

**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 December 9, 2017 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM John Van Wagner req. by C. Wheaton

Sunday, December 10, 2017 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Edmond Stack & Florence Cunniff req. by the Dyer family

10:30 AM Barbara Poore Swol req. by Bill & Joan Russoniello Goba

Monday December 11, 2017 St. Damasus I, pope

NO MASS

Tuesday December 12, 2017 Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 AM Barbara Wheaton req. by her family

Wednesday December 13, 2017 St. Lucy, virgin, martyr

9:00 AM Living & Deceased members of the Chase family req. by Mackie

Thursday December 14, 2017 St. John of the Cross, priest, doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Friday December 15, 2017 Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Bolen family req. by Mackie

Saturday December 16, 2017 Advent Weekday

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday, December 17, 2017 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Janet Lea Gertschitz req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM Fernando Alfonso req. by the Mastroluca family

Offertory: \$ 2,880.00 Extraordinary: \$ 709.25
Today's second collection is for the diocesan fuel fund.
Next weekend's second collection is for building maintenance.
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 December 16 & 17

5:00pm Lector: Steve Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Ella Mae Kuzel

Altar Servers: Sarah Dungan & Emily Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Angela Corentin

Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia

Altar Servers: Drew Taylor & Nicholas Barrett

*Remember to bring your Bambinelli to
Mass next weekend*

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
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 Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. Krzysztof Drybka OSPPE, Rev. Anthony Gruber, Rev. James Sucholet, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. John O'Neill MS, Rev. Thomas Angelo, Rev. Roland Cloutier, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. Joseph Tito Rev. Luis Agudelo, Rev. Alfred Irving. Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas...so that the Divine Emmanuel might find in each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful and loving Mother. For that, may they be purified in the waves of the Divine Blood of Jesus. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

Grades 3 & 5 will be assisting at the 10:30am Mass on December 10th.
There will be refreshment following the Mass in the meeting room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702) .
- ✓ **Healing Mass** at 2pm Monday December 11, 2017 and January 8 & 22, 2018 Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **Holy Hour for Vocations** December 14th at Saint Mary in Putman from 6pm – 7pm.

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly Meet & Greet next Sunday December 17 after the 8:00am Mass. Stop in at the meeting room for coffee, donuts, and conversation.



75th anniversary Celebration

St. Francis has been chosen by artist Nancy Bergeron for this year's *Moment in Time* Christmas card. This is the last weekend to buy your cards after Masses; a portion of each sale benefits the 75th Anniversary Celebration. If you are unable to purchase your cards through the church, you may still contact Nancy (173 Grand View Drive, Lebanon) at 860-468-0079 to arrange a time to meet with her. Let her know you are from St. Francis and for each card sale she will give a portion to be put towards the celebration! Tickets for a chance to win a 12x16 matted, framed print will be sold in January/early February.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." Learn how to better love your spouse by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekend is Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at [860-481-3720](tel:860-481-3720) or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.

Holiday Remembrance Workshop Thursday December 14 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm at the Center for Hospice Center – 227 Dunham St. – Norwich. Free, all supplies will be provided. Space is limited; no children under 18 years of age. Please RSVP to 860.848.5699 x250 or email lbradley@hospicesect.org to reserve a space by December 8.

Nominations are underway for the **Longest Married Couple** search sponsored by **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**. Nominations are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of religious affiliation through January 10, 2018. Email the couple's name, wedding date and city and state where they reside to bkberland@gmail.com. Include your contact phone or email address. Or, visit the national website at www.wwme.org. For more information, contact the Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext 306.

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA: Tony Coscia's new book, which is EN-TITLED (Tony's 50,000 Co-incidence Miracles), is helping people to notice their own everyday common miracles. Tony writes in a captivating and exciting way -- about 100-common daily miracle stories -- which will remind you of some of your own daily miracles too. The book is a great GIFT ITEM -- to help people to notice all of the miracles they might be missing in their own lives.

The book is a life-changing Christmas-Gift-Item ... and you can get the book at Merciful Savior book store in Colchester CT, (or at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Lebanon CT -- in the parish office there, from 9-to-2: PM on: (Mon, Wed, Fri) or to noon on Sun).

Our Lady of Guadalupe! All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Tuesday, December 12, 2017. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confessions at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you._

A Christmas Gift Idea

Is someone on your Christmas list hard to shop for?

Why not give a donation in their name to St Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich.

A Christmas card acknowledging your gift will be sent to the honoree.

Call 860-889-7374 or email Jillian Corbin at jcsvdpp@gmail.com

Please include the following information.

Gift Recipient name and Address.

Your name (giver) address and phone number.

Also let us know if the amount of the donation should be included on the card.

Optional additional words:

Mail the above to

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PLACE CHRISTMAS CARD

120 Cliff Street,
Norwich, CT 06360.



BAMBINELLI WEEKEND **GAUDETTE SUNDAY**

Bambinelli is Italian for Christ Child. This will be the third year at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in celebration of Gaudette Sunday – 16 & 17 December 2017.



Pope Francis, on a recent visit to America said, "The family is the core of the Church."

A special blessing will take place at all Masses 16 & 17 December 2017 – for your Bambinelli (Baby Jesus) from your family Nativity set.

Remember to bring your Family Bambinelli, from home, to Mass that weekend.

Thank you. ~ Liturgy Committee

Come to a very special Christmas adoration. Come start Christmas week off by spending some time with Jesus. The St Francis parish is invited Join St. Andrew Parish for a very special time of adoration on Sunday Dec. 17th from 6:30 - 8:30 in our church. The evening will include a short talk by Tim Messenger, from the diocese of Worcester MA, beautiful adoration and Christmas music, confession and time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

CHRISTMAS GIVING BASKET PROGRAM:

We are in need of boxes of cereal (sugared or non-sugared), baking chips (chocolate or peanut butter), and 5 lb. bags of sugar for Christmas food baskets. We need to receive these by December 17th. Due to changes in the food basket program, Clients will pick up their baskets at Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the 19th and 20th. These items will be our contribution to the food basket program. Thank you for your generosity.

All ladies of the parish are invited to the Ladies Guild Christmas Party on Monday, December 18th, 6:00 cocktails/6:30 dinner at The Log Cabin. Reservation forms can be found at the church entrances, the deadline is December 13th to submit entrée choices and payment.

Please contact Sandra at

860-537-1372 or

Alicia at 860-465-7603 if you have any questions.

The Word Among Us Advent books are available at Church entrances. Please bring one home. The daily readings will enhance your Advent preparation for the precious gift of Jesus's coming on Christmas Day.

Knights of Columbus

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

SUNDAY

December 10, 2017

8:00am to 11:30am

Fire Safety Complex

Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, CT

All you can eat buffet, photos-ops with
Santa!

\$8.00 per person – Children under 12yrs \$5.00 –
Children under 5yrs FREE



Naughty or Nice everyone is welcome!

Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 3, 2017

In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged the Senate to respect life when changing the health care mandate. The USCCB says no health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Long-standing "Hyde Amendment" protections must extend to any relevant health care plan in order to prevent federal funding of abortion and not as a temporary fix or future promise.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 10, 2017

In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that it stands ready to work with Congress to address problems with the Affordable Care Act in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. They said, "The Catholic Church remains committed to ensuring the fundamental right to medical care, a right which is in keeping with the God-given dignity of every person, and the corresponding obligation as a country to provide for this right. Health care debates must not be reduced to only those elements which appear most politically expedient; those without a strong voice in the process must not bear the brunt of attempts to cut costs."

A Christmas Gift Idea

Is someone on your Christmas list hard to shop for?

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A Christmas card acknowledging your gift will be sent to the honoree.

Call 860-889-7374 or email Jillian Corbin at jcsvdpp@gmail.com

Please include the following information.

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Your name (giver) address and phone number.

Also let us know if the amount of the donation should be included on the card.

Optional additional words:

Mail the above to

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PLACE CHRISTMAS
CARD

120 Cliff Street,
Norwich, CT 06360.

Kim Hill Christmas Concert, Sunday,
December 10, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Kim Hill is a Grammy nominated, multiple Dove award winning artist from Nashville who has been recording for 30 years. She's a veteran of Christian/Gospel music and has 17 CDs to her credit.

The concert is free and open to all ages. A freewill offering will be taken for the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM).

Reservations are necessary to ensure enough seating is available; please call or email the church to reserve your tickets. fccsecretary@snet.net
[860-423-6827](tel:860-423-6827)

First Congregational Church of Willimantic, 199
Valley Street, Willimantic.6+

SEEKING - PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Consideration for candidates to the Parish Advisory Council shall be by Letter of Intent.

- (a) Active parishioners are eligible.
- (b) Parishioners may nominate any interested parishioner, including themselves.
- (c) Must be a Roman Catholic.
- (d) Must be a practicing Catholic in accordance of Canon Law.
- (e) Must be Confirmed (meaning, has received the Sacrament of Confirmation).

A parishioner desiring to serve on the Parish Advisory Council should be nominated by making his or her interest known to the Pastor. The Pastor will verify and confirm that such individual is eligible and is a Catholic in good standing.