

**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 February 3, 2018 St. Blaise, bishop & martyr; St. Ansgar, bishop**

4:00 PM Confessions  
5:00 PM Living & Deceased members of the Ladies Guild  
Blessing of Throats after Mass

**Sunday, February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Ronald Lavertu req. by the Ladies Guild  
Blessing of Throats after Mass  
10:30 AM Souls in Purgatory  
Blessing of Throats after Mass

**Monday, February 5, 2018 St. Agatha, virgin & martyr**

NO MASS

**Tuesday February 6, 2018 St. Paul Miki, companions, martyrs**

NO MASS

**Wednesday February 7, 2018 Weekday**

9:00 AM Living & Deceased members of the Garner family  
req. by their family

**Thursday February 8, 2018 St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine**

**Bakhita, virgin**

NO MASS

**Friday February 9, 2018 Weekday**

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Slater family req.  
by their family

**Saturday February 10, 2018 St. Scholastica, virgin**

4:00 PM Confessions  
5:00 PM

**Sunday, February 11, 2018 Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM A special intention req. by Janice Palmer  
10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 1,719.00 Special Collection: \$ 325.00  
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  
1.adorers, please consider omitting to a specific hour. Contact Dennis  
Girard @ 860.334.9894 or dennisgirard51@gmail.com

#### **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.

**Grade 9 will assist at the 10:30am Mass on February 4.**  
Refreshments following the Mass in the meeting room.

#### **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  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. 6<sup>th</sup> Marines  
AM2 Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy  
Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy  
LCPL Chad Wengloski, U.S. Marines  
CTN3 Jonah Swett, U.S. Navy  
ITSA Rocky Spedaliere Jr., U.S. Navy  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Paul Ramen, Rev. Dennis Mercieri, Rev. Robert Washabaugh, Rev. Richard Crawley OFM Cp, Rev. William Olesik, Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. Michael Phillippino, Rev. P. Grzegorz Jednaki, Rev. Walter Nagle, Rev. Leo Almendra, Rev. James Thaikootathil, Rev. Stephen Gulino.  
Our priests speak to the faithful with their hearts and their faith. Fill them, Lord, with burning zeal for the conversion of sinners. O Jesus, Eternal Priest, look with love upon Your priests. Teach them to penetrate the secret of the tabernacle...the Divine Blood. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

#### **Weekend February 10 & 11**

5:00pm Lector: Bob Nejako  
Eucharistic Minister: Carole Briggs  
Altar Servers: Steve Bardes & CJ Frank  
8:00am Lector: Rick Kane  
Eucharistic Minister: Peggy Stygar  
Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau  
10:30am Lector: Sandy Grillo  
Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon  
Altar Servers: Drew Taylor & Nicholas Barrett

Dear Parishioners: We will no longer have music at the 8am and 10:30am Masses for a while. After giving much prayer and discernment, Emily & Richard have decided that their growing family will benefit greatly from attending a parish closer to their home, where their children can grow in faith alongside their neighbors. We will miss them and wish them much success.

**Defending Our Religious Liberty Feb. 4, 2018** Pope Francis has said that: "It is the duty of everyone to defend religious freedom and promote it for all people." As the healthcare mandate is retooled, let us pray that the religious freedom of the Church is preserved.



St. Blaise: (d. 316) bishop & martyr. While there is no accurate history about St. Blaise, tradition is that St. Blaise retreated to a cave during the persecution of Licinius. He became a hermit, befriending wild animals and caring for them when they were wounded or sick. Hunters found Blaise surrounded by wild animals, arrested him, and planned to take him to prison. On the way, they encountered a woman whose young son was choking to death on a fishbone. Blaise healed him. The tradition of blessing of throats is derived from that encounter. Blaise was brought to Governor Agricolaus and beheaded. Through the intercession of St. Blaise, may God deliver us from all evils of the throat and from every other evil.

#### **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 Mondays, February 12 and 26, 2018 Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** February 15 at St. John, 22 Maple Ave., Uncasville.
- ✓ **Women's Conference 2018: Called to Joy!** The Office of Faith Events and the Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women welcome women of all ages. Offering workshops on parenting, relationships, prayer, scripture and more. Keynote speaker ValLimar Jansen, and Mass with Bishop Cote...Saturday, April 14, 2018, 8:30-3:30, St. Bernard High School, Uncasville. Find the registration form at [www.norwichdiocese.org](http://www.norwichdiocese.org) under the Office of Faith Events- Upcoming Events. Or contact us at 860-848-2237. Register today!

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** "Brothers and sisters, I should like you to be free of anxieties." Let us learn to calm our anxieties about our spouses by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT and Jul 6-8, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at [860-481-3720](tel:860-481-3720) or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

**Celebrate Marriage** – Now that the holiday rush is through, it's not too early to begin thinking of Valentine's Day. Give your Valentine something special this year – the gift of your time. Come celebrate your marriage at a day-long enrichment that will renew your dreams, increase your passion and refresh and celebrate your marriage. This marriage enrichment aptly entitled, **"Celebrate Marriage,"** will take place on **Saturday, February 10, 2018**, from 9 A.M to 3 P.M. at Christ the King Parish, 1 McCurdy Rd., Old Lyme. The cost is \$35 per couple, which includes workbook and lunch. Registration is required. To register, call the Diocesan Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext. 306.

## Save the Date



**Dinner with Music by Wojo**  
**Saturday, February 10th**  
**6 to 10 pm**  
**At the Fire Safety Complex**  
**Tickets will be sold after Masses**  
**Advanced ticket sales only**  
**\$20 per person**  
**Sponsored by the St. Francis Ladies Guild**  
**Questions call Alicia at [860-465-7603](tel:860-465-7603)**

**Free Seminar: Human Trafficking – the dangers, risks and signs!** Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> (snow date: Feb 7<sup>th</sup>) from 6:30-8pm, the Mercy Alumnae Association is hosting a seminar at Mercy High School to inform the local community on the dangers, risks, and signs of human trafficking. Panelists, including an FBI agent, Middletown Police Officer, and representative from DCF, will discuss local occurrences and provide advice to local youths and adults. Following the panel, the audience will be invited to ask questions. After the program, the panelists as well as a registered therapist will be available for audience members who would like to speak confidentially. Contact Barb Miller, Director of Alumnae at [bmiller@mercyhigh.com](mailto:bmiller@mercyhigh.com) or [860-347-8957](tel:860-347-8957) for more information. The event is free and open to the public. Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Rd. Middletown, CT 06457.....[www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com)

**"Discover Mercy" Mercy High School - Middletown, CT Saturday, March 3, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Register online – [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com) For 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls Girls participate in two activities of their choice followed by lunch in the dining commons. The day concludes with closing comments and a performance by the Mercy/Xavier "Vocal Dimension" Show Choir in the auditorium. This year's activities: Chemistry of Tie-Dyeing & Simple DNA, Cupcake Decorating, Field Hockey Clinic, Introduction to Italian, Mad about Math, Mini Mock Trial, Paint the Town – Everything French, Show Choir Workshop, Theater Arts Workshop  
 Optional Parent Activities: Parents will have the opportunity to participate in the choice of the following sessions: Admissions Process & Questions for the Administration, School Counseling Department Personnel and Faculty Health and Personal Concerns for your Teenage Daughter Parent-to-Parent – Current Parents Answer your Questions School Tour – Join Mercy Students on a Guided Tour of the Campus

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 Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at Mercy's Spring Concert (concert begins at 7:00 p.m., Drawing at 8:00 p.m.) You do not need to be present to win. Only 650 tickets will be sold. For information, or to order a ticket, visit [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com) or call Mercy at [860-347-8957](tel:860-347-8957).

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE A TICKET FOR THE  
**DRAWING FOR A 12 X 16 FRAMED & MATTED  
Nancy Bergeron, Moment in Time, St. Francis Print**

Tickets: \$5.00 each

Tickets will be sold Masses February 3 & 4

And the Ladies Guild Dinner February 10<sup>th</sup>

**Drawing will be held at 9:00pm February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Do not need to be present to win

For more information on anniversary events please read  
the weekly bulletin or visit the parish website:  
[Sfrancisassisilebanonct.org](http://Sfrancisassisilebanonct.org) in the Ministries section.

### **Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center Programs**

860.760.9705 [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org)

303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford

- ❖ Couples' Weekend Retreat Fri. – Sun. Feb. 9-11 \$575
- ❖ Ash Wednesday or Evening Retreat Wed. Feb. 14 from  
10am-2pm or 6-9pm \$40 includes meal.

Programs at Enders Island – Mystic 860.536.0565  
Winter Day of Recollection Wednesday February 21 at 9am.  
Fee: \$50pp. The Mystery of Lent: Finding God in the Feasts  
and Fasts of Lent. <http://enders.is/WinterDOR>

### **Operation Rice Bowl:**

#### **Our Lenten Program: Encounter Lent**

For 45 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the  
hungry poor. Through Operation Rice Bowl --- a program  
of prayer, fasting, learning, and giving --- what you give  
up for Lent can give hope to the poorest of the poor. Make  
this Lenten season one of awareness, compassion, and  
reflection. Operation Rice Bowl is sponsored by Catholic  
Relief Services and the Diocese of Norwich. Details of  
this program will appear in next Sunday's Bulletin.

Women of all ages are invited to the **8<sup>th</sup> annual  
Norwich Women's Conference**, co-sponsored by  
the Office of Faith Events and Norwich Diocesan  
Council of Catholic Women, Saturday April 14, 8:15  
am to 3:30 p.m. at St. Bernard High School,  
Uncasville. Faith, fun and more! Keynote Speaker,  
ValLimar Jansen. Registration fee of \$30 (by March  
17), students \$20, includes lunch (fee after March  
17, \$40). Deadline for registration is March 20<sup>th</sup>. New  
this year: workshops on parenting, prayer, music,  
service, scripture, marriage and much more.  
Reconciliation and adoration will be offered; Mass  
celebrated by Bishop Cote. Registration forms can  
be found at the church entrances.

### **BENEFIT PASTA FUNDRAISER FOR THE JIM SHIFRIN FAMILY**

Saturday, February 24 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Lebanon Fire Safety Complex 23 Goshen Hill Road

\$10 Adult \$8 Seniors and Children 6-18

Free for Children 5 and under

Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert &  
beverages

Take out available

Sponsored by *Lebanon Life*, BS Troop 58 and local  
churches

Raffle drawings

Jim Shifrin was in a devastating bicycle accident on  
July 5, 2017. This accident resulted in a severe  
spinal cord injury which has left Jim with paralysis in  
his upper and lower extremities and torso. He is  
looking towards a long recovery process with  
extensive medical expenses for equipment and  
services.

For updates on Jim's condition or to donate to the  
James Shifrin Medical Support Fund, please visit  
[gofundme.com/helpjimshifrin](http://gofundme.com/helpjimshifrin)

*Dear Friends,*

*It is with great sadness that we must inform you that  
Merciful Saviour Gift Shop will close its doors within the next  
few months. Unforeseen family situations have arisen which  
will not allow us to continue our work in this ministry. Your  
prayers for our family are very much appreciated at this time.*

*We would like to thank all who have supported us during  
the last 21 years (including our wonderful staff) as we have  
been abundantly blessed by your friendship, prayers, love and  
many beautiful acts of kindness.*

*As we journey forward, we are asking for your help. We  
have a very large inventory to move over the next few  
months. All our merchandise, including store fixtures will be  
discounted. If you have any religious celebrations and need  
a religious gift, or perhaps you need to purchase something  
for yourself or for a classroom, please consider stopping by  
while the inventory is plentiful.*

*And lastly, we thank Our Merciful Saviour for the gift of  
this beautiful store and for the many lives He has touched  
through it. We will carry with us so many wonderful  
memories that will be etched in our hearts forever.*

*With much gratitude and love,*

*Marie and Ed Fusco*

**East Catholic High School Eagles After Hours:**  
*Thursday, February 8th from 4-5pm Stop by East Catholic  
anytime from 4pm-5pm. Hear student testimonies, go on  
a tour of our campus and meet with members of our  
Leadership Team.*

*Entrance Exam: Thursday, February 15th at 8:30 a.m.*

Pre-registration for these events is not required but will be  
greatly appreciated. You may reach out to Ms. Devlin at  
[860-649-5336](tel:860-649-5336) ext. 6238 with any questions or requests.