

**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 January 16, 2016 Blessed Virgin Mary**

4:00 PM Confession

5:30 PM For the sick in the parish

**Sunday, January 17, 2016 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM George Boudreau req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

NO 10:30 AM MASS

**Monday January 18, 2016 Martin Luther King Jr.**

NO MASS Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday January 19, 2016 Weekday**

NO MASS

**Wednesday January 20, 2016 St. Fabian, pope & martyr; St. Sebastian, martyr**

9:00 AM Josephine Collura req. by a friend

**Thursday January 21, 2016 St. Agnes, virgin, martyr**

NO MASS

**Friday January 22, 2016 Day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children**

9:00 AM Howard Bates req. by a friend

**Saturday January 23, 2016 St. Vincent, deacon, martyr; St. Marianne Cope, virgin**

4:00 PM Confession

5:30 PM Francesco Germano req. by his family

**Sunday, January 24, 2016 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Fernande Gardner req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

NO 10:30 AM MASS

Offertory: \$ 1,900.00

Second collection next week is for building maintenance.

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 January 23 & 24**

5:30pm Lector: Bob Nejako

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Kathy Walden

Altar Servers: Anthony Pomerleau, Wayne Woodward

10:30am NO MASS

**Change in Mass Times:  
January 16 & 17, 23 & 24  
Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8:00am ONLY**

**2015 Contributions statements available in the parish office.**

**Parish Office is closed Monday January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.**

**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  
Sgt. Chad Pellerin, U.S. Army Dubai

**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.

Dear Parishioners,

I am very pleased to announce that through the generosity of The Hugh Leander Adams, Mary Trumbull Adams & Hugh Trumbull Adams Town Memorial Fund, we have received a grant of \$40,000.00 to be used toward finishing our paving project. We will receive the grant in two installments of \$20,000.00 per year and have received the first installment. We plan to complete the paving of the driveways during the summer.

Our parish is very fortunate to have received such a generous gift from The Hugh Leander Adams, Mary Trumbull Adams & Hugh Trumbull Adams Town Memorial Fund.

Through the prayers of our parishioners, God does provide.

What a tremendous beginning for 2016.

Fr. Mark

### Meetings:

**Monday January 18 Ladies Guild will meet at St. Andrew Church at 6:30pm**

**APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER**— Rev. Jonathan Ficara, Rev. Frank McKenna, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. Charles McGrail, Rev. Raymond Introvigne, Rev. Robert Buongiorno, Rev. Michael Sequeira, Msgr. Anthony Rosaforte, Rev. Richard Archambault, Rev. Patrick Martin, Rev. Stanley Szczapa, Rev. William Flynn, Rev. Richard Breton, V. Rev. Gregoire Fluet. *May each day of this New Year bring our priests more good to do, more souls to save and more holy influence to spread around them by word and by deed. Father, we pray for our priests: for the sanctity of their souls and for perfect love, that they may be the voice of Christ.* (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

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

### PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

**Pledges received to date total \$64,025.00. Our goal is \$67,000.00.**

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

### St Andrew Passion Play Auditions



Auditions for the 2016 passion play (March 18/19) for singers, actors, and dancers will be held in the parish hall on the following dates:

Saturday January 16 from 1-3 pm

Sunday January 17 from 12-2 pm

**Note:** These auditions are for people who have **not** previously had major solo roles. People who have already performed major roles need not audition

again. All dancers should be at least 8th grade or older, and should come dressed comfortably and prepared to demonstrate movement. Singers should bring a copy of a song you would like to sing, or be prepared to sing a song from the parish hymnal. An accompanist is provided. For more information contact Colleen Puscas [colleenpuscas@gmail.com](mailto:colleenpuscas@gmail.com) (860 918 2560)

### PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE PREVALENCE AND EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MEDICATION DEPENDENCY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Wednesday January 20 (snow date Jan. 27) from 7-8:30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 1650 Rte. 12, Gales Ferry (next to Ocean State Job Lot).

Panelists include representatives from psychiatric medicine, clinical social work, pain medicine, nursing, SE Regional Action Council, social worker care management Backus Hospital. There is no fee, but please register by phone: Randy at 860.464.7251 or by E-mail: [secretary@ololgf.org](mailto:secretary@ololgf.org)

### Defending Our Religious Liberty Jan. 17, 2016

Pope Francis has emphasized that: "religious freedom is not simply freedom of thought or private worship. It is the freedom to live according to ethical principles, both privately and publicly." 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

#### • **March For Life Buses:**

January 22, 2016 marks the 43rd anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous abortion-on-demand ruling. Because of that decision, millions of pre-born babies have been denied their most basic right - their right to life. On Friday, January 22, 2016, people from across the nation will assemble in Washington, D.C. to visibly express their opposition to abortion.

On Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 9: P.M., buses sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of Connecticut Right to Life will leave from the Norwich Municipal Parking Lot (Exit 11, formally Exit 80, I-395) and travel to D.C. to attend the March For Life on January 22, 2016. Bus fare is \$65 per person. (Reduced rate of \$42 is available for students) Please reply by January 18th!

If you are unable to attend the March for Life, please consider sponsoring a seat on the bus.

For further information and/or to reserve a seat or to sponsor a seat, please call Margaret Becotte at 860-822-1362.

#### • **Mass of Healing January 25th 2016**

at 2 PM. Spiritual Renewal Center. Fr. Ray Celebrant, Judith will have a healing prayer. Individual prayer available- 860-887-0702.

Praise, Prayer and Worship every Tuesday afternoon at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center.

- On Sunday, January 31, 2016, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Consecrated Life will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Norwich. All are invited to join Bishop Cote in thanking God for the gift of consecrated life and for the sisters, brothers, and religious priests who enrich the Church and build up God's Kingdom with the witness of their religious commitment. The theme is *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*, with their testimony of faith, holiness, and hope. The homilist will be Father Jack Rathschmidt, O.F.M. Cap. of Saint Conrad Friary, White Plains, New York. All are invited to participate in the Mass.

### **Trip to India with Fr. Ben**

Pleasant time and Peaceful days with different cultures. South and North India. 12 days in October 2016. In south – St. Thomas tomb, Place of His martyrdom, Lourdes of east basilica, Famous Hindu Temples, Cultural programs, Elephant rides on the Western Ghats Mountain. In the North-New Delhi, Agra Taj Mahal and famous Monuments and Jaipur beautiful palaces. More details will be in the coming month.

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Italy's Day for Life in 2015, our Holy Father Pope Francis encouraged Christians to be faithful to their commitment to life and called all who embrace the mission of pro-life to "a renewed esteem of the human person and a more adequate care of life, from conception to natural death." Referring to the killing of unborn children, Pope Francis said that abortion is the result of "the selfishness of a culture that does not love life." Reaffirming the Church's position on reverence for all human life, Pope Francis noted the Church will never compromise on its opposition against abortion. "I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or modernizations. It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating human life."

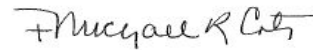
Time after time, with the authority given it by Jesus Christ, the Church has reiterated its teaching that all human life is sacred and must be revered from conception to natural death. In its teachings and its witness, the Church embraces defenseless children waiting to be born as well all who inhabit this world with the tenderness of God's love. The Church preaches the Gospel of care and service, the Gospel of the works of mercy and compassion. "The works of mercy are the visible sign of our confession that the Son of God became flesh: visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, taking care of those who are abandoned: works of mercy.... The reason is because each of our brothers and sisters whom we must love is the flesh of Christ." (Pope Francis, January 7, 2016).

In this Great Jubilee of Mercy, works of mercy renew in us an awareness of God's presence in our lives and in the lives of our brothers and sisters, born and unborn. They not only express our love for God but also for those whom He has called to life. Today we live in a culture that denies the right to life to the most vulnerable among us, the defenseless unborn. We know all too well that similarly, the denial of the right to life for the frail elderly and the terminally ill threatens the very fiber of our society. The practice of the works of mercy is an effective means of bringing about change in our anti-life culture by changing the hearts of those who have grown callous and disregard the dignity and sacredness of all human life.

During this Jubilee of Mercy, as we approach the forty-third (43) anniversary of the legalization of abortion in our country, may we make the works of mercy a part of the practice of our faith and an example of our life in Jesus Christ, who came to us so that we might have life in abundance. May our witness to life make visible the

merciful love of God Whose only begotten Son gave His life for us and for our salvation. Through the intercession of Mary Virgin and Mother, may our words and our works speak of our resolve to protect, defend, and nurture all human life, born and unborn.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

#### "Coping With the Loss of a Loved One"

The Journey to Healing Bereavement Group at Saint Andrew's Church, extends an invitation to everyone who is having a difficult time dealing with the loss of a loved one. Guest are invited to take time to relax prior to the program. Complementary soup and sandwiches will be available at 5:00pm on Friday, June 22nd in the Parish Hall 128 Norwich Ave. A special program will be offered by Kelly Zercie at 5:30pm. Kelly is a representative from Middlesex Hospital Hospice and will offer guidance as one navigates through the stressors of losing a loved one.

Since special materials will be available we request that those planning to attend contact Cathy Russi at [crussi45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crussi45@sbcglobal.net) --- 860-887-9621 or Penny Gadbois [sewcraftypen@att.net](mailto:sewcraftypen@att.net) --- 860-537-4046.

#### **St. Mary – St. Joseph School Open House**

On Sunday, January 31, from 8am – 12pm, St. Mary – St. Joseph School is kicking-off Catholic Schools Week by hosting an Open House. Come join us for coffee and donuts, take a tour, and see what our Catholic school students are learning! You will be amazed by what you see!

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Principal, Miss Abby L. Demars, at [demarsa@smsjschool.org](mailto:demarsa@smsjschool.org), the Secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Denis, at [denise@smsjschool.org](mailto:denise@smsjschool.org) or call 860-423-8479. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Enders Island Upcoming Retreats**

Wednesday February 10 from 10am – 3:30pm  
Ash Wednesday – Day of Recollection with Sr. Eugenia Brady, SJC. Day includes two conferences, Mass, confessions, time to explore the Island and a hot served lunch. \$50 per person

February 21-22 Nurturing Your Vocation to Special Motherhood with Leticia Velasquez. Come away for two days and be transformed through prayer, the sacraments, inspiring talks and fellowship with other mothers raising children with special needs. Learn how God has called you to the vocation of special motherhood. \$120 per person shared room or \$150 per person single room.

Contact to pre-register 860.536.0565  
or Enders Island, PO Box 399, Mystic, CT 06355  
or [reception@endersisland.com](mailto:reception@endersisland.com)  
or [www.endersisland.com](http://www.endersisland.com).



**Our CCD classes have begun their Project for Haiti.**

**You can help a build a Happy House!**

Every contribution helps.

**OUR GOAL: \$ 1,250.00.**

**Collected to date: \$31.00**

Each grade will have a jar to collect loose change. Just send your loose change in each CCD class to add to the jar. **A jar will also be available in Church for parishioners to make donations at the side exit of Church.** This project will be ongoing for the entire school year. **Working together Saint Francis can provide a Happy House for Haiti.**

**Trip to Haiti**

The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is organizing one or more immersion trips to Haiti. Typical places you would visit are schools, clinics, neighborhoods, the national museum, Sunday mass at a Haitian church.

Room, board and airfare is in the \$1,000 to \$1,300 range (depending on the airfare you get).

The dates being booked now are April 5-12, April 26 to May 3, or May 9-16. If you are interested in any of these dates, contact Outreach at [info@outreachtohaiti.org](mailto:info@outreachtohaiti.org), or call 860-887-1019 x817.

If you are interested, but can't make these dates, you can contact Outreach as noted above, and have them put you on a list to be contacted as more trips are planned.

**Marriage Preparation Classes for Engaged Couples**

"God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage: offered by the Office of Family Life. To register for the three-session class please call **860-848-2237 ext. 306.**

**Date:** Fridays, February 5, 12, 19, 2016

**Time:** 6:30 – 9 P.M.

**Location:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Route 12, Gales Ferry

**Cost:** \$60 per couple

In preparation for the Lenten and Easter season, we are offering "The Tragic and Triumphant Cross" Bible study to take a closer look at the Cross.

The cross is both the world's most contemptible instrument of punishment and the symbol of humanity's greatest hope. In turning this tool of torture into his followers' proudest boast, Jesus produced the most dramatic reversal the world has ever experienced. Worn around our necks, hung in our homes, carried in procession, and set on mountaintops, the cross speaks to what we believe about Jesus and about how we understand our lives in relationship to him.

This study plumbs the depths of Scripture for the horrible and glorious significance of the world's most beloved symbol

Come join us. You have the choice of meeting Tuesday evenings from 7-8pm or Friday mornings at 9:30am.

Cost for materials is \$13.75

New comers welcome.

Tuesday evenings in Church on February 16 & 23, March 1, 8, 15, & 29. We will meet from 7-8pm.

OR

Friday mornings in the parish office February 19 & 26, March 4, 11 & 18, and April 1. 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 Friday, February 5 so that books can be ordered. Call Cheryl at 860.642.6711 or stop in the parish office to register.