



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

It was about 2 weeks ago that I spent some time with a reflection from The Word Among Us (a publication given to the adult LIFE'ers for their Lenten journey), and I'm still mulling over the words of the author. The reflection was based on an Old Testament reading about Daniel's prayer of repentance (Dn 9:4-10). Daniel's prayer began: "*Great and awesome God, you who keep your merciful covenant toward those who love you...*" If/When I'm *feeling* penitent, unfortunately, it isn't words of praise that are rolling off of my lips, but rather words of supplication, asking God to be merciful and making my plea for forgiveness. The author of the reflection asked how Daniel could be so certain that God would forgive him. (S)He answered the question by stating, "*Perhaps because he had history on his side. Time after time, God had shown Daniel how much he treasured him...clearly, God was committed to Daniel.*" Daniel was always honest with God, never hiding anything from Him. Daniel experienced God's "merciful covenant" (praising at the start of his prayer), and he knew that he was always safe in God's compassionate, merciful care. As I thought more about Daniel and his openness to be reconciled, our upcoming Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service on Tuesday evening (3/13 at 7pm) came to mind. How many of us, I wondered, would come to this special evening with a heart filled with joyful and hopeful expectation like Daniel? If we take Daniel as our model, then we, also, need to reflect on the many ways we've experienced God's goodness throughout our lives – and even further back! God's love is so great that Jesus became human, and journeyed to the cross so that all of humankind would be redeemed and share in His glory. The unnamed writer of the days' reflection concludes with: "So go ahead and proclaim and trust in God's mercy and love for you. Go ahead and confess your sins to him. You don't have to fear condemnation. Just keep Daniel's words in the forefront of your mind and you'll do fine: '*Yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness.*' (Dan. 9:9) "

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

March LIFE celebrations are this weekend, Sunday (11th) from 11:30-2pm and Monday (12th) from 5:30-8pm in the Parish Center. We'll continue with our "Living the Liturgical Year" theme as we pray, share and learn more about this month's theme of: "*Holy Week and Easter.*" If you've never participated in a LIFE celebration, feel free to give it a whirl – join us for our simple meal, meeting and greeting other Parishioners while continuing to growing in faith.

First Eucharist classes continue in the Parish Center on Th., March 15 from 3:30-4:45pm.

Update Clement's Market receipts: We have reached our goal of \$2500.00 in receipts for January 2018. The Parish will get double our return thanks to your contributions!

SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS

Tuesday, March 20

- Assorted finger desserts (cupcakes, brownies, cookies, etc)
- 2 bags oranges 100 (6 in.) paper plates
- 2 bottles salad dressing (ranch or Italian)

If you would like to help with any of the above items, please call Sylvia Bunker at 683-0430. You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tues., March 20. Thank you for all your support. We served 87 meals in February.

CHURCH SUPPORT - March 3/4, 2018

Weekly Collection \$6680.00

This weekend's second collection will be for the Reduction of the Parish Debt. As of 2/12/18 the Parish Loan Balance is \$49,479.96!!

Our E-Giving total for February was \$3427.26.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

The Annual Catholic Charity Appeal

We are still in need of your help to reach our Parish goal. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge in support of the Catholic Charity Appeal. A gift in any amount is gratefully received and sincerely appreciated. For your convenience, pledge envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church. If your company offers a Matching Gift Program, it could be an opportunity to add to the value of your gift. Thank you for your generosity and support.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
- Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

David the King: Adam was the first king and steward of the rightly ordered Garden of Eden, but by allowing negative influences to wreak havoc on Eden, he did not fulfill his kingly responsibility. Long after Adam, David emerged as the king who would restore order in the Garden and bring the world under the lordship of God. But, like Adam, David fell, and his reign ushered in a succession of compromised kings and rejected prophets. The Scriptures, however, foretold a son of David who would realize the fullness of Israelite kingship, but whose actual reign defied expectation. This 6-part/2-hour presentation by Bishop Robert Barron leads us to a better understanding of King David, a pivotal figure between the first king and the King of Kings. The DVD will be shown in the Parish center on March 19 and March 26 from 6:30-8:30pm. Stay for the whole presentation or watch half on one day and half on the next. All are welcome.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

****Dynamic Catholic:** This is a free daily e-mail of reflections. 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** offered by St. Lucy and St. Joseph Parishes.

****Mission at St. Joseph's Church** from Mar. 17 – Mar 20 theme is "**Hope**" with guest speaker Rev. Joseph Paquette.

****Formed: Catholic Faith on Demand:** Free daily e-mail reflections as well as other Lenten options. Use the parish code B84KHM to register at formed.org.

****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.

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.

The Community Action Committee (CAC) is conducting a Sheet & Towel Collection for McKinney Shelter located at 15 Meeting St. (on Washington Sq.). This homeless/transitional facility that houses 41 people has a great need for these items. Donations of *TWIN sheets* and *bath towels* (new or gently used, any color) are requested. Collections will be through Sunday, March 25. Please place these items in the blue bin in the narthex of the Church. Thank you for your neighborly concern.

The Ancora Ultrasound Van will meet St. Gabriel's Call at Jesus Saviour Church, Broadway and Vernon, Newport. In addition to helping mom during pregnancy and beyond, we are offering an opportunity for a free ultrasound. Each mom will receive a gift bag for their baby and an opportunity to register for additional assistance once the baby is born. Call 278-4508 for an appointment, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10am to 2pm. These services are provided by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence and RI Right to Life Services.

The 20th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party to benefit the poor in St. Michael the Archangel (239 Oxford St., Providence) Parish throughout the year will be held on March 17 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. The doors open at 1pm and entertainment begins at 2pm. For more information, call 781-7210.

A Triduum Retreat will be held with Fr. Kevin Spinale, SJ at Enders Island, Mystic, CT on Thurs., 3/29 to Sun., 4/1. \$315 per person. <http://enders.isTriduum> or 860-536-0565.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, March 10
 - 5:00pm (M) Vincent and Joan Arnold
- Sunday, March 11, **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
 - 8:00am (S) Alice Greer
Sr. Mary Burns (7th Anniversary)
 - 10:30am (M) Anne Gomes (Birthday Remembrance)
 - 5:00pm (O'N) Faye Allen (9th Anniversary)
- Monday, March 12
 - 9:00am (S) Kathleen Groux Sekunda (32nd Anniversary)
- Tuesday, March 13
 - 9:00am (S) Marge Skahill (Birthday Remembrance)
 - 7:00pm Communal Penance Service
- Wednesday, March 14
 - 9:00am (S) Nicholas Izzo (Living)
- Thursday, March 15
 - 9:00am Communion Service
- Friday, March 16
 - 9:00am (S) Mary O'Connell
 - 5:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 7:00pm Stations of the Cross
 - 7:50pm Benediction
- Saturday, March 17
 - 2:00pm Mass at Royal Middletown
 - 5:00pm (O) Richard Palumbo
Dorothy Seiferth
- Sunday, March 18, **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 - 8:00am (O) St. Lucy's Parishioners
 - 10:30am (O) Pat Maida (1st Anniversary)
George and Helen Leeber
 - 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
- M = Rev. Gene McKenna

Children's Homilies: Sundays during the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, March 18, and 25.

Fr. John will be away until Tuesday, March 13. Other priests will be serving St. Lucy's Parish.

Visiting the Sick: Please notify Sr. Sheila at 847-6153 (x205) when a family member is in the hospital.