 30, **Third Sunday of Easter**
 8:00am (O) Albert and Josephine Fisher
 10:30am (O) **First Eucharist Celebration**
 5:00pm (O'N) James and Catherine Reynolds
 (Anniversary Remembrance)

In the above celebrations:

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

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues at the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, April 23 and on May 7 and 21.

CHURCH SUPPORT – April 15/16, 2017

Weekly Collection \$5,729.00
Easter Collection \$10,462.00
Holy Land (Good Friday) \$1,367.00

The Second Collection this Sunday will be for the reduction of the Parish Debt.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Extraordinary Ministers are needed to bring Holy Communion to the members of our Parish who are no longer able to gather with us at St. Lucy's. If you feel a special calling to this ministry or have questions, please contact Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 ext. 205. Ideally, if enough individuals are involved in this special ministry, a rotation for nursing home visits would be once per month.

Catholic Charity Fund Appeal (CCFA)

Thank you to all who have contributed to the CCFA. We have collected almost **\$50,000** toward our goal of \$63,000; we are almost there!! CCFA envelopes are still available at the Church entrance for your donations.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
 Tuesday: 1 Pt 5b-14/Mk 16:15-20
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21
 Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Save the date: A **Healing Mass** with Father Pat will be held on Wednesday, June 14 at 7pm in St. Lucy's Church. Further information will follow.

St. Gabriel's Call is a program of the Diocesan Office of Life and Family that reaches out to mothers-to-be by providing access to social services providing for the needs of babies. St. Lucy's Community Action Committee is seeking donations of baby items to be collected over these next weeks. Items on the baby wish list are: baby clothing from infant to 4T, diapers size 3 to 6 (larger sizes greatly needed), baby toiletries (wash, shampoo, lotion, wipes, NO BABY POWDER), umbrella strollers, blankets, sheets, etc. Also accepted are gently-used items such as: bassinets, strollers, carry-seats, swings, and highchairs (not used car seats). Please deposit items in/near the blue bin in the Church connector. Collections will be accepted up through May 6/7. Thank you for your support. For information on the program, please contact Carol Owens at 278-4508 or by email at cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org.

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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

All are welcome for a **Holy Hour in the Church on this Sunday, April 23 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm** as we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. During this time we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as well as Benediction. In the 1930's Jesus appeared to a young polish nun, Sr. Faustina, and told her, "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to Divine Mercy." Jesus requested that she paint an image according to what she saw and asked that the image be venerated throughout the world with the observance of Divine Mercy Sunday. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina and decreed the Second Sunday of Easter be called Divine Mercy Sunday. Please join with us as we pray to direct the hearts of humanity to God's boundless mercy and love manifested in all its richness by Christ, our risen Lord.

All Saints STEAM Academy is hosting a community-wide **STEAM Night Open House** on Thursday, April 27, 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call 848-4300 for more information.

Newport Council for International Visitors invites you to its Great Decisions and Education Series 2017 on Wed., April 26 from 6 to 8pm at the Portofino/Ramada Conference Center in Middletown. Prof. Toshi Yoshihara, PhD will speak on "Responding to Chinese Seapower." For more information, call Doy Heredia at 848-0622 or go to www.newportciv.org.

Embracing the Cure's Fifth Annual Vendor/Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 10am to 3pm in St. Lucy's Parish Center. This is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Aquidneck Island. For further information, please contact Kerry Seibert at 855-0885 or mzkerry@aol.com.

The Second Annual SVDP (St. Vincent's DePaul) RI Friends' Fund Dinner and Auction will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 1pm at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, RI. You can help us serve others by: placing an ad or message of encouragement in the Event Program; donating an item for our auction; joining us at our event on May 7 by purchasing a ticket by calling 490-0822 x 113 or visiting the website at www.svdpri.org. Proceeds from the Friends' Fund Benefit will help our 34 parish-based conferences (including Jesus Saviour Church in Newport) continue to serve our RI friends with such basic human needs as housing, heat, electricity, food, clothing, etc.

The Diocesan Office of Life and Family is offering a free program for Catholic marriages, **To Love and To Cherish**, designed to enrich/strengthen marriages. It will be presented on Wednesdays, May 17 through June 14, 7:00-8:30pm at St. Catherine Church, upper back entrance, 3252 Post Rd., Warwick. For registration, please contact: Peter Magnotta at 421-7833 x 217. (**Please note** this program is not for marriage counseling.)