



Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place..." Lk 4:24-25



**LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)**

At LIFE this past week our intro segment was a reintroduction to Pope Francis' declaration of the *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* that began on December 8<sup>th</sup> and will continue throughout the year ending on November 20, 2016. The word Jubilee refers to a year-long period observed by the Jewish people of ancient times. Every fifty years debts were forgiven, Jewish slaves were freed, and lands were returned to original owners. (Lev. 25:8-13) Jubilee years are celebrated every 25 years, though the Pope can call an "extraordinary" jubilee for a special occasion or a particularly important event. Pope Francis' declaration of this Extraordinary Jubilee, also known as a *Year of Mercy*, came through prayer, through reflection on the teachings and declarations of the Popes who came before him, and by his thinking of the Church as a "field hospital" – where treatment is given above all else to those who are most wounded. Our Church (and church) will be one that warms people's hearts with its closeness and nearness – a Church of *Mercy*. *Mercy* is such a full and rich word. How is *Mercy* defined? What are some words that we use that help us to describe and come to know more about *Mercy*? The American Heritage Dictionary offers these definitions: 1) Compassionate treatment, especially of those under one's power. 2) A disposition to be kind and forgiving. 3) A blessing. The definition in a children's dictionary is given as: Kind and gentle treatment of someone. Synonym's for *Mercy*, which may help to grow our awareness to characteristics that *Mercy* embraces include: compassion, pity, leniency, clemency, forgiveness, kindness, sympathy, understanding, generosity, grace, blessing, concern, care, listening, empathy. "Mercy is the divine attitude which embraces us. It is God giving himself to us. In turn, God teaching us to be merciful as He is." (I'm sorry, I cannot find the source of this quote.) To grow our awareness to this term of *Mercy* and its fullness, whenever/whatever you're reading, praying, listening to the Word/Scripture at Mass or home, or if you come across a word describing *Mercy*, or the word *Mercy* itself, highlight it or write it down! Keep a record in your phone, computer, or notebook of these *Mercy*-sightings and pray with them. Pay attention to these words that LEAD US to God's *merciful* love. Pray that the richness of this *merciful* message sinks into the depths of your heart and offers direction in your life.

Written by Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

**First Eucharist classes** begin Thursday, February 4 from 3:30-4:45pm for all students who completed the fall semester Reconciliation classes. Students must be previously registered to participate. Text books will be handed out at class.

**March 14, 15, 16 is our Parish Mission** with the theme to coincide with the *Year of Mercy*, so please **SAVE THESE DATES**. \*\*The Mission will take the place of March LIFE celebrations for all High School and Adult participants, a take-home lesson will also be provided to families of our young parishioners. More detailed information on the Mission will follow.

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.

**Cluny School** (Preschool-Grade 8) in Newport will host an **Open House** on Sunday, Jan. 31 from 11am to 1pm and Wednesday, Feb. 3 from 10am to noon in celebration of **Catholic Schools Week**. For more information, call 847-6043.

**CHURCH SUPPORT – Jan 23/24, 2016**

**Weekly Collection \$3731.00**  
**The Second Collection** this weekend is taken for the Church in Latin America.  
**Friendly Reminder:** For your convenience donations can now be made electronically. Since the start of this method of donating, about 20 people are using it. **The total donations for Electronic Giving as of 1/27/16 is \$2,600.47.** It is simple, secure, and convenient! Detailed instructions are on our web site ([www.stlucy.org](http://www.stlucy.org)).  
**Thank you for your continuing generosity.**



**SCRIPTURE STUDY** led by Jane Parrillo will start on Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 9:45 to 10:30am in the family room of the Church. The Scripture Study will continue on Tuesdays during Lent. We will discuss and reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings from both a cultural/historical perspective and a spiritual one, as well as share how the readings might even change our lives. All are welcome.

**Community Action Committee (CAC)**

**Unused Cards for Inmates:** The CAC is still collecting **unused** Christmas cards and all occasion cards for distribution to the ACI inmates and juvenile offenders at the RI Training School for their personal use. There is a need for cards written in Spanish due to the large percentage of those who speak only Spanish. Cards may be deposited in the appropriate baskets at the entrance of the Church. **Thank you!**

**St. Philomena School** in Portsmouth is accepting applications now for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs for the 2016-17 school year. They offer a 2 day program for 3 year olds as well as a 3 and 5 day program for 4 year olds. Pre-K and K classes are full-day and offer academic curriculums. There is a before and after-school care program as well. Please call 683-0268, ext. 114, to make an appointment for a tour.

**Bishop's Post-Confirmation Summit:** Are you a young Catholic between the ages of 12-29? If so, the Diocese of Providence needs your help. We know that 85% of young Catholics stop practicing their faith within 10 years of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and we want to do something about it. We need to find fresh, new ways to keep young Catholics, Catholic! Please help by completing the survey found at the link at the end of this article. Be sure to share this link with your friends and family, so that they can help too! Be part of the solution. Your opinion matters!! <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ec0iuzcaii08j3s/a004ijae98/ok/questions>.

**ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT, Growing in Compassion,** will be held on Wednesday, February 10 from 9:00am to 3:45pm at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham, MA. For a complete description visit [www.timeoutretreats.com](http://www.timeoutretreats.com). To register, contact Peggy Patenaude at 508-548-9149 or [timeoutretreats@comcast.net](mailto:timeoutretreats@comcast.net). Pre-registration is required.

**Complimentary copies of Rhode Island Catholic,** your national award-winning Diocesan newspaper, are available near the entrance of the church this Sunday. If you don't already receive Rhode Island Catholic, or would like to renew your subscription or even purchase one as a gift for someone else, there are three ways this year to have the news you won't find anywhere else delivered to your mailbox each week. To subscribe, just drop the specially marked Subscription Drive weekly budget envelope into the collection basket; log onto [www.thericatholic.com](http://www.thericatholic.com); and click Subscribe at the top left to order, renew, and even pay for your subscription online with a credit or debit card. You may also call the newspaper's Circulation Desk at 272-1010 to subscribe by phone.

**All Saints STEAM Academy,** 915 West Main Rd., will be holding an **Open House** on Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 9:30am to 11:30am celebrating **Catholic Schools Week**. Tours are also available at any time. All Saints STEAM Academy offers an affordable Catholic education for children in grades Pre-K to 8. Applications for the 2016-2017 school year are being accepted for all grades. Come to see and hear about the exciting programs in technology and the arts ASA offers students. For more information call 848-4300 or visit the website [www.allsaintsacademy.org](http://www.allsaintsacademy.org).

**2016 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL**

**Faith and Good Works**

Have you given prayerful consideration to your gift for the 2016 Catholic Charity Appeal? Won't you help us by being the "Hands of Christ" in supporting the people and the work of the Diocese of Providence? Many of you have responded to the Catholic Charity Appeal mailing from Bishop Tobin. On behalf of those served by the ministries and services funded by the Catholic Charity Appeal, we thank you for your gifts. If you have not made a gift to this year's Appeal, you will be able to do so through our in-pew solicitation which will take place on the weekends of Feb. 20/21 and 27/28. Our parish goal is to attain 100% participation – a goal that can only be reached with your sacrificial help and support. All gifts, regardless of size, help to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20  
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40  
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6  
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13  
 Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29  
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34  
 Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 5:1-11

In the above celebrations:

O = Rev. John O'Brien  
 D = Rev. Robert Dunphy

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