

**We are pleased and honored
To welcome you to
St. Francis of Assisi Parish**
67 West Town Street, Lebanon, CT 06249
Telephone: 860.642.6711 Fax: 860.642.4032
www.stfrancisassislebanonct.parishesonline.com
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor
Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Saturday October 3, 2015 Blessed Virgin Mary
4:00 PM Confession
5:00 PM Dr. Richard Williams req. by Stan & Theresa Baran
Sunday, October 4, 2015 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Maurice Pelletier req. by C. Wheaton
10:30 AM Arthur Choquette req. by his family
Monday October 5, 2015 Weekday
NO MASS
Tuesday October 6, 2015 St. Bruno, priest: Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher, virgin
NO MASS
Wednesday October 7, 2015 Our Lady of the Rosary
9:00 AM Dave & Edith Perotti req. by their family
Thursday October 8, 2015 Weekday
NO MASS
Friday October 9, 2015 St. Denis, bishop & companions martyrs
9:00 AM Maurice Pelletier req. by his wife
Saturday October 10, 2015 Blessed Virgin Mary
4:00 PM Confession
5:00 PM Carolyn Sharpe req. by her husband
Sunday, October 11, 2015 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Viola Smutko req. by her family
10:30 AM Cecile Bibeau req. by the Fauteux family

Sacrificial Giving

Offertory 9/20/15: \$ 1,958.19
Catholic Elementary School: \$ 499.26
Offertory 9/27/15: \$ 2,509.25
Monthly Extraordinary: \$ 683.50
Today's second collection is for The Diocesan Cradle Fund.
A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

St. Andrew Church – Colchester on Thursdays ~ Adoration at 8:30 ~ Rosary at 6:00pm...Benediction at 7:00pm.

Weekend of October 10 & 11
5:00pm Lector: Dick Lataille
Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako
Altar Servers: Steven Bardes, Wayne Woodward
8:00am Lector: Rosanne Coffey
Eucharistic Minister: Betsy Petrie
Altar Servers: Anthony Pomerleau
10:30am Lector: Don Dubiel
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Dubiel
Altar Servers: Becky Kovach, Erika Densman

**Our parish website is currently unavailable.
We are in the process of upgrading the site.**

Military Service Honor Roll

SW1 John P. Dyer Jr. U.S. Navy
LCPL Alex Bielawa, U.S. Marines
Lt. Colonel William J. Girard, U.S. Army
Sgt. Derek Keegan, U.S. Army
Major Michael A. Goba, U.S. Army JAG
E-5 Francis Orcutt, U.S. Army
HMC Heather S. Gardipee, U.S. Navy
Pvt. Zachary Berquist, U.S. Army
Pvt. First Class Jacob Grzanowicz
Sgt. Justin A. VonEdwins, U.S. Army
Sgt. Robert Massicotte U.S. Army
Pvt. First Class Jordan Anderson U.S. Army

Prayer for our Men and Women in Military Service

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its peoples from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen.

APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

This week October 4 – October 10 – Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Dariusz Dudzik, Rev. William McNulty, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Brian Romanoski, Our Holy Father, Rev. John Welch MS, Rev. Anthony Gruber, Rev. Damian Tomiczek SDS, Rev. Patrick Martin, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. Robert Washabaugh. – Mary Immaculate, let us love you fervently and open our hearts to the dew of your grace, for we know that you are blessing our priests. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

We also pray for any priests who have left the ministry.



We are collecting the following items for WAIM: Gently used winter coats, new pillows, blankets, towels, are most needed but any household items would be greatly appreciated. A truck will be at the Church parking lot before and after Masses on October 17th and 18th for the drop off of your donation items.

❖ **CHILDREN'S MASS: Grades 1 & 6 will be helping at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday October 18th. Refreshments in the meeting room following the Mass.**

MEETINGS

Blessing of Animals Sunday Oct. 3 at 1pm
Parish Mission Saturday October 3 – Wednesday October 7
Fall Clean-up Saturday Oct. 10 9am on Church grounds

PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

Pledges received to date total \$55,605.00
If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.



Save your hanging flower pots
The Ladies Guild will once again be making cemetery arrangements. Please consider donating your hanging flower pots/baskets or pots from your fall flowers for use in this fundraiser.

There is no need to empty the dirt. Please leave near the side door of the church garage. Thank you. Please contact Barbara 642-7168 with any questions.



Also---

The Ladies Guild will be selling cemetery arrangements in December. We will be in need of greens. If you or someone you know

has plans to prune your holly bushes or evergreens this fall, please consider waiting and supply us with the greens we will need. Please contact Barbara @ 860-642-7168, or bobbi.w@charter.net if you will be able to supply greens for this annual fundraising project.

ATTENTION PARENTS

Curriculum on Maintaining Safe Environments

The Office for Safe Environments of the Diocese of Norwich has mandated that a curriculum on maintaining safe environments be implemented into the Religious Education Program each year.

In compliance with that mandate our CCD teachers will be discussing safe environments on Sunday, October 18, 2015 with their individual classes during regular class time from 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

If a parent does not wish to have their child attend the safe environment program, their child will be able to attend a separate class.

Questions: please contact Jim Hay at 860.886.1882.

This week's inserts:

Safe Environments in the Diocese of Norwich

Annual Parish Report

Harvest Moon Dinner Dance

Fall Clean-up

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Guild for hosting the Polish Dinner on September 25th. Thank you to the parishioners who purchased tickets; the event was sold out prior to the ticket deadline date! Much appreciation goes to the committee (Kevin, Steve, Ella Mae, Jennie & Lorraine) and all the volunteers who made this successful event happen. Jim Dyer was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Thank you to Roberto's Log Cabin and The Farmer's Cow for their donations. The proceeds will be going to the church.

Barbara, Ladies Guild President

COLLECTION OF TOILETRIES

If you have collected shampoos, lotions, or other toiletries from hotels while away on a trip that you have not used, please bring them to St. Francis Church. We are also collecting twin zippered mattress pads and Pampers size 4 and up. We will have baskets at each entrance for your donations. These items will be donated to the Holy Family Shelter and to the No-Freeze Shelter in Willimantic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- **Holy Hour for Vocations: October 15** St. Paul in Waterford from 6-7pm
- Healing Masses for September: Spiritual Renewal Services 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT 06360 **Monday, October 26th at 2:00 PM** Mass is held on first floor
Celebrant: Father Ray and Judith Hughes with concluding prayers for spiritual healing.
- **Executive Director-Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, Inc.:** Practicing Catholic with good understanding of Catholic social teaching, Master's Degree in Social Work or Business Administration with related experience in human service field. The candidate must have strong management experience and excellent professional and interpersonal skills to provide leadership. Apply no later than October 16, 2015. Resume and cover letter including salary requirements and 3 references should be sent to: Vicar General, 201 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360.
- On Saturday, October 17, the Diocesan Office of Worship will conduct a **workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** who bring Communion to the sick in their homes, in hospitals or nursing homes. Registration deadline is October 7th. Fee: \$20. Place: St. Patrick Parish, East Hampton. For more information call 860-848-2237x203 or go to www.norwichdiocese.org for registration form.
- **Twenty-third Annual Mass for Firefighters/EMS Personnel** Saturday, October 17, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. On Saturday, October 17, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., Bishop Cote will celebrate Mass for all Firefighters/EMS personnel, in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick. Assembly at Chelsea Parade for the line-up and the procession (to the Cathedral) of all personnel and apparatus will begin at 3:00 p.m. Heather Mislivets-Ahern, Emergency Manager, Mashantucket Pequot Fire Department, and Robert Ziegler, President, Emergency Resource Management, are the Mass Committee Co-Chairs. The Homilist will be Deacon Wayne Sandford, Deacon at St. Therese Church, North Haven and Past Chief of the East Haven Fire Department. All companies, departments, and personnel and their families are cordially invited to participate. For more information call, Mrs. Terri Zampini at 860-887-9294, x265, or Monsignor Brown at x232.
- **Workshop for New Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 9:30 to Noon Registration begins at 9:00 St. Joseph Parish, 99 Jackson Street, Willimantic 06226 Fee \$10
Registration form at: worship@norwichdiocese.net or call 860-848-2237x203
- **The Silver and Gold Jubilee Anniversary Mass Sunday, October 18, 2015 -- 2:00p.m. Cathedral of St. Patrick** Inviting all couples married 25 & 50 years or a significant anniversary in renewal of your wedding vows at the Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael R. Cote at the Cathedral of St. Patrick. Family members are invited to share in your celebration. A reception follows the Mass. Please contact Cheryl in the parish office to register. Registration deadline is October 13.
- **CT Catholic Men's Conference 2015** Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference, Saturday October 24th from 8am – 5pm at Goodwin College, East Hartford. Come join hundreds of Catholic men from our three dioceses. The day includes talks by four inspiring speakers, holy Mass with our priests and bishops, confessions heard throughout the day by many priests a, good music, opportunity to meet great men and priests from our dioceses. Our theme this year is **Family Man**. Come and learn more about your faith! The tickets are \$40. Ticket includes lunch and may be purchased at our

website www.CTCatholicMen.org or by calling 860.484.7950. Speaker information, directions to Goodwin College are also on the site. See you there on the last Saturday of October.

- **RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS** "I did not think the sorrow and wounds from my abortion, could be healed". Healing and forgiveness can begin with a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**. Retreat Oct. 16-18 in RI and Spanish Oct. 23-25 in RI call 401-421-7833 ext.118. Retreat Oct. 30-Nov. 1 in CT call 203-631-9030. rachelvineyard.org "**PROJECT RACHEL**" is our Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness. Priests in **Project Rachel** ministry are there for you with God's Grace and Mercy. Call 860-889-8346 ext.283. All inquiries are confidential.
- Please join Bishop Cote at the Sixth Annual Seton Scholarship Dinner honoring the recipients of the *Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, D.D. Award for Contributions to Catholic Education* to be held at 4 PM on Sunday, November 1, 2015 at The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station, 55 Bridge Road, Haddam, Connecticut. This year's honorees are Brother Lawrence Harvey, CFX, Sister Mary A. McCarthy, RSM and Mrs. Kathleen R. Clancy. Tickets are \$150/person. All proceeds benefit Catholic Schools within the Diocese. Opportunities for sponsorship and program advertising are available. For tickets and more information, please contact Kathy Gaito at 860-886-1928 ext. 15, kgaito@norwichdiocese.net or visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org.

Dear Friends at St. Francis: Thank you for the bags of groceries donated to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Your contributions are such a big help to refill our shelves as we assist Lebanon families.

Sincerely,
Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Cupboard Committee.

VENDORS WANTED Yuletide Festival

Nov. 7, 2015 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

St. Mary Church, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT

Please contact: Jean Ryan 860 928 5014

40 Days for LIFE

Sept. 23 – Nov. 1

Our 9th consecutive year of running this round-the-clock prayer vigil to raise awareness for the sanctity of LIFE here in Norwich, CT. Please prayerfully consider your participation in this important campaign

To sign up online or for more information please visit www.40daysforlife.com/norwich or call Brian Daly at BJDaly@aol.com or 860-822-1788

We pray for an end to abortion here in CT and in our Nation and we ask that you prayerfully discern your personal role in this Fall's 40 Days for LIFE campaign...Thank you!



Kris Kringle Christmas Fair: Saturday

November 14th from 9am – 4pm at STs.

Peter & Paul Church Hall, 181 Elizabeth

Street, Norwich. Vendor spaces available

at \$25 each. Call 860.887.9857 for

application. Application deadline is October 3.

Mercy High School,

1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT.

Open House will be Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 1:00pm.

Entrance Exam for the Class of 2020 will be Saturday, November 14, 2015 from, 8am – 11:15am. Testing fee is \$30.00. Register at www.mercyhigh.com

Gołabki Dinner and Pierogi Sale at St. Joseph Church

~120 Cliff St. Norwich ~ Saturday October 17th from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Bring your family and friends and join us in the church hall for our traditional **Gołabki** dinner and don't forget to pick up a dozen of our handmade Pierogi! Pierogi will be frozen for your convenience. Pre-orders for Golabki and Pierogi are now being taken. For information or to place an order, please call Kasia at 860-608-3546, or Lucia at 860-859-7798.

Parish Mission – St. Andrew and St. Francis of Assisi – October 5th - 7th

"Pope Francis and the Message of Mercy"

Pope Francis is called "The Pope of Mercy." He has declared an entire year beginning on December 8, 2015 for us to reflect on this important theme.

Our parish mission will be a response to pope's invitation to look closely at God's mercy in new and creative ways and how we might live that message more fully in our daily lives in today's world.

Come hear Fr. Anthony Ciorra, noted author and educator, from Sacred Heart University speak on this timely subject.

Please mark your calendars for the Parish Mission, October 5th 7Pm, St. Andrew; October 6th, 6PM St. Francis of Assisi, and 7:30PM St. Andrew; October 7th 7Pm, St. Andrew.

For more information about Fr. Ciorra; google "Anthony Ciorra"

Men's ACTS Retreat, November 12-15, 2015

St Andrew and St Patrick Parishes are sponsoring a men's ACTS retreat on November 12th thru the 15th. Local Catholic men have organized an A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service) retreat weekend to be held at Immaculata Retreat House in Willimantic. The retreat begins Thursday evening, November 12th in the St Andrew's Parish hall, Colchester and ends Sunday, November 15th at St Andrew's 11 a.m. mass. Transportation to and from Immaculata will be provided. Contact: John Blaschik, 860-334-7044, jb-ehvfd.ct@snet.net; Howard London, 860-334-5747; or John Legato, 860-537-2739; or Bert Bosse, 860-642-3994; or Bruce Bouley, 860-642-9921 for more information.

Saturday October 10 Scott Hahn

St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich is presenting "A Day with Scott Hahn" from 930 am to 330 pm.

Scott Hahn, a professor of Biblical Theology and a Catholic convert, will speak about "Evangelizing Catholics: The Bible, The Eucharist and the New Evangelization." The Healing Power of Confession" & "Angels and Saints"

For more information and tickets, please call Karen at 860-303-0513.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Sept. 27, 2015

Pope Francis believes that: "Religion [cannot] be relegated to the inner sanctum of personal life, without influence on societal and national life." As he celebrates Mass with pilgrims from around the world today in Philadelphia, may we all pause for a moment and pray that our God-given right to religious freedom be strengthened and not diminished.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Oct. 4, 2015

Organizations such as church-sponsored universities, hospitals and social services, are facing a fine of \$100 per day (\$36,500 per year) per employee if they provide health coverage that does not include contraceptives, including abortion-causing drugs, and sterilization. Exorbitant fines like these will surely force a lot of organizations that serve tens of thousands of people to close.

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GIVING BASKET



It is time to replenish our food supplies in preparation for Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

We ask that those able and willing to donate consider the following items that are needed:

Gravy, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Flour, Sugar, Pie Crusts and Fillings, Bread and Cake Mixes, Spices, Vegetable Oil, Frostings, Canned Vegetables, Soups, Tuna, Canned Fruits, Chef Boyardee, Mac & Cheese, Cereals (hot or cold), Jell-O, Puddings, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, etc.

As always, we are thankful for food donations of all types. Your continued support of this program has helped many of our friends and neighbors when they have stumbled upon difficult times. Thank You.

Lebanon Children's Clothing Wardrobe Take your children to "The Swap" for an all new inventory of fall clothes (Halloween costumes, long sleeve shirts, long pants, sweatshirts, winter jackets, hats, mittens, snow pants and boots) **Save the Date Saturday, October 17, 2015 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Lebanon Community Center "Bring what you can. Take what you need." A group of volunteers in the town of Lebanon offers the community an avenue to donate their children's clean, gently used clothing. It also gives residents an opportunity to "shop" for free children's clothing (newborn through young adult). We also accept maternity clothes and baby accessories, Halloween costumes, holiday clothing, sports gear, bedding, children's books, puzzles, toys, games, etc. Contact us for more information: lebanonccw@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/lebanonccw

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The theme of the 2015-2016 Respect Life Program, "Every life is worth living," seems so obvious that it would need no further explanation. Yet many in our society no longer cherish "the incomparable value of every human person." (Pope John Paul II)

The annual Respect Life Program reaffirms that all human life is worthy of respect. Life in every circumstance matters. Babies waiting to be born and newborn babies, the frail elderly, the infirm, the dying, the downtrodden, the homeless, the unemployed and the underemployed, the young and the old and people of all ages and conditions – "Every life is worth living."

But what is the origin of the value we place on human life? The answer begins with creation. As our Holy Father Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si, (On Care For Our Common Home)*,

"The Creator can say to each one of us: 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you' (Jeremiah 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary." NO. 65. Human beings have inestimable value because we are conceived in the heart of God and are willed, loved, and necessary. Acknowledging the sacredness of human life, Scripture puts it another way when it teaches that we are made in God's image and likeness. When we reverence life, we are paying homage to God Our Creator and Redeemer.

From a pre-born in his or her Mother's womb to an adult, and in all the stages of life in between, human persons come forth from God's unconditional love. In His human nature, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, redeemed us. In their human nature, the saints, down through the ages, have manifested the face of God by living the Gospel and responding to God's call to follow His Son as His disciples. In his recent encyclical, Pope Francis speaks of his patron saint, Saint Francis of Assisi, who "was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast." Noting that he called all creatures "brother" or "sister", the Holy Father observed that that approach to all creation and all creatures causes "care to well up spontaneously." Pope Francis points out that Saint Francis of Assisi's "Poverty and austerity . . . was a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled."

How do we prevent people from exploiting human beings and treating them as objects to be used for one's pleasure, or greed, or selfish desires? We must begin with prayer. Both in private and public prayer, at home and at Church, we need to open our minds and hearts to God in prayer that people of good-will see life not as a commodity to be sold for profit or as a burden but as the precious gift that life is.

There are so many ways in which we glimpse God's love and the beauty of human life. The following are just a few: Birthrights, Soup Kitchens, Catholic Charities, Medical Clinics, and Social Service centers, in legal aid services, apostolates that rehabilitate prisoners, and in those who care for the frail elderly. These agencies deserve our support as we re-dedicate ourselves to respect human life not only by condemning what threatens life but by promoting what enhances it. Witnessing to life's value, we must treat others with respect and love in our hearts. By being courteous, loving, and respectful of others, we change our world into God's Kingdom of peace, justice, and love.

May our participation in the Respect Life Program awaken in us how crucial our need is to restore reverence for human life in all its stages of human existence. Every life is worth living!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Michael R. Cote,
Bishop of Norwich