



Your servant is listening.



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I enjoy hearing this first reading about Samuel's call! It brings me back to my *much younger* days when I was experiencing a time of youthful discernment and, while at prayer, I came across this same reading of Samuel's call. I remember feeling so in-tune with and easily able to relate to what Samuel was going through. In all of his youthful desire to learn and grow in faith, there was still an uncertainty and immaturity in Samuel revealed to us as we follow his thought process of thinking that it was Eli who continued to call him rather than recognizing that the voice he'd heard was that of God. We (mostly) try to grow closer to God in our own life and (mostly) make efforts to recognize God's presence. How many times do we ask God for an *obvious sign* so we'll KNOW what to do or say? Like Samuel, when the Lord is speaking directly to him and in an *obvious* manner, we get up and go in the opposite direction not even seeing or recognizing God's response to our own pleas. Sometimes the "obvious" that we are looking for isn't the same "obvious" sign that God responds to our requests and needs with. Samuel is helped by Eli in recognizing that it's God who is calling him. Eli is able to help young Samuel recognize God and grow closer to God because of Eli's own wisdom, maturity, life experiences and personal relationship with God. Like in today's Gospel, the first followers came to find Jesus because they were followers of John the Baptist: the baptizer's witness encouraged the fires of faith already burning within their hearts. The people in today's readings became aware of God through members of a community: a faith community. In your community of faith (parish and family) who have been those persons in your life, like Eli was to Samuel and John the Baptist was to Andrew and the other man, to point you in the direction of a deeper relationship with God? Not only do these mentors in faith enable us to recognize God and God's voice, they also show us that it's just as important to "pay it forward" upon hearing God's word. Once we hear God we are compelled to share God's love and message! How awesome it is to be chosen, to be called upon and given a special purpose! Isn't it a wonderful feeling when we know that we "belong" to a group? Each one of us belongs to a group of faithful believers and followers of Jesus. When we experience "belonging" and being loved, don't we just want to share these tremendous feelings with others so that they, too, can share in those same feelings? That's exactly what Andrew did as he began his journey with Jesus! Andrew immediately ran out to share the good news with his brother Simon so that Simon would be part of the group of Jesus' followers! How are you being called to deepen your relationship with Jesus and bring others to share in the sacredness of membership in a faith community? God's voice can still come to us in the "obvious" as we walk with Jesus in these days of Ordinary Time. May our eyes and hearts be open to recognize God's "obvious."

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

Visiting the Sick: Please notify Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x 205) when a family member is in the hospital.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, January 13
 - 5:00pm (O) Connie Chamberlin (10th Anniversary)
- Sunday, January 14
 - 8:00am (O) James C. Fisher
Frank Zysk
 - 10:30am (O) George and Helen Leeber
 - 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners
- Monday, January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
 - 9:00am Angelo and Agnes Bucci
- Tuesday, January 16
 - 9:00am John and Julianna Branca (living)
- Wednesday, January 17
 - 9:00am Kenneth Peckham
 - 9:00am-7pm- **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
(*see last column for details)
- Thursday, January 18
 - 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, January 19
 - 9:00am (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners
 - 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 7:00pm Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Litany to Mary
 - 7:50pm Benediction
- Saturday, January 20
 - 1:30pm Mass at Royal Middletown
 - 5:00pm (O) Mary Mello Silvia
- Sunday, January 21
 - 8:00am (O) Aline C. Lathan (6th Anniversary)
 - 10:30am (O) John Fabian (11th Anniversary)
 - 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

In the above celebrations:

- O = Rev. John O'Brien
- O'N = Rev. Thomas O'Neill

In observance of MLK Holiday on Monday, Jan. 15, the Rectory Offices will be closed.

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.

Religious Education/Faith Formation Reminders:

- *LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences) is on Sun., January 21 from 11:30-2pm or Mon., January 22 from 5:30-8pm in the Parish Center where we continue *Living the Liturgical Year* focusing on "Celebration and Church Feasts."
- *First Reconciliation Review Class: Thurs., January 25 from 3:30-4:45pm in the PC
- *Confirmation I & II Retreat: Sun., January 28 from 12noon-6pm in the PC
- *Reception of First Reconciliation: Tues., January 30 at 6:30pm in Church

**Soup Kitchen Needs
Tuesday, Jan 16**

200 Paper plates (10-12in, heavy duty), 200 Plastic spoons
4 bags oranges
Assorted finger desserts (cupcakes, cookies, brownies, etc.)
If you would like to help with 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 Tuesday, Jan 16. We served 106 meals in December. **Thank you for your all your support.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12
- Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mk 3:20-21
- Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:22-31/Mk 1:14-20

Community Action Committee (CAC)

Giving Tree: Thank you to all who donated gifts for the Giving Tree which were distributed at the local Soup Kitchen in December and among local island organizations.
Unused Christmas and all occasion cards will be collected for distribution to the ACI inmates and juvenile offenders at the RI Training School. There is a need for Spanish language cards. All donations may be deposited in the appropriate bin at the entrance of the Church. Thank you!

CHURCH SUPPORT January 8, 2018

Weekly Collection \$4349.00
Youth Ministry \$1184.00
This week's second collection is for the reduction of the Parish Debt. As of 12/27/17 the balance of the Parish Debt was \$55,887.29.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Christmas Thank You

This past week we celebrated the Epiphany of our Lord and His Baptism which brings the Christmas Season to a close. May we continue to give thanks for some of the wonderful experiences we were enriched by during the recent weeks.

Many thanks to so many people offering their time, talent and treasure in helping to make our liturgical celebrations so special. Thanks to the Music Ministry, the Worship and Liturgy Committee, those who decorated the Church and those who donated flowers, those who helped to set up our outside manger, the organizers of and the participants in our Christmas Pageant, the Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, Servers, and the Staff. Thank you also to all (including the Secret Santas) who donated Christmas presents for the Giving Tree and the "adopted" families, and to all who brought the homemade goodies to the Rectory.

As we begin the New Year 2018, may we continue to grow in our Christian faith by being good stewards of God's many gifts.

May God continue to bless all of St. Lucy Parishioners as we strive to build a Christ-Centered Light-Filled Community with a renewed devotion to Mary in the New Year.

*With deep appreciation,
Fr. John*

***On Wednesday, January 17 St. Lucy's will host the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

The schedule of that day includes 9am Mass, Presentation, Rosary, Movies (*Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of Hope, The Blood and the Rose, Mystery of Guadalupe*), 12pm Angelus, 2pm Rosary, 3pm Divine Mercy, 6pm Holy Hour, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Presentation. Please mark this date on you calendar in order to set aside some prayer time with Our Lady.

Music Notes: During our recent "FOCUS: MINISTRY" you were invited to listen to God and discern how you are called to serve. The Music Ministry is always open to new members who have the time and talent to make this commitment. Rehearsals begin on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7pm. Please contact Helen Glynn (847-6153 x 218) or speak to a Music Minister if you are interested.

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

Waltz Envelope Users will receive their 2017 contribution report in the mail directly from The Waltz Co.
EFT Users will not receive a 2017 Year End Contribution Statement (for tax purposes). If you would like to generate a contribution history report: Log in to www.parish-giving.org with your username and password/ Click on the "My Contribution History" tab/ Leave the contribution name blank so that you can capture all contributions/ Type in start and end dates/ Click "Refresh"/ List of contributions in chronological order will be shown/ Click on the Adobe Acrobat icon to convert the report to a printable or e-mailable PDF file.