

**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, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Saturday October 13, 2018, 2018 Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00 PM Viola Smutko req. by her family

Sunday October 14, 2018 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

10:30 AM Norma Geer req. by the Goba family

**Monday October 15, 2018 St. Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor
of the Church**

NO MASS

**Tuesday October 16, 2018 St. Hedwig, religious; St. Margaret
Mary Alacoque, virgin**

NO MASS

**Wednesday October 17, 2018 St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop,
martyr**

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

Thursday October 18, 2018 St. Luke Evangelist

NO MASS

Friday October 19, 2018 Sts. John de Brebeuf & Isaac

Jogues, priests & companions, martyrs

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

Saturday October 20, 2018, St. Paul of the Cross, priest

5:00 PM

Sunday October 21, 2018 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Deceased members of the Clinch & Kuzel families
req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM 50th wedding anniversary Paul & Christine Pelletier

Offertory: \$ 2,080.00 Cradle Fund: \$ 338.00

Today's second collection is for the diocesan Mission Combined
collection.

Next weekend's second collection is for 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**

Weekend October 20 & 21

5:00pm Lector: Bob Nejako

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty

Altar Servers: Nina & Luci Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Gregg Lafontaine

Altar Servers: Christian Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Sandy Grillo

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Drew Taylor, Nicholas Barrett

Knights of Columbus Meet & Greet after the 8am Mass on Sunday
October 21.

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

PO 3 Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy

Sergeant Chad Wengloski, U.S. Marines

CTN2 Jonah Swett, U.S. Navy

IT3 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. Peter Liszewski,
Rev. Roland Cloutier, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Rev.
Luis Agudelo, Rev. Alfred Irving, all priests, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz,
Rev. Christopher Feeney, Msgr. Henry Archambault, Rev. Edward
Konopka. We also pray for those priests who have left the ministry.
Mary Immaculate, look upon our priests as the children of your love. Let
them love you fervently and open their hearts to the dew of your grace.
(Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

**Parish Mission for St. Andrew and St. Francis
are scheduled for October 13/14 and 15, 16, & 17.**

The Parish Mission this year will be directed by
Raymond de Souza, K. M. International Lay Catholic
Speaker, Knight of Magisterial Grace of the
Sovereign and Military Order of Malta, Delegate for
International Missions for Human Life International
(HLI) and EWTN program host.

The theme of the Parish Mission is: "On Logic and
Mental Sanity to Exercise Relativism". The sessions
for St. Andrew and St. Francis are scheduled on
Monday 7:00pm, Tuesday 7:30pm, and Wednesday
7:00pm – in St. Andrew Church. One session, for
the convenience of St. Francis Parishioners, is
scheduled in St. Francis Church on Tuesday,
6:00pm (as in the past).

Raymond will be available at St. Andrew Church,
during the day to chat with parishioners interested in
learning more about Apologetics and Argumentation
techniques.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2pm.
Healing Mass: Every 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2pm.
Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations** October 18 at St. Colman in Middlefield from 6-7pm.
- ✓ **RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKEND** ~ If you are silently grieving or suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**. The weekend healing process is confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. It includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. The next weekend in Connecticut is October 19-21. For more information call Marie at 203-631-9030, email her at mlaffin@prolifeministry.org or visit the national website at www.rachelsvineyard.org. **"PROJECT RACHEL"** is our Norwich Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness from an abortion. Priests in the **Project Rachel** ministry are there for you with God's Grace and Mercy. Call 860-861-4439. All inquiries are confidential.
- ✓ 11th Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018** 8 am – 4 pm (Mass celebrated by Archbishop Blair) St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol, CT. Featuring dynamic speakers, exhibitor, confession, adoration, food, and fellowship. Speakers include Fr Bill Casey, Bob Kroll, Jason Calvi and Deacon Doug Hoffman. **BUY TICKETS ONLINE** www.ctcatholicmen.org Questions? 860-484-7950 Early bird Cost: \$45 (includes lunch)
- ✓ **Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Mass:** Sunday October 21A 2:00pm at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich. To register, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office. 860.642.6711.
- ✓ **Trip to Haiti!** Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is organizing an Immersion Trip for October 24-31. Visit our clinic, a school, experience Mass at a twinned parish. See the amazing spirit of the Haitian people, and get a sense of their culture and history through a neighborhood tour, and a visit to the National Museum. If interested, call 860-800-3601 or contact info@outreachtohaiti.org. See more on our website at outreachtohaiti.org.
- ✓ **Pontifical Mass for the Diocesan Partnership on Disability** Please bring a friend and join us for a celebration of the Liturgy for people living with disabilities; for their family, friends, care-givers, co-workers, support staff and health care professionals. **Principal Celebrant Bishop Michael R. Cote, Sunday October 28, 2018 @ 11:00 a.m. @ Our Lady of Lourdes, 1650 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry** Brief presentation & refreshments to follow in Church Hall. For more information please contact the Office of Faith Events, 860-848-2237 x304 or faithevents@norwichdiocese.net
- ✓ **9th Annual Seton Scholarship Dinner**, Sunday October 28 @ 4:00pm at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, 625 North Road, Groton. Honoring the recipients of the Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, D.D. Award for Contributions to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Norwich. Msgr. Robert L. Brown (posthumously), Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Mrs. Doris Messina. All proceeds benefit tuition assistance for Catholic Education. Tickets \$150pp. For more information on sponsorships, advertising or to purchase tickets, please contact Kathy Gaito at 860.886.1928 or kgaito@norwichdiocese.net
- ✓ **WORKSHOP Catholic Funerals: Rites, Cremation, Planning, Pre-planning, Cemetery Policies** Saturday, November 3, 2018 St. Matthew Parish, Tolland Registration at 9:00AM. Program from 9:30 to noon Fee: \$10 For more

information go to www.norwichdiocese.org Or call 860-848-2237x203

- ✓ **Twenty-Seventh Annual Red, White and Blue Mass Sunday, November 4, 2018, at 10:15 a.m.** Bishop Cote will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick for all military personnel, those who are active, in the reserves and Veterans. The purpose of this celebration is to honor our service men and women as we recognize the many sacrifices made by the families and loved ones of our military. The Mass Committee Chairs are BG CT Edward J. Waitte, (Ret.) and Mr. David K. Harding, U.S. Merchant Marine. For more information call, Rebecca McDougal at 860-887-9294.
- ✓ **The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at Sacred Heart Church in Norwich on **November 15 from 6-7pm.**

St. Mary-St. Joseph School is now accepting applications for our annual **Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair**. The Fair is to be held on Saturday, December 8th from 9am-3pm in the school, located at 35 Valley Street, Willimantic. Please email smsjschoolcraftfair@yahoo.com or call the school at 860.423.8479 for more information or an application.

This year's **Parish Bake Sale at the Antique Show** had few donations of baked goods from parishioners. This is not a Ladies Guild fundraiser, the ladies only run it for the parish. Thank you to Barbara & Jim Dyer and Joyce Hofmann who ran the sale this year and all those who baked. The \$664 proceeds raised from this sale will be going to the parish. Please consider baking for next year's event to ensure that it is a successful fundraiser for Saint Francis Parish; we need your support on this event which we have had for over 50 years.

WE CAN HELP

To report inappropriate contact of any kind by a representative of the Diocese of Norwich or for assistance to victims, please call: 1.800.624.7407

East Catholic High School Our annual Open House this year will be on *Thursday, November 1st at 6:45 p.m.* with our Entrance Exams being on *Saturday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 17th at 8:30 a.m.* Pre-registration for these events is not required, but is appreciated. You may reserve your spot by calling our Admissions Office at 860-649-5336 ext. 6456 or by pre-registering online at www.echs.com

Mercy High School Open House for Middle School and Transfer Students. Sunday, November 4, 2018 1:00-4:00 pm 1:00 p.m. Presentation by the Administration.

Entrance Exam for the Class of 2023 Mercy High School Saturday, November 10, 2018 & Saturday, November 17, 2018 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. 1740 Randolph Road Middletown, CT. Pre-register at www.mercyhigh.com

30th Annual Yellow Rose Auction: (an auction of goods and services) Mercy High School Saturday, November 10, 2018. Tickets are \$50 per person and include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, catered dinner, homemade desserts & all beverages, including wine and beer. Please join us for a fun evening from 6 pm to 10 pm at Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Road Middletown, CT For tickets or information call 860-347-8957 or online at: www.mercyhigh.com

16 Things Employees and Volunteers Can Do To Help Create and Maintain Safe Environments at Church and at School

Employees and volunteers who engage in ministries on behalf of the Church want to teach and guide children and young people as safely and effectively as possible. It does not matter if those in ministry are employees or volunteers, the obligations for providing safe environments are the same. What can we do to assure a safe environment in Catholic churches, schools, and institutions? We can follow the following guidelines.

1. Fulfill the tasks confided to us in a manner that is *respectful* toward others. The pastoral relationship is one that should never be exploited by any minister, employee or volunteer for his or her own benefit. The people we serve have the right to expect that no one will be physically, sexually, or emotionally abused, neglected, or exploited, by Church related personnel.

2. *Be familiar with the Pastoral Code of Conduct* of the Diocese of Norwich and *abide by its provisions*. Abide by the Diocese of Norwich Electronic Communications, Internet and Computer Use Policy.

3. *Listen attentively* to concerns raised in regard to the *Pastoral Code of Conduct* or compliance with the *Code* and properly address any lack of compliance.

4. It is the goal of all volunteers, official ministers, employees, and contractors to:

- create and maintain safe environments for minors and adults;
- ensure that no minor is alone with an adult and no adult is alone with a minor except in emergency situations or during the Sacrament of penance;
- strive not to place oneself in a vulnerable or unsafe position.

In efforts toward achieving this goal, *adhere to the following principles*:

A. Two adults must be present when working with children or teenagers. As a rule, both must have read and agreed to abide by the Pastoral Code of Conduct, be aware of and know how to create and/or maintain a safe environment for children and adults, and have undergone comprehensive screening. If this is not possible, then adults should be paired so that one adult always has the requisite commitment, training, and screening.

B. All adults on an overnight trip must be screened and trained. Chaperones must be adults over the age of 21 years. The initial one to ten youths should be chaperoned by no less than two adults. For each additional ten youth, there must be at least one additional adult. Chaperones should be in proportion to the gender breakdown of the youth participants attending the event.

C. When more than two adults are required by the nature of an activity (e.g., dance, field trip, etc.), adults should be *paired* so that one adult always has the *requisite commitment, training, and screening*.

D. When the presence of two adults is not possible, such as medical emergencies, urgent or emergency situations, sacramental confession, or counseling and spiritual direction, *other safe environment measures* should be utilized, such as *remaining visible* to another adult or assuring that the adult involved has the *requisite commitment, training and screening*.

E. Adult leaders should *know the location* of the young people confided to their care immediately before, during, and after any Church-sponsored activity.

F. When transporting children and/or teenagers, drivers are required to submit to a State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles record check, as part of their comprehensive screening. In light of this, it is strongly recommended that professional bus companies be used for transporting minors whenever possible. Policy, forms and procedures can be found in the Diocese of Norwich Comprehensive Screening Policy.

G. No Religious Education classes are to take place in private homes.

H. No parish activities are to take place in private homes unless safe environments screened and trained chaperones are present. These activities must always be supervised by a screened and trained individual.

In certain instances, exceptions to the above principles may be granted by the Office for Safe Environments after an application for an exception is placed with this office.

5. *Signed parental consent forms* are a necessity when transporting young people as part of a School or Church group. Similarly, each minor must have a consent form/permission slip signed by his or her parent or guardian to participate in a youth activity.

Any *travel* with an unrelated child (or children) by authorized School or Church-related personnel may only occur when it is part of a School or Church-sponsored, chaperoned activity, with the express written permission of the young person's parents, when there is a second adult in the same vehicle and when diocesan transportation policies are followed.

6. *Minors ministering to or working with other minors* must be supervised by at least one adult who has the requisite commitment, training, and screening. It is strongly recommended that two adults be present during such activities and/or ministries.

7. *Touching* must be appropriate and initiated by the person being ministered to. In certain very visible situations, age-appropriate touching may be initiated by the minister, such as shaking hands before and after Mass. Otherwise unacceptable behavior does not become acceptable if it is done by a minor to an adult. The adult has the obligation to stop the behavior and counsel the minor as to the proper behavior. The adult must also report any such incident to his/her supervisor.

8. Ministers, employees, and volunteers must refrain from giving, or receiving, *expensive gifts* to, or from, young people without express parental consent.

9. *Under no circumstances* may an unrelated young person *stay overnight* in a rectory.

10. The use of *illegal drugs*, or misuse of over-the-counter or prescription drugs by Church related personnel is strictly prohibited. Church ministers, employees, or volunteers who provide, share, or offer illegal drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol, to young people will be terminated and removed from office or ministry and must be reported to the proper civil and church authorities.

11. *Boundaries* between personal/living space and public space must be clear and maintained at all times. As a rule, personal living space in rectories is not to be used for parish/school ministries or functions involving minors and /or vulnerable individuals. No religious education classes are to take place in private homes.

12. *Proper behavioral expectations* of minors under age eighteen must be communicated to them prior to the start of the activity. *Private conversations* with young people should be considered confidential except insofar as may be necessary to fulfill diocesan and state mandated reporting requirements and/or to protect or save someone's life.

13. *Discipline* in Catholic parishes, schools and institutions should respect the dignity of each child. It is not acceptable to strike, spank, shake or slap a child. When it is necessary to discipline a child, such discipline should be *thoughtful, measured and restrained*.

14. *Visiting lay people* performing any church-sponsored function, at which minors will be present, are to be supervised by a person who is screened and trained according to diocesan safe environment policies.

The parish, school, institution or ministry sponsoring the event will be responsible for assigning a screened and trained individual to the visitor.

It is not necessary to inform the Office for Safe Environments, about the event, unless you wish the office to verify screening and training.

15. In the event of *visiting priests, deacons and seminarians* you must notify the Office of the Vicar for Clergy that a cleric will be visiting the diocese and for what purpose or event, as a Statement of Suitability is required.

16. *Strive to live lives of truth, holiness, and virtue*, treating all human beings as human persons and not as objects for gratification, power, or advancement.



75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

??? TRIVIA QUESTION ???

In 1923, the St. Mary mission chapel was forced to close. Once closed, how long was Lebanon without its own Catholic Church?

WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY

Photos of the September Mass and reception have been added to the website in the Album Section.

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

Several parishioners have not picked up their copy of the commemorative book. Please contact Barbara at 860.642.7168 or bobbi.w@charter.net to arrange for pick up.

Nancy Acree, Kimberly Blais, Darryl Ceccarelli, Tim DeLucia, Chris Duhaime, Brian Edwards, Mary Flanigan, Don James, Lori Kalinowski, Robert Kalinowski, Kevin Kennedy, Susan Martineau, Grant Meline, Joan Nichols, Alan Olenick, Geraldine Shusta, Terry Smith, Lauri Swanke, Melissa Taylor

NEXT ANNIVERSARY EVENT:

SAVE THE DATE: MOVIE NIGHT November 16, 7:00 P.M.

Do you know the story of our patron saint?

Francis of Assisi, an inspirational story of one man's journey starring Bradford Dillman and Dolores Hart.

Running time: 105 minutes

For the entire family!

WE ONLY CELEBRATE 75 YEARS ONCE!

Join us for our events throughout the year

Answer: Twenty years, from 1923 to 1943, Lebanon was without its own Church and the people had to travel to Willimantic, Norwich or Colchester to attend Mass.

The **Mission Combined Collection this weekend** supports missionary works in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and parts of the United States. Generous gifts made to today's collection will fund catechesis, seminarian formation and pastoral programs for the Church in Latin America, assist poor mission dioceses here at home in the United States by funding essential ministries, including seminary education and lay ministry training with the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, help proclaim the Gospel and offer hope in countries devastated by war or natural disasters through the World Mission Appeal, and provide grants to dioceses to operate schools, parishes and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ in Native America, Alaska Native, and African-American Catholic communities. Please give today with a joyful and generous heart. Your support will truly make a difference.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Norwich Parenting 101 Classes. A fun, free 10 week class for parents of children ages birth to teens. October 24 – December 5 Catholic Charities 28 Huntington St. in New London CT. For more information contact Tracy Martone at tracymartone@ccfsn.org or call 860.889.8346 ext. 285

OFFICE OF FAITH EVENTS

ADORATION AND PRAISE MUSIC- 177 PROJECT COMES TO ST. MATTHEW'S TOLLAND. The 177 Project is an initiative to spark a renewal in parishes across the country through the power of spending time in front of the Eucharist and participating in praise and worship music. The evening is a holy hour followed by an interactive concert. **On Wednesday- October 24th, the 177 Project will be at St. Matthew's in Tolland at 6:00pm Also, On Thursday- October 25th, the 177 Project will be at St. Mary in New London at 6:45pm.** Come join us; Tickets to the evening are free and you can get yours by visiting the177project.com

YOUTH EXPLOSION X 2018 The Diocese of Norwich invites Grades 7 – 12 to YOUTH EXPLOSION with host and song leader John Angotti and speaker Robert Feduccia. Spend the afternoon sharing your faith with teens from all over the Diocese, going to Mass with Bishop Cote, and rocking to Catholic Christian Music. The event takes place on Sunday- November 4th at St. Bernard's School in Uncasville, the doors open at 11:30am and the cost is \$20 for the day and includes snack and dinner. Please see your Catechetical Leader to register or go to www.youthexplosionct.com. For questions, please email Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net or call (860)848-2237 ex. 305.

YOUNG ADULT MASS WITH BISHOP COTE

On Sunday, December 2nd, St. Joseph's in Willimantic is delighted to host Bishop Michael Cote for the 2nd Annual Diocesan Young Adult Mass & Reception. All Young Adults (ages 18 - 39, single and married) are invited and encouraged to attend! We encourage Young Adults to invite friends to join us! Mass with the Bishop will begin at 11:15am and following liturgy there will be a coffee social in the hall.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministers, come to Tampa to learn how to "unlock" faith in young people from December 6-8. The National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) gathers and forms adults to inspire, strengthen, and nourish those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ. The cost is \$369 if you register before November 15th, go to www.nccym.info for more info! Priests attend free; just add code UNLOCKPRIEST at checkout! Questions, contact Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net.

St. Hedwig was born at Andechs, Bavaria in 1174. She married Duke Henry of Silesia in 1186 at the age of 12. They later had 7 children. A woman of faith and love she provided care for the weak and the elderly, lepers and those in prison, travelers, and the sick. Hospitals and monasteries were built through her generosity. She embrace the needs of all her people. After her husband's death in 1238, she entered the monastery of Trebnitz and died there on October 15, 1243. Many miracles were attributed to her intercession.

St. Margaret Mary 1647-1690: In 1671 she entered the Visitation convent at Paray-le-Monial. She was favored in prayer by special revelations which began on 12/27/1673, in which the Lord called her to reveal to the world the love of His Sacred Heart. She wrote the Heart of Jesus "contains all blessings and into it the poor should cast all their needs. It contains all joy to take away all our sorrows. It contains all humility, to counteract our foolishness. It contains all mercy, all love to meet our every need." With the help of Blessed Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., who declared that the revelations were genuine, Margret Mary promoted the devotions of the nine First Fridays and the Holy Hour, and through her efforts the feast of the Sacred Heart was established in the Church. At a time when Christian fervor was growing cold, Margaret Mary recalled the great love that God has for His people.

Thanksgiving Theme Share-A-Day for girls in 5th, 6th 7th, and 8th grades on Saturday, November 3rd from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Motherhouse in Baltic, CT. This is a special day of recreation, talks, activities, and prayers with the Sisters of Charity. No charge. Telephone (860) 822-8241 or email srmaryjacinta@gmail.com.

October 14, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I am truly grateful for your financial support this past fiscal year. With the recommendation from our Parish Finance Council, it is necessary for me to ask every parishioner to consider a reasonable increase in their weekly giving. We must come to terms with our financial situation.

As you can see from this past year's annual fiscal report, we ended the year at a loss. Our weekly income is not keeping pace with operating expenses, much less allowing us to properly maintain the buildings and grounds we have inherited. I am finding it necessary to draw from our limited savings on a regular basis just to meet regular monthly bills.

This is not fiscally responsible and cannot continue or soon we will have nothing for an emergency. We have been very fortunate to have received grants from the Hugh Trumbull Trust for the past three years to help with the cost of paving our driveways and parking lot and with the re-shingling of the Church and garage roofs, which was begun this week. As well as your tremendous response to our pledge drive for the paving project. This has made it possible to not have to use our savings for these projects.

I need your help. Please look at your contributions of the past year. Has your weekly offering increased? I can assure you that, despite our best efforts, parish expenses have increased significantly – particularly heating, air conditioning, insurance premiums, salaries, and use of the elementary for CCD classes. I hope that you will prayerfully consider a \$3.00 increase or more in your current weekly offering. Your mortgage, food and clothing are very important obligations, but Your Church is also important. Everything we have comes from God – even life itself. Our willingness to return a portion of our gifts back to God reflects the priority we place in Him in our lives and is a measure of the depth of our spiritual lives.

The offertory collection is the lifeline of our parish. This weekend please consider an increase in your offering. If you are away from home and unable to attend Mass at St. Francis, please make up this offering when you return. By maintaining this type of giving practice on a yearly basis, the parish can rely on a consistent contribution enabling us to better meet our financial obligations.

Although my primary responsibility is to attend to your spiritual needs, I would be remiss in my duties as your pastor if I did not bring financial concerns to your attention. I only ask that you do your best. It is all that can be expected – and certainly what God deserves.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark Masnicki
Rev. Mark Masnicki
Pastor

Finance Council:
Rick Kane
Gregg Lafontaine
Betty Mackey
Barbara Wengloski