

**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. Richard Breton
Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Saturday March 4, 2017 St. Casimir

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Ken Gardner req. by Alicia Lamb

Sunday, March 5, 2017 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM James Mackey 25th anniversary req. by his family

10:30 AM Pierce Holleran Austin req. by his family

Monday March 6, 2017 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday March 7, 2017 Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs

NO MASS

Wednesday March 8, 2017 St. John of God, religious

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

Thursday March 9, 2017 St. Frances of Rome, religious

NO MASS

Friday March 10, 2017 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM People of the parish living & deceased

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 11, 2017 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday, March 12, 2017 Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Kenyon Gardner req. by the Knights of Columbus

10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 1,939.75

Today's second collection is for Monthly Extraordinary expenses.

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

Adoration of our Lord. Jesus is the Friend who never abandons us. (St. Luigi Guanella) Adoration begins at 8:30am following the 8:00am Mass on Thursdays and continues until Benediction at 7:00pm at St. Andrew Church. There is always a need for faithful adorers, please consider omitting to a specific hour. Contact Dennis Girard @ 860.334.9894 or dennisgirard51@gmail.com

Weekend March 11 & 12

5:00pm Lector: Dick Lataille

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty

Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella

8:00am Lector: Rosanne Coffey

Eucharistic Minister: Kathy Pellerin

Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Becca Wheaton, Wayne Woodward

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors needed for 5pm and 10:30am Masses. Please call Cheryl in the office and leave your name. Training with Fr. Mark to be scheduled at a later date.

Grades K and 3 will be helping at the 10:30am Mass on March 12.

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
SFC 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
Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy
LCPL Chad Wengloski, U.S. Marines
Seaman Jonathan Wengloski, U.S. Navy

Prayer for our Men and Women in Military Service

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask for 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. John Ashe, Rev. Domink Libiszewski OSPPE, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. Anthony DiMarco, V. Rev. Laurence LaPointe, Rev. Brian Converse, Rev. V. Antony Alaharasan, Rev. Brian Romanoski, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot, Rev. Arthur Archer, Rev. Michael Sequeira, Rev. Keith Shuley. We also pray for those priests who have left the ministry.

Heavenly Father, during this penitential season, we pray that the Blood of Jesus may kindle in the hearts of our priests the divine fire of Your love y their devotion to the Eucharist. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

These regulations unite the whole Catholic Church throughout the world in the Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart. Observed in a spirit of generosity, fast and abstinence remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Acts of penance find their completion in works of charity and justice.

Fasting: Those between the ages of 18 and 59 years old are obliged to observe the laws on fasting. Traditionally, to fast means limiting oneself to one full meal in the day and two smaller meals. The two prescribed days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence: The law of abstinence obliges all those who are over the age of 14. On days of abstinence meat is not eaten at any meal. The prescribed days of abstinence are Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

MEETINGS

- Parish Advisory Council Wednesday March 8 @ 6:30pm
- Liturgy Committee Wednesday March 15 @ 6:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT ([860-887-0702](tel:860-887-0702)).
- ✓ **Coping with Divorce and Separation.** Are you divorced or separated and struggling with the loss of the marriage relationship? Come and learn about a new Diocesan Support Group that is forming for separated and divorced Catholics. March 8 from 7-8:30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- ✓ **RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS** ~ If you are silently grieving or suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. The weekend healing process is confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Upcoming weekends are: March 10-12 in Stockbridge, MA, call 413-452- 0661; in Rhode Island March 17-19 in English call 401-351-7730, or March 31-April 2 in Spanish call 401-742- 1510 or visit the national website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.
- ✓ **Pope Francis Message of Mercy.** Listen to Pope Francis' message of God's mercy with Sr. Elissa Rinere of the Office of Worship, March 16 and 23rd from 10am to noon at St Joseph Church Hall, Willimantic. Registration required. Call 860.848.2237 ext. 304.
- ✓ **Bereavement Support Group** ~ A new Catholic-based Bereavement Support group will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at three alternating diocesan parishes. The next meeting is **Thursday, March 16** from 7-8:30 P.M. at **St. Mary's Parish Center, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT.** For more information, contact Catholic Family Services at 860-848-2237, ext. 306.
- ✓ **Caregiver Spirituality Support Group:** Join us for a night to listen and share with others who are experiencing the struggles of caregiving. March 21 from 6:30-8:00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry. This night will be interactive and designed to provide support and hope to caregivers.
- ✓ **Natural Family Planning** is scientific, safe, and is 99-percent effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. A three-session class for married and engaged couples will begin in the Gales Ferry area Saturday, March 25. For information, call Craig and Liz Schantz at 860-464- 1184.
- ✓ **Are you separated or divorced and in need of support? The Church is here to help.** The Catholic Family Services Office is sponsoring a Divorce Healing Program entitled **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide.** This is a 12-session DVD ministry program with expertise from Catholic psychologists, theologians and spiritual directors. It is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. The group will meet from 7-8:30 P.M. the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning April 10 through September 25 at Sacred Heart Parish Rectory, Sacred Heart Drive, Groton, CT. There is a \$20 fee for the program to cover materials and registration is required. To register, call Catholic Family Services, 860-848-2237, ext. 306.
- ✓ **Chrism Mass.** The Diocesan Chrism Mass will take place on April 11 at 10:30am at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Norwich. All are invited to attend this yearly celebration of faith and tradition in which the holy oils used in administering the Sacraments throughout the diocese are blessed by Bishop Michael Cote.

- ✓ **The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti invites you to our 10th Annual Gala,** Saturday, April 29, 2017, 6pm cocktails, dinner, silent auction, at the Deanston House, Storrs, CT. Come meet Bishop Cote, LT. Governor Nancy Wyman and guest speaker Bishop Eric Toussaint from Haiti. The price, \$100/person, is to benefit the children of Haiti. We are also in need of ad sponsors and auction items. For more information visit www.outreachtohaiti.org Thank you for your generosity."

Third Annual Collection of Household Goods for WAIM Weekend of April 8 & 9.

Just in time for spring cleaning. A truck will be in the Church parking lot before and after all Masses on April 8th and 9th for the drop off your good, usable items.



Save the Date!

7th Annual Catholic Women's Conference of the Diocese of Norwich

Sponsored by the Office of Faith Events and Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Sat. April 8, 2017, 8:30am – 3:30pm

St. Bernard School-Uncasville, CT

Keynote Speaker: ValLimar Jansen

The day includes Mass with Bishop Cote, Reconciliation, Lunch, Adoration, Music, Vendors and much more!!!

During Lent families are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl.

Our parish with parishes across the Diocese of Norwich is beginning a program of prayer and fasting called Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). For 44 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor. Through our participation in this program, we bring hope and healing to another person or family living halfway across the globe, strengthening and enriching those persons' lives, both physically and spiritually, and greatly enhancing St. Francis' community's Lenten faith experience. Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. With the monies saved from this meal, a donation is placed in the family Rice Bowl to be brought to Mass on Palm Sunday, April 9. 75% of Operation rice Bowl funds will feed the hungry poor overseas, the remaining 25% will be used in the diocese to feed the needy. This Lent, gather in prayer and sacrifice as a family to pray and to care for the hungry poor.

Some Grant Recipients:

Catholic Charities & Family Services served 1,764 unduplicated households comprised of 3,299 adults and children.

Haitian Health Foundation feeding over 3,000 of the hemisphere's malnourished women and children each day. They also distribute "take home" food packets of rice, oil & beans. Haitian Health Foundation has concentrated their service to the third world's most fragile populations, prenatal women, and malnourished, sick children.

March for Mercy- Youth Service Event – A great way to get service hours! On Saturday March 25th from 10am – 3pm, Youth are invited to a special service event; The March for Mercy. The March will begin at St. Joseph in Norwich with a witness talk about the realities of drug addiction. Followed by a physician speaking on the effects of drugs. We will then tour St. Vincent de Paul Place, and March to the Cathedral. At the Cathedral, Cooper Ray, a national speaker and musician, will lead our Service Rally Event in the hall. Youth are asked to collect pledges for the mile walk to benefit the Catholic Charities Substance Abuse and Treatment Program, the minimum to participate is \$15. Contact your Catechetical Leader or Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net or (860)848-2237 to attend.

EDGE for Middle School Youth: Saturday March 4th in the St. Andrew Parish Hall from 7-9:15pm.

Life Teen @ St. Andrew Church

Life in the Spirit – Seven weeks that could really change your life.

Open to grades 9-12

Sunday March 5 - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week four of our Reconciliation Night – Forgiveness

Sunday March 12 - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week five of our Life in the Spirit Seminar – Power of the Holy Spirit

Sunday March 19 - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week six of our Life in the Spirit Seminar – Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Sunday March 26 - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week seven of our Life in the Spirit Seminar – Living a transformed life.

Programs at Enders Island – Mystic CT

860.536.0565

- Fish Fry on Lenten Fridays including Stations of the Cross at 6pm. \$15pp <http://enders.is/fishfry>
- Gregorian Chants of Holy Week & Easter. Wednesday evenings March 15-June 14. Begins at \$260 for first month. <http://enders.is/paschalchants>
- Byzantine Iconography Mandylion “Not Made by Hands” Thursdays March 16-June 15 Begins at \$260 for first month. <http://enders.is/mandylionicon>

Mercy High School is sponsoring a \$25,000 Education Raffle. Anyone can win! The \$25,000 is tax free and can be used at any accredited school in the U.S. (grades K – College) and for student loan payments. Tickets are \$100. The drawing is Wednesday, May 17th at Mercy's Spring Concert starting at 7:00 p.m. You do not need to be present to win. Only 650 tickets will be sold. For information, or to order a ticket, go to www.mercyhigh.com or call Mercy at 860-347-8957.

Saint Joseph Church 120 Cliff Street, Norwich is hosting their **annual Lenten Fish and Chips Dinner** every Friday through April 14th (Good Friday) from 4:30-6:30. A full meal consisting of 2 pieces of fish; a 1 piece meal and Chowder will be available. Meals include fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Please join us! For more information, call 860-887-1565.

The Willimantic District of the Norwich Diocese Council of Catholic Women invite all ladies to a Lenten lunch and presentation Sunday March 12th at 1:00pm, St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. The theme is Body & Soul: Joseph Zukel, Hartford Health Care Center for Healthy Aging Resource Coordinator will offer resources available for stress management, coping skills, chronic illness management, unique needs and challenges faced by our aging population. For the Soul portion, Rev. Jeffrey Ellis, Parochial Vicar at St. Bernard's, Rockville & St. Mathew's, Tolland will speak on holiness. There is no admission fee for this event. Please contact Lynda Nappi at 860.423.5064 or Annette Murphy at 860.423.2397 to make a reservation. The deadline is Thursday March 9th.



ANNUAL LAYETTE PROGRAM

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Annual Layette Program will be on Sunday, March 26th at St Mary's Church, Portland. We are collecting **new** baby items (diapers and blankets) and baby clothing sizes newborn, to size 3T. All items collected will go to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Norwich. You may leave your items in the collection box located at the side entrance of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday!

Bring a friend, family member or loved one to Church with you on **Sunday, March 26, 2017** and share your faith with someone who is important to you! Spend some personal time away from the world and all its stress in a worshipping community where God loves unconditionally. Receive a blessing just for you!

Saint Bernard School

Grades 6-12

Classical * Spiritual * Global

Placement Testing - Saturdays,

March 4 & March 25 @ 8:30am

Information Session - Thursday March 16 @ 6pm

Come by and visit.

For more information call 860.848.1271

or email admissions@saint-bernard.com

or visit www.saintbernardschool.org

Expanded transportation routes and Financial Aid are available. Ask about our Tailored Tuition.

An **Ecumenical Community Prayer Service for Lent** will be held on Wednesday March 15th (Snow date March 22nd), 7:00 p.m. at the Lebanon Baptist Church, 694 Trumbull Highway. The event is sponsored by the Lebanon Ecumenical Clergy and Franklin Congregational Church. Please bring a food or toiletry item for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Feb. 26, 2017

As Christians, our goal is to live and serve others as the Gospel asks. We pray that the new administration acts quickly to restore the federal government's proper relationship with the First Amendment and other laws protecting conscience and religious freedom, so that the Catholic Church can continue serving the most vulnerable of Americans.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Mar. 5, 2017

Over the last several years, the federal government has eroded our First Amendment right to religious freedom. The HHS mandate poses an incredibly heavy burden for the Little Sisters of the Poor and others due to conscientious objections to facilitating coverage of sterilization and contraception, including drugs and devices that may cause abortions. The Little Sisters—and so many others—still do not have adequate relief and still face possible fines in the tens of millions of dollars if they do not comply with the HHS mandate. The new administration must work to change this.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

We currently have on loan to our parish a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. If anyone would like to have the picture to place in their home for a couple of weeks and to pray the Nine Day

Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office. “By participation in this program, we can seek the help of Our Lady for the strengthening of marriages and family life and a reverence for all human life, unborn and born. In this age of great spiritual deprivation, this program calls the faithful to renew their prayer life and to restore Our Lady’s place in each family.” (Msgr. Robert L Brown)

Programs at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center

303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-3119

860-760-9705 www.holyfamilyretreat.org

- **Saturday, March 11 - Contemplative Enrichment Day: Living out God's Call to Relationship, with Steve Standiford** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. God’s call to relationship with us is not just once and for all; rather, it evolves as we grow and open ourselves to the divine presence. How do we know what God's call is for us today? What is the result of the evolution of God consciousness that manifests in our everyday life from following God’s call? \$65, includes lunch
- **Saturday, March 25 - Knitting Retreat Day: The Spirituality of Working with Our Hands, with Rachel Valente** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Those who knit and crochet all have powerful stories of how yarn has tied them together, but crafts can also be a way to engage in relationship with the Holy. Together we’ll explore the spiritual fruits of these ancient crafts and their history. Please bring a simple project to work on. \$65, includes lunch.

MASS INTENTIONS

We have several open Masses during 2017. You may have a Mass said for a variety of intentions: for a deceased loved one, in celebration of a marriage, anniversary, birthday, in thanksgiving, for a special intention, for world peace, etc.

To request a Mass intention, please call Cheryl in the parish office during office hours.

PASCHAL CANDLE

If anyone would like to help along with other families to purchase the Paschal Candle in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office. The cost of the candle is \$250.