

**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 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

Monday December 23, 2019 St. John of Kanty, priest

NO MASS PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

6:30 PM CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM People of the parish living & deceased
PARISH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN until 2:00pm

Wednesday December 25, 2019 Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM People of the parish living & deceased

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased
PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Thursday December 26, 2019 St. Stephen, the first martyr

NO MASS

Friday December 27, 2019 St. John, apostle & evangelist

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Bolen family
req. by I. Boone

Saturday December 28, 2019 The Holy Innocents, martyrs

5:00 PM +Bill Brewster req by his family

**Sunday December 29, 2019 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,
& Joseph**

8:00 AM +Lorraine Kane req. by C. Wheaton

10:30 AM +Wayne Woodward req. by C. Wheaton

**Monday December 30, 2019 6th day within the Octave of the
Nativity of the Lord**

NO MASS

Tuesday December 31, 2019 New Year's Eve

5:00 PM

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 1:00 PM

**Wednesday January 1, 2020 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of
God**

9:15 AM

PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

Today's second Collection is for building maintenance.
Collections for Christmas – Offertory & Christmas Gift to my
parish.

Offering totals to be reported in next bulletin due to early
submission.

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

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
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 V. Rev. Ted
Tumicki, Rev. Michael Sequeira, Rev. Michael Parisi, V. Rev.
David Choquette, Rev. Michael Giannitelli, Rev. William
McNulty, Our Holy Father, Rev. Josef Olczak OSPPE, Rev. D.
Scott Surrency OFM Cap, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Rev. George
Richards, Jr., Rev. Tomasz Albrecht.

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)

Weekend December 28 & 29

5:00pm Lector: Steve Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Richard Lataille

Altar Servers: Nina & Lucy Gardella

8:00 am Lector: Rick Kane

Eucharistic: Gregg Lafontaine

Altar Servers: Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia

Altar Servers: Erika Densman, Nicholas Barrett

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.

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

olcretreat@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.
- ❖ **The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at The Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on **Saturday, January 4 at 8:30 A.M.** Please join our celebrant **Rev. Walter Nagle** 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. A brunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow the Rosary this month.
- ❖ **Eucharistic Holy Hour** at St. Mary, Jewett City from 6-7pm on January 16th.

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, gabby.person@sjlcc.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/>.

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 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



Christmas Flower
Offerings
In Memory of:

Stanley & Anne Dudar
Norm Pellerin
Priscilla & Jerry Risavich
Robert Burns, Sr.
Claude Moore
M/M Isidore Wengloski
M/M Kazimierz Wieczorek
Paul Wengloski
Joyce Wengloski
Richard & Louise Pratt
Ken & Tessie Walden
Peg & Stan Jusyk
Joseph B. Worth
Jerry & Bette Rovers
Robert & Margaret O'Neill
Chester & Isabelle Stygar
Patrick O'Neill
William & Margaret Fries
Wallace & Constance Arsenault
Kaye Macht
Roy Showalter
Mark Showalter
Jessie & Yvette Elliott
John & Barbara Cwikla
Stanley & Josephine Misinsky
Peace on Earth
Ernest & Mary Sunega
Matthew & Mildred Sunega
Margaret & Hale Nye
Pauline & Eric Nye
Joe Weingart
Ernie Staebner
Reg & Jessie Hazen
Robert Haswell
Wayne Woodward
Anastasia L. Getman
Rev. Adam Hildebrand
Renaud Corentin
Richard Chalifoux
Paul & Josephine Mathieu
Lorraine Kane
Mary Nicello
Marion Jones



Christmas Flower Offerings
In Memory of
Deceased members of the:

Dudar family
Kulynyck family
Clinch family
Kuzel family
Prescott family
Carlson family
Horan family
Smith family
Flannery family
Graham family
Coutu family
Clark family
Garrahy family
Gingras family
Boudreau family
Cote family
Perotti family
Wheaton family
Lynch family
Valliere & Diette families
Haralson & Smutko family
Albrecht family
Anastasio family
Adamcewicz family
Nejako & Hull families
Foley & Dyer families
Ciarcia family
Leone family
Therrien & Beckwith families
Pelletier family
Ramatowski & Gemmell families
Lima family
Szafarek & Slomkowski families
Dobrolet & Sheehan families
Brisson & Lataille families

Christmas Message 2019

"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

(Luke 2:15b)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year as we commemorate the birth of the Lord Jesus at Christmas, it is important for us to encounter the mystery and importance of the Lord's Incarnation with renewed wonder, gratitude and love. In calling to mind that first Christmas, so lovingly evoked by the manger scenes set up in our parishes and homes, it can be easy to overlook the presence of the humble shepherds of Bethlehem. It was these shepherds who were the first both to hear and respond to the Good News of the birth of the Savior, proclaimed to them by the Angels in their joyful hymn of praise: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14) As the angels returned to Heaven and the unadorned reality of that first Christmas began to dawn upon them with the first light of morning, they left their flocks and set out in haste to encounter the infant Lord Jesus in the quiet stillness of the manger.

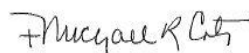
The scene depicted by St. Luke is a stark one: there with the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, we find the Only Begotten Son of the Eternal Father, the Word made flesh, lying in a feeding trough; the King of the Universe, the Savior, announced by the angels as both Messiah and Lord, surrounded only by humble shepherds and farm animals. The poignant humility of Jesus' birth stands in contrast to the transformative power of the Incarnation. There, in the stable of Bethlehem we encounter a child who would embody the complete, all-encompassing and limitless nature of God's love. In the infant Jesus, God reaches down into the messiness of our human existence, embraces our poverty and shares in our suffering, even to the point of sacrificing his very life on the cross to save us from our sins. It is in this supreme sacrifice, foreshadowed even at his birth, that we find the ultimate expression of God's love for all humanity.

It is important for us also to make this mystical journey to the manger each year, following the example of the shepherds, in order to remind ourselves about the true meaning and powerful reality of Christmas. All too often, despite our best intentions during Advent, we get so caught up in the commercialization of the season that we fail to express our gratitude for the God who, in the humble stillness of that night long ago, emptied himself completely into the world to become *Emmanuel*, God with us. By his birth, life, death and resurrection, Jesus has won a share in the very life of God for those who believe. This, dear brothers and sisters, is the true and ultimate gift that we receive at Christmas! The only gift the Lord asks in return is that we share God's complete, total, life-giving love with others, especially the poor, the marginalized, the outcast and forgotten.

As we again recall the great mystery of God's love this Christmas, may we, like the shepherds of old, approach the manger and adore our infant King with hearts full of gratitude. Then, let us allow his transformative love we have encountered to work through us as his disciples to bring hope, peace and joy to our world today.

May you, your families and loved ones have a truly merry Christmas and a New Year filled with God's blessings!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich