

**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 March 3, 2018 St. Katherine Drexel, virgin

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Thomas Armstrong req. by the Nejako family

Sunday, March 4, 2018 Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM James Mackey 25th anniversary req by his family

10:30 AM Frank Smutko req. by the Haralson family

Monday, March 5, 2018 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday March 6, 2018 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday March 7, 2018 Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs

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

Req. by the family

Thursday March 8, 2018 St. John of God, religious

NO MASS

Friday March 9, 2018 St. Frances of Rome, religious

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the McAllister family

Req. by the family

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 10, 2018 Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM Eugene Grecki req. by his wife

Sunday, March 11, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 2,165.00

Today's second collection is for extraordinary expenses.

A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

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.

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

MEETINGS

Parish Advisory Council Wednesday March 7 @ 6:30pm

Weekend March 10 & 11

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Steve Bardes, CJ Frank

8:00am Lector: Rosanne Coffey

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Felipe & Gabriela Mastroluca

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 Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Peter Langevin, V. Rev. Douglas Mosey CSB, Msgr. Thomas Bride, Rev. Leon Susaimanickam, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. George Villamthanam CST, Rev. George Richards, Jr., Rev. Aguirre Palacio, Rev. Izydor Sadowski SDB, Rev. Francis Rouleau, Rev. Edward Wisneski, Rev. John Gallagher OFM Cap.

Heavenly Father, during this penitential season, we pray that the Blood of Jesus may kindle in the hearts of our priests the divine fire of Your love by their devotion to the Eucharist. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

These regulations unite the whole Catholic Church throughout the world in the Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart. Observed in a spirit of generosity, fast and abstinence remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Acts of penance find their completion in works of charity and justice.

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.

Grade 8 will be assisting at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday March 4. Refreshments in the meeting room following the Mass.



Annual Layette Program

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will hold its 38th Annual Layette Program on Sunday April 22nd, starting at 2 PM, at Christ the King Church, 1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme. All women of the Diocese are welcome to attend. We are collecting **new** baby items such as baby clothes from Newborn to Toddler 3T, as well as blankets, diapers, etc. The collection box will be located at the side entrance, till after the 1030 mass on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Baby items are greatly needed by our Norwich Diocese families and will be donated to Catholic Charities to distribute. Representatives of Catholic Charities will be in attendance to gratefully accept our donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Sandra Spedaliere Committee Chair person

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.

LIFETEEN held at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Colchester Sunday March 4 – First week of 'Theology of the Body'. Pick up will be at 8:45pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich (860-887-0702).
- ✓ **Healing Mass at 2pm** Monday's March 12 and 26, Spiritual Renewal Center 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **Life in the Spirit Retreat Opportunity** at My Father's House, Moodus, March 9, 7:00pm to March 11. After lunch by Fr. Ray Introvigne
- ✓ **8 Weeks Life in the Spirit Seminar** March 12 - April 23rd, 7-8:30pm Spiritual Renewal Center, Norwich Leaders Fr. Ray Introvigne and Mrs. Judith Hughes More Info call 860-887-0702
- ✓ **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! Registration forms available at Church entrances. Deadline for registration is March 20th.

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](tel:860-481-3720) or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.

My Father's House Pro-Life Conference, April, Sunday 22, 2018: "LET THERE BE LIFE", a conference to inspire, educate and embolden action. Featured Speakers: - Melissa Ohden, advocates for life as a national speaker, author, and has addressed the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. She is a miraculous survivor of a 5 day saline abortion attempt. Her inspirational life story is a compelling witness to God's extraordinary plan for her life. She is the founder of The Abortion Survivors Network, is a board member for the Vitae Foundation and former speaker for Feminists for Life. - Judith Mascolo M.D., Family Practice Medicine - Peter Wolfgang Esq. - Executive Director, Family Institute of Connecticut. - Exhibit by John Martin., Vice President of Human Life International new spiritual event: A Marian Day of Recollection with Fr. Francis J. Peffley on Saturday, November 25th.

The Willimantic District Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invite all women to their annual Lenten Program: *THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN, Empowerment of women, strong in family with a gentle approach.* A presentation by National Council of Catholic Women President Maribeth Steward Blogoslawski, Sunday March 18, 1 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Anne King, [860-456-0474](tel:860-456-0474) by March 13th.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center Programs

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

Retreat Theme: *Grace Enough* - Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God's grace in our lives. Discover anew how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Together we'll reflect on how living in God's grace guides us to make wise choices, leading to true happiness and peace.

The retreat includes: home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time, and workshops. The retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening and concludes with Sunday brunch at noon. Register at www.holyfamilyretreat.org/graceenough or call Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT at [860.760.9705](tel:860.760.9705) for more info.

Men's Retreat Date: March 23-25, 2018

Women's Retreat Dates: March 2-4, April 20-22, & June 1-3



April 12-15, 2018

Come join us on this year's women's retreat

At

My Father's House

Moodus, CT

Brochures are at all entrances

Email: standrew2018wacts@gmail.com

**Operation Rice Bowl:
Our Lenten Program: Encounter Lent**

Rice Bowl donations will be taken on Palm Sunday

Some grant recipients form the Diocesan Rice Bowl Collection. The 2017 grants total \$16,500

Outreach to Haiti 815 Boswell Avenue Norwich, CT 06360
Description: Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is an IRS 501(c) (3) organization under the sponsorship of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich in Connecticut. Outreach's mission is to serve the people of Haiti in the spirit and values of the Gospel. Providing sacramental and spiritual support, it offers education, health care, parish twinning opportunities, and community development to benefit Haitians in need and hospitality to international volunteers and visitors.

Malnutrition and food insecurity have a major impact on the lives of children in Haiti. Most recently available statistics from UNICEF report that in Haiti, 20% of children under five are moderately to severely malnourished, 10% experience moderate to severe wasting and 29% moderate to severe growth stunting.

The immediate objectives of the Outreach nutrition program are to alleviate malnutrition in infants and children and to decrease the infant mortality, and to reduce the number of stunted children and children with grave disease.

Outreach can accommodate 55 children and caregivers enrolled in and rotating through the program at any one time. While the number of children served on an annual basis depends on how quickly children achieve normal weight, we estimate that 100 children will benefit from the program in any 12 month period.

Amount awarded in 2017 - \$2,000.00

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

**Mercy & Xavier High Schools Present
"The Addams Family"**

A delightful musical comedy

Friday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. – Saturday, March
10th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Mercy High School Auditorium

Tickets: \$10. Students and \$15. Adults

To order tickets online, visit www.mercyhigh.com

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

For more info or to register call 860.677.8519

Celebrate Celtic Spirituality Saturday March 10 from 9am – 1pm

Lenten Retreat Day Wednesday Feb 28 from 7pm - 9pm

Lenten Evening of Reflection Wednesday March 14 7pm – 9pm

Retreat for Women: Make me an Instrument of Your Peace

March 2-4 March 9-11

April 6-8 April 13-15

Blood Drive – Wednesday March 14 – 1pm – 6pm

Lebanon Senior Center Community Room

**For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
or call 1.800.733.2767**



LENT

An Ecumenical Community Prayer

Service for Lent will be held on Tuesday
March 13th (Snow date March 20th),
12:45p.m. at the Lebanon Senior Center.

The event is sponsored by the Lebanon Ecumenical
Clergy and Franklin Congregational Church. There is no
evening service.

**Come see the Academy of the Holy Family's unique musical
rendition of Shakespeare's famous comedy, Twelfth Night!**

When seeing this show, you will experience a topsy-turvy love
story with rock and roll music and playful characters brought to
life by the talent of the Academy of the Holy Family drama club.
The performances will be held on Friday, March 9th at 10 am and
7pm as well as Saturday, March 10th at 7pm at the Academy of
the Holy Family's Saint Michael's Center. The regular ticket price
is \$5, \$2.50 for students and seniors and \$20.00 for families. We
hope to see you there!

Lenten Reflection



It is Lent and we are challenged to better
ourselves spiritually while at the same time to
spread the Love of God the Father through our
words and deeds. To do that effectively we are
challenged this Lent to look at the LOVE of

GOD with new eyes. Eyes that are open to a different vision of
those we love. Eyes that watch how we externally love the
people in our lives. Eyes that inwardly examine our personal
perception of love and its reflection on our world. To do this
effectively we need to shift our thoughts from the traditional,
worldly concept of love. Our culture puts forth images of self-
love, romantic/ passionate love, obsessive love, demanding
love; which all come with "strings attached" and are not given
freely. Spiritually open our hearts and minds to find God in
everyone we encounter. When we begin to *be love* rather than
feel love, we become aware of our ability to change situations
and people for the better. As believers we know that true love is
not a noun, but a verb. It is not passive, it involves action. It is
not something you feel, it is something you do. Once we put that
into practice everything changes for the better. This week allow
your love to change other people's lives. Love turns conflict to
peace, division to unity, anger to tranquility, sadness to joy, hurt
to healing and darkness into light. God's **love** is an inexhaustible
source of strength and courage for all.

10th ANNUAL MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE

The St. Andrew Church Choir will be holding their 10th
Annual Multi-Family Tag Sale on Saturday, April 21st,
from 8:30am – 2:00pm in the Church Hall. All proceeds
from the Tag Sale will benefit the local Food & Fuel
Banks and the Colchester Free Community Lunch
Program. If you have any items that you would like to
donate to this worthwhile event, all donations will be
accepted on **Friday, April 20th** from 1:00-7:00pm in the
Parish Hall.

There is also room for up to 20 families to reserve a
space to sell their own tag sale items. The cost is \$20.00
for two (2) six foot tables. Set up will be on Friday, April
20th from 1:00pm – 7:00pm.

For table rental and donation information, please contact
Carol at 860-303-1842



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 75th Anniversary celebration.

Did you receive the mailing sent in January? We are aware that some parishioners did not get their mailing. If you did not, there are additional donation forms and return envelopes at the entrances.

Please use the envelope that was provided in the mailing to return your donation.

Checks are made out to "Saint Francis of Assisi", with 75th Anniversary on the memo line.

Please mail to: 75th Anniversary Celebration, P.O. Box 75 Lebanon, CT 06249-0075

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.

172 days to go until the start of our celebration!

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Items needed for the Easter Food Baskets Program are listed below.



- **Canned fruit in juice, such as fruit cocktail, peaches, mandarin oranges, pineapple chunks**
- **Marshmallow fluff, 16 oz.**
- **Strawberry or grape jam**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors now delivers all food baskets and has asked St. Francis to contribute the above items. Please bring all donations to St. Francis by Sunday March 11.

This weekend we launch the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) campaign, **"Standing Together to Build the Future"**. We all hope for a bright future and many of us have been blessed with gifts that allow us to live comfortably. Others may need help in building their future as struggles prevent them from achieving a better life. That's where your stewardship can help! During this Lenten season, please consider giving from your heart to the **"Standing Together to Build the Future,"** campaign, joining with your brothers and sisters in Christ to help make a difference across the Diocese. Your contributions to the ACA support our Diocesan ministries, whose programs are available to everyone. Please make your pledge to the 2018 ACA next weekend or visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org for more information.

Bishop Daniel P. Reilly's 90th Birthday, May 2018

The Knights of Columbus in Worcester, Mass are honoring Bishop Reilly and combing a Fundraiser for the Health Care Facility (Notre Dame Health Care Facility), Where he is a resident. A luncheon will be held in his honor on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 12noon at St. John High School, 378 Main Street, Shrewsbury, Mass. Tickets are \$45 per person. Please send any ticket request with a stamped envelope and money to: Bishop Reilly 90th Celebration, 206 Quinsigmond Avenue, Shrewsbury, Mass 01545 "If you plan to come, please order early as we are expecting a grateful attendance!" Any questions call Fr. Ray Introvigne at [1-860-887-0702](tel:1-860-887-0702)

MARCH FOR MERCY- WELCOMING FAMILIES

Join us for the March for Mercy at St. Joseph's in Willimantic for the March for Mercy on March 24th beginning at 10am – 2pm. Families are welcome to join us as we strengthen our Love for God and his people through overcoming discrimination and racism. Families will learn about the topic of love and inclusivity, march through Willimantic with promoting God's Love for all, and rally with national speaker Vince Nims. Participants are asked to register in advance, the cost is \$10 per person and \$25 for a family of 3 or more. Registrations can be received by calling [\(860\)848-2237](tel:860-848-2237) ex. 305 or email Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net

On March 23rd and 24th, 2018 (Palm Sunday Weekend), St Andrew Church, Colchester, will once again present **The Passion Play**. The play is performed Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 with doors opening at 7. There is no charge for admission; however, tickets are required since seating is limited to the capacity of St. Andrew Church located at 128 Norwich Ave. In order to help defray the costs of presenting the play, a free-will offering is appreciated. Tickets may be reserved by calling Teresa Dziatko at [860-295-8315](tel:860-295-8315). They are also available at Merciful Savoir gift shop in Colchester, The Colchester Florist, and The Church Rectory.

Catholic Charities "Evening of Hope" Sunday April 15th at Mystic Aquarium 6:30pm Silent Auction & Dinner Tickets are \$100; \$125 after April 1st Recipients of the 2018 awards are: Humanitarian of the Year: Christopher A. Lipinski, Ph.D. ~ Our Heritage: Jane Leger ~ Community Servants of the Year: Middletown Advisory Board ~ Employee of the Year: Cynthia Mageski Contact: Christine Jackel, Development Coordinator cjackel@norwichdiocese.net or 860.886.1928 x12