LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences)

I’d like to take some time to focus on a gospel reading from last Wednesday.

It’s one that we all (written sarcastically) know and love so much, one that s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-s our minds. The reading is a parable that Jesus tells of a landowner who goes out to his gates at various times during the day to hire laborers to work for him. At days end, the owner pays each worker the same wages regardless of the number of hours worked. Remember that Jesus uses parables to get us to stop and think, to help us to look at life from a different perspective; and in this reading we surely encounter a different way of looking at life. Each time I hear or read this passage I find myself struggling with feelings about how that owner can justify paying the same wages to everyone, it just doesn’t seem fair, and of course I feel guilty thinking those thoughts/feeling those feelings. This parable is one that hits us right where we live: our pockets. The actions of the landowner are those that I would like to embody in my life: mercy, generosity, thoughtfulness, etc. – rather than the jealous, closed-minded, coldness of heart of the workers who worked all day earning the same as those who worked for one hour. Don’t you just want to be happy for all of the workers who received the same pay? Don’t you want to try to be as generous, accepting, merciful and loving as that landowner? Jesus desires for us to always see, believe, and remember the generous love of the landowner; the unconditional love of our God that is poured out for each one of us despite how many hours we worked/how many days or years we’ve lived out our faith convictions. God’s mercy can’t be limited or measured out. God’s mercy is so great that it overflows, it pours out of God like a waterfall. God’s love is beyond our understanding, beyond our belief. God loves us, gives to us, forgives us not because God wants it, but because God knows that we NEED wholeness, love, forgiveness, justice and mercy in our lives. Whoever comes to God (regardless of when or why) will be wrapped in God’s mercy. God’s love is a generous gift given to each one of us. Why do we feel the need to have to understand God rather than to freely accept God’s love?

During this time the Rectory Office prefers to accept visitors by appointment. Thank you for your understanding.

Regrettfully St. Lucy’s Church is currently unable to accept any food donations at this time. We will advertise when we are able to re-stock our Food Pantry shelves again.

The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23, 2020

As the effects of corona virus pandemic continue and remaining in a state of unknown, we ask for your continued patience as we plot out a course for the upcoming year of LIFE – our Religious Education program and 2020-21 classes for Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation preparation. Watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for LIFE/Sacraments registration information. Many Thanks!

Colette Savaria,
LIFE Coordinator

Hello out there!!! The office is hoping to receive more parishioner responses to update St. Lucy’s Parishioner records. If you have done this already, THANK YOU!! Please update your household information by emailing us at stlucyoffice@gmail.com or call the rectory at 847-6153 ext. 201. Possible changes and/or updates may include:
*School, grade, age of each child (for 2020-21 year);
*Phone # - delete a landline, or add cell phone #’s;
*Email address;
*Adult children 18+ years of age residing with you and working; what is his/her occupation?
*Adult child 18+ residing with you while attending college; provide name of college/university and level;
*Adult child is no longer living locally;
*Recent additions to your household, i.e., births, adoptions, relative(s) living with you.
*Change in marital status.

CHURCH SUPPORT
August 15-16, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Collection</th>
<th>$2759.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Giving</td>
<td>$ 937.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart Missions</td>
<td>$ 452.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption</td>
<td>$ 102.00</td>
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Thank you for your generosity!!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Rv 21:9b-14/1:1-45:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17:1/M; 22:23-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18:1/M; 23:27-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 Cor 1:1-9/M; 24:42-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 Cor 1:17-25/M; 25:1-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1 Cor 1:26-11/M; 6:17-29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bible Study continues on Tuesday mornings after the 9am Mass in the Parish Center. This week: New Testament

Support for the Parish...

Those who have been making donations and maintaining their budgets during this time have been a godsend. Thank you!!! There are basically 4 ways for all to do so.

**Attend Mass and put your donation in the collection basket.

**Mail your envelopes to the Parish Office: 909 West Main Rd., Middletown, RI 02842

**Drop your envelopes and donations off by putting them in the black lockbox at the front door of the Rectory.

**Go Online to our Website stlucy.org, click the Giving link, then click on Parish Giving, and follow the prompts to make a one-time gift or a recurring donation.

And don’t forget our Parish YouTube Channel for our live-streamed Sunday Mass. Subscribe at YouTube videos St. Lucy’s Catholic Church, Middletown, RI. The Sunday recorded Liturgy is also available on St. Lucy’s Facebook Page and Website (www.stlucy.org)

St. Lucy’s St. Vincent de Paul Conference has seen its funds depleted, as we continue to see an increase in the number of our friends and neighbors in need. In these troubling times we expect even greater hardships among the most vulnerable families in this area. SVDP relies on the generosity of donors and talents of its members to continue its vital work. You can support SVDP with your cash or check donation in the collection box in the Church Narthex, or by becoming a benefactor with a tax-deductible donation given directly to the Conference. To learn more about giving and membership opportunities, contact us at stlucysvp@gmail.com.

May our presence and care to those in most need reflect the gentleness, esteem and dignity we see reflected in the life and work of Jesus. St. Vincent de Paul

Please join with the Touro Synagogue Social Justice Community Outreach Committee as they promote the 2020 Census in the State of Rhode Island. Fill out your...
2020 Census today online at \texttt{2020CENSUS.GOV}.