

**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 December 1, 2018 Blessed Virgin Mary**

10:00 AM Funeral Mass ~ Nancy Godere

5:00 PM Souls in Purgatory

**Sunday December 2, 2018 First Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Norman Pellerin req. by his wife

10:30 AM Annette Russoniello on the occasion of her 70<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday req. by Bill & Joan Russoniello Goba

**Monday December 3, 2018 St. Francis Xavier, priest**

NO MASS

**Tuesday December 4, 2018 St. John Damascene, priest,**

**doctor of the Church**

NO MASS

**Wednesday December 5, 2018 Advent Weekday**

NO MORNING MASS

**Thursday December 6, 2018 St. Nicholas, bishop**

NO MASS

**Friday December 7, 2018 St. Ambrose, bishop, doctor of the  
Church**

9:00 AM Robert Wheaton req. by his family

**Saturday December 8, 2018 Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:15 AM Dave & Edith Perotti req. by their family

5:00 PM Nancy Godere req. by the Wengloski family

**Sunday December 9, 2018 Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Raymond Boisvert req. by his family

10:30 AM Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday req. by Michael Goba, Trish  
Goba Churchill & Bill Goba



11/18 Offertory: \$ 2,242.32 Parish Fuel: \$ 753.00  
11/25 Offertory: \$ 1,725.00 Building Maintenance: \$581.00

Today's second collection is for extraordinary expenses.  
Next weekend's second collection is for the Immaculate Conception of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
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 December 8 & 9**

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs  
Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay  
Altar Servers: Steve Bardes, CJ Frank  
8:00am Lector: Greg Jones  
Eucharistic Minister: Joan Grecki  
Altar Servers: Emily Pomerleau  
10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana  
Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia  
Altar Servers: Erika Densman & Drew Taylor

**Military Service Honor Roll**  
LCPL Alex Bielawa, U.S. Marines  
Lt. Colonel William J. Girard, U.S. Army  
Sgt. Derek Keegan, U.S. Army  
Major Michael A. Goba, U.S. Army JAG  
E-5 Francis Orcutt, U.S. Army  
HMC Heather S. Gardipee, U.S. Navy  
Pvt. Zachary Berquist, U.S. Army  
Pvt. First Class Jacob Grzanowicz  
SFC Justin A. VonEdwins, U.S. Army  
Sgt. Robert Massicotte U.S. Army  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. 6<sup>th</sup> Marines  
AM2 Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy  
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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tyler McGuire, U.S. Air Force

**Prayer for our Men and Women in Military Service**

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask for Your protection for all our  
men and women in military service. Give them unflinching  
courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion the rights of  
all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches,  
our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our  
buildings and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our  
land and its peoples from enemies within and without. Grant an  
early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the  
hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose  
to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen.

**APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER** — We pray for Bishop Michael R.  
Cote, Rev. James Sucholet, Rev. Bogdan Olzacki OSPPE, Rev.  
Gregoire Fluet, Rev. Russell Kennedy, Rev. V. Antony Alaharasan, V.  
Rev. Dennis Perkins, V. Rev. Gregory Galvin, Rev. Thomas Hoar SSE,  
and all of our priests.

Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the  
radiant feast of Christmas so that the Divine Emmanuel might find in  
each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful  
and loving Mother  
For that, may they be purified in the waves of the Divine Blood of Jesus.  
May they be a channel for His Precious Blood, always acting through  
love. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

**The Word Among Us** Advent books are available at Church entrances.  
Please bring one home. The daily readings will enhance your Advent  
preparation for the precious gift of Jesus's coming on Christmas Day.

**Thank you to Grades 3, 4 & 5** for assisting at the  
10:30am Mass.  
Refreshments following Mass in the meeting room.

We will be collecting the following list of items for the  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Cupboard during  
December:



- Tuna (in water only)
- Ketchup
- Sweet cereals
- Creamy peanut butter
- Raman noodles
- Coffee
- Canned soups
- Hot chocolate mix
- Thank you for your generosity.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2pm.  
**Healing Mass:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 2pm.  
Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **The monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations** will take place at **Our Lady of Lourdes**, Gales Ferry on **December 13 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 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm in the school, located at 35 Valley Street, Willimantic.  
Please email [smsjschoolcraftfair@yahoo.com](mailto:smsjschoolcraftfair@yahoo.com) or call the school at 860.423.8479 for more information or an application.

**East Catholic High School:** The Make-up Entrance Exam for eighth graders who were not able to take it sooner will be given on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration for the exam is advised but not required. Visit [www.echs.com](http://www.echs.com) or call our Admissions office at 860-649-5336 x6456 for more information!

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation NEWPORT, RI.**—The Annual Convocation for Priests will be held from December 3-5, 2018, at **Gurney's Newport Resort** on Goat Island in Newport, RI. It will be a time for all priests to gather with their bishop for spiritual renewal, support, education and rest. No parish, school or institutional activities will be scheduled during these days. Please pray for your priests, as they will be praying for you.

The theme of this year's Convocation is "**The Joy and Challenges of Priesthood Today.**" The key presenter will be Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, who is an expert on priestly spirituality and wellness issues. He is a Catholic speaker, educator, psychologist, and retreat leader. A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Rossetti earned a doctorate in psychology from Boston College; a doctor of ministry from the Catholic University of America. He is the author or editor of ten books and the recipient of a Catholic Press Association book award. He serves as research associate professor of pastoral studies at the Catholic University and a visiting professor at Gregorian University in Rome.

Bishop Cote emphasized the importance of this annual gathering in his letter inviting each priest to the Convocation, "Your presence and commitment to this time together is important to me. This year we celebrate the 37<sup>th</sup> year of gathering as a presbyterate for the Convocation."

Make time for your marriage by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next Weekends are Feb 1-3, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT and Jul 12-14, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT.

For more information, call Pat & Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-315-2127 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.



Ring in the Holiday Season by attending **The Annual Tree Lighting Program on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Jonathan Trumbull Library on the Lebanon Green. Ring in the joyous holiday season with your family and friends on the first Sunday in December. Sing along with traditional Yuletide Carols, stroll the candlelit walking path, visit the museums, warm up and enjoy the bonfire behind the Library, and of course ... visit with Santa until 8:00pm in the Frist Congregational Church Fellowship Hall.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe!** All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confessions at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.

**St. Andrew is sponsoring a trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette** on Sunday December 9...leaving at 12:30pm and returning at 8:30pm. The cost is \$35 per person, includes a full dinner. Choices for dinner are Meatloaf, French Meat Pie, Roasted Turkey or Herbed Chicken. The trip will include Round-trip bus, Father Pat's concert, and the Festival of Lights. Please call St. Andrew Rectory to sign-up. 860.537.2355.

**Blue Slope Country Museum Advent Activities.** 138 Blue Hill Road, Franklin 860.642.6413 Email: [museum@blueslope.com](mailto:museum@blueslope.com)  
Sunday Dec. 2. Wagon ride through picturesque woods of Blue Slope Farm begin at 1pm, 1:45pm, 2:30pm. & 3:15pm. **Space is limited. Call for reservation.** Enjoy Wassail Punch or Hot Cocoa, make a Christmas ornament, Sing traditional Christmas Carols. Suggested donation is \$9 ages 10+ up

### **Von Trapp Concert**

December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
At the Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Elisabeth Von Trapp  
Of the famous Von Trapp family  
First Come, First Serve for seating  
Reservations only for handicapped seating  
Free Will Offering



**Christmas Giving Tree Gift Cards** are due back to St. Francis by Sunday December 2. Please put the gift card in the tagged gift bag that you take from the tree. There will also be gift tags for Seminarians of the Diocese of Norwich.

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL PLACE ~ Norwich  
Miracle Bags 2018

A special dinner will be served on Christmas Day. On that day, we would like to give each person a Miracle Bag filled with the following items: Soap, Deodorant, Razors, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Toothbrush, Shaving Cream, Hats, Gloves, Socks, \$5 or \$10 gift cards to Grocery stores/Walmart/McDonalds. Please drop off your donations by **December 18, 2018**. We are also happy to receive handmade cards with prayers, quotes or drawings. Our guests really value these sentiments.

Please call Bonnie at 860.889.7374 or email her at [bysvdpp@gmail.com](mailto:bysvdpp@gmail.com) if you have questions. If you are an internet shopper have your donations delivered to 120 Cliff St., Norwich, CT 06360

We offer hygiene products to families all year long. It is difficult to keep up with the demand as we average 400 requests for hygiene each month. We are beginning a campaign called SOAP AND HOPE that will run throughout the year.

See our website for details [sydpp.org](http://sydpp.org)

Your gift, large or small, will make a difference. Merry Christmas and God Bless!



All ladies of the parish are invited to join the Ladies Guild at their Christmas Party on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

6:00 cocktails/6:30 dinner at Apollo Restaurant, Route 32, South Windham.

Reservation forms can be found at the church entrances, the deadline is December 12<sup>th</sup> to submit entrée choices and payment. Please contact Sandra at 860-537-1372 or Alicia at 860-465-7603 if you have any questions.

**BAMBINELLI WEEKEND GAUDETTE SUNDAY**



Bambinelli is Italian for Christ Child. This will be the third year at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in celebration of Gaudette Sunday – 15 & 16 December 2018.

Pope Francis, on a recent visit to America said, “The family is the core of the Church.”

A special blessing will take place at all Masses 15 & 16 December 2018 – for your Bambinelli (Baby Jesus) from your family Nativity set.

Remember to bring your Family Bambinelli, from home, to Mass that weekend. If you do not have a Bambanelli, kits are available in the Sacristy.

Thank you. ~ Liturgy Committee

LEBANON CHILDREN'S WARDROBE would like to thank the community for their continued support. We are continuing our fundraising effort to expand into a much larger and usable space. Today, we have reached 20% of our goal. At our Thank God Its Friday event in November, we served 50 families, 13 of which came to us for the first time. We also had over 30 families come to us for appointments to pick up clothing and other items this month. This increase in the number of people we serve each month demonstrates our need for a larger space. We'd like to announce two fundraising events:

Indoor Tag Sale January 5<sup>th</sup>. Spaces/tables can be rented for \$20/\$25. You bring your own items and keep your profits.

Evening of Fun: Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Appetizers, sit-down dinner and concludes with music by Seat of Our Pants. Tickets are \$25 per person and are on sale now. (These will make great gifts). Seat Of Our Pant (SOOP) music is heartfelt and humorous, featuring folk instruments and rock-infused songwriting.

For space/table at the Tag Sale or for tickets for the Dinner please email [lebanonccw@gmail.com](mailto:lebanonccw@gmail.com)

To donate go to [www.gofundme.com/LCCW-Expansion-Project](http://www.gofundme.com/LCCW-Expansion-Project) or checks made out to the Lebanon Children's Clothing Wardrobe and mailed to the Savings Institute at 554 Exeter Road, Lebanon CT 06249.





**75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**ON THIS DATE...December 4, 1978**

The Parish Development Campaign for the new St. Francis Church began. Bishop Reilly concelebrated the December 4 Mass to kick off the campaign. A breakfast reception with the bishop was held in the high school cafeteria. The campaign did not ask for big cash gifts, but rather asked for subscriptions that could be paid in regular monthly, quarterly or semi-quarterly installments for as long as thirty to thirty-six months. To raise the money, parishioners were asked to select a Memorial to honor or commemorate someone living or deceased. By the December 20 final report, pledges totaled \$116,983 with fifty-five percent participation. This phase of fundraising to secure funds for construction of a new Saint Francis was complete in April 1978.

**75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REMINDERS OF THE PAST...**

**ADVENT PINS**

During the 1990's, Advent pins were handed out to parishioners as a reminder of the REASON FOR THE SEASON. Please make sure that you receive a pin this weekend.

**BARRINGTON BUNNY**

During Father Peter Liszewski's pastorate at St. Francis (1992-2001), he read the story of *Barrington Bunny* every first weekend of Advent and used it as his homily. It is a message to all at Christmas, as well as Easter, and many pastors and priests throughout the country read this story Christmas Eve. The story is extremely sad but offers up a powerful message of giving and sacrifice. The rabbit represent Jesus, while the wolf who appears in the story is a metaphor for God. Although there are these religious references, it is a secular story and at the present time, we are not allowed to have it read out loud during Masses here at St. Francis. Copies of the story are available separately for you to read; they will be handed out with the Advent pins.

**WE ONLY CELEBRATE 75 YEARS ONCE!**

*Join us for our events throughout the year*



**Christmas flower envelopes available at the Church entrances. Please return your envelope by Dec. 16th.**

**Annual Holiday & Vendor Fair** Sat. Dec. 8 from 9am-3pm. St. Mary St. Joseph School, 35 Valley Street, Willimantic, CT. 860.423.8479  
Craft items, Breakfast items, Raffles, 8<sup>th</sup> grade grinder sale, and more. Contact Lucrezia Mooney at smsjschoolcraftfair@yahoo.com

*Handmade Christmas Cards: A set of 10 Christmas Cards with envelopes for sale for \$10. The assorted Christmas cards were designed by our students. 100% of proceeds from the sale of the cards will be donated to St. Mary-St. Joseph School to support its mission. Available at the Craft Fair and at the School.*

**Knights of Columbus**

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

**SUNDAY**

**December 09, 2018**

**8:00am to 11:00am**

**Fire Safety Complex**

**Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, CT**

**Adults: \$8.00 \* 12 & under \$5.00  
under 5 FREE**

**Good food & fun for everyone**

**Photos-ops with Santa!**



Naughty or Nice everyone is welcome!

**The Knights of Columbus will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for \$5 each after all Masses.**

**Knights of Columbus Meeting  
Thursday Dec. 6 @ 7:00pm**