

**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 17, 2018 St. Patrick, bishop
4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Michael L. Ledek req. by the Lavin family
Sunday, March 18, 2018 Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00 AM Emil & Erma Kuzel req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel
10:30 AM Janet Gagnon req. by her family
Monday, March 19, 2018 St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
NO MASS
Tuesday March 20, 2018 Lenten Weekday
NO MASS
Wednesday March 21, 2018 Lenten Weekday
9:00 AM Phyllis Jacobeno req. by Mackie
Thursday March 22, 2018 Lenten Weekday
NO MASS
Friday March 23, 2018 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop
9:00 AM Dominic Jacobeno req. by Mackie
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
Saturday March 24, 2018 Bl. Oscar Romero, bishop, martyr
4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Nick Wengloski req. by his family
Sunday, March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday
8:00 AM Elizabeth Heim req. by the Paris family
10:30 AM
11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt

Offertory: \$ 2,327.00

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.
Next weekend's second collection is for Operation Rice Bowl.
Please bring you Rice Bowl donations for the second 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 1.adorers, please consider omitting to a specific hour. Contact Dennis Girard @ 860.334.9894 or dennisgirard51@gmail.com

MEETINGS

- ❖ *Knights of Columbus Meet & Greet after 8am Mass Sunday March 18*
- ❖ *Confessions Monday March 19 6-7pm*
- ❖ *Ladies Guild Monday March 19 6:30pm*

Weekend March 24 & 25

5:00pm Lector: Richard Lataille

Eucharistic Minister: Julie Hoddinott

Altar Servers: CJ Frank & Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Rick Kane

Eucharistic Minister: Kathy Pellerin

Altar Servers: Jack & Christian Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Sandy Grillo

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Erika Densman & Becca Wheaton

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 Rev. Erik Lenhart OFM, Rev. Rafal Walczyk OSPPE, Rev. John Antonelle, V. Rev. David Choquette, Rev. Michael Giannitelli, Msgr. James Carini, Rev. Gregory Mullaney, V. Rev. Jan Swiderski, Rev. Joseph Castaldi, Rev. Tadeusz Zadorozny, Rev. William McNulty, Rev. John O'Neill MS, Our Holy Father.

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.

Grades 2 & 6 will be assisting at the 10:30am Mass on March 18. Refreshments in the meeting room following Mass.

Operation Rice Bowl:
Our Lenten Program: Encounter Lent
Rice Bowl donations will be taken on Palm Sunday.



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 Spedalieri Committee Chair person

Junk in Your Trunk



Ladies Guild JUNK IN THE TRUNK SALE

Saturday April 28th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rear parking lot

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

Rent a parking space and sell your treasures out of your trunk or bring a table.

NOW ACCEPTING BOOKINGS

SPACE MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

Contact Estelle to book a space!

(Deadline: April 16)

@ 860-420-7221 or estelle7moodus@yahoo.com

\$20 for a single (8'W x 16'L) space; \$30 for a double (17'W x 16'L) space

(Cars, vans, pickups only: no trailers allowed - All vehicles must fit in the space provided)



An Ecumenical Community Prayer

Service for Lent will be held on Tuesday March 20th at 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. There will be a collection taken of goods or monetary donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

My Father's House Eucharist Retreat from Saturday April 28 to Sunday April 29. A retreat full of fiery preaching, anointed music, & powerful prayer!

Presented by Rocco Fortunato, Catholic Speaker and Evangelist. Founder of Spread the Blaze & guest speaker on Catholic Radio.

For more information visit www.spreadtheblaze.com

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 March 26, Spiritual Renewal Center 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **Are you separated or divorced and in need of support? The Church is here to help.** The Catholic Family Services Office is sponsoring a Divorce Healing Program entitled **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide**. This is a 12-session DVD ministry program with expertise from Catholic psychologists, theologians and spiritual directors. It is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. The group will meet from 7-8:30 P.M. the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning April 9 through September 24 at St. Matthew Church, 111 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT. Registration is required. To register, call Catholic Family Services, 860-848-2237, ext. 306.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **28th Annual White Mass for Healthcare Workers & Caregivers** Sunday, April 15 at 9am in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick. Brunch to follow in the Cathedral Auditorium. Featuring Sr. Rita Johnson, S.S.M.N.D. who will deliver the David P. Lauer, M.D. & Joan M.Lauer, B.S.N. lecture. A donation of \$25 per person is requested. For more information, to make a reservation, or to reserve table, please call 8560.88.9294, ext. 100.

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 for more info.

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

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

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

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)

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

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.

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/>.

Enders Island, Mystic, CT Palm Sunday Day of Recollection Sunday March 25 @ 10am with Mark Gordon. Why Did it Take the Cross? A Holy Week Journey with Rene Girard. \$50 pp. <http://enders.is/PalmSunday> or call 860.536.0565



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.

Love is not something you seek, love is not something you attract, love is not something you learn...LOVE is what you are! You are a unique expression of God's love for the world.

We are all blessed with an internal source of love, yet we constantly look outside of ourselves to find and feel love. Our insecurity and doubt cause us to search endlessly for what we already possess. When we realize this and access our inner source of Love, God, we experience an awakening that transforms our lives. That awakening causes us to...

- *Stand up for what we know is right because love never retreats.
- *Reach out to others in need because love involves care and compassion.
- *Encourage/support people who are struggling because love gives us strength.
- *Share our faith with others because love reminds us it's a priceless gift.
- *Pray because prayer changes lives and creates miracles of love.
- *Recognize the gifts were are given because love helps us see clearly.
- *Listen because love opens the inner ears of our heart.

This Lenten Season if we share God's unconditional love with everyone we come in contact with, our world will definitely be a better place!

CHRISM MASS

Bishop Michael R. Cote, D.D., invites all our parishioners to the consecration of the Chrism and the blessing of the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens at the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Procession of Priests and Deacons will begin into the Cathedral at 10:20am. The Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich. Bishop Michael R. Cote will celebrate this liturgy.

The Sacred Chrism, oil mixed with sweet perfume, symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit. It will be used in the parishes in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. It is also used at the ordination of bishops and priests and at the dedication of a church and altar.

The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint those who are suffering from illness so that they may receive strength and healing, both physical and spiritual.

The catechumens will be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil.

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the entire local Church, and the subsequent use of the oils in the various parishes is a sign of unity among God's people. Why not plan to take your family to the Cathedral that day? It is a very special experience!



Way of the Cross: a public procession of scripture and prayer. Good Friday March 30 at 6:00pm from Chelsea Parade to the Central Baptist Church. Walk with the Most

Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich and leaders of other Christian communities in forming a prayer pilgrimage called the Way of the Cross. Walk & sing in commemoration of Christ's journey. In case of inclement weather, it will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich.



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.

In order to be listed in the commemorative book, donations must be received by April 15th.

Thank you to those who have already donated.

Please use the envelope that was provided in the mailing or found at the Church entrances.

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

Altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Lectors, Ushers, Parish Council, Finance, Religious Ed Teachers, Money Counters, Liturgy Committee:

Please review the lists in the sacristy for accuracy; the names will be in the commemorative book as listed, unless otherwise corrected. If you serve in a ministry, please make sure we have your name.

PHOTOS STILL NEEDED!

There is another story behind your photos...

Have you looked at a photo and saw something else happening in the background?

Do you have wedding, baptism or Holy Communion photos from the Route 87 Church?

You would not believe what stories the backgrounds in these photos are telling us – especially interior photos, they tell the story of Church renovations that occurred over a number of years. Please see if you have some to share.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Mar. 18, 2018

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.

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 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 thirteenth production of the Life and Passion of Our Lord.

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.

A heartfelt "Thank you" to everyone who has answered the call to participate in the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal, "**Standing Together to Build the Future**". You have helped to continue the 'good works' performed by our Diocesan Ministries because of Your generosity. Every gift is valued! It's not too late to offer your support. Gifts to the ACA allow our ministries to help provide a better future for others by assisting them with social service, spiritual, educational and many other needs throughout our community. Please visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org to make your pledge today!

THE PRACTICE OF COVERING CROSSES AND IMAGES



Until recent time it was customary to veil prominent statues and crucifixes in church with a purple cloth as a sign of sadness and mourning. In some churches, beginning around 900, one large cloth was hung between the people and the altar from the beginning of Lent. This was done to hide the heavenly glory depicted by statues of saints and crosses with the figure of the triumphant Christ. This custom came to symbolize the exclusion of all sinners from the altar just as public sinners were excluded. Since the 1600's, this veiling was limited to Passiontide, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent, originally called "Passion Sunday". On that Sunday (today only in Cycle B), the final words of the Gospel are: "At that they picked up rocks to throw at Jesus, but He hid Himself and slipped out of the temple precincts" (J. 8:59).

Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2018 Saint Francis of Assisi Church Confessions

Monday, March 19 at 6:00pm

Every Tuesday Lenten Confessions at St. Andrew Church, Colchester 6-7pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday March 25 following 10:30am Mass
(Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus)

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper Procession: 7:00 P.M.
Visits to the Repository until 10:00 P.M.

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion: 3:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross: 7:00pm

Holy Saturday

1:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food in the Church.

No vigil service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church

Parishioners are invited to attend Easter Vigil Services & Mass At St. Andrew Church in Colchester at 8:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday

Masses: 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M