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

Saturday June 17, 2017 Blessed Virgin Mary
4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM All fathers living & deceased
Sunday, June 18, 2017 Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
8:00 AM Gene Grecki req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel
10:30 AM Ed & Gloria Bigenski req. by Bill & Joan
Russoniello Goba

Monday June 19, 2017 St. Romuald, abbot
NO MASS

Tuesday June 20, 2017 Weekday
NO MASS

Wednesday June 21, 2017 St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious
9:00 AM Jennifer & Bob Chesters req. by family
Thursday June 22, 2017 St. Paulinus of Nola, bishop; Sts. John Fisher, bishop and Thomas More, martyrs

Friday June 23, 2017 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory
Saturday June 24, 2017 Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM People of the parish living & deceased
Sunday, June 25, 2017 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Living members of the Clinch & Kuzel families req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel
10:30 AM In celebration of Fr. Mark’s 25th anniversary of ordination in the priesthood

Offertory: $ 2,151.98             Poor: $ 418.00
Today's second collection is for the building maintenance.
Next weekend’s second collection is for the World Combined Collection.
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 June 24 & 25
5:00pm Lector: Dick Lataille
Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako
Altar Servers: Nina & Genieveve Gardella
8:00am Lector: Kathy Pellerin
Eucharistic Minister: Betsy Petrie
Altar Servers: Anthony & Emily Pomerleau, Ryan Dungan
10:30am Lector: Roger Proulx
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Dubiel
Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Henry & Marienne Clippinger

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
AM3 Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy
Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy
LCPL Chad Wengloski, U.S. Marines
Seaman Jonathan Wengloski, U.S. Navy
CTN3 Jonah Swett, U.S. Navy
Seaman Recruit Rocky Spedalieri
2nd Lt. Tyler McGuire, U.S. Air Force

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 Msgr. Henry Archambault, Rev. John Antonelle, Rev. Juan A. Palacio, Msgr. Richard LaRoque, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Edward Wisneski, Rev. Russell Kennedy, Rev. Jose Rizal Dimapilis OP, Rev. Wojciech Pelczarski SDS, Rev. Francis Rouleau, Rev. Thomas Sickler MS, Rev. Peter Liszewski, and all priests. Mary Immaculate, we know you are blessing our priests. Dear Mother, cover with your maternal mantle those whom Jesus has honored with the authority and dignity of His priesthood. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

BABY BOTTLES for Life are due on Father’s Day. Please return all bottles by Sunday June 25th.

CCD Classes Begin in September. Classes are held from 9:00am to 10:00am at the Elementary School. Teachers and Teacher Aides will be needed.
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.
Principal Vacancy Sacred Heart School, Groton, CT
Located in Groton, CT, Sacred Heart School is a parish co-educational Parish school of all faiths from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8, seeks a principal to begin July 1, 2017. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Sacred Heart School provides an exceptional educational program that places emphasis on the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and aesthetic development of each student.

The eligible candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing in the Church, hold a minimum of a masters’ degree in education and have completed at least five years of teaching experience and two years administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school.

He or she must be able to direct a joyful Catholic school faith community where every student has daily opportunities to encounter the love of God in Jesus Christ. He or she will value the importance of moral character development, self-discipline, and Christian service. He or she will be able to guide the faculty as a professional learning community and promote 21st century and learning research-based practices with an emphasis on STREAM instruction and personalized learning. He or she will model life-long learning. The position also requires outstanding verbal and written communication skills, professional experience in supervision and evaluation, and an understanding of enrollment management, institutional advancement, and Catholic school finance stewardship.

Information about the school may be found at www.sacredheartgroton.org.
Download application and candidate forms at www.norwichdioces.org under the “employment” tab
Send completed candidate forms by to:
Sacred Heart Principal Search, Attn: Mr. Henry Fiore, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Diocesan School Office, 43 Perkins Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360

Programs at My Father’s House – 39 N, Moodus Rd, Moodus Mth.moodus@gmail.com 860.873.1906
• The Holy Shroud of Turin Retreat – Saturday July 8 from 7:30am – 4:00pm $ per person A relic of the Holy Shroud will be available for veneration
• June 22 Teaching on the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus
• June 23 Mass at noon followed by Adoration
• October 7 Retreat on the Rosary
• November 18 Thanksgiving Retreat
• December 9 Retreat on Our Lady of Guadalupe

Women’s ACTS Retreat: The Corpus Christi Catholic Community of Willimantic is sponsoring a Women’s ACTS retreat at Immaculata Retreat House from July 13-16, 2017. This retreat experience is an opportunity for spiritual renewal, faith strengthening and experiencing God’s unconditional love through the women who serve on the retreat team. It would be a great gift to yourself or any of the special women in your life. Informational brochures and registration forms are available at the Church doors. For more information you can contact Donna Cawley at 860-456-2505 or go to actsct@net.

Knights of Columbus Spirit of Service Award 2017
Each year the Knights of Columbus, Council 9653, present their award to a graduating senior or seniors who epitomizes the Knights belief in charity, the love and giving of one’s self for others. This award is to aid the recipient in furthering his or her education beyond high school. The Award Committee reviews each application and the recipient is selected based on, parish service, community service, academic performance and co-curricular activities.

This year’s award goes to Kayla DiFrancesca. We wish Kayla the best as she continues her education.
Francis Malozzi, Grand Knight

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Charity Golf Tournament at Mohegan Sun Golf Club. It is not too late to sign up a foursome for the 2017 St. Joseph School Golf Tournament scheduled on Friday, June 30, 2017! If you know of someone who would enjoy a great day of golf or would like to just to come for dinner and auction activities, please go to www.kolcfbaltic.org to sign up ...or for more information Thank you. Look forward to seeing you there.
IT IS TIME TO REGISTER FOR CCD CLASSES!
We are now accepting registrations for the 2017-2018 CCD Classes.
Registrations are due August 1st. Forms are available from the parish office, and at the entrances of Church.
Please return registrations ASAP.

Thank You Concert for Our Active and Retired Religious
Sunday June 25, 2017, 2-4 p.m.
The Garde Arts Center, New London
Featuring Composer and Holy Cross Professor Matthew Jaskot
Religious are FREE, Tickets are $20- in advance, $25- at the door
People involved in Music Ministry in the Norwich diocese $15-
Purchase through the Office of Faith Events 860-848-2237, ext. 312

26th Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour
August 19, 2017.
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 and www.steeplechase.org Register @ Bikereg.com

The St. Andrew/St. Francis Bereavement Committee is preparing to expand this ministry and is looking for new members. If interested in serving in this ministry or if you want more information, please contact Cheryl Laporte at 860 537 4463 or calaporte48@gmail.com. Even if you can’t attend the meeting, there are tasks that you can help with.

The Combined Collection for World Charities will be held next weekend. 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. Most of you should have received information in the mail about this collection. Please read this material and bring your contribution envelope to Liturgy next week, June 24th and 25th. Envelopes will also be available at church. Your support and generosity are essential to these programs of the Universal Church.

St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners ~ Thank you for all of your thoughts, prayers, cards, texts, and phone calls. We are blessed to be a part of a caring Church family.
Ella Mae Kuzel & family

Please join us as we celebrate with Father Marek, his 25th Anniversary of Ordination into Priesthood Sunday, June 25, 2017
From 2:00 – 4:00 pm
At Saint Francis of Assisi’s Marianne Jean Fortin Parish House, 61 West Town Street.

On May 30, 1992, Father Mark was ordained at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Norwich by Bishop Daniel P. Reilly.

Father’s Day Remembrances:
Living:
Robert C. Paris Robert G. Paris
Steve Getman Russ Burgess
Norman Kuzel Skip Kuzel
Randy Smith Kieran Flannery
Glen Coutu Michael Garrahy
Shane Kuzel Kenneth Boudreau
Stuart Lamson Robert Stander
Jim Worth Paul Duff
David Wheaton Waldyn Benbenek

Deceased:
Emil Kuzel
Alexander A. Getman John Clinch
Nicholas Wengloski William Werner
Paul Maffiolini, Sr. Bill Brewster
Dominick Gramagna Joseph Gallicchio
Robert Wheaton Bart Termine
Theodore Pelletier Dave Perotti
Roy Showalter
Historically, what have been significant religious liberty issues affecting Catholics in our country?

**Equal treatment of Catholic Schools:** Catholicism was introduced to the English colonies with the founding of the Province of Maryland by Jesuit settlers from England in 1634. However, the 1646 defeat of the Royalists in the English Civil War led to stringent laws against Catholic education and the extradition of known Jesuits from Maryland, as well as the destruction of the school they founded. During the greater part of the Maryland colonial period, Jesuits continued to conduct Catholic schools clandestinely. The American Revolution brought historic changes, and in 1782, Catholics in Philadelphia opened St. Mary's School, considered the first parochial school in the U.S. In 1791, the ratification of the Bill of Rights, with the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom, helped Catholics further cement the establishment of Catholic schools. Regardless, anti-Catholic sentiment in the late nineteenth century led to opposition to parochial schools. State governments opposed providing funds to aid students attending parochial schools, which Catholics founded largely in response to the requirements to pray and read from Protestant Bibles in public schools. Some Members of Congress attempted to block all government aid to religiously affiliated schools with the proposed “Blaine Amendment” in 1875. This constitutional amendment was never ratified at the federal level, but many state legislatures adopted similar legislation and amendments. Those “little Blaine” amendments are still in place in the constitutions of about thirty-seven states, and still operate to block Catholic school students from equal participation in government educational benefits.

**Anti-Catholic bigotry in presidential campaigns:** During the 1884 presidential campaign, candidate James G. Blaine (who proposed the “Blaine Amendment” in Congress) attended a meeting in a church in New York at which a minister chided those who had left the Republican Party by stating, “We don’t propose to leave our party and identify with the party whose antecedents are rum, Romanism, and rebellion.” Blaine sat quietly during the anti-Catholic remark. The scene was reported widely in the press, and it cost Blaine in the election, particularly in New York City. During the 1928 presidential campaign, Al Smith, a Catholic who had been elected governor of New York three times, was the Democratic candidate for president. It is widely believed that Smith’s Catholic beliefs played a key role in his loss of the 1928 presidential election, as anti-Catholic sentiment among the electorate was strong. Many feared that Smith would answer to the pope and not the constitution if elected president. During the 1960 presidential campaign, John F. Kennedy’s Catholicism became a major issue in the election. Like Al Smith, Kennedy faced charges that he would “take orders from the Pope” and could not uphold the oath of office.

**Establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican:** In the first years of the United States, the new Republic had contacts with the Papal States. However, in 1867, Congress prohibited the financing of any diplomatic post to the Papal authority. This began a period of over seventy years when the U.S. did not have a diplomatic representative to the Pope, coinciding with a period of strong anti-Catholicism in the U.S. In 1940, President Roosevelt sent a “personal representative” to the Pope who served for ten years. However, when President Truman nominated an ambassador to the Vatican in 1951, opposition mounted, and President Truman abandoned the effort. Presidents Nixon and Carter sent personal representatives to the Vatican. In 1984, President Reagan announced that full diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the Vatican had been established, and the U.S. has continued to send ambassadors to the Vatican since then.

How was religious liberty addressed at the Second Vatican Council (Dignitatis Humanae)?

*Dignitatis Humanae* provides that “the exercise of religion, of its very nature, consists before all else in those internal, voluntary and free acts whereby man sets the course of his life directly toward God.” (*Dignitatis Humanae*, No. 3.) Therefore, individuals are “not to be forced to act in manner contrary to [their] conscience” nor “restrained from acting in accordance with [their] conscience . . . .” (*Id.*)

The Second Vatican Council also “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.)

Further, *Dignitatis Humanae* provides that “[r]eligious communities [] have the right not to be hindered, either by legal measures or by administrative action on the part of government, in the selection, training, appointment, and transferral of their own Ministers . . . .” (*Dignitatis Humanae*, No. 4.)

Where are the roots of religious liberty?

Religious liberty is inherent in our very humanity, hard-wired into each and every one of us by our Creator. Religious liberty is also prior to the state itself. It is not merely a privilege that the government grants us and that can be taken away at will.

What has the Church said about religious liberty since Vatican II, for example, through Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI?

- **Blessed John Paul II:** “[T]he most fundamental human freedom [is] that of practicing one’s faith openly, which for human beings is their reason for living.” (*Address to Diplomatic Corps, 13 Jan. 1996, No. 9.*)

- **Pope Benedict XVI:** “[R]eligious freedom] is indeed the first of human rights, not only because it was historically the first to be recognized but also because it touches the constitutive dimension of man’s relation with his Creator.” (*Address to Diplomatic Corps, 10 Jan. 2011.*)

- **The distinction between Church and State:** between God and Caesar, remains “fundamental to Christianity.” (*Deus Caritas Est*, No. 28.) The Church has “a proper independence and is structured on the basis of her faith as a community which the State must recognize.” (*Id.*)