

**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 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

Monday, March 4, 2019 St. Casimir

NO MASS

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 Weekday in ordinary time

NO MASS

Wednesday March 6, 2019 Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Mass with Ashes +George Boone req. by Mackie Boone

7:00 PM Mass with Ashes +Dave & Edith Perotti req. by family

Thursday March 7, 2019 Thursday after Ash Wednesday

NO MASS

Friday March 8, 2019 Friday after Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Intentions for Stephen Haefs req. by Pam Roberts

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 9, 2019 St. Frances of Rome, religious

5:00 PM +Wladyslaw Masnicki req. by Irene Burns

Sunday March 10, 2019 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Eugene Grecki req. by Joan

10:30 AM +Mary Coughlin req. by her family



Offertory: \$ 2,179.38

Today'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 March 9 & 10

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister:

Altar Servers: Steve Bardes & CJ Frank

8:00am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Emily Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Drew Taylor & Erika Densman

2018 Giving Statements are available in the Parish Office

**Grades 3, 4 & 5 will be assisting at the 10:30am
Mass on March 10th.**

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 Spedalieri 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 Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. John Antonelle, Rev. Edward Konopka, V/Rev. Jan Swiderski, Rev. Stanley Szczapa, Rev. George Busto CO, Rev. John Ashe, Rev. George Villamthanam CST, Rev. Joseph Tito, Rev. Martin Noe, Rev. Thomas Griffin, Rev. William McCarthy MSA, Rev. Walter Nagle.

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. O Divine High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany priests everywhere and protect them from the traps and snares of the devil. (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.

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!

Operation Rice Bowl: Our Lenten Program: Encounter Lent

Lent is a time of opportunity for us to strengthen our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices bring us closer to God and demonstrate our solidarity with those in need at home and around the world. This Lent make your sacrifices become opportunities to feed the hungry poor. Please participate in CRS Operation Rice Bowl and let the sacrifices you make for the hungry poor nourish them and may these sacrifices witness to the love that disciples of Christ have for all people, especially for the least of the Lord's sisters and brothers. Rice Bowl envelopes will be collected on Palm Sunday.

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord." Be firm, steadfast and devoted to your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Apr 26-28, 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). 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. Deadline is April 15, 2019. Any questions, call Judy at 860.889.1617.

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
- ✓ 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.

Center for Hospice Care – 227 Dunham Street, Norwich. 860.8487.5699. 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.

March 5 Clay Play Part 1
March 12 Clay Play Part 2
March 19 Welcome Spring

Programs Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 860.760.9705

www.holyfamilyretreat.org/bulletin

- **Men's Retreat Date:** March 22-24, 2019
- **Women's Retreat Dates:** 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 holyfamilyretreat.org

Programs at Enders Island, Mystic 860.536.0565 www.endersisland.com

****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.

****Fish Fry & Stations of the Cross** every Friday during Lent beginning March 8. Cost per meal is \$15. Stations of the Cross are said between meal times at 6pm in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Assumption.

Catholic Charities "Hope Anchors the Soul" Gala

Join us in celebrating our 98th 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@ccfsn.org or 860.889.8346

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: @lentvideo** It will then ask you to reply with your name. Sign up now you won't be disappointed!

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.

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 20th at St. Joseph in Willimantic or March 21st 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 5th, 6th & 7th 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

Sister Act Saturday, March 9, 2019 - 7 pm Sunday, March 10, 2019 – 2 pm. Tickets available online and at the door 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 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 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.

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



75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

??? TRIVIA QUESTION ???

Name some of the items that came from the Route 87 Church that we are still using in the West Town Street Church.

RELIGIOUS JEOPARDY

March 3 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Before we head into Lent, we are holding our Religious Jeopardy event and having pizza on March 3rd. For food planning, a head count was required by last week, February 24th.

Dance through the Decades

Photos from the February 16 dinner and dance are now on the Church website. Check it out to see how much fun was had by all and for photos of our other anniversary events.

WE ONLY CELEBRATE 75 YEARS ONCE!

There are still a lot of fun activities planned for the upcoming year. Join us for our events throughout August 2019.

Answer: the altar, large Mary statue, small votive candle rack, Tabernacle and baptismal font.

MEETINGS

Knights of Columbus Thurs. March 7 @ 7pm

Parish Advisory Council Wed. March 13 @ 6:30pm

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**Enhance your Lenten journey. Bring home a copy of The Word Among Us Lenten Booklet "God so loved the World". Copies available at Church entrances.**

### **MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE**

The St. Andrew Church Choir will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Multi-Family Tag Sale on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 2:00pm in the Church hall at 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Tag sale spaces are now available.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Colchester Food & Fuel Banks. All donations will be accepted on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-7pm in the Parish Hall. Please do not leave items at the Hall or Rectory.

There is also room for up to 20 families to reserve space to sell their own tag sale items. Cost is \$20 for two six-foot tables. Set up will be Friday, April 26 from 1-7pm.

For table rental and/or donation information, please call Carol at 860.303.1842. Call early since all the spaces are rented out each year! Thank you!

The St. Andrew Church Choir

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 COR 6:2). St. Paul's joyful greeting to us in the second reading on Ash Wednesday may seem somewhat strange as we begin this otherwise penitential season of Lent. In fact, it stands in stark contrast to the symbol of signing ourselves with ashes to demonstrate our repentance and sorrow for our sins. It seems that many of us Catholics, at times, view the coming of the Lenten season with a combination of resignation, regret, and even sadness – but this is not the way God intends for us to approach this season of grace. Lent is a gift, a time given to us by the Church, in which we are encouraged to live the Christian life as fully and as conscientiously as possible. In this way, we are better able to prepare inwardly for our communal celebration of the great feasts of our redemption at Easter.

Have you decided on your spiritual practice, or resolution(s) for this Lent? In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of three practices that were common to the people of his time: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (MT 6:1-6, 16-18). These practices were so common in fact, that Jesus seems to take for granted that His disciples will engage in them, saying: not "if," but, "When you give alms; When you pray; When you fast..."; This reality confronts us with a question: Are prayer, fasting and almsgiving a regular part of the way in which we live as disciples of the Lord? Lent is the time when we should redouble and refocus our efforts in this regard so as to live the Christian life, and the call of the Gospel, as fully as possible.

Accordingly, we are challenged in a special way during this season, to make extra time in our day, each day, to pray, as well as to avail ourselves of the opportunity to celebrate the Sacraments, especially Penance and the Most Holy Eucharist. Similarly, we should not only observe the guidelines of the Church with regard to fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstaining from meat on all the Fridays of Lent, but to make an extra effort to fast from some other practice or comfort that will help us to become more disciplined. Perhaps, we could likewise abstain from the negative attitudes and behaviors that sometimes creep into our lives: hurtful speech, bitterness, pessimism, or even worrying. Additionally, we should make a more concerted effort to give to those in need – not just from the extra that we have (e.g., giving what we do not use, or would otherwise throw away) but in such a way that it constitutes a true sacrifice on our part, demonstrating our love for, and solidarity with, those who suffer want.

My brothers and sisters, it is important for us to use the gift of this time well in order to recognize our need for God and His grace as we endeavor to live our Christian lives fully. On Ash Wednesday, we will begin this journey again, recognizing that we are dust and that unto dust we shall one day return. Jesus came, however, to show us that we are more than just this passing stage of dust. Lent, therefore, is not an end or a destination in itself, but the means through which we come to recognize our radical need for ongoing conversion by journeying to the foot of the Cross, where Christ won the definitive battle against sin and death. May this Lent afford each of us the opportunity to encounter the Lord and recognize that now is indeed a very acceptable time; now is the day in which we renew our commitment to life fully as His disciples, and so begin anew our journey toward the day of salvation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich