



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I have way too many thoughts to write about in today's column! I'll try to be brief (LOL!). First thought: As I write this, I'm compiling my list of what I still hope to accomplish in these last days of Advent: put up the lights on my front bushes, get presents for my nieces and nephews – then wrap, make a few edible gifts, write out and mail Christmas cards (I love to save that for after Christmas but the majority of people don't understand that the Christmas season is until the feast of Jesus' Baptism and not just Christmas day), food shopping and prep for my portion of Christmas dinner. So many preparations must happen when we look forward to and anticipate special (and miraculous!) events. And really, what Church event (besides the Paschal mystery) is more important than our preparations for Christmas? All of this preparation is because we celebrate – we celebrate the outpouring of LOVE in the form of a child, born into our world to save us. His LOVE teaches us to share that love with others, to open wide our hearts and souls to all that can be when "God is with us." My next thought...My family from France is home for Christmas, which allowed for me to have a special "play date" with my nieces, ages 10 and 12 (already!). We had a wonderful and wonder-filled day! Here are a few precious gems that I'd like to share with you, from the "mouths of babes." We made our way through a couple stores attempting to find gifts for them from me – for which we didn't have any luck. This is what they replied when I asked what I should NOW do/get for them to open from me on Christmas morning: "We don't need presents to open from you; we're spending the day with you and you've treated us all day – we don't want anything, just to be with you!" My heart melted at the sound of those words, and my "Grinch heart grew three sizes that day!" (from Dr. Seuss' Grinch Who Stole Christmas) While together decorating my Christmas tree, their curiosity was piqued as they fingered through the variety of ornaments that had been packed away, kindly asking about the stories behind some that seemed to have gotten much more use...(yes, okay – the ornaments are "old," not ancient!). Our decorating conversations flowed easily in both French and English, sharing stories of Christmas' past, and as we neared the end, the youngest gingerly took the Angel tree-topper out of its packaging saying, "Oh, she's so pretty!" and added, "The angels were singing, you know." Another thought-provoking gem from a different conversation: "I love to see the lights all decorating outside, they're so pretty and beautiful, and bring so much light when it's dark. People at home (in France) don't decorate like that, not a lot in their houses either. Seeing the lights makes us remember that Jesus is coming." This last thought brings to life a verse from our Gospel passage today that reads, "...What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn 1) By the way, "France's" Elf-on-the-shelf, Marco, arrived at my parents' home the day after my family arrived; our 10 year old told me "Look at this! Marco is here, he flew here on his own!" Thank you, God, for the many ways that you enter into our lives! May our hearts (and eyes) always be open to you. Wishing you and your family, a blessed Christmas season.

Written by: Colette M. Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**
 - 4:00pm (O) Federico Gatón, Veneranda Gatón
Angelina García
Ernio and Amelita Gatón
 - 6:00pm (O'N) Jamie and Maria DeFreitas
 - 10:00pm (O) Arthur Leonard
- Sunday, December 25, **Christmas Day**
 - 8:00am (O) Morris and Mace Families
 - 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber
 - **No evening Mass**
- Monday, December 26
 - 9:00am Frank P. "Mickey" Mello
- Tuesday, December 27
 - 9:00am The Betty and Spooner families
 - 11:00am Funeral of James (Bert) Marshall
- Wednesday December 28
 - 9:00am Theodore W. Croy
- Thursday, December 29
 - 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, December 30
 - 9:00am Rev. Robert Dunphy
Nila Fernando (Living)
Edward J. Healy
 - 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 7:00pm Devotions
 - 8:00pm Benediction
- Saturday, December 31
 - 5:00pm (O) Capt. Stephen J. Belli, U.S. Army
- Sunday, January 1, **Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God**
 - 8:00am St. Lucy's Parishioners
 - 10:30am St. Lucy's Parishioners
 - 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

In the above celebrations:
O = Rev. John O'Brien
O'N = Rev. Tom O'Neill

CHURCH SUPPORT – December 17/18, 2016	
Weekly Collection	\$5,250.00
Parish Debt Collection	\$5,355.00
Debt Balance as of 12/14/16	\$98,682.73
(does not include above deposit)	
<i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Lucy's **Snowball Pasta Dinner Dance Event 2017** will be held on Saturday, February 18, from 6-11pm in the Parish Center. Tickets are available through Fely Budziszek (849-1692) or at the Rectory office (847-6153) ext. 206. More detailed information will follow. This will be an evening filled with Dining, Dancing, Raffles, Friends, Fun, and More!!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Merry Christmas! Give your children the best gift of all: the growing love of their parents. Explore more by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan. 20-22 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit www.WWMEMA.org. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a Roman Catholic organization serving in over 90 countries in a multitude of languages.

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.

Bereavement Support Group: You are invited to attend a six week program on bereavement offered by Hospice of Visiting Nurse Services of Newport and Bristol Counties and Atria Aquidneck Place. They will address a variety of topics designed to help, heal and support those who have lost a loved one. Sessions are Wednesdays, 12-1:30pm on January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 15 at Atria Aquidneck Place, 125 Quaker Hill Lane, Portsmouth. This program is open to the public and free of charge. A complimentary lunch will be served. **Registration is required. RSVP by January 10th** to Mary Holland, MDiv, BCC, VNS Hospice Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator, 401-682-2100 ext. 1613, mholland@vnsri.org.



Christmas Schedule 2016

Saturday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**
Carols will be sung 20 minutes before Masses at:
4pm, 6pm and 10pm

Sunday, December 25, **Christmas Day**
8am and 10:30am
No evening Mass on Christmas Day

The Parish recently purchased more CDs from **Lighthouse Catholic Media** which are available at the kiosk at the Church entrance. There are some selections particularly appropriate for the Liturgical seasons. Your donation in the Kiosk box is greatly appreciated.

Eucharistic Ministers are still needed to bring communion to patients at local Nursing Homes. Some stewards have come forward. Thank you for your response. However there is always a need for persons to help in the special ministry. Please call Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x 205) for details. **Eucharistic Ministers are also needed to bring communion to patients at Newport Hospital.** Please contact Jesus Saviour Rectory at 847-1267.

Seasons of Our Lives, a Spirituality of Everyday Living mini-retreat, led by Peggy Patenaude of *Taking Time Out*, will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham, MA from 10am to 12:30pm. Coffee at 9:30am. Cost is \$20. Pre-registration is required. Contact Peggy at 508-548-9149 or timeoutretreats@comcast.net. For more information visit www.timeoutretreats.com. **Women's Weekend Retreat: "Growing into Wholeness"** at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, MA, January 13-15. For more information, see above contact information.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21