

— MAY THE —

PEACE  
&



OF · OUR · NEW

**born, baby**

JESUS

BE WITH YOU THIS

CHRISTMAS

and throughout

— the year —

©JPPC

**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

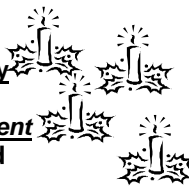
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor

Rev. Richard Breton, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael Puscas



## MASS INTENTIONS



**Saturday December 22, 2018 Late Advent Weekday**

5:00 PM Bill Brewster req. by his family

**Sunday December 23, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Nancy Godere req. by the Ladies Guild

10:30 AM Michael A. Goba, 48<sup>th</sup> birthday req. by

The Goba & Churchill families

**Monday December 24, 2018 Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM For the people of the parish living & deceased

**Tuesday, December 25, 2018 Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 AM For the people of the parish living & deceased

10:30 AM For the people of the parish living & deceased

**Wednesday December 26, 2018 St. Stephen, first martyr**

9:00 AM Victims of Addiction req. by Pam Roberts

**Thursday December 27, 2018 St. John, apostle, evangelist**

NO MASS

**Friday December 28, 2018 Holy Innocents, martyrs**

9:00 AM Frances Flaherty 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary req. by her family

**Saturday December 29, 2018 St. Thomas Beckett, bishop,**

**martyr**

5:00 PM Nancy Godere req. by John Watts

**Sunday December 30, 2018 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &**

**Joseph**

8:00 AM Timothy Delahaunty req by Jim & Barbara Dyer

10:30 AM Michael Amota Russoniello req. by Bill & Joan Goba

**Monday, December 31, 2018 Vigil Solemnity of Mary, St.**

**Sylvester I, pope**

5:00 PM

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019 Solemnity of Mary**

9:15 AM George Boone req. by Mackie Boone

Offertory to be reported next bulletin due to early submission.

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.

Second collection Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> is your Christmas Gift to your Parish.

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 29 & 30**

5:00pm Lector: Ann Staebner

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Nina & Grace Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Emily Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett & Erika Densman

### **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 Spedaliera 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 Rev. Alfred Irving, Rev.

Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. Christopher Feeney, Msgr. Henry

Archambault, Our Holy Father, Rev. Edward Konopka, Rev. Arul Peter,

Rev. Martin Jones, Rev. Stanley Szczapa, Rev. George Busto CD, Rev.

Brian Maxwell, Rev. Jonathan Ficara, Rev. John Ashe.

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)



**Christmas Eve Mass - 4:00 PM**

**Christmas Day Masses - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**

**New Year's Eve Mass - 5:00 PM**

**New Year's Day Mass - 9:15 AM**

## **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 Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at the Cathedral of St Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, January 5 at 8:30am. Please join our celebrant Rev. Ray Introvigne at Mass as we pray to end abortion and for the healing for those who have had an abortion. Following the Mass, the Rosary will be prayed both at the Cathedral and Planned Parenthood.
- ✓ **Is your marriage tearing you apart? Is there little or no meaningful communication? Are you considering separation or divorce? For serious marriage building and repair: Retrouvaille is a lifeline.** At a **Retrouvaille** weekend, couples are given tools to re-establish communication, work on their issues, gain new insights and heal. The weekend is presented by three married couples and a priest. A series of 6 post sessions follow the weekend phase. For more information or to sign up for the **January 18-20, 2019** weekend in the Hartford area, call 413-525-1634, or 203-710-6207, or visit the Website at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).
- ✓ CT RTL March for Life Buses: January 22, 2019 marks the 46th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous abortion-on-demand ruling. Because of that decision, millions of pre-born babies have been denied their most basic right - their right to life. On Friday, January 18, 2019, people from across the nation will assemble in Washington, D.C. to visibly express their opposition to abortion.  
On Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 9 P.M., buses sponsored by the Connecticut Right to Life Eastern Chapter will leave from the Norwich Municipal Parking Lot (Exit 11, I-395) and travel to D.C. to attend the March For Life on Friday, January 18, 2019. Bus fare is \$67 per person.  
If you are unable to attend the March for Life, please consider sponsoring a seat on the bus. For further information and/or to reserve a seat or to sponsor a seat, please call Margaret Becotte at 860-822-1362. Thank you.

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/>.

LEBANON CHILDREN'S WARDROBE 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.

### Christmas Message 2018

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the spirit of this holy season fill your hearts with joy and your homes with peace! Christmas celebrates the great truth sent by the Father, "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." (John 1:14)

From generation to generation, we remember the events of that holy night and we celebrate His Nativity. Recounting Jesus' Birth, we rejoice in our Churches, in our families, and in our communities. At the coldest, darkest time of the whole year, God's love warms our hearts and illuminates our journey in this world.

The message and meaning of Christmas can be lost in the noise heaped upon us by our secular culture's message of consumerism; by an ever-growing divide in our political discourse regarding contentious issues of the day; and yes, even by some church leaders whose actions, or, in some cases, inactions have caused pain to many of our brothers and sisters.

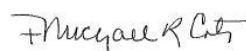
It is in these uncertain times, that our feelings of anxiousness and loss can grip our lives, leaving us vulnerable to despair. It is important for us to remember that the world is mostly good. Why? Because we, as followers of the Risen Lord, can experience and share the birth of Christ not just on December 25<sup>th</sup> but every second of every day. We give birth to the Lord when we share the Love of Christ.

The darkness of humanity's evil can be overcome by the light cast by Jesus' birth. We are reminded in the first reading from the Christmas Mass at Dawn of the words of the prophet Isaiah – They shall be called "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD." (Isaiah 62:12) Earlier this year, Pope Francis gifted us with his Apostolic Exhortation, Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad). In it he encourages each one of us to be Holy. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We can be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of our brothers and sisters, by living out our commitments with joy and working for the common good.

Christmas teaches us of the generosity of God and how generous we must be to one another. Generous with our time, our good fortune, but most of all our forgiveness.

Merry Christmas! May your New Year be filled with the abundant blessings of the newborn Savior and may you embrace each day as an opportunity to welcome Christ with joy in your hearts, ever increasing in holiness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

Please consider making an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift to help the Diocese of Norwich assist those in need! Since the IRA charitable rollover law became permanent almost 3 years ago, more and more people have used it to benefit their favorite charities. Donors age 70 ½ or older may make a direct IRA rollover gift, up to a total of \$100,000, to the Diocese of Norwich, its parishes, schools or ministries and not include the IRA distribution as income while also counting it towards your RMD!

If you are interested in supporting the Diocese to assist those facing life's challenges, please contact Mary Ellen Mahoney at [memahoney@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:memahoney@norwichdiocese.net) or (860) 886-1928, ext. 13.

Your IRA custodian may receive many requests from people eager to participate in this direct rollover gift before the close of 2018, it is important that you start the process as early as possible this December.

### 2018-2019 CCD Project



Hope for Haiti

Dear Parents and Parishioners,  
This year our CCD project is again to help the people of Haiti.  
This year we would like to assist with several of the programs needed by the Haitian Health Foundation.

- ❖ Powdered Milk. Program cost is \$125 per child per year. 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: Cost is \$75 per kit. 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.

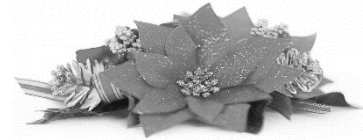
We have participated in a project for Haiti for a few years now and the children really enjoy it. It will be a great way for our kids to help those in Haiti.

Last year we raised over \$ 1,950 for our efforts...a total of 13 goats. I would like to set our goal this year for 10 units of milk and 10 solar light kits. A goal of \$2,000.

There will be a donation jar in the office building and in the Church. Children should bring whatever they can each Sunday to put into the jar. Teachers will also have a jar at the American Legion Hall for their classes.

I ask that you support this Corporal Act of Mercy to feed the hungry and to help those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Sincerely, *James Hay*, DRE



### Christmas Flower Offerings in Memory of

Deceased Members of the:

Paris & Getman families  
Hull, Armstrong & Nejako families  
Brisson & Lataille families  
Haralson & Smutko families  
Albrecht & Anastasio families  
Ciarcia & Leone families  
Soucy family  
Martineau & Hofmann families  
Clinch & Kuzel families  
Sikora & Grecki families  
Dudar Family  
Kulynyck family  
Boudreau family  
Carlson family  
Coutu family  
DeLaere family  
Flannery family  
Garrahy family  
Gingras family  
Horan family  
Malone family  
Patch family  
Policky family  
Prescott family  
Smith family  
Cote, Perotti & Wheaton families  
12 people killed at college night in  
Thousand Oaks, CA Nov. 8th

Robert P. Burns  
Irene & Nick Wengloski  
Ernest & Mary Sunega  
Theresa Baran  
Norm Pellerin  
Lucy Flannery  
Bette & Jerry Rovers  
Mr. Eugene Grecki  
Stanley & Anne Dudar  
Bill Brewster



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

**ON THIS DATE...December 24, 1964**

*from the Hartford Courant:*

*Confessions.* In preparation for the Feast of the Nativity, confessions will be heard in St. Francis of Assisi Church today 12:15 to 1 p.m. and 8:15 to 9:15 p.m. A Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated at midnight. Donald J. Grant will be commentator and Mrs. Donald Grant will be at the organ.

Christmas morning there will be Masses at 8:30 and 10. Commentator at the 8:30 Mass will be Peter Akin and at the 10 a.m. Mass commentator will be Francis Sullivan.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

In early January we will be handing out Warm Fuzzies. Do you remember which priest brought these little creatures to St. Francis?

**SAVE THE DATE! February 16**

**Turkey Dinner & DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES** celebrating the anniversary, sponsored by the Anniversary Committee and the Ladies Guild. More information on this fun filled evening to come.

**WE ONLY CELEBRATE 75 YEARS ONCE!**

*Join us for our events throughout the year*

**GIFTS + NEW MOVIE:**

Tony Coscia has been a member of: ACTS, Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Catholic Charismatic, and Knights of Columbus. His book; *“Tony’s 50,000 Coincidence Miracles”*; is now being made into a movie and also translated into other languages. It improves the lives of readers in the first 45-minutes.

*If you do make a small-donation toward the movie on “GoFundMe”, you will receive a FREE “e-book” automatically E-mailed to someone (or to yourself) as a gift from you.*

*FOR MORE INFO: just Google (Tony’s 50,000 Coincidence Miracles/Enroute) and then; click on the GoFundMe button.*

**Programs Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center**

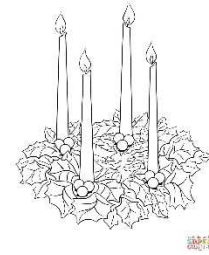
**303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT**

**860.760.9705**

**[www.holyfamilyretreat.org/bulletin](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/bulletin)**

Wed. Jan. 16 – 6-9pm Workshop for Parish Catechists: Supporting Parents in their Ministry as Primary Catechists. \$40, includes Dinner.

Sat. Jan. 26. 10am-5pm Our Struggles Have Purpose. \$75, Includes lunch.



**The Advent Wreath**

The circular shape of the wreath symbolizes God’s complete and unending love for us - a love that sent His son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It represents the eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

Each candle represents 1000 years. When added together the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior – from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament.

The first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles which symbolize a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. On the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudette Sunday) we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. We light the rose candle which signifies joy. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

The candles also have a deeper meaning.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men”.

