LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)
In today’s Gospel we’re told that after John’s arrest Jesus withdrew to Galilee. There, Jesus passes by the Sea of Galilee and saw two brothers Simon and Andrew, fishermen casting their nets. Jesus said to them “come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” The passage continues at once they left their nets and followed him. Right after this scene we see this invitation again come to life when James and John leave their father in the boat, along with everything else, to follow Jesus. Think of a time in your life when you’ve been called, unexpectedly, whether by a friend, spouse, teacher, supervisor, etc. to “do everything.” This “do everything” request is one that involves a sense of urgency and sometimes even a sense of giving up all to abruptly stop whatever it is that we’re doing in order to do something else and change our plans.

Don’t know about you, but when I get an urgent “do everything” request, sometimes I find it really hard to change my plans, and yet other times the change of plans seems like second-nature; no thought involved in how necessary this change is. There are a lot of variables as to why we change plans or change our priorities too easily or that we don’t change them at all, but we won’t get into the psychology of it now. Each of us is involved in many important activities every day, sometimes we’re very open to dropping everything and willingly change our plans. Our changing plans of things shows that our priorities change as well. In this Gospel we hear that Jesus’ first disciples suddenly changed their plans when Jesus called them to follow him. There must have been something very special about Jesus in order to make the fishermen change their priorities so quickly. Jesus called them, and the invitation to be His disciple the most important thing in their lives. Jesus couldn’t guarantee their safety, comfort, or much else (physically), but he could guarantee them life—the offer and invitation was theirs; as was the choice. Jesus also invites us to make a living as His disciples - the most important thing in our lives. When Jesus comes to you at your place of work, in your home, at your school and invites you to “Come after me,” will you “do everything” and change your plans to follow? Or will you (so put intended) miss the boat because you may be too busy, too distracted to hear, too set in your ways, or find Jesus’ request “too much” to ask of you? How will you respond to Jesus’ invitation?

Written by: Colette Savaria, LIFE Coordinator
First Reconciliation: Please pray for our young people who will experience God’s generous love and mercy for the first time when they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tues., January 28 as 6:30pm in the Church. Our young parishioners include: Sergio Dosouto, Rudy Everin, Miles Gray, Fiona Kerrison, Alecsa Pike, Idris Salvador, and Kal Stevens. There are many programs being offered for Caregivers to adults with dementia and cognitive impairment. The purpose of this special observance is to highlight the importance of learning how to read, appreciate, and pray daily with Sacred Scripture. During Mass this weekend the Word of God will be enthroned on a stand in front of the altar. There are also programs available to help you read and pray daily. For more information and to sign up to reserve a seat, contact the Parish Office at 847-0065 by Feb. 3rd.

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