

**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 July 23, 2016 St. Bridget, religious
4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Maurice Pelletier req. by his wife, Annette
Sunday, July 24, 2016 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Ken Walden req. by the Walden family
10:30 AM Vincenzo Marciano req. by his family
Monday July 25, 2016 St. James, apostle
NO MASS
Tuesday July 26, 2016 St. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
NO MASS
Wednesday July 27, 2016 Weekday
9:00 AM Donna Lee Kasuba req. by Mike & Gail Kasuba
Thursday July 28, 2016 Weekday
NO MASS
Friday July 29, 2016 St. Martha
9:00 AM For the people of the parish living and deceased
9:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday July 30, 2016 St. Peter Chysologus, bishop, doctor of the Church
4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM
Sunday, July 31, 2016 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM
10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 2,021.00
Today's second collection is for building & maintenance.
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.

Weekend of July 30 & 31
5:00pm Lector: Anne Staebner
Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay
Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Steve Bardes
8:00am Lector: Ella Mae Kuzel
Eucharistic Minister: Betsy Petrie
Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger
10:30am Lector: Roger Proulx
Eucharistic Minister: Roger Proulx
Altar Servers: Erika Densman, Wayne Woodward

SAVE THE DATE!
**2nd annual Polish Dinner, Saturday
September 17th** 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.



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
1st Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2nd Batt. 6th 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 V. Rev. Michael Phillipino, Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. Martin Noe, Rev. Brian Maxwell, Rev. Walter Nagle, Rev. Justinian Rweyemamu, Rev. Joseph Tito, Rev. Tomasz Albrecht, Rev. William Olesik, Rev. Elson Kattookaran MS, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Msgr. Michael Donohue. 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)

MASS TIME CHANGES (while Fr. Mark is away):

August 13 Saturday 5:30pm
August 14 Sunday 8:00am there is no 10:30am
August 20 Saturday 5:30pm
August 21 Sunday 8:00am there is no 10:30am
August 27 Saturday 5:30pm
August 28 Sunday 8:00am there is no 10:30am

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. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- ✓ **Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 24-30th** Natural Family Planning is an umbrella term for the safe, natural, 99 percent effective and scientifically reliable methods of both achieving and avoiding pregnancy. It teaches couples how to observe and interpret the woman's signs of fertility and infertility and embraces God's plan for married love. Read more about NFP at www.foryourmarriage.org or www.ccli.org. Or, to talk to a certified instructor couple, call the Catholic Family Services Office at 860-887- 2237, Ext. 306. Ongoing NFP classes are offered as well as online and Home-study programs available in both English and Spanish.
- ✓ **Mass of Healing and Individual Prayer:** Monday July 25th 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.**
- ✓ **Catholic Charities Annual Golf Tournament:** Wednesday September 21 at the Fox Hopyard Golf Club in East Haddam, CT. Entry fee of \$175 includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner and awards. Registration begins at 10:30am. Lunch at 11:30am. Shotgun start at 1pm. Dinner & awards at 6pm. Funds raised support Catholic Charities' programs. For more information, e-mail Christine Jackel @ cjackel@norwichdiocese.net or by phone @ 860.886.1928 x212.

Norwich Diocese Teacher Vacancies

Middle School Math Teacher
Sacred Heart School, Taftville, CT

Middle School Language Arts Teacher
Pre-K Teacher
St. James School, Danielson, CT

Middle School English / Language Arts Teacher
Middle School Science Teacher - Part time
St. Michael School, Pawcatuck, CT

Spanish Teacher PreK-8 ~ full-time
PE Athletic Director ~ part-time
Technology Teacher ~ part time
Information Technology ~ part time
Middle School Math Teacher ~ part time
Foreign Language Teacher
PreK-8 ~ full time
St Mary -St. Joseph School, Willimantic, CT

Kindergarten Teacher
St. Edward, Stafford Springs, CT

Middle School English / Language Arts Teacher
St. John, Old Saybrook, CT

To apply for the 2016-2017 school year, the start date is August 2016; send a cover letter, current resume, names of three references and certification information to: Superintendentdso@norwichdiocese.net or Mr. Henry Fiore
Superintendent of Schools
Diocesan School Office
43 Perkins Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360

St. James Catholic Elementary School, PRINCIPAL POSITION- Diocesan PreK-8 School Danielson, CT

Please refer to The Diocese of Norwich website for further details: <http://www.norwichdiocese.org>

To apply, send a cover letter, current resume, three references and certification information to:

superintendentdso@norwichdiocese.net

Or

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

Screening begins July 1, 2016. Resumes accepted until the position is filled

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

Take a few moments to check out our Saint Francis of Assisi web page!



Information about Saint Francis:
Mass Schedules, Parish Bulletins, Parish Organizations, Sacraments, Religious Education, History of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Meetings & Events.

Web Address Error Please use

<http://www.stfrancisassisilebanonct.org>
Add this address to your favorites list.

SUMMER LIFE TEEN

For Grades 8 - 12

- July 17th Messy Olympics bring an outfit that you can get real messy in and another to change into for your car ride home and a towel to clean up with
- July 24th Instagram Olympics (hosted by alumni) Nothing needed unless July 17th is rain dated.
- July 31st Olympic Sports Evening

All events begin at 6:00pm at St. Andrew Church

E--mail Carol Petit at standrewym@sbcgloba.net and asked to be put on her email list and flock note distribution.

Lebanon Back to School Program



This year we will not be hanging tags for the Back to School Program.

Instead, you will find a list of needed items below.

This year there are approximately 45 children that Lebanon Social Services will be helping with school supplies.

All school supply donations are due no later than August 7th. Donations may be dropped off at Church or taken directly to Town Hall Social Services Office on Tuesdays 10am – 6pm or Thursdays 9am – 2pm.

This year we have been asked to supply lunch bags, 3-ring binders, loose leaf paper packs, pocket folders (lots), divider tabs for binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil cases, calculators, crayons, erasers, glue sticks, high-liters, markers, sharpies, rulers, USB flash drives, index Cards, and backpacks.

Please bring back to Church by Sunday, August 7th.

If any family in Lebanon is in need of back to school supplies, please contact Social Services by August 11th.

Thank you to all for your generous support of our Back to School Program to assist our community.

ST. MARY'S 30th ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church is seeking donations for its annual rummage sale. Donations of furniture, household items, clothing etc. will be gratefully accepted through July 24th. Please call St. Mary Rectory at (860) 822-6378 to arrange for pick-up of larger items.

2016 RUMMAGE SALE Dates and Times

Thurs, July 28	Early Bird Shopping, 5 pm – 8 pm	\$10.00 admission
Friday, July 29	9 am – 6 pm,	Free Admission
Saturday, July 30	9 am - 2 pm,	Free Admission
Friday, August 5	10 am – 5 pm,	Free Admission
Saturday, August 6	9 am – 2 pm,	Free Admission

Defending Our Religious Liberty July. 24, 2016

The Catholic Church is not asking for special treatment when it comes to the federal healthcare mandate, she is simply asking that every American's right to religious freedom be protected. This right is not only about our ability to go to Mass on Sunday, or to pray the Rosary at home. It is about adhering to the tenets of our faith, so that we can contribute to the common good of all Americans.

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. If you have called, call again, our representatives need to pay attention.

SAVE THE DATE July 29, 2016



The Knights of Columbus will once again be selling tickets to a baseball game between the Connecticut Tigers and the Tricity Valleycats (a farm team of the Houston Astros). The game will be played Friday, July 29 with fireworks to follow. Tickets are still

only \$8.00 each.

Tickets will be sold at both entrances to the Church after all Masses on July 16 & 17 and July 23 & 24.

Come join us for a fun-filled, family-friendly evening and stay for the fireworks after the game!

Questions? Please call Bob Nejako at 860.930.0226.

Have you registered for CCD classes?

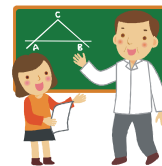


Registrations are due August 1st. Please return registrations ASAP.

We will be ordering text books the end of July.

Registration forms available at Church entrances.

Teachers and aides needed, especially for grades 3, 4, 5, 6. U-R qualified if you are --- over 21---a high-school grad --- and a practicing Catholic who attends weekend Mass. We will help you with the rest of the job and help you to easily get certified to work with our youth. Call Jim Hay, the DRE at 860.886.1882 or the parish office at 860.642.6711.



08-02-16 -- FREE (ENCORE-Repeat) 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 Tuesday August 02, 2016 (7:30 PM-sharp to 8:45 PM) at St. Andrews Church, Colchester, CT. All are welcome -- age 13 and over. (PRE-registration is required). Please send an E-mail to (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.

Please support our Saint Francis Bulletin and our community by supporting these wonderful businesses. They pay good money to sponsor these ads and provide this bulletin at no cost to St. Francis Parish. Please let them know that you appreciate their generous financial support by saying "Thank You" when you patronize them.

Witness to Freedom: St. John the Baptist

On June 24, we celebrate the birth of the Forerunner, one of the great men in the story of Jesus.

As herald of the Christ, John the Baptist reveals what it means to be a witness. He was one of the greatest of the prophets, and his courageous truth-telling led to his martyrdom. Most importantly, his ministry opened the way for others to encounter Jesus.

John links the Old Testament to the New. He preaches a message of repentance, challenging complacency among the people of Israel. He is often thought of as the last of the old prophets. When he is approached by religious leaders who are failing in their role, he confronts them directly, calling them a brood of vipers. He also challenges the immorality of the political leaders, opposing Herod's marriage – a stance for which he was later beheaded.

By calling people to come to be dipped in the waters of the Jordan as an act of repentance, he reminds his fellow Judeans of the Exodus. The call to renewal is an act of remembrance. The action says, "Remember the God who delivered you!" At the same time, the ritual looks forward to the one who has been promised to bring true freedom to Israel.

John's renewal movement prepared the way of Jesus. John knew that God was moving in his people, even if he did not know what that would mean. When Jesus comes to be baptized, an act of his solidarity with sinners, John first begins to recognize Jesus as the one to come. Later in Jesus' ministry, John says to his own disciples, "He must increase; I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). He bears witness to the freedom that comes with true humility and openness to answering a call.

St. John the Baptist, pray for us!

Witness to Freedom: Sts. Peter & Paul

Peter and Paul are often seen in the Church as a complementary pair. Peter represents the institutional church, while Paul represents the charismatic or spiritual church. Both are associated with the church in Rome. But what binds them together, above all, is that they were utterly seized by Jesus' message.

The New Testament often portrays Peter as rash and headstrong. One minute, he is a paragon of faith; the next, he has completely misunderstood what Jesus wants. He frequently does not seem to get what is going on, and he even denies Jesus when Jesus is about to be executed. And yet, despite his shortcomings and weaknesses, he has a heart for the Lord. He is the Prince of the Apostles, and as the first bishop of Rome, he holds a special place in the hearts of Catholic Christians. Scripture introduces Paul as a violent persecutor of the first Christians. In fact, he oversees the execution of the man whom the Acts of the Apostles depicts as the first martyr, St. Stephen (Acts 7:58-8:1). He considers himself a late addition to the Jesus movement, referring to himself as "one untimely born" (1 Cor 15:8). However, following his encounter with Christ near Damascus, he became one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the Church. Like Peter, Paul has a heart for the Lord, and when his spiritual energy is directed to the glory of Jesus Christ, he is a powerful witness to the kingdom of God. His letters make up the bulk of the New Testament and continue to guide the Church today.

It is a beautiful testimony to the power of God that these two men, whose faults Scripture does not attempt to hide, are key figures in the story of Jesus and foundational in the development of the Church. Sts. Peter and Paul show us the work of the Holy Spirit, who renews hearts, builds the Church, and testifies to Christ. Peter died in Rome as martyr – on a cross, according to some accounts. Paul suffered for the cause of the gospel throughout his ministry, writing several letters from prison. He, like Peter, was martyred in Rome.

Imperfect men, seized by the Word of God and set on fire by the Holy Spirit. They are pillars of our Church and witnesses to freedom in Christ. Sts. Peter and Paul, pray for us!

Witness to Freedom: Sts. Felicity & Perpetua

Northern African Christians faced severe persecution during the third century. Even when it was not widespread, Roman governors made examples out of some Christians, particularly converts. St. Felicity was a catechumen, while St. Perpetua was a woman of noble birth, whose father was a pagan. They were killed in the amphitheater of Carthage in AD 203.

The story of their suffering amazes us because of these women's courage and boldness. They did not shrink back at all, telling the crowds who witnessed their executions that God would judge them. Wild animals were released upon them, and they contended with the beasts before being put to death by the swords of Roman soldiers.

Perhaps the most riveting aspect of the story is the role of family. Perpetua was a mother of a small child, and Felicity gave birth during her imprisonment. We would sympathize with a mother who feigned allegiance to a governor, so that her children would not grow up without a mother. Furthermore, Perpetua's father visited her in prison, imploring her to sacrifice to the emperor so that he would not have to watch her die. At one point, the father himself was physically punished, merely because of his association with his daughter.

On the other hand, Felicity, Perpetua, and their companions supported one another. Their suffering strained the bonds of biological family, but it strengthened the bonds of spiritual family. When we are baptized, we are born into the family of God, and this is the family against which all others are measured.

Certainly, a supportive, Christian mother and father is ideal. Perpetua shows us a woman who contended with an unsupportive father. Both martyrs put loyalty to Christ above all other duties. In the face of adversity, Sts. Felicity and Perpetua clung to Jesus.

Let us remember that we are family, and we owe one another support. Let us pray in solidarity with Christians who suffer persecution so that, when persecutors tempt us to compromise, we can as one family of God say, "We may do no such thing."

Sts. Felicity and Perpetua, pray for us!

Witness to Freedom: Maximilian Kolbe

The 20th century has been called the Century of Martyrs. Some historians estimate that more people died for their faith in the 20th century than the previous nineteen centuries combined. The 20th century saw a massive amount of bloodshed from people who died because of their faith. One of the most dramatic examples of these martyrs is Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest who offered his life in the Auschwitz death camp in exchange for the life of another man, a husband and father.

Maximilian Kolbe saw the evil of both the Nazi fascism invading Poland from the west and communism invading Poland from the east. The squeezing of the Polish people was partly a military effort, but perhaps more profoundly, it was an attempt to drain Poland of its culture, which was decidedly Catholic. Totalitarian regimes cannot tolerate an authoritative voice other than the state.

In response to the attack on the very life of the Polish faithful, Maximilian Kolbe invested his time and energy into creating a counter voice through print media and the formation of priests. The saint knew that what faced Poland and the western world was first and foremost a spiritual battle and thus needed a spiritual response. In establishing various newspapers and houses of formation, Maximilian Kolbe heroically and courageously stood up to the secular powers of his time. His work showed that the political powers may gain control of civil institutions, but they would never and could never gain control of the human spirit.

This great priest must have known he risked his life, but it was a risk he was willing to take in order to witness to the true dignity of the human person. In the end, he did give up his life when he offered to take the place of a father and husband who was to be executed at Auschwitz. In his life and death, Fr. Kolbe achieved victory over the lies of the totalitarian movements that tried to redefine God's created order. Totalitarian ideologies may appear strong temporarily, but the martyr reveals that the human spirit, strengthened by God's grace, is stronger. St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

USCCB Fact Sheet

Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty
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Text "Freedom" to 377377 to receive updates