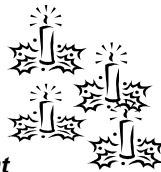


**We are pleased and honored  
To welcome you to  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish**  
67 West Town Street, Lebanon, CT 06249  
Telephone: 860.642.6711 Fax: 860.642.4032  
www.stfrancisassisilebanonct.parishesonline.com  
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor  
Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon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



**MASS  
INTENTIONS**



**Saturday December 12, 2015 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

9:00 AM Henry Blackburn req. by a friend  
4:00 PM Confession  
5:00 PM For the people of the parish living & deceased

**Sunday, December 13, 2015 Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Wanda Hofmann req. by the Dyer family  
10:30 AM Affonso Fernando req. by the Mastroluca family

**Monday December 14, 2015 St. John of the Cross, priest,  
doctor of the Church**

NO MASS

**Tuesday December 15, 2015 Advent Weekday**

NO MASS

**Wednesday December 16, 2015 Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM Lois Roccato req. by a friend

**Thursday December 17, 2015 Late Advent Weekday**

NO MASS

**Friday December 18, 2015 Late Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM Phyllis Jacobeno req. by a friend

**Saturday December 19, 2015 Late Advent Weekday**

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Fernande Gardner req. by Alicia Lamb

**Sunday, December 20, 2015 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Janet Lea Gertschitz req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM Patricia Cavanaugh Vogler req. by her son

Offertory: \$ 3,217.75

Monthly Extraordinary: \$ 568.25

Today's second collection is for a special collection for the Diocesan Fuel Fund. These monies are used within the Diocese to help those who are without heat or electricity during these cold winter months.

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.**

**MEETINGS**

Dec. 12 & 13 Gaudette Sunday – Bambinielli  
Weekend

Sunday Dec. 13 Grades 3 & 4 will help at the  
10:30am Mass

Tuesday Dec. 15 Ladies Guild Christmas Party

Sunday Dec. 20 Living Rosary 9am in Lebanon  
Elementary School Gym

**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  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. 6<sup>th</sup> Marines

**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:** Rev. Krzysztof Drybka OSPPE, Rev. John Gwudz, Rev. Gregory Mullaney, Rev. Raymond Introvigne, Rev. Gregory Galvin, Rev. Wojciech Pelczarski SDS, V. Rev. Douglas Mosey CSB, Rev. Anthony DiMarco, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. Jose Rizal DiMapilis OP, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot. — Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas, so that the Divine Emmanuel might find in each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful and loving Mother.. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

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

**PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE**

**Pledges received to date total \$61,625.00.**

**Our goal is \$67,000.00.**

**If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.**

*Dear Parishioners:*

*As always, we are thankful for food donations of all types. Your continued support of the Thanksgiving & Christmas Giving Basket Program has helped many of our friends and neighbors when they have stumbled upon difficult times.*

*With God's blessings,*

*Thank You*

Weekend of December 19 & 20

5:00pm Lector: Dick Lataille

Eucharistic Minister: Carole Briggs

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Ella Mae Kuzel

Eucharistic Minister: Joan Grecki

Altar Servers: Sam & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Becca Chesters, Erika Densman

## Lectors

## Eucharistic Ministers

## & Altar Servers

Please sign-up in the  
Sacristy for Christmas &  
New Year's Day Masses

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Thursday Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 4:00 pm

Friday Dec. 25 Christmas Day

8:00 am & 10:30 am

### NEW YEARS MASSES

Thursday Dec. 31 5:00 pm

Friday January 1 8:00 am

Parishioners are invited to join the CCD classes for a Living Rosary, Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the Lebanon Elementary School gymnasium, 479 Exeter Road. Please join us as we come together to show special devotion to the Blessed Mother.



### LIVE NATIVITY

The youth from the Franklin Congregational Church and Lebanon Community will present, *The Christmas Story—A Live Nativity*, Scripture based, on Saturday December 19th at 3:00 p.m. on the Lebanon Green. The youth from the area churches are invited to portray the witnesses to the story (angels and shepherds) in simple costumes; there are no speaking roles. All church members are invited to support our youth in the true meaning of Christmas and sing along. For outside performance please bring a lawn chair. There will be live animals from local farms.



In case of rain the event will be held in the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall; in case of sleet or heavy snow cancellation will be posted on Channel 3. Free-will donations and non-perishable food/toiletry items will benefit the Neighbors *Helping Neighbors* food pantry. For more information or to participate please contact: Anne McAwley-LeDuc at 860-642-1786 or [a.mcawley.leduc@charter.net](mailto:a.mcawley.leduc@charter.net)

#### St. Andrew Youth Group

[www.standrwym.org](http://www.standrwym.org)

**Life Teen High School Youth** Sunday Dec. 13 Life Teen Mass, dinner, life and our Life Teen Christmas Party.

**The Edge Middle School Youth Grades 6-8** Sat. Dec. 12 from 7pm to 9:15pm – snow date Dec. 19 parish hall

*Thank you so much for your generous donations and participation in another successful Ham & Bean Dinner. Good food and good time was had by all. We were able to donate \$1700 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.*

Programs at **My Father's House** 39 North Moodus Road in Moodus CT. 860.873.1906 [www.myfathershouse.com](http://www.myfathershouse.com)

**56<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Celebration for Fr. William McCarthy** at a Holy Spirit Breakfast on Thursday, December 17 at 9:30am.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**

- **Advent Diocesan Prayer Gathering** December 15th at 7:30 PM at St. Mary's Church Hall, Portland. Great music teaching by Fr. Paul Bourdreau, Pastor and Hospitality. Hosted by Light of Christ Prayer Community. All are welcome.
- **Holy Hour for Vocations** Dec. 17 from 6:30-7:30pm at St. Joseph in Norwich.
- **March for Life Trip for High School Youth** The Diocese of Norwich with the Office of Faith Events is offering an exciting and faith filled pilgrimage as we experience what it means to be PRO-LIFE in the D.C. metropolitan area. On January 22, 1974 thousands of pro-lifers took a stand for the unborn and each year it has grown into the annual march which is the largest pro-life event in the world. High School students will begin their day with a rally and mass with national speakers and bishops in the Arlington Diocese then proceed to the March in D.C. mall area. If you are interest, please contact Liza at [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net) or (860)848-2237 ex.305.

**Deadline for "The Lamb and the Beasts, The Book of Revelation" Bible study.** Come join us Friday mornings in the parish office Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. We will meet from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM.

This interactive Bible study is easy-to-understand and no previous Bible study is necessary.

Sign up is necessary by Sunday, December 13 so that books can be ordered. Call Cheryl at 860.642.6711 or stop in to register.

Please return your Christmas Flower Intention Envelopes as soon as possible.



From now until Christmas, the Knights of Columbus are selling car magnets: "Keep Christ in Christmas" The magnets are \$5 each and will be sold after all weekend Masses.

#### **Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 13, 2015**

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The federal health care mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn't stand for the government telling news programs whom to interview or what articles to write.

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.

Thank you to all who supported the Ladies Guild cemetery arrangement fundraiser; it was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated their used hanging flower pots and the huge amount of greens. There was a good variety of greens to work with and many people contributed. Several ladies helped get greens prior to our workshop and clean up. Most especially I would like to thank the members of the Guild who sold orders both at St. Andrews and St. Francis and those who helped make the arrangements. Thank you to Jacy Worth and Barbara Dyer for all the beautiful bows, Bob Paris and Tim Wengloski.

Barbara Wengloski, President

## PAVING UPDATE

Dear Parishioners:

At this time, I am pleased to give you a final reporting of our Paving Project. I am extremely pleased with your response to the needs of your parish. Through your generosity and dedication to Saint Francis Parish, we were able to take care of a major maintenance and liability issue.

By shortening the length of the parking lot and reconfiguring the placement of parking spaces, we were able to pave the drives up to the front of the Church. We did lose about 7-8 parking spaces overall but primarily due to the Handicap spaces in the back lot (4) and side lot (2) being striped to code. The other 1 -2 spaces were due to the 'shortening of the depth down along the side by the garage. The additional cost was \$13,000.00. This extra expense was approved by the Finance Committee. These particular sections of the drives were beginning to sprout potholes and crumbling.

At this point, we have completed the project. Left to do in the spring will be planting of grass and addressing the 3 inch drop at the back end of the parking lot.

Our pledge goal was \$67,000. To date parishioners have pledged \$ 61,625.00, leaving a pledge balance of \$ 5,375.00. If you have not made your pledge yet, please consider doing so.

With deep appreciation,

Fr. Mark

|                                |              |   |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|-------------|
| Pledged by Parishioners        | \$ 61,625.00 | Cost: Paving Parking Lot & Partial Drives | \$80,000.00 |
| Pledges Paid to date           | \$ 34,365.00 | Cost Line Striping                        | \$ 1,158.00 |
| Pledge Balance Outstanding     | \$ 27,260.00 | Cost: Stone & Fill                        | \$ 676.46   |
| Donation from the Ladies Guild | \$ 6,000.00  | Total Cost                                | \$81,834.46 |

Actual cost from parish account not covered by pledge drive & donations = \$ 14,209.46