

**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 April 1, 2017 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, April 2, 2017 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Nicholas Kuzel req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel
10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

Monday April 3, 2017 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday April 4, 2017 St. Isidore, bishop, doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Wednesday April 5, 2017 St. Vincent Ferrer, priest

9:00 AM Jennifer & Robert Chesters req. by their family
Confessions 7:00 PM

Thursday April 6, 2017 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday April 7, 2017 St. John Baptist de la Salle, priest

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday April 8, 2017 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Mary Ann Lipari req. by the Ladies Guild

Sunday, April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday ~ the Passion of the Lord

8:00 AM Gene Grecki req. by Roddy & Betsy
10:30 AM Ed & Gloria Bigenski req. by their family

Offertory: \$ 2,305.30

Next weekend's second collection is for Operation Rice Bowl.
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 April 8 & 9

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs & Deacon Michael
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael
Altar Servers: Steve Bardes & CJ Frank
8:00am Lector: Rosanne Coffey & Deacon Michael
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael
Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones & Deacon Michael
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael
Altar Servers: Drew Taylor & Marianne Clippinger

12 Goats for Haiti: Collected to date \$ 583

Meetings:

Knights of Columbus Thursday April 6 @ 7pm

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 Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. William McCarthy MSA, Rev. Robert Washabaugh, Rev. Joseph DeCosta, Rev. Tomasz Albrecht, Msgr. Henry Archambault, Rev. John Antonelle, all priests, Rev. Juan A. Palacio, Msgr. Richard LaRocque, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Edward Wisneski.

Father, recall to our priests that they hold between their hands the Most Precious Treasure of the Church: the Blood of the Sacred Victim. Enkindle in them the fire of love of Christ as they do your work. Increase in Your priests a hunger for the glory of Jesus, and for the salvation of souls. Grant them courage and confidence in carrying out their duties. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

This weekend we ask for your commitment to the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal, **"Our Faith Calls US To ACTION"**. As Catholic, we are blessed to be called to Christ through the Sacraments and the Eucharist...making our love for God and others stronger. If we didn't have our faith, we would feel an emptiness in our hearts. If we don't practice our faith, we would never know what it is like to feel a sense of fulfillment...fulfillment in helping others who are in need. We are called by Christ to be good stewards on earth, a call that we need to answer. Your support of the 2017 ACA allows our ministries to help others; thereby answering Christ's call. Our actions and willingness to devote our time, give of our talents and share our treasures shows others we believe in God and His works...we are living our faith! **"Our Faith Calls US to ACTION"**, not just for today, but for every day. Please pledge generously today or visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org to make your pledge to the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal.

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.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

- ❖ **Confessions** 7:00pm Wednesday, April 5
- ❖ **Easter Egg Hunt** Palm Sunday April 9 following 10:30am Mass (Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus)
- ❖ **Holy Thursday** Mass of the Lord's Supper Holy Communion and Procession: 7:00pm Visits to the Repository until 10:00pm
- ❖ **Good Friday** Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion: 3:00pm Stations of the Cross: 7:00pm
- ❖ **Holy Saturday** 1:00pm Blessing of Easter Food in the Church.
No vigil service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church ~ Parishioners are invited to attend Easter Vigil Services & Mass at St. Andrew Church in Colchester at 8:00pm
- ❖ **Easter Sunday** Masses: 8:00am and 10:30am

THE PRACTICE OF COVERING CROSSES AND IMAGES



Until recent time it was customary to veil prominent statues and crucifixes in church with a purple cloth as a sign of sadness and mourning. In some churches, beginning around 900, one large cloth was hung between the people and the altar from the

beginning of Lent. This was done to hide the heavenly glory depicted by statues of saints and crosses with the figure of the triumphant Christ. This custom came to symbolize the exclusion of all sinners from the altar just as public sinners were excluded. Since the 1600's, this veiling was limited to Passiontide, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent, originally called "Passion Sunday". On that Sunday (today only in Cycle B), the final words of the Gospel are: "At that they picked up rocks to throw at Jesus, but He hid Himself and slipped out of the temple precincts" (J. 8:59).

Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.



Way of the Cross: a public procession of scripture and prayer. Good Friday April 14 at 6:00pm from Chelsea Parade to the Central Baptist

Church. Walk with the Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich and leaders of other Christian communities in forming a prayer pilgrimage called the Way of the Cross. Walk & sing in commemoration of Christ's journey. In case of inclement weather, it will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick.

WINE, WISDOM, and WHY- NIGHT OF CATHOLIC DISCUSSION

Join us for an evening of questions and answers on Thursday, April 27th from 7 – 9pm at St. Andrew's in Colchester. Ask questions about your *faith*- past, present or future. A panel of experts are ready to answer your questions: *Bishop Michael Cote, Sr. Elissa Rinere CP- Director of Office of Worship/Pastoral Planning, Deacon Chris Deskus- Director of Prison Ministry Office, and Mr. Paul Kieda- Morality and Apologetics Teacher from Xavier High School.* Soft drinks and wine will be provided, please feel free to donate drinks at the Office of Faith Events by April 13th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702) .
- ✓ **Life in the Spirit:** 8 Week DVD series Beginning April 3, 2017 to May 22, 2017 from 7:00 to 8:30PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Marriage Help** – If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring, or, if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, the Retrouvaille program can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly and re-discover why you fell in love. The next local Retrouvaille weekend is April 21-23, 2017. For information, call confidentially 1-800- 470-2230, email cherylandsteve@cox.net, or go to the website www.helpourmarriage.com for information and registration.
- ✓ **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."
- ✓ **White Mass for healthcare givers of all faiths** April 30, 2017 at 9:00am in the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Norwich. Brunch to follow in the Cathedral Auditorium. For more information or to make a reservation please call 860.887.9294 ext. 100.



Donations to WAIM ~ This year we are looking for basic household items for the home. Such as: Laundry detergent, spray cleaners, shampoo, body and hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, first

aid supplies, facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towels etc. These items can be dropped off in the church parking lot on April 8th & 9th (Palm Sunday) before and after masses.



Just meet us in the rear parking by the white pickup truck.

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 at St. Bernard School-Uncasville, CT. Keynote Speaker: ValLimar Jansen

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

Life Teen @ St. Andrew Church

Open to grades 9-12

Sunday April 2 – Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and Life Night

Sunday April 9 – Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and social

Sunday April 16 – Easter – No Life Teen Mass or activities

Sunday April 23 – Life Teen Mass at 5pm. No activity to follow due to retreat that weekend

Sunday April 30 – Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner, speaker and retreat

Catholic Charities will hold a **“Divine” afternoon of comedy, wine tasting, light fare and silent auction** on Sunday, April 23rd from 1:00-4:00 PM (doors open at 12:30 PM) at St. Sebastian Parish Hall, 151 Broad Street in Middletown CT. Dave Kane, known as “Fr. Patrick Aloysius Misgivings” will share stories of growing up Catholic. This event is being coordinated with help from the Catholic Charities Middletown Advisory Board. Proceeds from the event will “Provide Help and Create Hope” for those in need throughout Eastern Connecticut. Tickets are \$35.00 in advance, \$40.00 at the door, and can be purchased by contacting Susan Connelly (860) 889-8346 x264 or finance@cchsn.org. Tickets can also be purchased at any of the Catholic Charities office locations: Norwich – 331 Main Street; New London 28 Huntington Street; Middletown – 151 Broad Street and Willimantic – 88 Jackson Street. For more information, contact Christine Jackel, Development Coordinator cjackel@norwichdiocese.net or (860) 886-1928 x12.

Holy Apostles College & Seminary OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017 9 AM – 11 AM
33 Prospect Hill Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

Come Discover More about our High School / Home School Take Credit Program, Our Undergraduate and Graduate Programs Which can ALL be taken On Campus or 100% Online!

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St Andrew Passion Play April 7-8 the 13th annual St Andrew Passion Play Musical will be performed at 7:30 PM, Palm Sunday Weekend, Friday and Saturday, April 7-8 at St Andrew Parish, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. This full scale musical portraying of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, features a cast and crew of over 120 talented individuals, all devoted to bringing this great story to life. Tickets are free, but donations to defray the cost are gratefully accepted. To reserve tickets, phone Theresa Dziatko (860 295 8315) or pick up tickets in person at the parish office or Merciful Saviour Gift Shop in Colchester. Tickets limited to 10 per person, per night, unless special group requests are made. Since the performance is in the church, people are encouraged to bring their own cushions for sitting in the pews. Those who are handicapped should note that there is a special handicapped entrance to the church. For more information, contact Colleen Puscas at colleenpuscas@gmail.com

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San Jose Assembly 121, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, is pleased to announce the Andrew J. Kuhar Memorial **Scholarship**. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men based on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Although academics will be one of the criteria for this award, the major criterion will be voluntary service to the applicant's Church, community or both. This scholarship is open to all graduating high school seniors in eastern Connecticut, who will be attending a two-year college, four-year college, university or technical school in the fall of 2017.

Application deadline is May 10. The award for this year is \$500 and will be awarded on or about June 5, 2017.

Applications available in the parish office.

Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 62th Annual Convention Catholic Women: Following the Message of Fatima, Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Saint Lawrence Church, 7 Hemlock Drive, Killingworth, CT. Join us to hear Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, a catechist for almost thirty years, award-winning author, journalist, speaker, reviewer, and EWTN television host and creator of *Everyday Blessings for Catholic Moms*, *Catholic Mom's Café* and *Feeding Your Family's Soul*. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Registration fee of \$25 includes lunch (choice of meal) and materials. The day includes speakers, book signing, Mass with Bishop Cote, luncheon and raffles. Deadline to register is April 28th. Forms can be found at the church entrances.

Scholarship - Knights of Columbus Council 13 has established a \$500 scholarship for graduating high school seniors entering their freshman year in an approved under-graduate college, university or technical school as a regular full-time student in a program leading to a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent technical certification. Information including application forms and directions may be obtained from the parish secretary. Applications must be received by April 15.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 9653
St. Francis of Assisi Church

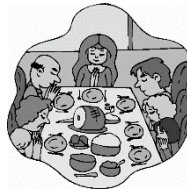


Invite all families and friends to the annual **EASTER EGG HUNT** Sunday April 9, 2017 at 11:30 AM Rain or Shine

Easter Food Baskets

It is time to prepare for our annual delivery of Easter Food Baskets.

We are thankful for food donations of all types. Your continued support of this program has helped many of our friends and neighbors when they have stumbled upon difficult times. Thank You.



Food Suggestions:

HAMS, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Food & Vegetables, Pasta & Sauce, Cake Mixes & Frosting, Brownie & Muffin Mixes, Mayonnaise, Soups, Peanut Butter, Jams & Jellies, Pie Crusts & Pie Fillings, Coffee & Tea, Cereals Both Hot & Cold, Canned Tuna, Canned Fruit, Pudding & Jell-O.

Defending Our Religious Liberty April 2, 2017

Those who say that the Catholic Church is discriminating against poor women by opposing the health care mandate are completely misinformed. The Catholic Church is against requirements contained in the mandate that would force it to pay for surgical procedures such as: sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception that go against the church's moral convictions, and therefore, impede religious freedom.

LENTEN REFLECTION: This week of Lent we reflect on the third and fourth Beatitudes:

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

In our world today we are conditioned to define ourselves in terms of *our accomplishments* rather than in terms of *our character*. Jesus reminds us that our salvation comes in who WE ARE: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. "...He affirmed that this would not be a fruitless endeavor, He promises, "...for they will be satisfied". Our ultimate satisfaction/goal being heaven! As human beings we want to please God but too often we settle for the approval of others. When we allow this to happen it turns our attention away from what God our Father set as the priority for His people: to be righteous. Being righteous is not all that complicated, it means doing what is right! We have to have a passion for doing what is right!

We are further challenged to be merciful, to show forgiveness and compassion to those in need. We just completed a year dedicated by Our Holy Father, to this very trait. As God's children our actions should reflect God's mercy. The person who is merciful will achieve eternal joy because in being merciful to others we will come to know God's mercy personally. All of this wisdom, given to us by God, is meaningless unless we put it into action every day!

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD Saturday April 15 at 1:00pm in Church

Parishioners Are Invited To Bring Their Easter Food Baskets for the Blessing of Easter Food Baskets on Saturday April 15 at 1:00 pm at Saint Francis of Assisi Church (Gathering in the Church)

A traditional Polish Easter Basket would contain a small amount of the following:

- ❖ Butter (maslo) - This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a lamb or a cross. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have towards all things.
- ❖ Easter bread (babka) – A round loaf topped with a cross or a fish, symbolic of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.
- ❖ Horseradish or pepper (chrzan/pieprz) – The bitter herbs of Passover and the Exodus, signifying first the bitterness of spiritual exile; second and more meaningfully, the bitterness of the sufferings of Our Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Eggs (jajka) decorated with symbols of Easter, life, and prosperity (pisanki) – Indicate new life and Christ's Resurrection from the tomb.
- ❖ Sausage (kielbasa) – A spicy sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.
- ❖ Ham (szynka) – Symbolic of great joy and abundance. Some prefer lamb or veal. The lamb also reminds Catholics that the Risen Christ is the "Lamb of God".
- ❖ Smoked bacon (slonina) – a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity.
- ❖ Salt (sol) – So necessary an element in our physical life, that Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth".
- ❖ Cheese (ser) – Shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation that Christians should have at all times.
- ❖ Wine (wino) – Often added reminds us of the blood of sacrifice which Jesus Christ spilled for us on Calvary.
- ❖ Vinegar (ocet) – Reminds us of the gall (sour wine) which was given to Our Lord as he hung on Calvary.

A candle is inserted into the basket to represent Jesus, The Light of the World. A colorful ribbon and sometimes sprigs of greenery are attached. A linen cloth is drawn over the top and it is ready for the trek to church where it is joined with the baskets of others to await the blessing that will render it fit for consumption on Easter Sunday.

This year, Bishop Michael R. Cote, D.D., invites you to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. Procession of Priests and Deacons will begin into the Cathedral at 10:20am.

The Chrism Mass is the celebration during which the sacred Chrism is consecrated and the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens are blessed. These oils are sanctified for use at the Cathedral and in all parishes for baptism, confirmation, the anointing of the sick and for the ordination of priests. Together the three oils symbolize the sacramental life of the Church. Three of our parishioners, Peggy Stygar, Kathy Walden and Mark Bauer will be sent to represent our parish at this Mass and to receive the holy oils for the parish. Since the Chrism Mass is truly a Diocesan event ALL parishioners are invited, and we would like as many people as possible to be present.