

**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 14, 2019 St. John of the Cross, doctor of
the Church**

5:00 PM +Cindy Mello req. by her family

Sunday December 15, 2019 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Janet Lea Gertshitz req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

**10:30 AM +Raymond Andrews req. by the Knights of
Columbus**

Monday December 16, 2019 Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 Late Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday December 18, 2019 Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM +Kevin Roberts req. by Pam Roberts

Thursday December 19, 2019 Late Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Friday December 20, 2019 Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM +Phyllis Jacobeno req. by I. Boone

**Saturday December 21, 2019 St. Peter Canisius priest & doctor
of the Church**

5:00 PM +Harvey Hull req. by his family

Sunday December 22, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Lorraine Kane req. by the Knights of Columbus

**10:30 AM +Wayne Woodward req. by the Knights of
Columbus**

Offertory: \$ 2,792.00 Parish Fuel: \$ 882.00

Next weekend's second collection is for building maintenance.

**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 21 & 22

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: Grace & Lucy Gardella

8:00 am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Peggy Stygar

Altar Servers: Emily Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Drew Taylor, Nicholas Barrett

**GRADE 2 will be assisting at the 10:30am Mass
on Sunday December 15.
Refreshments following the Mass.**

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 Spedaliere Jr., U.S. Navy

1st 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. Dariusz Dudzik, Rev. Bogdan Olzacki OSPPE, Rev. John Welch MS, Rev. Thomas Smith, V. Rev. Dennis Perkins, V, Rev. Gregory Galvin, Rev. Brian Romanoski, Rev. Izydor Sadowski SDB, Rev. Russell Kennedy, Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. Alfred Irving. We also pray for those priests who have left the ministry.

We thank Father, for those who have responded to Your call to priestly ministry. Fill Your priests with the knowledge of Your love. Open their hearts to the power and consolation of the Holy Spirit. O Mary, Mother of Christ, guard maternal to these chosen ones. Intercede for our priests. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)



Ladies Guild at their Christmas Party on Monday, December 16th, 6:00 cocktails/6:30 dinner at the Log Cabin, Lebanon. Please contact Sandra at 860-537-1372 or Barbara at 860-642-7168 if you have any questions.

Safe Environments in the Diocese of Norwich

Safe *Environments* refers to environments that are created and maintained in an effort to provide children, young people, ministers, and other people with the safest possible place in which to minister, study, and work.

The Diocese of Norwich and its parishes, schools, and other affiliated institutions is committed to providing safe environments for children, young people, and adults.

To assist in creating and maintaining safe environments, Bishop Michael R. Cote has established the Office for Safe Environments. The responsibilities of this office include overseeing the creation and implementation of safe environments programs and policies. In the Diocese of Norwich, there are six components to the safe environments programs and policies:

1. Awareness and Education

In creating any safe environment, awareness and education are essential.

The Diocese has chosen the Praesidium programs *Armatus* online and *Called to Protect* as two of the avenues for raising awareness regarding the issue of child sexual abuse and how to prevent it. *Called to Protect* is a video-based and discussion-oriented program, and *Armatus* is online training. Both of these programs provide a foundational understanding of the risks, warning signs, and appropriate responses to child sexual abuse. It also discusses preventive strategies and how to implement them.

All priests, deacons, ministry leaders, and employees and volunteers who interact with children and teenagers on a regular basis have an obligation to attend this program.

In addition to these two programs, the Diocese has embarked upon several initiatives to raise awareness and increase education in regard to safe environments. These initiatives include:

- The writing and distribution of pamphlets, bulletin inserts, and other educational materials;
- Articles in the *Four County Catholic*;
- Postings on the diocesan website (www.norwichdiocese.org);
- Other programs and forums determined by the Office for Safe Environments.

2. The Pastoral Code of Conduct

The *Pastoral Code of Conduct* is a set of guidelines for all Catholics. To follow in creating and maintaining safe environments. It also includes provisions for addressing a lack of compliance with the *Pastoral Code of Conduct* and referrals in how to report sexual misconduct.

3. Electronics Communication and Computer Use Policy

The proper relationship between adults and minors can easily become confused because of the easy, informal, and at times anonymous nature of many forms of electronic communication. Adults must make sure that their use of electronic communication maintains a proper professional relationship with minors, and does not create or give the appearance of an inappropriate relationship, or encourage inappropriate behavior. In using electronic communications, proper and healthy boundaries between adults and minors must always be maintained.

4. Comprehensive Screening

Comprehensive screening refers to the screening process for employees, volunteers, and contractors affiliated with the Diocese of Norwich. It includes:

- A written application form with signed statement by the employee, volunteer, or contractor;
- Checks of references listed on an application form;
- A personal interview with employee, contractor, or volunteer;
- Observations of the person's conduct;
- A criminal background check of the contractor, volunteer, or employee.

5. Sexual Misconduct Policy

The *Sexual Misconduct Policy* of the Diocese of Norwich addresses child sexual abuse and other issues of sexual misconduct by priests, deacons, employees, volunteers, and contractors of the Diocese of Norwich. It describes how to report allegations of sexual misconduct and how the Diocese will respond to allegations. This policy complies with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which was drafted by the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops in June of 2002.

6. Practical Matters and Other Concerns

This component addresses practical matters that arise during awareness and education sessions and the implementation of comprehensive screening, the *Pastoral Code of Conduct*, and other safe environments measures. Practical matters and concerns include such things as safe environments conditions of usage for the use of parish facilities by people outside of the parish and resolving conflicts between diocesan safe environments policies and other professional codes of ethics and conduct.

Your help is needed!

Creating and maintaining safe environments for children and young people is not the responsibility of one or two people. Each and every person can assist in providing safe environments for all of God's children. In fact, for these initiatives to be truly successful, we need the help and assistance of all Catholics. To find out how you can help in creating and maintaining safe environments for all of God's children, contact your local parish, school, or Catholic institution or contact the Office for Safe Environments.

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

Men's Retreat – Our Deepest Longing Jan 31 – Feb 2, 2020

This year at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford, we will explore that deep longing planted in our hearts by God – a longing for peace, for wholeness and for relationships that give us joy and lift us up. Come away and rest awhile to find and pursue your deepest longing and by doing so, may you experience how God is longing so deeply for you, too. The retreat starts Friday evening and concludes with 10:45 Sunday Eucharist at followed by brunch at noon. For information or to register, please call Bill Ziegenhagen at 860-267-2976.

Blue Slope's Wagon Rides & Family Activities:

\$9 donation includes Wagon Ride and All Activities. Under 10 years old welcomed without donation. Please call 860.642.7084 to reserve your seat on a wagon ride. Wagon ride start times 1pm, 1:45pm, 2:30pm. 3:15pm. Also Dusk Rides at 4pm & 4:30pm. Sat. & Sun. 14 & 15.

Blue Slope Country Museum, 138 Blue Hill Rd., Franklin. Museum@Blueslope.com. Friend us on Facebook.

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

olc tretreat@sbcglobal.net 860.677.8519

OLC Ministry for Catholic Young Adults. Home-cooked meal from 6-7pm, followed by a Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During the Holy Hour there will be time for both private and communal prayer. Evening concludes with Mass. You can expect the evening to be ended by 9:00pm. Register by calling 860.677.8519. Dates: Wed. Jan. 15.

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** at Sacred Heart, Taftville from 6-7pm on December 19th.

The Diocesan School Office and the Office of Faith Events present... Faith and Reason Workshop Presentation on how to address mistruths about Science and God, with our youth and young adults!

March 16, 2020, Mercy High School, Middletown

Two sessions 8:30-12:00 am or 6:30-9:00pm

Mr. Robert Alderman is the Regional Director of Catholic Education Development for the Northeastern United States. As a member of Fr. Spitzer's staff he will be presenting a new supplemental Module series for teenagers and young adults called *7 Essentials*.

*This series is meant to augment existing religious education and confirmation programs.

*This series focuses on the issues that are causing a growing number of young people to abandon religion.

*This series has seven engaging PowerPoint presentations, with embedded videos and voice narration, totaling 14 hours of classroom material. They are entirely FREE.

*The series is incredibly flexible, and is designed to educate today's young Catholics, allowing them to recognize mistruths about the faith.

*The presentation of modules is geared at the instructional level for middle school and high school students.

We hope you can join us for this informational presentation!

RSVP by March 10th - Office of Faith Events: manicholas@norwichdiocese.net, 860-848-2237, ext. 304.



Christmas flower envelopes are available at Church entrances for donations in remembrance of a loved one. Please return by December 15th.

St. Joseph Living Center hiring a Director of Pastoral Care and a Pastoral Care Assistant. Both positions are part-time. Qualified individuals for the Director position will have a management background and be proficient in and comfortable with the Catholic Religion and will work well with the elderly. The Director is responsible for the preparation for all daily Mass needs such as functioning as a Eucharistic Minister, as well as the pastoral care needs of the residents. The Pastoral Care Assistant position will assist the Director as needed. Inquiries should be directed to Ginny Person, Administrator at St. Joseph Living Center, ginyin.person@sjlct.org or 860-456-1107.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Enrich and renew your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Mar 27-29, 2020 in Albany, NY and Jul 10-12, 2020 in East Windsor, CT. For more information, call Pat & Mary Jo McLaughlin at 860-315-2127 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

Let's Recycle Our Empty Pill Bottles

Here's how we can recycle our empty pill bottles, both prescription and over the counter. Remove the labels and remaining glue; bring them (caps on) to the Church and put them in the boxes provided at the church entrances. They will be washed, sorted and sent to *Matthew 25: Ministries*. *Matthew 25: Ministries* sends the empty bottles to developing countries (and some locations in the U.S.) with other medical supplies. The bottles can then be used for medications in clean bottles instead of wrapped in paper, or maybe loose. Bottles that cannot be used for medications are shredded and used to make other things. This generates some income for *Matthew 25: Ministries*. The benefit here is that the bottles do not enter our waste stream.

MASS INTENTIONS

We have several open Masses during 2020. You may have a Mass said for a variety of intentions: for a deceased loved one, in celebration of a marriage, anniversary, birthday, in thanksgiving, for a special intention, for world peace, etc.

To request a Mass intention, please call Cheryl in the parish office during office hours.



Christmas Schedule

Confessions: Monday December 23rd at 6:30pm
Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm
Christmas Day Masses: 8:00am & 10:30am
New Year's Eve Mass Tuesday Dec. 31st at 5:00pm
New Year's Day Mass Wednesday Jan. 1st at 9:15am

Advent Meditation

***Peace: freedom from disturbance; tranquility.
(Oxford Dictionary)***

According to this definition all of us that live and breathe do not have a chance at attaining peace! Every waking moment of every day we are inundated by some "disturbance" that requires our physical and emotional attention. The advances in technology have widened our circle of friends, enhanced our knowledge base and complicated our lives beyond anyone's imagination. So how and where are we supposed to find peace this Advent season?

The peace that calms our spirit and eases our mind comes directly from our Savior Jesus Christ. His word and deeds are the roadmap we need as human beings to lead us to the inner peace we are all seeking. Christ knew that we would all be called to live in a world that had values and norms that were contrary to those we believe as Christians, that is why he took on human form. His life, death and resurrection are the way, the truth and the life that will bring us the peace for which we are all searching. This week, we need to dedicate some time and energy to prayer and meditation so that we can find the inner peace of which we are in desperate need. Once we find that inner peace, our sense of self as Christians will become clearer and our lives become more tranquil. All we do and say will come from a wellspring of inherent joy because with that inner peace we will better understand and embrace our call as Christians: The call to make the world a better place just by being in it!

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. - John 14:27

Thank you to all parishioners who have responded to the parish request for \$2.00 increase or more in their current weekly offering. The offertory collection is the financial lifeline of our parish. If you are away from home and unable to attend Mass at St. Francis, please make up your offering when you return. By maintaining this type of giving practice the parish can better and more consistently meet our financial obligations. 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.



Christmas Giving Tree

Gift Tags for

Seminarians of the Diocese of Norwich
There are a few gift tags on our tree for the Seminarians. This is an opportunity to support our Seminarians. If you would like to participate, take one of the tags from the tree. Purchase the gift suggested on the tag. Mail directly to the Seminarian in the envelope provided.

Comfort and Caring Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet to take up the time? Do you know someone in need of a Comfort and Caring Shawl? The St. Francis Ladies Guild has made a commitment to distribute hand-made prayer shawls to anyone in need; someone who is ill, on potent medication, battling the pain of depression or lost a loved one. The gift of a shawl is not limited to members of the Guild or our parish, but can be given to anyone you feel would benefit from this shawl of love and comfort. There are numerous shawls of many colors, shapes and weight as well as lap robes available. If you wish to contribute a knitted or crocheted shawl (must be certain dimensions) or know of someone who would benefit from this gift, please contact Barbara Dyer (Keeper of the Shawls) at 45bfdyer@gmail.com or 860.822.9400.