

**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 February 23, 2019 St. Polycarp, bishop, martyr
5:00 PM +Pierce Holleran Austin req. by his family
Sunday February 24, 2019 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM +Anastasia Getman req. by Bob & Lorraine Paris
10:30 AM Intentions written in the Prayer Journal
Monday, February 25, 2019 Weekday in ordinary time
NO MASS
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 Weekday in ordinary time
NO MASS
Wednesday February 27, 2019 Weekday in ordinary time
9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Piccotti family
Req. by Mackie Boone
Thursday February 28, 2019 Weekday in ordinary time
NO MASS
Friday March 1, 2019 Weekday in ordinary time
9:00 AM Increased vocations req. by Mackie Boone
Saturday March 2, 2019 Blessed Virgin Mary
5:00 PM +Wladyslaw Masnicki req. by C & R Wheaton
Sunday March 3, 2019 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM +Wladyslaw Masnicki req. by Bob & Lorraine Paris
10:30 AM +Mary Flanigan req. by Evelyn Grenier
11:30 AM Baptism

Offertory: \$ 1,453.00 Building Maintenance: \$ 505.00
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 February 23 & 24

5:00pm Lector:

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael
Altar Servers: Grace & Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael
Altar Servers: Emily Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael
Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett & Erika Densman

2018 Giving Statements are available in the Parish Office

Greeters Needed at our St. Francis Masses

If you like to smile and enjoy meeting new people then you
are just the type of person we are looking for to greet and
welcome everyone coming to Mass.
Please call Cheryl in the parish office for information or to
sign up.

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 2 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
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. Patrick
McCorry, Rev. James Thaikootathil, V. Rev. Douglas Mosey
CSB, Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski, Msgr. Richard LaRocque,
Rev. Michael Gill, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. David Zercie MSA,
Rev. Christopher Feeney, Rev. Tadeusz Zadorozny, Rev.
Richard Sliwinski, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot, V. Rev.
Richard Ricard, Rev. Victor Chaker.

Our priests speak to the faithful with their hearts and their faith.
Fill them, Lord, with burning zeal for the conversion of sinners.
O Jesus, Eternal Priest, look with love upon your priests. Teach
them to penetrate the secret of the tabernacle...the Divine
Blood. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

**Office of Faith Events and NDCCW Catholic Women's
Conference, Light in A Darkened World.**

Keynote
Speaker: Lisa Hendey, founder of CatholicMom.com and
author of *The Grace of Yes*. Workshops offered on prayer,
parenting, scripture, and marriage. Mass celebrated by
Bishop Michael Cote. Reconciliation and adoration
available. April 6, 2019, 8:30-3:00, Mercy High School,
Middletown CT. Registration forms can be found at the
church entrances or downloaded from the Diocesan
website. On-line registration also available:
www.norwichdiocese.org, click on the Faith Events link
and follow links for the Women's Conference.

**The 2nd & 3rd grade classes will be assisting
at the 10:30am Mass on February 24th.
Refreshments following in the meeting
room.**

Open House at Sacred Heart School

Thursday, March 7th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. our BIG OPEN HOUSE with the winners of the Tuition Raffle being announced at the end of the evening.

Call our Office at 860-887-1757 or

E-mail secretary@sacredhearttaftville.org for more information!

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

✓ **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. Both men and women have participated in past retreats. Upcoming weekends are: **March 1-3** in Connecticut, call Marie at 203.631.9030 or email her at mlaffin@prolifeministry.org. **March 15-17** in Stockbridge, Ma. Call 413.452.0661 or visit the national website at www.rachelsvineyard.org. 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.

✓ If you are seeking to find hope strength and comfort from a loss, burden or sorrow, join us this Lent for **A Journey with Mary Through Her Seven Sorrows**, a seven week program that will explore each of the seven sorrows of Mary's life and the message of strength and encouragement each one contains. The program will run Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm **March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30** at the Cathedral of St. Patrick Hall, 213 Broadway, Norwich. Each week will include a reflection on one of Mary's sorrows, guided prayer imagery and discussion. The program is free, but registration is required. To do so or for more information contact the Catholic Family Services Office at 860.848.2237, ext. 312, or email mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net.

✓ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** March 21st from 6-7pm at Saint Mary in Baltic.

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**Programs Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center**  
**303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT**  
**860.760.9705**  
**[www.holyfamilyretreat.org/bulletin](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/bulletin)**

- **Men's Retreat Date:** March 22-24, 2019
- **Women's Retreat Dates:** March 1-3, April 5-7, May 31 – June 2

The retreats begins with a buffet dinner on Friday evening and concludes with the celebration of Sunday Eucharist at 10:45 a.m. followed by a hot brunch at noon. Families of retreatants are most welcome to attend the Sunday mass and brunch at no extra charge. Offering: \$325. For more info or to register please call 860.760.9705 or check our website at [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org)

**Center for Hospice Care – 227 Dunham Street, Norwich. 860.8487.5699. [hospicesect.org](http://hospicesect.org)**

**"Drawing on our Memories"  
Expressive Arts Groups**

For Children: Processing grief in imaginative and therapeutic ways. Pet Therapy and snack time from 4:30-5:15pm. Expressive Arts 5:15-6:15pm. For children 5-12 years old.

- Feb. 26 Say it with Music
- March 5 Clay Play Part 1
- March 12 Clay Play Part 2
- March 19 Welcome Spring

**Programs at Enders Island, Mystic**

**860.536.0565 [www.endersisland.com](http://www.endersisland.com)**

\*\*Byzantine Icon Painting Thursday, February 28 - Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Join Master Iconographer Dr. George Kordis for a 5-day painting retreat workshop to learn the skills of traditional iconographic painting using the principles and rhythm of the Byzantine system as a strong foundation for creating beautiful Christian icons.

\*\*The Song of Christ and His Church Wednesday February 27 from 7-8pm.

\*\*Centering Prayer Retreat March 15-March 17. 4:30pm-1:00pm.

\*\*Recovery Retreats for Women: May 24-26, Dec. 6-8pm

\*\*Recovery Retreats for Men: March 8-10, August 9-11, November 15-17.

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/>.

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (NDCCW) is offering a **\$500 Scholarship** to four (4) graduating eighth grade girls who will be attending a Catholic High School in the fall of 2019. You can access the application on the website for the Diocese of Norwich ([norwichdiocese.org](http://norwichdiocese.org)). Completed applications must be received by April 15, 2019. Applications should be sent to NDCCW Scholarship Committee, c/o Judith Pappagallo, 79 Lafayette Street, Norwich, CT 06360, or submitted on line at [norwichdioceseanccw@gmail.com](mailto:norwichdioceseanccw@gmail.com). Deadline is April 15, 2019. Any questions, call Judy at 860.889.1617.

**East Catholic High School - Plan a Visit**

Join us for our popular Walk-in Wednesday! On Wednesday, February 27th we welcome prospective families anytime between 11am - 1pm to see our campus in action and to discuss any questions or interests.

Pre-registration is not required, but is preferred. You may RSVP on our website or you may call the Admissions Office at 860-649-5336 ext. 6238. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**The Diocese of Norwich seeks a full-time Executive Director for the Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti ministry.**

Responsibilities include supervision of staff in U.S. and Haiti, fundraising, financial management, oversight of operations in U.S., oversight of programs in Haiti, including clinic, education, twinning, and hospitality.

**Qualifications:** Respect and support for leadership and teachings of the Catholic Church, a bachelor's degree, and work experience in a related field. Administration experience and budget management, community relations, and fundraising skills. For complete job description and mission statement please email Dennis Petruzzi at [dennis.petruzzi@outreachtohaiti.org](mailto:dennis.petruzzi@outreachtohaiti.org).

All letters of interest and resumes are due by March 15 to Dennis at the above email address.

**MJM7 CONCERT**

Join us at 6:30pm on March 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph in Willimantic or March 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Pius X for a concert featuring MJM7. MJM7 is a Catholic family band comprised of Michael James Mette and 4 of his daughters: Gabriella (15), Trinity (13), Charity (11), and Cecilia (10) who join him on stage. The Mette's gifts of music, joy, & family life offer the boldness and innocence of youth with the wisdom and depth of lived experiences. The events fall somewhere between a rock concert and a parish mission, with vibrant lights, powerful music, faith sharing, and an invitation to prayer. The music is uplifting without being preachy, creating an environment that is engaging without being confrontational. The concert empowers all ages to pray more fully and worship more freely. Bring a friend! You won't want to miss this unique event. The concert is free, donations are accepted.

**"Discover Mercy"**

**Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

For 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Girls participate in two activities of their choice followed by lunch in the dining commons. The day concludes with closing comments and a performance by the Mercy/Xavier "Vocal Dimension" Show Choir in the auditorium. This year's activities: Beginner's Yoga, Cheerleading Clinic, Chemistry of Tie-Dyeing & Chemistry Demos, Creative Writing, Cupcake Decorating, Mad about Math, Mercy Dance Team, Paint the Town – Everything French, Show Choir Workshop, Theater Arts Workshop

Optional Parent Activities. Parents will have the opportunity to participate in the choice of the following sessions: Admissions Process & Questions for the Administration, School Counseling Department Personnel and Faculty Health and Personal Concerns for your Teenage Daughter Parent-to-Parent – Current Parents Answer your Questions. School Tour – Join Mercy Students on a Guided Tour of the Campus Mercy High School 1740 Randolph Rd. Middletown, 06457 Register online – [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com)

**Sister Act** Saturday, March 9, 2019 - 7 pm Sunday, March 10, 2019 – 2 pm. Tickets available online and at the door [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com) Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Rd. Middletown, CT 860-346-6659

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 Sunday, May 5, 2019. 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](http://www.mercyhigh.com) or call Mercy at 860-347-8957.

**Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center Programs  
31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT 860.677.8519**

**\*\*Women's Retreats:** March 1-3, March 8-10, March 29-31, April 5-7  
**\*\*The Family Disease of Addiction – We do Recover.** Program takes place in the upstairs Blue Room. Program includes lunch.

**A PROGRAM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
AWARENESS**

You are invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual program sponsored by the Willimantic District, Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. This year's topic is entitled HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS. Please join us on Sunday, MARCH 3, at 1 p.m. in the St. Joseph Church (Willimantic) hall (lower level) for this very important topic which we hope will give you an awareness of what is happening in our own backyards. Our speaker, Yvette Young is a licensed Professional Counselor and Project Director, and Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team Coordinator for the Village for Families and Children in partnership with DCF. Coffee and refreshments to follow.

***The Migrant Caravans: Root Causes  
and Present-Day Response***

Join us for a bilingual forum in honor of Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador martyred for his defense of the poor on March 24, 1980 and declared a saint on October 14, 2018. What's pushing thousands of migrants out of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala and into the United States? What are they finding at the border? What is the "preferential option for the poor" that guided Archbishop Oscar Romero and that should inform people of good faith today? Presentation in English by Anne Gebelein, Ph.D. Presentation in Spanish by Walter Mena, MA

Sunday March 24, 2019 3:00pm – 5:00pm  
St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Hall  
10 Huntington Street, New London, CT

**Get More Out of Your Lenten Season: Enrollment  
Now OPEN...**

This Lent, grow in a deeper, more intimate relationship with God through our weekly Diocesan Lenten Videos. Break open the scriptures, delve into our Lenten traditions, enhance your prayer life and change/grow spiritually. Dedicate just two 2 minutes weekly to a video which will help enliven your Lenten season. All you have to do is send an initial text to enroll; you will then automatically receive the Lenten Video series. To enroll you, send a text – **TO: 81010, Message: @lentenvideo** It will then ask you to reply with your name. Sign up now you won't be disappointed!



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

### **DINNER & DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES**

Last Saturday we held a turkey dinner and dance through the decades. There was a lot of fun going down memory lane, finding out which 'generation' and decade each attendee belonged to (the majority were Baby Boomers born between 1946 & 1964), having photos taken with Elvis, and identifying objects from the last eight decades. They danced the twist, chicken dance and Electric Slide. Several people attended in costume.

The following won our Best Dressed Decade attire contest.

**Females:** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Sherrilyn Flannery (from Lebanon), 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Betty Reichardt (Colchester), Runners up: Cindee Gagnon (Ellington) and Sue Lalumiere (Franklin)

**Males:** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Ed Gagnon (Ellington), 2<sup>nd</sup> place Charles Pogmore, Runners up: Paul Duff and Father Richard (all from Lebanon)

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped us celebrate another anniversary event! Thank you to the dance committee: Alicia, Barbara, Carole, Estelle, Jennie, Kathy, Lorraine, Mary Ellen, Peg and Sandra. And a big thank you to Gail Ladd for providing the music.

Photos of the dance will be on the Church website shortly.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Answer: March 3**

**Question: What is Religious Jeopardy??? (and pizza)**

**5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Before we head into Lent, join us for a fun filled event of pizza and informal rounds of jeopardy questions. Held in the meeting room, pizza, drinks and dessert will be provided. **For food planning, we need a head count. PLEASE SIGN UP.** Sign-ups will be accepted until February 24<sup>th</sup>. The sheets can be found at the Church entrances.

### **WE ONLY CELEBRATE 75 YEARS ONCE!**

We began our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in August and will continue through August of 2019. There are still a lot of fun activities planned for the upcoming year.

*Join us for our events throughout August 2019*

### **WAIM CAREER CLOSET VOLUNTEER(S)**

Are you looking for an opportunity to help individuals prepare for employment? WAIM is looking for one or two individuals to help organize our Career Closet a couple of times a week. The Closet is filled with an abundance of clothing such as suits, ties, dresses, skirts, and dress suits along with wedding and prom dresses and accoutrements. As part of this work, our volunteer would also assist shoppers in finding items that they are in need of. If you can spare some time, our greatest need would be on shopping days: Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings 9-noon. But Wednesdays are also good mornings to organize items. Please contact WAIM's Human Services Manager, Merle Potchinsky at [hsmanager@waimct.org](mailto:hsmanager@waimct.org) or 860.456.7270 x17.

### **Catholic Charities "Hope Anchors the Soul" Gala**

Join us in celebrating our 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Mystic Yachting Center

Cocktail Reception 5:00 PM

Silent Auction 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Dinner 6:15 PM

Dancing 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Tickets \$100.00

For more information contact Christine Jackel

Resource Development Manager

[christinejackel@cfsn.org](mailto:christinejackel@cfsn.org) or 860.889.8346

### **MEETINGS**

**Parish Advisory Council Wed. March 6 @ 6:30pm**

**Knights of Columbus Thurs. March 7 @ 7pm**

### **Saint Polycarp**

Born circa 69, St. **Polycarp** was a Greek bishop from Smyrna and an important 2nd century figure in Christian theology. His Letter to the Philippians was a significant foundation of early Christian literature, establishing the role of Apostle Paul and referencing the existence of other texts of the Bible's New Testament.

His name '**Polycarp**' means 'much fruit' in Greek. It is recorded by Irenaeus, who heard him speak in his youth, and by Tertullian, that he had been a disciple of John the Apostle.

According to the Martyrdom of Polycarp he died a martyr, bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to touch him.

Looking up to heaven, he said: "*Lord, almighty God, Father of Your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through Whom we have come to the knowledge of Yourself, God of angels, of powers, of all creation, of all the race of saints who live in Your sight, I bless You for judging me worthy of this day, this hour, so that in the company of the martyrs I may share the cup of Christ, Your anointed one, and so rise again to eternal life in soul and body, immortal through the power of the Holy Spirit. May I be received among the martyrs in Your presence today as a rich and pleasing sacrifice. God of truth, stranger to falsehood, You have prepared this and revealed it to me and now You have fulfilled Your promise. I praise You for all things, I bless You, I glorify You through the eternal priest of heaven, Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son. Through Him be glory to You, together with Him and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen*". When he had said "Amen" and finished the prayer, the officials at the pyre lit it. But, when a great flame burst out, those of us privileged to see it witnessed a strange and wonderful thing. Like a ship's sail swelling in the wind, the flame became as it were a dome encircling the martyr's body. Surrounded by the fire, his body was like bread that is baked, or gold and silver white-hot in a furnace, not like flesh that has been burnt. A sweet fragrance came like that of burning incense or some other costly and sweet-smelling gum.