

**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 10, 2018 St. Scholastica, virgin

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish living & deceased

Sunday, February 11, 2018 Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM a special intention req. by Janice Palmer

10:30 AM Souls in Purgatory

Monday, February 12, 2018 Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday February 13, 2018 Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday February 14, 2018 Ash Wednesday Mass & Ashes

9:00 AM Living & Deceased members of the Stafford family

Req. by their family

7:00 PM People of the parish living & deceased

Thursday February 15, 2018 Thursday after Ash Wednesday

NO MASS

Friday February 16, 2018 Friday after Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Msgr. Robert L. Brown

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 17, 2018 Seven Holy Fathers of the Servite

Order

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday, February 18, 2018 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Jack Hartley req. by Janice Palmer

10:30 AM John VanWagner req. by C. Wheaton

This week's sanctuary lamp is lit for the intention of good health for the Soucy & Fauteux families. Please remember this intention in your prayers at Mass and throughout the week.

Parish office will be closed Monday February 19th in observance of President's Day.

Offertory: \$ 2,270.00 Extraordinary Expenses: \$ 687.00

Next week'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

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.

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

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

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. Michael

Donohue, Rev. Elson Kattookaran MS, Rev. Brian Converse,

Msgr. Richard LaRocque, all priests, Rev. Thomas Smith, Rev.

Arthur Archer, V. Rev. Richard Ricard, Rev. David Zercie MSA,

Rev. Edward Dempsey DBA, Rev. Patrick McCorry. We also

pray for those priests who have left the ministry.

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 17 & 18

5:00pm Lector: Anne Staebner

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty

Altar Servers: Genevieve & Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Dyer

Altar Servers: Sarah & Ryan Dungan

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia

Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger

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.

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.
- ✓ **Life in the Spirit Retreat Opportunity** at My Father's House, Moodus, CT Friday, March 9, 7:00pm to Sunday, March 11, 2018 After lunch by Fr. Ray Introigne
- ✓ **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 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 Weekend is Jul 6-8, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.

"Discover Mercy" Mercy High School - Middletown, CT Saturday, March 3, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Register online – www.mercyhigh.com For 5th, 6th & 7th 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 or call Mercy at 860-347-8957.

East Catholic High School 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 ext. 6238 with any questions or requests.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center Programs

860.760.9705 www.holyfamilyretreat.org
303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford

- ❖ 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 21st 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

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018, our parish with parishes across the Diocese of Norwich is beginning a program of prayer and sacrifice called Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). For 45 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. Money saved during Lent is then brought to the parish family Rice Bowl on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018. 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.

Women of all ages are invited to the **8th 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 20th. 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

Care Net's Annual Fundraising Banquet

Speaker: Darlene Pawlik

"Address Exceptions"

March 8

Lunch 11:15-2:00pm Dinner 6:15-9:00pm

Groton Inn & Suites

99 Gold Star Highway Route 184 Groton, CT

RSVP by March 3rd at www.psclife.org

860.449.0386

Expressive Arts ~ Center for Hospice Care

227 Dunham St. Norwich 860.848.5699

Drawing on our Memories

For Teens Thursdays Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22. 5-6pm

For Adults Tuesdays Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 6:30-7:45pm

Children's Programs for 5-12 year olds held on Tuesdays

Valentine's Remembrance Day February 13

Healing Garden Bird Buffet February 20

Say it with Music February 27

The Art Part: Memory Lanterns March 6

Imagine-Action March 13

Welcome Spring March 20

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

To register call 860.677.8519

Retreat for Women: Make me an Instrument of Your Peace

Feb. 16-18 Feb. 23-25

March 2-4 March 9-11

April 6-8 April 13-15

LIFETEEN held at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Colchester

Sunday Feb. 11 – life teen parents are invited to attend a life night put on by our Edge core team. Parents will be asked to sit with the other parents at Mass, they will be treated to a 'Life Teen Dinner' and will then attend life night. Parents should be picked up at 8:45pm/ (All high school teens should also attend)

Sunday February 18 – Life Teen social. Gaga ball, semi-giant jenga, four square and more. Pick up at 8:30pm.

Saturday February 24 – February 25 - Rock-a-thon for Haiti

Sunday March 4 – First week of 'Theology of the Body'. Pick up will be at 8:45pm.

World Marriage Day: Love One Another Feb. 11

Prayer for our Marriage: Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your tremendous gift of the Sacrament of Marriage. Enable us to grow in our intimacy with You and with each other. Teach us the beauty of forgiveness so we may become more and more one in heart, mind, and body. Strengthen our communication with each other, and help us to become living signs of Your love. Help us to be examples of commitment, love, and service to our families and children. Make us a sign of the unity which Jesus prays for at the last supper. We open ourselves to the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, Who empowers us to love in Jesus' name and walk in His footsteps. Amen.

Copies of the Office of Faith Newsletter (Feb. Mar. April) are available at the entrances or the Parish Office.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my New Year's column in January, I spoke of how "God specializes in new beginnings." As we now approach the holy season of Lent, we encounter an extraordinary opportunity to reform and to renew our lives in the light of the Gospel. During Lent, our penitence, discipline and sacrifice prepare us to appreciate anew that in Jesus Christ, God gave us his only begotten Son who laid down His life for us and our salvation. As we prayerfully contemplate this greatest act of love ever known to humanity, Lent offers us a new beginning as the Lord embraces our hearts and we embrace His life.

To share completely in Jesus' life, we must journey with Him to Jerusalem, to Calvary and to Resurrection. This journey requires reflection upon our own lives and the way in which we are called to serve the Lord and one another. Our Lenten observance makes us more aware of Jesus' presence in our lives and enables us to grow in faith and in love as we gather ourselves to serve others.

We live in a time that calls to us as faithful disciples to respond to the urgent needs of the vulnerable, the overwhelmed, the hungry, the lonely and the immigrants and refugees risking all to find a safe and hopeful life. We are called to love. Called to charity. Called to service. It is service to those in need that is the path leading us to Christ. Lent is our fresh start to vigorously live our faith with love and charity to our family members, friends, neighbors -- in short, to everyone.

To fully share in the spiritual reawakening that is the Lenten journey, we must embrace prayer, the reception of the Sacraments - especially the Eucharist and Penance, the reading of Sacred Scripture, the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, acts of charity and Corporal Works of Mercy, acts of self-denial and outreach to the poor and suffering. Through the Lenten experience, we are certain to more fully realize the abiding presence of God's love in our life, and our need to share His love with others. It is through this realization that we become more energized to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. True to our living discipleship, we are ever committed to uphold the sacred dignity of every person, born and unborn, rich and poor, of every race creed and origin. We are one family in Christ.

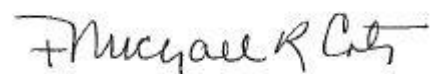
These revealing forty days of Lenten observance ultimately prepare us for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. We embark in a real sense on a spiritual pilgrimage to Easter. We relive the grace-filled occasion of the Last Supper. We experience the agony of Jesus's crucifixion and death for us on the Cross. We try to comprehend the profound victory of His Resurrection.

The glory of Easter awaits each of us who make the Lenten journey to the Father by walking the way of His Son, Jesus. Lent is our time to change and become more like Christ by experiencing the unyielding tenacity of His love that endures suffering and torture, and His life that is truly lived and given for others. Lent is our new beginning opportunity to lead a fulfilling life by living, loving and serving as Jesus did.

The Cross is our way to holiness, our means of true solidarity with God and one another. The Cross is our only means of achieving the new life promised us through Jesus' victory over sin and death in His victorious Resurrection.

Through a well-lived Lent, may we come to the glory of Easter and may we discover new life in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,





75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A note from the Anniversary Committee:

It is our intention that the events planned throughout the anniversary year will be paid for by donations. The Church will not be financially responsible for the 75 Anniversary celebration.

Old Stations of the Cross

Does anyone know what happened to the Stations of the Cross that were in the old Church? They were used here on West Town Street until they were replaced in 1980.

Our Wish List

Perhaps you or your family knows someone who can help for a reduced fee or in-kind services. These include catering/food service and baker (for September 16th) and printing services (book, program & banner). Please contact Barbara at 860.642.7168 or bobbi.w@charter.net if you can help with one of these.

**DRAWING FOR A 12 x 16 FRAMED & MATTED
Nancy Bergeron, Moment in Time, St. Francis Print
Will be held at 9:00 p.m. February 10th.
Do not need to be present to win**

For more information on anniversary events
please read the weekly bulletin or visit the parish website:
stfrancisassisilebanonct.org in the Ministries section.

**All parishioners are invited to attend a
PRESENTATION by Marilyn Lowney on the Haitian Health
Foundation
Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30pm in the Church
~ How You Can Help ~ Change Lives ~
One Person at a Time**

Parishioners are invited to learn more about our parish religious education program participation in the Haitian Health Foundation. Over the past few years, our CCD children have raised monies to purchase Happy Houses and goats for the people of Haiti.

With your generous donations, HHP is bringing improved health and well-being to over 250,000 vulnerable people in the greater Jeremie area through healthcare, education, and community development strategies. These important dollars help us to maintain our health facilities, purchase food, medicine, and supplies, ship critical aid items via containers, pay salaries of our Haitian staff (nurses, doctors) and other necessary expenses.

Haitian Health Foundation HHF ~ 97 Sherman Street ~ Norwich, CT
06360 860.886.4357 HaitianHealthFoundation.org

Programs offered to help the HHF:

- ❖ **Adopt-a-Village:** \$5,000 per village. This gift helps HHF provide mobile medical and dental clinics in a rural mountain village, providing between 2,500 – 3,000 people with improved access to health services.
- ❖ **Sponsor-a-Student:** \$350/school year. School is not free in Haiti, and most children lack access to education, needed to achieve social and economic success. Your gift provides tuition, uniforms, food, medical/dental care, and more.
- ❖ **Feed-a-Child:** \$300 or \$25/month. According to the World Food Program, 100,000 Haitian children under five suffer from acute malnutrition, and 1 in 3 children is stunted, or irreversibly short for their age. Your gifts have been able to reduce the rates of malnutrition in our area by providing food to a child for one year.
- ❖ **Give-a-Goat:** \$150. This gift will provide a pregnant goat to a rural family. It is well known that these animals are hardy and adaptive to any terrain. Recipients of a goat are taught how to breed, barter, and use the meat as a source of animal protein.
- ❖ **House Construction Program:** Poor housing is associated with a wide range of health conditions, including respiratory infections, asthma, injuries, and mental health. Your gift will replace a hovel of rusted metal, thatch, and scrap wood with a cement house and tin roof. There are two ways that you can support this:
 - ❖ 1. Happy House: \$1,250. This is the basic cement and tin roof house – a life-changing gift to an impoverished family.
 - ❖ 2. Happier House: \$1,950. This is the basic Happy House with a micro-flush toilet, lighting powered by a solar panel, and a slightly angled roof to collect rain water into a 55 gallon drum, to then be run through a simple filtration system.
- ❖ **Save-a-Family:** \$300/year. For over 20 years, this program has helped stabilize the most impoverished families. Your gift of \$25/month will assist these families with expenses such as shelter, food, school tuition, and healthcare.
- ❖ **Micro-flush Toilet:** \$325. This composting toilet is sustainable, low cost, environmentally friendly, and odor and fly free. The solids are composted in an aerobic process enhanced by earthworms. Every 2 years, the rear cover is removed so that the rich compost can be used for gardens.
- ❖ **Micro-lending Program:** Promoting financial self-sufficiency and empowerment is one of HHF's objectives. Your gift to this program provides loans to community members, especially women, as well as training in micro-enterprise business skills.
- ❖ **Powdered Milk:** \$125. Children who are 7 and 8 months old receive Gallia milk, which is designed for babies this age to carefully transition them to cow's milk. Children from 9 months receive whole milk powder and iron once a month until one year of age, unless the child is still malnourished.
- ❖ **Solar Light Kit:** \$75. Most families have no electricity in their homes, and your gift will provide a family with a simple system composed of 2 LED lights, a radio, a small solar panel, and a rechargeable battery for the radio. The lighting will help children study in their houses rather than to walk to find a street lamp.