



John the Baptist went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I know this is not “breaking news” to you, but the Christmas special “*The Elf on the Shelf*” was on television the other night, and we are only into the first week of Advent (as this is being written), now the second week. I did succumb to the pressure of the media and enjoyed watching it yet again, so that I could have a much “deeper” chit-chat with my youngest niece about her own lived experiences with their elf “Marco” who showed up at their *maison a Russange, France*. Most parents are very big proponents of the “Elf” because (s)he encourages positive behaviors in their children in these days that count down to Christmas. I have to admit, the show is pretty cute, and the message is a good one promoting the values of family, forgiveness, and belief. Parents use the message of the elf to impress upon their children good, wholesome values and behaviors; which is a very good thing – don’t get me wrong. But why, when we have such beautiful Advent Scripture readings that point us to the fullness of life, like today’s Scriptures: “...that you may discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...” and “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*”, do we settle for the example of the elf with our children? Admittedly, talking about an elf is simpler and easier both for us and for children, but the message is quite similar: reconciliation and values. Reconciliation and values point us to what the true message of this season is about, preparing for the coming of our Savior – in our hearts, homes, and for evermore. One really great way for us to make room for Jesus, as John the Baptist preaches, is through repentance. Believe it or not, the perfect opportunity for you to repent, reconcile, and re-prioritize your values is at our combined St. Lucy/St. Joseph Parishes Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday, December 7th at 7pm at St. Joseph Church. What are some behaviors, attitudes, and/or values that you may need to work on or adjust during this Advent season to ready your heart for the coming of our Savior this Christmas?

Written by Colette Savaria (LIFE Coordinator)

Final Class for students preparing to receive First Reconciliation will be on Thurs., December 10 from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center.

***Parish Advent Reconciliation Service** with St. Joseph Parish will be held on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:00pm at St. Joseph Church.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be held at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, December 13 and 20. Plans for the Children’s Christmas Pageant to be held at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass have begun. Children are needed to play the various roles in the Pageant. Please let Children’s Homilists know if your child(ren) are interested. The only rehearsal will be after 10:30 Mass on December 20.

Advent Scripture Study will be held on Dec. 8 and 15 led by Jane Parrillo. It will be held in the Children’s Room in the back of the Church on Tuesday mornings from 9:45 to 10:30am.

CHURCH SUPPORT – Nov. 28/29, 2015
Weekly Collection **\$7377.00**
Thank you for your continuing generosity.

We are looking for your help to bring Communion to two nursing homes in our Parish once a month. You would go with another member of the team. If you can help us out, please call Sister Sheila at 847-6153 x205.

Community Action Committee (CAC)
Giving Tree: In the spirit of Christmas, the Community Action Committee has set up a Giving Tree in the Church Entrance. Parishioners are invited to take a tag and purchase an item of warm clothing for our area needy adults and children (no toys, please). Please place your purchase under the tree **with the tag on the outside of your wrapped gift** on Dec. 5/6 and Dec. 12/13. If there are no more tags available, please purchase a gift and make a tag clearly marked M or F noting the size and place your tag on the outside of the gift. **Thank you!**

Soup Kitchen Needs – Tuesday, December 15
 3 bags oranges 4 loaves bread
 100 candy canes 200 paper napkins
 6 extra-large sponges
 Assorted desserts (cupcakes, cookies, brownies)
 If you would like to donate 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 Tues. Dec. 15. Thank you all for your support. We were able to serve 67 meals in November.

Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program Help: St. Lucy’s Social Service Ministry offers help in supplying Christmas presents to families in need in the local community. Please contact Colleen Earnshaw at 847-6153 (x 206) if you are interested in more information and/or how to participate in our Parish Adopt-A-Family program. Thank you!

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 also for our homebound Parishioners and the sick of the Parish (including those in hospitals and nursing homes).

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Wednesday Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 /Lk 1:26-38
 Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

The Middletown K of C is holding its 2015 Christmas Clothing Drive. Men’s, women’s, and children’s winter wear (new or gently used) can be dropped off at the K of C Hall on Valley Road, Dec. 9 – 11 from 5 to 8pm.

Christmas Flowers: Christmas plants will be accepted in the Parish Connector no later than **Sunday, December 20**. Special envelopes for flower donations are located in the pews. If you would like to have a loved one remembered during the Christmas season through your donation, please be sure to include those name(s) on your envelope or plant. **Thank you.**

Theology on Tap, a Theology discussion for young adults, will meet on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6pm at Agaves Mexican Grill in Warwick. This event (free will donation) is sponsored by the Diocese of Providence Young Adult Ministry. Rev. Christopher Mahar, Rector of Our Lady of Providence Seminary, will lead the presentation on God’s Unfathomable Mercy: Ever Ancient Ever New. For more information visit www.discovercatholicfaith.org.

Jubilee Year of Mercy: Cathedrals around the world will join together with Pope Francis in opening their Holy Door. Bishop Tobin will open the Holy Door of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1pm. The erecting of a Holy Door at a church of prominence during a Holy Year or Jubilee Year is a very ancient custom. For our generation this door is not only the threshold into a sanctuary or safe haven, but the gateway to God’s Grace. Everyone is invited to attend.

A Living Nativity, presented by Cluny School, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10, at 6pm on the Cluny School grounds at 75 Brenton Rd., Newport.. The Rain Date is Wednesday, Dec. 16. Call 855-2252 or go to ClunySchool.org/Events for more information

The Wakefield Concert Band will perform a **Christmas Concert for Charity** at Jesus Saviour Church, 509 Broadway in Newport on Monday, December 14 at 6:30pm. The donation is \$10. Tickets can be purchased by calling 846-0115 or from Saint Vincent de Paul Society members or at the door on the night of the performance.

A Free Christmas Movie Matinee, “ELF” will be shown on Dec. 13 at 1pm at the Jane Pickens Theater. Admission is free with the donation of a non-perishable food item to benefit the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Food Pantry. This event is sponsored by Memorial Funeral Home.

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a Field Agent for a full-time career opportunity (with complete benefits package) representing their insurance program. Candidates must be eligible for membership in the K of C. For more information, please contact Michael Lehman at 921-4834.

The RI Long Term Care Ombudsman program (located within the Alliance for Better Long Term Care) is seeking individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of residents living in Rhode Island long term care facilities. Become an advocate for improving their quality of life and care as well assist in empowering residents to become self-advocates. Training is provided. For more information contact Deb Burton at 785-3340 or email dburton@alliancebltc.org.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, December 5
 5:00pm (O) Manuel T. Mello
 Howard L. Porter
 Arthur Benner
- Sunday, December 6, **Second Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am (O) Cesario Family and Amelia Edward-Corbett
 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber
 5:00pm (O) Stanley Sekunda, Sr.
 (Birthday Remembrance)
- Monday, December 7
 9:00am Lillian Lonergan
 5:00pm (D) Vigil of the Immaculate Conception
 7:00pm *Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph’s
- Tuesday, December 8, **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 9:00am (D) Charles F. McGeown (4th Anniversary)
 7:00pm (O)
- Wednesday, December 9
 9:00am Julia Jordan Finn
- Thursday, December 10
 9:00am (D) Mass
- Friday, December 11
 9:00am (D) Helen L. Nadeau
 Aurelio Villacorta
 5:00-6:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Navy Choristers Concert
- Saturday, December 12
 1:30pm Mass at Grand Islander
 5:00pm (O) Mark Green
- Sunday, December 13, **Third Sunday of Advent**
 8:00am (O) Ruth Carbone (Anniversary)
 10:30am (O) Arthur Hines
 12:00 noon Baptism
 5:00pm (B) Mary Ellis (1st Anniversary)

In the above celebrations:

- O = Rev. John O’Brien
- B = Rev. George Behan
- D = Rev. Robert Dunphy

New schedules for Lectors, Altar Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers are available in the Sacristy.

“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If God gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.”
 Pope Francis