



LIFE (Learning In Faith Experiences –
(our Parish Faith Formation Program)

I really enjoy hearing this first reading of Samuel's call. During my "youth" when I was in the process of discerning what the Lord was calling me to, I fell upon this same reading. I sooooo could relate to Samuel. In all of his youthful desire to learn and grow in faith, there is still an uncertainty and immaturity in Samuel that reveals itself to us when he thinks that Eli is calling him rather than the voice he's hearing being that of God. We (mostly) try to grow closer to God in our own life and try to recognize how God is present. How many times do we ask God for an obvious "sign" so we'll KNOW what to do or say? Like Samuel (when the Lord is speaking directly to him, in an obvious manner), we get up and go in the opposite direction not even seeing/recognizing God's response to our plea. Sometimes the "obvious" that we are looking for isn't the same "obvious" sign that God responds with. Samuel is helped by Eli in recognizing God's call. Eli is able to help the young Samuel grow closer to God because of his own wisdom, maturity, life experiences and personal relationship with God. Like in today's Gospel, the first followers came to find Jesus because they were followers of John the Baptist – the baptizer's testimony fueled the fires of faith already burning within their hearts. These people in today's readings became aware of God through members of a community, a faith community. In your community of faith (parish or family) who have been those persons in your life, like Eli was to Samuel and John the Baptist was to Andrew and the other man, who pointed you in the direction of a deeper relationship with God? Not only do these people who mentor us in faith enable us to recognize God and God's voice, but show us that it's just as important to "pay it forward," upon hearing God's word, we are impelled to share the good news that leads to eternal life through Jesus. We are chosen by God! How awesome is it to be the one chosen, to be called upon with a special purpose! It's a wonderful feeling to "belong" to a group and we, each one of us, belong to a group of faithful believers and followers of Jesus. When we experience "belonging" and being loved, don't we just want to scream out all of the good things in our feeling of belonging and get other people to feel these same feelings? That's what Andrew did when he started to follow Jesus. Andrew immediately ran out to share the good news and get his brother Simon to be a part of the group of followers of Jesus! How are you being called to deepen your relationship with Jesus and bring others to share in the sacredness of membership in a faith community? God's voice can still come to us as we experience the post-holiday blues, be on the lookout for God – always!

We welcome our newly baptized Parishioner:
Rudy James, son of Michael and Gretchen Everin.

CHURCH SUPPORT
January 7/8, 2012

Weekly Collection \$4729.00
Debt Collection \$2986.00
Thank you for your generosity.

The last **REVIEW class for Reconciliation** students is on Thursday, January 19 from 3:30-4:45pm in the Parish Center. Please pray for our young parishioners who will experience God's unconditional love and mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during a special Service on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30pm in the Church. These Parishioners include: Samantha Aldrich, Cassidy Berriault, Nathan Betts, Jaylen Butler, Aleya DiRosa, Lauryn Dorsey, Fisher Everin, Connor Faulkner, Lilly Faulkner, Kenny Firlings, Kaylin Frankhouser, Shannon Ganser, Lily Jankuska, Gavin Jenkins, Lily King, Makenzie Lyons, Izabella Martinez, T.J. Mello, and Michael Simmons.

SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS
Tuesday, January 17

4 bags oranges
2 loaves bread
100 paper cups (8oz. hot and cold)
Assorted finger desserts (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc.)
2 boxes Clementines
4 shakers of Parmesan cheese
You may drop off your donations at the Rectory anytime before 3pm on Tuesday, Jan. 17. We served 118 meals in December and a total of 1,095 meals in 2011. Thank you for all your generous support throughout the year. For any further information, please call Sylvia Bunker at 683-0320.

The Community Action Committee (CAC) is again collecting **unused** Christmas cards and all occasion cards for distribution to the ACI inmates as well as juvenile offenders at the RI Training School. There is also a need for cards in Spanish due to the large population of Spanish speaking inmates. Cards may be deposited in the appropriate baskets at the entrance of the Church.

"An Invitation to Pray for All Human Life": The Office of Life and Family Ministry will sponsor the Annual "Respect Life Mass" on Saturday, January 21 at St. Paul Church in Cranston. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant and homilist at the 9am Mass. Prior to the Mass, there will be a procession with the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Broad Street Women's Clinic for a peaceful and prayerful vigil at 8am. The Image will remain on the altar during Mass and will be available for veneration at the reception which will immediately follow the Mass. For more information, directions and to RSVP, contact Carol Owens, Office of Life Family Ministry at 421-7833 x 218.

The Diocesan Office of Life and Ministry will be hosting the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at many Parishes from January 6 through 29. For a complete list of Parishes and the scheduled Venerations, please call 421-7833 (x218).

March for Life 2012: All Pro-Life people are invited to the March for Life 2012 on Sunday, Jan. 22 and Monday, Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C. Bus transportation will leave at 6am on Sunday from St. William Parish in Warwick. Overnight arrangements will be at K of C Hall in Maryland. Monday's schedule includes Mass, a Pro-Life speaker, and the March for Life. Please call 421-0836 for reservations. The cost is \$75.00.

Thank you continued from last week's bulletin for flower donations made in memory of the following people:

Eva B. and Manuel T. Mello
Mary Silvia
Sr. Mary Burns
Mary K. and William H. Connerton
Mary and Joseph Silveira

The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts was proclaimed last weekend at the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord. After much controversy of methods used to determine these dates, a formula was proposed in 1997 for Western Christians which states "Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon, which falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox determined by the Church to be March 20 or 21." The Feast Days which are set by this formula begin with **Ash Wednesday (February 22), Easter Sunday (April 8), Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ (May 17), Pentecost (May 27), Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (June 10), and First Sunday of Advent (December 2).**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebrations on Monday include a Torch Run Ceremony at 9am at the 1st RI Regiment Monument in Portsmouth, a Birthday Program at 9:30am at the Thompson Middle School, the Annual Lunch at noon at the ABC Club, a Black History Bowl at 3pm at Thompson Middle School, an Afternoon Program at 5pm at the Dr. Martin Luther King Center, and an evening Worship Service at 7pm at the Community Baptist Church. For lunch tickets contact Thelma at 338-1075 or Fern at 846-4785.

A Motorcade for Life will be held in RI on Monday, Jan. 23 beginning at 10am at the Roger Williams Park entrance. A procession and prayers at abortion sites in Providence will be followed by Holy Mass at noon at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul.

The Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, CT features "*Christmas Across Africa*" which is a crèche exhibit of more than 100 creches, statues, and framed art from over 20 African countries and several African tribes. This exhibit will run through February 12. For information, call 203-865-0400.

The Newport Skills Alliance (NSA) will host its 5th Health Care and Educational Fair on Thursday, Jan. 19 from 9am to noon at Community College of Rhode Island's Newport Campus. The even is free and open to the public. It will provide an opportunity for job seekers to meet with regional employers and educational institutions. Those who attend should bring copies of their resume and dress appropriately. For further information contact Liz Lombard at 848-6697 (x205).

The 2nd Annual Woman-to-Woman Pro Life Prayer Dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Holy Ghost Church Hall in Tiverton. Tickets must be pre-purchased by calling Terry at 624-2253 or Sandy at 636-1531.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 14
5:00pm Joseph P. Canning, Jr. (7th Anniversary)
Sunday, January 8
8:00am Domingos Rodrigues
10:30am Frank and Bruce LaPointe
5:00pm St. Lucy Parishioners
Monday, January 16
9:00am Constance Mazza
Tuesday, January 17
9:00am William C. Cella
Wednesday, January 18
9:00am Mary Paranzino
Thursday, January 19
9:00am Felomena Fernandez
Friday, January 20
9:00am Mary Silvia
5-8pm Friday Devotions
Saturday, January 21
1:30pm Mass at Forest Farm
5:00pm St. Lucy Parishioners
Sunday, January 22
8:00am Eleanor Stoos and Family
10:30am Dominga Frando
5:00pm St. Lucy Parishioners

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:22-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33,37,40-51/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 13:13-19
Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27/Mk 3:20-21
Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:22-31/Mk 1:14-20

Please pray for our homebound Parishioners and the sick of the Parish (including those in hospitals and nursing homes) and all those in the armed forces and the military commanders who lead them.

The Rectory offices are closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.