

**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 January 18, 2020 Blessed Virgin Mary**

5:00 PM For People of the parish living & deceased

**Sunday January 19, 2020 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM +Rev. Patrick McCorry req. by the Kuzel family

10:30 AM +Rev. Patrick McCorry

**Monday January 20, 2020 St. Fabian, pope & martyr; St. Sebastien, martyr**

NO MASS Parish Office closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

**Tuesday January 21, 2020 St. Agnes, virgin & martyr**

NO MASS

**Wednesday January 22, 2020 Day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children; St. Vincent, deacon & martyr**

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Collura family  
And the Sanctification of the Collins family req. by I. Boone

**Thursday January 23, 2020 St. Marianne Cope, virgin**

NO MASS

**Friday January 24, 2020 St. Francis de Sales, bishop & doctor of the Church**

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Jacobeno family  
Req by I. Boone

**Saturday January 25, 2020 Conversion of St. Paul, apostle**

5:00 PM Theresa Baran req. by her family

**Sunday January 26, 2020 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Rev. Patrick McCorry

10:30 AM Nelson & Mary Flanigan req. by their family

Offertory: \$ 2,199.40

Today's second collection is for our CCD Give a Goat project for Haiti.

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 of January 25 & 26**

5:00 pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella

8:00 am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Emily Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

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 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

1<sup>st</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. Brian Converse, Rev. Thomas Griffin. Rev. Russell Kennedy, Rev. John Walsh MS, Rev. Thomas Smith, Rev. Robert Buongirno, Rev. Thomas Angelo, Rev. Leon Susaimanickam, Rev. Gregoire Fluet, Rev. Michael Phillipino, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. Tadeusz Zadorozny, Msgr. Anthony Rosaforte, Rev. John Gwudz.

Father, we pray for our priests: for the sanctity of their souls and for perfect love, that they may be the voice of Christ. May each day of this New Year bring our priests more souls to save and more holy influence to spread around.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

The next First Fridays one hour Blessed Sacrament Adoration is on February 7th from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Please come and visit our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament for the whole hour or any time during the adoration.

**Mandatory Altar Server Training  
& Parents Meeting**

- ❖ Saturday, January 18th at 11:00am at St. Andrew Church
- ❖ Saturday January 25th, 2020 at 10:00am at St. Francis Church

This is a mandatory training for current altar servers and their parents as well as anyone who would like to be an altar server and their parents.

You may attend either training.



## **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.
- ❖ **Eucharistic Holy Hour** at St. Joseph Church in Norwich from 6-7pm on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Are you grieving from an Abortion?** Trust in the mercy of God's love. Consider these words from St. John Paul II to those suffering because of abortion: *"The church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope.... The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord."* (Evangelium Vitae, no. 99). Call **Project Rachel**, the church's post-abortion healing program, for a confidential referral to a priest who can help: **860-861-4439**.

### **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.

**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/>.

### **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](mailto:olcretreat@sbcglobal.net) 860.677.8519

### **Women's Retreat**

February 21-23 & February 28-March 1

### **Sign Up Now For the Lenten Video Series**

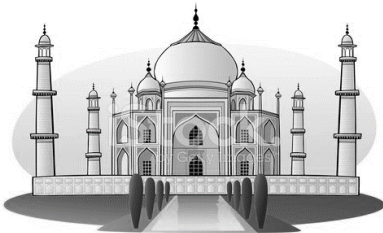
This Lent develop an intimate relationship with God through our weekly Diocesan Lenten Videos. This is an innovative way to delve into the Lenten Season. Each week, we will send videos that are less than 3 minutes featuring people from around the diocese speaking about ways to enhance your Lenten journey. All you have to do is send an initial text to enroll and you will automatically receive the Lenten Video series. To get the videos, send a text – (phone number) TO: **81010** with the Message: **@lentvid (one Word)**. Those who are not text savvy do not need to feel left out, videos will be available on Office of Faith Events Facebook page as well as sent out via Constant Contact. Sign up now so you won't be disappointed!! If you need help, please feel free to contact Lia Roach at 860.848.2237 ext. 305.

### **East Catholic High School**

In response to popular demand we are pleased to offer another Entrance Exam on *Thursday, January 23rd, 8:30 a.m.* Pre-registration for the exam is not required, but is appreciated. You may reserve your spot by calling our Admissions Office at 860-649-5336 ext. 6456 or by pre-registering online at [www.echs.com](http://www.echs.com)

**Looking for the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your spouse?** Give your spouse the gift of your time by spending a day together celebrating the joy of your love. Come away for a day and re-energize and deepen your marriage and your faith with practical insights from Pope Francis' wisdom on marriage and family life. Join other married couples for a day-long enrichment entitled **"The Joy of Love"** on **Saturday, February 8, 2020**, from 9 A.M to 3 P.M. at **St. Mary Parish Hall, 34 North Main St., Jewett City**. The enrichment is based on Chapter 4 of Pope Francis' **Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love** and will feature four talks on: Daily Love, Conjugal Love, Passionate Love and Transformation of Love. This enrichment is for married couples of all ages and years married. The cost is \$25 per couple, which includes lunch and materials. Registration is required. To register, call the Diocesan Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext. 312. Or, send your first names (husband and wife), last name, address and telephone number with fee made payable to the Diocese of Norwich to: Catholic Family Services Office, 199 Broadway, Norwich CT 06360.

On Sunday, February 2nd, the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Consecrated Life will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich. All are invited to join Bishop Michael R. Cote in thanking God for the gift of consecrated life and for the sisters, brothers, and religious priests who enrich the Church and the Diocese of Norwich by building up God's Kingdom with the witness of their religious commitment. The homilist for the Mass will be Father Jacinto Chapin, FI. Father Jacinto is a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate and is currently the delegate superior for the Marian Friary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Griswold, CT.



**TRIP TO INCREDIBLE INDIA:** 14 Days - September 20, 2020 - October 2nd 2020 North Indian sites New Delhi, Agra Taj mahal and Pink city Jaipur famous monuments

and palaces including elephant ride. In south India at Chennai the tomb and place of martyrdom of St. Thomas Apostle, Mahabalipuram and Velankanni Lourdes of East Basilica church and Thekkady mountain beauties and tea estates, Kumarakonam back waters ride and Cochin. Includes Domestic flight air fare. Includes breakfast, dinners and flights and all entrance fees and four star hotels Price for the trip \$ 3570 per person double occupancy from Boston. Hosted by Fr. Ben vinjoe Our Lady of LaSalette Church. For more information. Contact. Fr. Ben vinjoe at 860 7746275 Cell: 8604812880 Email: ourladybrooklyn@gmail.com - benjaminvin@yahoo.com

Dear Parishioners:

This year our CCD project is again to help the people of Haiti. This year we will collect funds for the "Give-a-Goat" program.

The goat brings hope to a family trapped in poverty. Goats can provide milk and meat. Pregnant goats often will give birth to twins or triplets. This in turn, increases the herds quickly.

When we give a goat, the children have the opportunity to name the goats. We later receive pictures of the goats we donated take with a member of the family that receives each goat.

The Give-a-Goat Program is a great way for our children to learn the importance of giving to others.

Each class will have a donation jar and children should bring whatever they can each Sunday. I would like to have this fund raising for the rest of this CCD year.

The cost of a pregnant goat is \$150.00. Parishioners who wish to donate a goat may also choose a name for the goat. In addition to the collection jar located near the Giving Basket, there will also be two second collections between now and June.

The second collection for January 18 & 19 will be for the CCD project.

Sincerely,  
*Jim Hay*  
Jim Hay  
Director of Religious Education



**MARCH FOR LIFE**

January 22, 2020 marks the 47th 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 24, 2020, people from across the nation will assemble in Washington, D.C. to visibly express their opposition to abortion. On Thursday, January 23, 2020 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 24, 2020. Bus fare is \$70 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 Lisa Duda at 860-494-0049.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

January 22, 2020, marks the 47th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. On the anniversary of this date hundreds of thousands of people gather in Washington, DC at the March for Life. This year's March is on January 24, 2020 and it celebrates the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States with the theme, "Life Empowers: Pro-Life /s Pro-Woman."

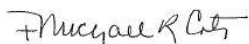
The Church's teaching on abortion is firm and clear. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states in #2270, "Human life must be respected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right to life." Saint John Paul II notes in Evangelium Vitae: The Gospel of Life, that "life is always a good". He continues: "The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth, is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory. This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: 'Man, living man, is the glory of God' ".

For this reason, Pope Francis stated in a conference on life in May of this year ("Yes to Life: Caring for the Precious Gift of Life in all its Frailness"): "Abortion is never the answer... no human being can ever be incompatible with life... Every child is a gift that changes the history of a family... and this child needs to be welcomed, loved, and cared for." Of particular concern to Pope Francis is the health and wellbeing of children in-utero with a challenging prenatal diagnosis. He notes, "Human life is sacred and inviolable and the use of prenatal diagnosis for selective purposes must be strongly discouraged because it is the expression of an inhuman eugenic mentality, which deprives families of the possibility of welcoming, embracing, and loving their weakest children."

Yes. Life is always a good. To be pro-life is to be pro-woman. Consider the heroic witness of Saint Gianna Beretta-Molla. A physician and a mother of four, Saint Gianna died shortly after giving birth to her daughter Gianna Emmanuela in 1962. Saint Gianna once said, "We must be living witnesses to the beauty and grandeur of Christianity." With the offering of her life, Saint Gianna gave witness to the beauty and grandeur of life. She gave witness to the fact that "Life empowers. Pro Life is Pro Woman".

My prayer for each and every one of us is that we will give witness with our lives to the beauty of human life. Life is always good. Thank you for all you do to build a culture of life here in the Diocese of Norwich.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

**2019 Contribution statements  
are now available  
In the parish office.**

**Catholic Charities invites you to  
SAVE THE DATE, APRIL 18, 2020**  
Come and celebrate 99 years of Providing Help & Creating Hope for our neighbors in need at our Hope Anchors the Soul Gala!  
An Evening of Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing and Silent Auction too! Through Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, our community becomes stronger with your help! For more information call 860-889-8346 ext. 285.

**SEEKING**

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Consideration for candidates to the Parish Advisory Council:

- (a) Active parishioners are eligible.
- (b) Parishioners may nominate any interested parishioner, including themselves.
- (c) Must be a Roman Catholic.
- (d) Must be a practicing Catholic in accordance of Canon Law.
- (e) Must be Confirmed (meaning, has received the Sacrament of Confirmation).

A parishioner desiring to serve on the Parish Advisory Council should be nominated by making his or her interest known to the Pastor. The Pastor will verify and confirm that such individual is eligible and is a Catholic in good standing.

Council meets the first Wednesday at 6:30pm in the meeting room every other month September thru May. Meetings usually last 1 hour.