

**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  
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor  
Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS  
INTENTIONS**

**Saturday June 25, 2016 Blessed Virgin Mary**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory

**Sunday, June 26, 2016 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM People of the parish living & deceased

10:30 AM Bert & Rachel Bosse 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

**Monday June 27, 2016 St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor of the Church**

NO MASS

**Tuesday June 28, 2016 St. Irenaeus, bishop, martyr**

NO MASS

**Wednesday June 29, 2016 Sts. Peter & Paul, apostles**

9:00 AM Rev. Thomas W. Ahern

**Thursday June 30, 2016 First martyrs of the Church**

NO MASS

**Friday July 1, 2016 Bl. Junipero Serra, priest**

9:00 AM Rev. Thomas W. Ahern

9:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy

**Saturday July 2, 2016 Blessed Virgin Mary**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

**Sunday, July 3, 2016 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Living members of the Clinch & Kuzel families req.  
by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM

**Our Sanctuary Lamp is lit with the intention of recovery of health for Jean Maurice Soucy. Please remember him in your prayers today and throughout the week.**

Offertory: \$ 2,049.05 Building Maintenance: \$ 630.00

Today's second collection is for the Combined Collection for World Charities. Your contribution will provide assistance to the Catholic Relief Services Collection, the Campaign for Human Development, Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and The Holy Land.

Next week's second collection is for monthly extraordinary expenses.

A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

**Every Thursday ~ Adoration at 8:30 ~ Rosary at 6:00 ~ Benediction at 7:00pm.**

*Have you returned your CareNet Baby Bottles for Life*

**Weekend of July 1 & 2**

5:00pm Lector: Steve Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Steven Bardes

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Rick Kane

Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Mark Bauer

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Erika Densman, Drew Taylor

**Military Service Honor Roll**

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  
Airman Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy

**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** — We pray for Rev. Edward Dempsey DBA, Rev. George Busto CO, Rev. Peter Liszewski, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot, Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Rev. John Marciniak, Our Holy Father, Rev. Dennis Mercieri, Rev. George Villamthanam CST, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. Izidor Sadowski SDB, Rev. Edward Konopka, Rev. Martin Jones. We also pray for any priests who have left the ministry. Precious Blood of Jesus, cover our priests and protect them from the snares of the enemy. Kindle in their hearts a spark of love for the Precious Blood, and for souls. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

**Banns of Ordination**

The following men will be called to the Order of Permanent Deacon on Saturday, July 16, 2016:

Mr. Benedict LoCasto  
Mr. Octavio Flores

Should you know of any reason why these men should not be ordained Permanent Deacons please write to:

**The Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich  
201 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360**

**Holy Family home and shelter is engaged in a 90 Day Challenge**

to house 15 families between May 1 and July 31, 2016. To meet the challenge the shelter must raise funds for security deposits and 1st month rent. It is asking help in raising the money by asking for \$20 donations for this purpose. If you can be a part of the challenge by contributing, please mail a check to HFHS, P O Box 884, Willimantic, CT 06226 or use a credit card by visiting our web site [www.holyfamilywillimantic.org](http://www.holyfamilywillimantic.org). The 90 Day Challenge is part of an effort to house families quickly and end homelessness in the next few years.



## 25th Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour

August 20, 2016.

20, 35, 50, 62.5 & 100 mile bike routes and a 5 mile walk through scenic northeastern CT. Ride

starts at Eastern CT State University Athletic Complex, 69 Mansfield City Road, Mansfield Center, CT. Registration opens at 7am.

Info @ 860.450.7122

Register @ [steeplechasebiketour.org](http://steeplechasebiketour.org)

## St. Mary Parish Family ACTS Women's Retreat ~ "Live in the Presence of the Lord" ~ July 14-17, 2016 @ Immaculata Retreat House, Willimantic, CT

Are you longing for a deeper relationship with the Lord? Are you yearning to live in the presence of the Lord to experience His love and mercy? Join a fun and faith-filled retreat for women of all faiths! The retreat is designed to renew your spiritual life, strengthen your faith and its application in daily life while creating lasting friendships. Registration forms are available in the hall and at the Greeter stands.

Want to know more? Please call: Tina Mateo (860) 917-8576 or Deborah Gacek (860) 805-0567 or Denise Wojtyna 860-558-2822 [www.actsct.org](http://www.actsct.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ❖ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center.
- ❖ **Mass of Healing and Individual Prayer:** Monday June 27th, July 11<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- ❖ **Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations ~ July 28 at St. Francis of Assisi, Middletown from 6-7pm.**
- ❖ **Marriage Encounter Weekend ~ Married Couples** give your marriage a well-deserved vacation. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and come back with a marriage that is refreshed and fully of energy! A weekend away renews the romance and excitement you experienced during your dating days. It will help you enjoy life with a new closeness to each other and with God. To register for the July 8-10 weekend in Manchester or for more information call 860-376-0440 or visit [www.wmect.org](http://www.wmect.org).
- ❖ June is "Leave a Legacy" month in the Diocese of Norwich. It is a wonderful time to remind parishioners in the Diocese about the value of charitable estate planning. Some people choose to mark their legacy by requesting gifts made in memoriam to their parish, school, ministry or the Diocese in lieu of flowers upon their passing. Others include a bequest in their Will to their favorite Catholic organization. Still others opt to establish an endowment within The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Norwich to support a parish, school or ministry. If you are interested in learning more about how you can leave your legacy and support all of the good works that the Church is involved in, please contact Mary Ellen Mahoney, Development Manager, at (860) 886-1928 or [memahoney@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:memahoney@norwichdiocese.net).

**Seeking Vendors for St. Joseph Living Center's Annual Outdoor Fall Festival: Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 10:00 to 2:00, 14 Club Road in Windham. Crafts, Art Work, Plants, Home Goods, Your Home Business (i.e. Avon, Pampered Chef, etc.), Tag Sale, Jewelry, Fabrics, Wood Working, and so on. We are now taking applications for vendors. Call the Recreation Department for an application. 456-1107 ext. 123 or 124. Leave a message with name, address and telephone number.**

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF EASTERN CANADA

We invite you to join Fr. Brian Maxwell- Missionary of Mercy and the Office of Faith Events when we journey to see the Shrines of Eastern Canada. The itinerary includes the beautiful Catholic places of worship such as the Holy Doors of the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Quebec, the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape, Saint Joseph's Oratory and more. The trip will take place from September 5- 10, 2016 and the double occupancy price is \$1,295. To see the full brochure, please go to <http://www.norwichdiocese.org/office-of-faith-events.html> or call Liza at (860)848-2237 ex. 305 for more information. Deadline is the registration is July 15th.

## YEAR of MERCY ~ SPECIAL MASS

**For parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi and St. Andrew Parishes.**



**All parishioners are invited to enter the Holy Doors and participate in a special Mass for the Year of Mercy to be held at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich on Tuesday July 19, 2016 at 12 noon.**

## FREE 1-hour lecture on "How to Listen to God and Follow His Directions Each Day."

After Pentecost 2,000 years ago ... practically all Christians were talking to God's Holy Spirit and following His directions. St. Paul's writings and the Acts of the Apostles in the bible give evidence of this. Come spend an hour and learn the easy steps many people now follow to Hear God's Voice and Directions in their daily lives. There will be free handouts and time to ask questions. You will be able to use these steps the very next day.

Presented by Tony Coscia on Thursday July 7, 2016 (7: PM-sharp to 8:15: PM) at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lebanon, CT. All are welcome -- age 13 and over. (PRE-registration is required). Please send an E-mail to ([Tony2637@aol.com](mailto:Tony2637@aol.com)) stating how many are in your party, and your phone number. Register at 860-786-7220 only if you don't have an E-mail.

### **Defending Our Religious Liberty June 26, 2016**

In Catholic teaching, the Second Vatican Council “declare[d] that the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits.” (*Dignitatis Humanae*, No. 2.)

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 state representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

#### **Norwich Diocese Teacher Vacancies**

- Sacred Heart School, Taftville, CT:  
Middle School Math Teacher
- St. James School, Danielson, CT:  
Middle School Language Arts Teacher  
Pre-K Teacher
- St. Michael School, Pawcatuck, CT:  
Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher  
Middle School Science Teacher – Part Time

To apply for the 2016-2017 school year for an August 2016 start date please send a cover letter, current resume, names of three references and certification information to:

[Superintendentso@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:Superintendentso@norwichdiocese.net)

or Mr. Henry Fiore, Superintendent of Schools,  
Diocesan School Office, 43 Perkins Avenue, Norwich,  
CT 06360

**Love one another as I have loved you  
As you do unto the least of your brothers,  
you do unto me**

Familiar words---How can we put them into action?  
Ministering to the sick and elderly is a good beginning.  
St. Joseph's Living Center, the ONLY Catholic healthcare facility in the Norwich Diocese, is currently seeking volunteers to join our Chapel team assisting during 11:00am daily Mass ESPECIALLY on the weekends. We are also in need of volunteers to join our Vigil Team as we accompany our residents on their journey to eternal rest.

**If you hear God beckoning you, please call  
Sarah Perry at 860.456.1107 ext. 124**

**Your time is our blessing.**

# Vacation Bible School 2016

## July 18-22 ~ 9am-noon

First Congregational Church



# EGYPT ~ Follow Joseph and his Amazing Life

### WHEN?

18-22 July 2016 9am - 12 noon

### WHERE?

Lebanon First Congregational Church

### WHO?

Children Pre K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Ecumenical Church Sponsored:

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

First Baptist Church

First Congregational Church

Registration forms at Church entrances (No Fee) or on-line by visiting website [www.lebanonfirstcong.org](http://www.lebanonfirstcong.org).

Mail or drop off at First  
Congregational Church

## See You There!

**Fifth Fortnight for Freedom  
Theme: Witnesses to Freedom**

The theme focuses on the lives of more than 14 women and men of faith from all over the world who bear witness to authentic freedom in Christ. The list of witnesses includes: Little Sister of the Poor, Blessed Miguel Augustine Pro, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Saint Edith Stein (Saint Teresa Benedicta), Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, and several other witnesses.

Of note this year is the Tour of Relics of English Martyrs to be venerated in Philadelphia on June 23-24. Several other pilgrimage sites are announced on the Bishops' website [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) with a link to the Fortnight for Freedom.

Each week the bulletin will have short bios on the different witnesses.

**Blessed Oscar Romero**

When Monsignor Oscar Romero was installed as Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador in February 1977, he was thrust into a tumultuous situation. A military coup in October 1979 led to a gruesome, twelve year civil war. These events were precipitated by the great disparity between a small number of powerful, wealthy families – who were backed by local politicians and the military – and the rest of El Salvador's citizens. Many people suffered extreme poverty. Laborers worked for minimal pay for wealthy landowners, yet they could not hope to obtain land for themselves. The military terrorized the people in order ensure that the families held onto land and money. The Catholic Church became a target when some clergy began to defend the poor. In response to these injustices, some Salvadorans took up arms and fought against the military.

While some Latin American clergy promoted violence as a response to injustice, Archbishop Romero advocated for a different weapon: **Christian love**.

Before becoming archbishop, Monsignor Romero was not aware that the government was responsible for the deaths of many civilians. Because of his quiet nature, some thought that he would be good for the position, assuming he would not meddle in controversial affairs. However, shortly after his installation, his close friend, Fr. Rutilio Grande, a priest who openly opposed the unjust practices of wealthy landowners, was assassinated by gunmen while traveling with two people to celebrate Mass. This experience awakened Archbishop Romero to the reality of the corruption in his country and prompted him to take a stand for his people's freedom.

Archbishop Romero preached many homilies that were broadcast throughout San Salvador. He persistently defended the rights of the people, calling government leaders to conversion and challenging them to uphold God's law. He reminded the people that they were loved by God and that fighting back with Christian charity was the way to victory. His vocal response to government violence against the poor led to difficulties with other clergy members and his religious superiors as well as death threats from government accomplices. In spite of these challenges, he continued to speak out on behalf of the poor.

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was shot to death while celebrating the Eucharist in the chapel of Divina Providencia hospital. Blessed Oscar Romero was beatified by Pope Francis in May 2015.

Bl. Oscar Romero, pray for us.

**Coptic Martyrs**

On February 15, 2015, a shocking 5-minute video aired showing 21 men in orange jumpsuits being forced to the ground in Libya and then beheaded by ISIS-affiliated militants. Their only crime – they were Coptic Christians, "people of the cross, followers of the hostile Egyptian Church." These men, like many others, were migrants from Egypt, working in Libya. Ostensibly, they were being killed to avenge the alleged kidnapping of Muslim

women by the Egyptian Coptic Church, an outrageous charge, but then ISIS needs little excuse for its brutality.

Tensions between Coptic Christians and Muslims are not new, despite the fact that Copts make up about ten percent of Egypt's population. Coptic Christians trace their origins back to the Apostle Mark, whom they believe came to Egypt around A.D. 42 and founded what became a thriving Christian community in Alexandria. By the third century, the Church in Alexandria was considered one of four Apostolic Sees and the oldest Christian church in Africa.

Under Muslim rule, Copts have often faced discrimination and have been required to pay special taxes. Since 2010, attacks against Copts seem to have increased. In 2011, a Coptic church was demolished, and when Coptic Christians took to the streets in Cairo to protest, they were met with tanks and riot police. At least 28 Copts were killed and hundreds injured. In 2013, following violence that left five Copts and one Muslim dead in a northern town, security forces and local residents laid siege to St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo where hundreds of Copts attended the funeral for the slain Copts. This led to more injuries and protests that were indicative of the distrust between the Muslim Brotherhood government led by President Mohamed Morsi and the Coptic community.

But this persecution pales in comparison to the brutality inflicted by ISIS-affiliated militants who beheaded the 21 men in Libya. In publicizing this video, the militants wanted to send "A Message Signed in Blood to the Nation of the Cross" and warned that "we will fight you all together until the war lays down its burdens... The sea you've hidden Sheik Osama bin Laden's body in, we swear to Allah we will mix it with your blood."

Reaction to the beheadings came swiftly. The White House condemned the "wanton killing of innocents," saying ISIS's "barbarity knows no bounds." United Nations Security Council members likewise denounced "the heinous and cowardly apparent murder" of the 21 Egyptians. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi declared a seven day period of national mourning, calling the 21 Egyptians "martyrs". On February 21, 2015, the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Tawadros II, said the 21 would be commemorated as martyr saints. Pope Francis called the killings "barbaric," lamenting, "They only said 'Jesus help me...' The blood of our Christian brothers is testimony that cries out. Be they Catholic, Orthodox, Lutherans, it doesn't matter. They're Christian."

**LEBANON FAIR Aug. 12 - 14 2016**

The St. Francis Ladies Guild Soda Booth needs your help.



Sign-up sheets will be located at the side entrance of the church. All new volunteers **MUST** complete background paperwork and an on-line Training module. Please see Cheryl during office hours for forms and training information. Give it a try you're in the shade and you get to talk with friends. Questions please call Estelle

Elliott [860-420-7221](tel:860-420-7221). By any chance does anyone have a bar stool with a back, we could use another one for the booths, please let me know call Estelle.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

2<sup>nd</sup> annual Polish Dinner, Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lebanon Fire Safety Complex. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Guild. We sold out last year—get your tickets early! Advance Tickets will be required and go on sale in August. More information to come.

