



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

How is it that the season of Lent is upon us already? As Lent was approaching and I'd mention to different people how quickly Ash Wednesday would arrive on the heels of the Christmas season, I received various reactions with a few stand-outs (to me). The responses went something like this: "What, already?", or "Wonder what I'll give up this year?", and "Maybe this year I can keep my Lenten promise the entire time." These sentiments are very telling as to how the season of Lent may be perceived: perhaps as a chore that must be completed when, in reality, Lent is a time of renewal for the Church and for each believer. How about this year we look at Lent as a season of opportunity, not missed-opportunity? Lent calls, challenges and prepares us for the highpoint of our faith: the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus who came into the world to save us. Lent offers us not just the time, but a myriad of ways to prepare ourselves and our families to fully be ready to enter into our most holy time of the year - Holy Week. Have you ever seen the TV reality show "Hoarders"? (Please bear with me on this over-the-top example as I explain.) Lent, to me, can be like an episode of Hoarders. Okay, perhaps not so over-the-top, hoardish-style, but when I think of Lent, I like the image of a good, old-fashioned spiritual spring cleaning. In "Hoarders," professionals come in to work with those who hoard – helping and teaching them to sort, reason, get help, and find some sense of *normalcy*. As I said, this example is over-the-top, and most of us won't have professionals come in to help us with our spiritual housekeeping. However, the spiritual housekeeping that we CAN do in our lives during Lent is to clear out and sort through the extra's that have piled up because we're "too busy." We can put things back in their proper places and clear away the dust and cobwebs. How do we do this? With the tools that the Church provides us during Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. (Please come up with broad definitions of your own for making use of these Lenten tools in your life!) What the season of Lent offers us is time: time to return to Christ, time to change our hearts, time to learn to love like Christ. How will you choose to make use of the tools of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, having left the starting gate of Ash Wednesday, travelling the road of Lent, and approaching the finish line of Easter: the resurrection of our Lord?

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 17
 5:00pm (O) Kenneth Page
 Sunday, February 18, **First Sunday of Lent**
 8:00am (S) Josephine M. Fisher
 10:30am (O) Louise Alves (2nd Anniversary)
 5:00pm (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners
 Monday, February 19
 9:00am Marie Izzo
 Tuesday, February 20
 9:00am John R. "Bob" Mello
 Wednesday, February 21
 9:00am Carl Louis McClanahan, Jr.
 Thursday, February 22
 9:00am Communion Service
 Friday, February 23
 9:00am (S) John R. "Bob" Mello
 (Birthday Remembrance)
 David Dolan (Living)
 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross
 7:50pm Benediction
 Saturday, February 24
 5:00pm (O) Laura Medeiros (7th Anniversary)
 Sunday, February 25
 8:00am (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners
 10:30am (O) William J. Nash, Sr. (5th Anniversary)
 5:00pm (O'N) St. Lucy's Parishioners

In the above celebrations:

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

Eucharistic Ministers are needed to bring communion to residents of Grand Islander. Please notify Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x205) if you can help with this ministry.

The Rectory office will be closed on Mon., February 19 in observance of the President's Day holiday. Have a safe holiday and school vacation week!

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

The Annual Catholic Charity Appeal will be conducted in our Parish on the weekends of Feb. 24/25 and Mar. 3/4. A successful Appeal brings God's hope, love, and comfort to thousands of men, women, and children in the Diocese of Providence. Our Parish and our Diocese are "One Family, One Heart, One Spirit." Next weekend you will be able to make your gift through our in-pew solicitation. Our Parish goal is \$63,000 (same as last year) – a goal that can only be reached with your sacrificial help and support.

SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Assorted finger desserts (cupcakes, cookies, brownies, etc.)
 3 loaves of bread 3 (1 pound) boxes butter (sticks only)
 4 bags oranges
 3 small shaker bottles of Parmesan Cheese
 If you would like to help with any of the above items, call Sylvia Bunker at 683-0320. You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tuesday, Feb. 21. Thank you for all of your support, with 93 meals served in January.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
 Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/
 Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

CHURCH SUPPORT February 10/11, 2018

Weekly Collection \$5473.00
The second collection this weekend will be for the reduction of the Parish Debt.
Thank you for your continuing generosity.

The Diocesan Office of Family and Life continues the *Our Lady of Sorrows Bereavement Support Program at St. Lucy's Parish Center.* This free program is offered each Thursday from 7 to 8:30pm through March 22. This support group which offers a peaceful place to share and learn about grief is most appropriate for adults at least 3 months beyond their loss. For more information, please contact Peter A. Magnotta at 421-7833 (x 217).

The amount of \$380 in Clements' Market receipts dated from January 2018 is still needed to reach our goal \$2500.00. (The Parish will get double our return with your help.) **Thank you!**

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

****Dynamic Catholic:** This is a free e-mail program that will guide you on an incredible 40-day journey to become the best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent. It's not too late to sign up at BestLentEver.com.
****Lenten Penance Service** at St. Lucy's on Tues., March 13 at 7:00pm sponsored by St. Lucy and St. Joseph Parishes.
****Mission at St. Joseph's Church** from Mar. 17 – Mar 20. The theme is "Hope" with guest speaker, Rev. Joseph Paquette.
****Mission at Holy Ghost Church in Tiverton from Feb. 25-28 at 7pm** with guest speaker, Fr. Zuhlsdorf.
****Formed: Catholic Faith on Demand Watch: A Lent to Remember: A Lenten Encounter with Mercy.** This series communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love this Lent. Watch: *Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession* explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. Read: *Meditations for Lent.* Listen to: *The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud of Turin.* Use the parish code B84KHM to register at formed.org to sign up for the above Lenten reflections. It's free and easy.
****FORMED** also offers free daily e-mail reflections. Use the same code as above to sign up.
****Lenten Little Black Books** are still available to Parishioners as well as a "Lenten Activity Calendar" for our young Parishioners.
****Operation Rice Bowl Containers** are available in the Narthex for your donations throughout Lent. These donations which are part of Catholic Relief Services help our neighbors around the world.

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations is held every Thursday during the academic year in the Chapel of the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, 485 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence. All are invited to come pray for our priests, seminarians, and for vocations from 12noon to 5pm. Join us in praying that the "master of the harvest send out laborers for his harvest."

An Open House will be held at Bishop Hendricken High School, Warwick on Sunday, March 4 from noon -3pm. Information available for: academics, college placement, athletic and extracurricular activities. Entrance exam on Saturday, April 7 at 8:30am. For information, call the Admissions Office at 739-3450 ext. 162.

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.