**LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)**

We often do a good job of recognizing the beginning of Jesus’ story through the events described in the gospels, but not the end. Jesus’ story started in the Wise Men’s presentation of the Baby Jesus, the beginning of Jesus’ faith story because He’s already been living a life of faith. Rather today we celebrate Jesus’ official start in ministry. In other words, today is the moment He is empowered by the Holy Spirit for His saving mission is presented to the world. As we celebrate Jesus’ baptism, we can’t help but first think about the birth that preceded it, being born into a family. Whether a child or parent, we remember whose we are - our roots, and what makes each one of us the person that we are today. In remembering our baptism, we remember whose we are and how we conduct ourselves as believers in God, in Jesus, and in the Holy Spirit who directs us in all we say and do. Jesus’ mission, as we heard in today’s second reading was simple: **He went about doing good.** Our mission is the same, to **go about doing good.** How are we doing with this? As I was driving in to work thinking about what I’d write, I began thinking about the Rite of Baptism and the beauty of the words and prayers in our Catholic baptismal ceremony. At the beginning of the baptism ritual, the parents are questioned about their intentions with the presider saying: **You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of faith. It will be your duty to bring your child up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor.** The next part is the really tough question that the presider asks,** Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?** Of course, every parent responds, “Yes.” That’s a really tough question that our response challenges us to live up to each day – especially on the baptism day when the parents are looking down at the cherubic face of the innocent child, and not knowing where the road ahead will lead this child. At baptism we make a promise, and we are supposed to live up to that promise. That promise means that we choose to live as Jesus would live and to speak as Jesus would EACH AND EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES. Whether at work, home, school, church – wherever we find ourselves – we belong to Jesus. If we call ourselves Catholic, we will go to Mass every Sunday, not just on the Sundays when we feel like it or when we’re not on vacation. If we call ourselves Catholic, we will obey the commandments and not just use them as guidelines or suggestions. If we call ourselves Catholic, we will love God which means we will love others as we love ourselves. How much more simple can our mission, through baptism, be?

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator

**First Reconciliation Classes continue on Thurs., January 16 from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center.**

**LIFE celebrations are back**! We’re going to come together this weekend: January 12 (11:30-2pm) or January 13 (5:30-8pm) to continue learning about The Nicole Creed. If you’re not presently a LIFEer, why don’t you join us in the PC to share in a simple meal, pray together, and diving deeper into our Catholic faith.

**Right to Life Month observances include**

- **The Respect for Life Mass** on Saturday, January 19 at 9:00am at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul in Providence. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant and Rev. Nathan J. Ricci, Assistant Chancellor, will be the homilist for the Mass. A reception with refreshments will follow the Mass in the Cathedral Hall. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be on the altar for veneration during Mass. Everyone is invited to attend, but please RSVP if you plan on attending the reception after Mass. Call 278-2518 or email cowns@dioceseofprovidence.org.
- **March for Life Bus Trip to DC** will leave Providence on Thursday, January 23 for the March of Life Mass/Rally on Friday, January 24. For more information and to reserve a seat on the bus, contact the Respect for Life Office at the above phone number or email address.

**Church Support**

**Weekly Collection**

- Solemnity of Mary: $846.00
- Electronic Giving: $1523.00

**Youth Ministry in our Diocese**

- $830.00

**The Second Collection this weekend is for the Building and Maintenance Fund.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Scripture Readings for the Week**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
<th>Reading 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 Sm 1-1:8/20Ma 1:1-20</td>
<td>1 Sm 1-1:20/19Ma 1:29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Sm 1:2-20/18Ma 2:1-8</td>
<td>1 Sm 1:16/10Ma 4:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1 Sm 1:8-10/19Ma 1:8</td>
<td>1 Sm 8-4-7, 10-22aMa 2:1-12</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 Sm 9-1, 4-17, 19/10Ma 5:2-17</td>
<td>1 Sm 4-9, 5-6/Cor 1:13-20</td>
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**Soup Kitchen Needs** – Tuesday, January 21

- Assorted finger desserts (cakes, brownies, etc.)
- 4 extra large sponges
- 4 bags oranges
- 2 loaves bread
- 2 (1 lb.) boxes butter (sticks only)

If you would like to help with any of the above items, please call Rabbi Bunker at 683-0320. You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tues. Jan. 21. We were unable to serve meals in December due to weather. However, food donations were taken to a local shelter and gifts from the Giving Tree were presented to friends this past week. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mediation for our journey through the New Year:**

(Howard Thurman)

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:

- to feed the hungry,
- to release the prisoners,
- to rebuild the nations,
- to bring peace among all,
- to make music with the heart.

**Letter to a Suffering Church** by Bishop Robert Barron is a book about the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. Bishop Barron is “speaking in his own name, as a Catholic, a priest, and a bishop.” His prayer is that these reflections might encourage Catholics who are attempting to navigate today in very choppy waters.” Copies of this book are available to Parishioners at the entrance to the Church. A follow-up discussion group will be offered in a few weeks.

**Formed**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit came upon Him. One of the most profound aspects of the Catholic Faith is that Christ sent His Spirit to dwell in the hearts of the baptized. But who is the Holy Spirit, and how do we actively invite Him to do what He has placed inside of us to do? Find out by watching: The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace. Join today at www.formed.org using the free parish code B84KHM.

There are many programs being offered for Caregivers to adults with dementia and cognitive impairment. The times, places and topics (Understanding Challenging Behaviors, Tools for Caregivers, Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia) are available at https://www.communityresourcefinder.org

**The Knights of Columbus #256, 7 Valley Rd.** Middletown are sponsoring **A Community Blood Drive** to be held on Thursday, January 16 from 2-7pm. A free steak dinner is provided to all donors along with a $5 coupon for Dunkin’. Everyone is welcome, your donation saves lives.

**A Compassion Night and Pasta Dinner** will be held on January 18 at 6pm. The headline is “Father Patrick Aloysius Misgivings” who will share stories and one-liners about growing up Catholic – from miracles and marriage counseling to bazaars – nothing escapes this gentle man’s razor sharp Irish wit. The cost is $25 which includes the dinner and show. All funds raised will help the Knights in their charitable donations during the year. Contact Tom Murphy at 835-1135 for tickets.

**Grateful for God’s Providence Campaign Update**

Thank you to all who donated to this Campaign. St. Lucy’s has reached 64% of our goal for this Campaign for a total amount of $263,502.00. Thank you for your generosity!

**Visiting the Sick:** When a family member is in the hospital, please notify Sr. Sheila Murphy at 847-6153 (x205)

**Advertising Information:**

- Ad rates:
  - Full page - $50
  - 1/2 page – $25
  - 1/4 page - $15
  - 1/8 page - $20

**Deadline for advertising:**

- Thursday, January 2

**Deadline for Classifieds:**

- Thursday, January 2