

**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 29, 2020 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

5:00 PM +Christina Lataille req. by C Wheaton

Sunday March 1, 2020 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Frank Smutko req. by his family

10:30 AM +Rev. Patrick McCorry

Monday March 2, 2020 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday March 3, 2020 St. Katherine Drexel, virgin

NO MASS

Wednesday March 4, 2020 St. Casimir

9:00 AM Poor Souls in purgatory req. by Pam Roberts

Sanctification of the Roccato family req. by I.
Boone

Thursday March 5, 2020 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday March 6, 2020 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Kim & Ceara Concannon & family req. by Pam
Roberts

6:00-7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 7, 2020 St. Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs

5:00 PM +Christina Lataille req. by her family

Sunday March 8, 2020 Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Rev. Thaddeus F. Malanowski

10:30 AM +Robert Wheaton req by his family

Offertory: \$ 1,893.00

Today's second collection is for monthly 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 of March 7 & 8

5:00 pm Lector: Kevin Flaherty

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty

Altar Servers: Genevieve & Grace Gardella

8:00 am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic: Ella Mae Kuzel

Altar Servers: Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Sandy Grillo

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Erika Densman

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The next First Fridays one hour Blessed Sacrament Adoration is on March 6th 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.

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

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 Bishop Michael R. Cot, Rev. George Richards, Jr., Rev. William Flynn, Rev. Stephen Gulino, V. Rev. Laurence LaPointe, Msgr. Kevin Randall, Rev. William Olesik, Rev. Dennis Mercieri, Rev. Christopher Feeney, Rev. Joseph DeCosta, V. Rev. David Choquette. Rev. Brian Maxwell.

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

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. All parishioners are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is prescribed by law.

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. Those individuals who have a medical condition in which fasting or abstaining may be considered harmful are not obliged to fast or abstain, but should perform some other act of penance or charity.

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, March 7 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. Joseph Church in Chester from 6-7pm on March 19th.

Please Join Us: 2020 ACA Ministry Fair Reservations Required

The 2020 Ministry Fair showcasing our Diocesan ministries and programs will be held in Norwich on Sunday, March 15, 2020 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. We will offer a complimentary continental breakfast throughout this open house style event and there will be a kid's corner as well. If you would like to attend to learn how donations to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal, "**One Faith, One Family**", support our ministries and programs please **RSVP by March 9th** to Rosela Precopio at 860-886-1928 ext. 110 or dodadm@norwichdiocese.net. Reservations are required due to space limitations.

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.

Men's Retreat: March 20-22. We spend our time and energy on the necessities of everyday life, which hold so many things that are beyond our control. But what is it that we are longing for in the deepest way? What is our passion in life? This year at Holy Family, 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 begins with a buffet dinner from 6-7:30pm on Friday evening and concludes Sunday with the celebration of Mass at 10:45am 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 is \$325.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, 3 Tunxis Rd., West Hartford, CT. More info and to register:
holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats

Please join us **March 28, 2020 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at St. Bernard's School in Uncasville for the 10th Annual Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference, "Our Tapestry of Faith: Affirming Feminine Gifts and Strengths"**.

The day will include keynote speaker Danielle Bean, mass with Bishop Cote, vendors, reconciliation, and much more! Lunch is included with registration fee.

Register after February 22.... \$40
Students..... \$20

To print the registration form or register online go to www.norwichdiocese.org and follow the Office of Faith Events link.

Questions, please contact The Office of Faith Events at 860-848-2237, or faithevents@norwichdiocese.net

Registration forms also available at church entrances.

Attendees are requested to bring a canned good.

"The Tribute Page" will be a new addition to our 2020 **Women's Conference Booklet**. Acknowledge all the women who are threads in the tapestry of your life by letting them know their unique contribution has reinforced the fabric of your life and your faith! Write a thankful tribute or a note of gratitude to your Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother or Godmother for all she has done for you, or any woman/women who have helped you throughout your life.

The cost is \$5.00 a line (no more than 65 characters including spaces) Please make checks out to the Office of Faith Events and send to: Office of Faith Events, 199 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360 Contact Marianne at 860-848-2237, ext. 304 with questions.

The Sisters of Charity will host a St. Joseph's Retreat for young women ages 14, 15, 16, and 17 at Holy Family Mother House, 54 W. Main St., Baltic, CT on Saturday March 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Activities include talks, chapel time, sharing and friendship with the Sisters. No charge. Please contact Sister Mary Jacinta at 869-822-8241 or email smaryjacinta@gmail.com.

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

Centering Prayer Weekend: March 27-29. Learn more at www.enders.is/bestill

Enjoy a chef-prepared entrée & a specialty dessert portioned for four adults. Sunday suppers are available for purchase each weekend until April 5. Orders must be placed the preceding Wednesday and picked up on Enders Island after the 9am Mass. Order on-line at www.enders.is/suppers

Stations of the Cross & Fish Fry

Every Friday in Lent

Enjoy dinner in the Enders House - an early 20th century arts and crafts style mansion. Choose a 5pm or 6:30pm seating, or order to go. Stations of the Cross are recited in the Chapel of the Assumption at 6pm.

Learn more at www.enders.is/bestill

**Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center of
Southeastern CT Annual Fundraising Banquet!**

Come hear about the past year at Care Net, a life affirming resource center and licensed medical clinic located in New London. Our staff is dedicated to providing women facing an unplanned pregnancy with *real* choices. At Care Net, women and their families receive the following free services: accurate, medically-sourced information about pregnancy, a pregnancy test, ultrasound, STI screening and treatment if needed, peer counseling, parenting & birthing education, and practical items for their infants, as well as referrals to local agencies. We also share the Gospel with each client in word and deed.

Date: Thursday, March 19

Time: Lunch @ 11:15 am

Dinner @ 6:15 am

Location: Groton Inn & Suites 99 Gold Star Highway, Route 184 Groton, CT 06340

If you'd like to host a table or RSVP, please call our office at 860-449-0386 OR email Katie at katie@carenetsect.org. Thank you for considering joining us and supporting this ministry!

Lenten Soup & Bread

Every Friday during Lent at the
Frist Congregational Church in Lebanon –
through March 10, (except March 13th). Time 5-7pm.

Take Out Available.

Info please call 860.642.6179.

Fish -Fry Lenten Dinners

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester once again will organize and offer Friday Fish - Fry Lenten Dinners this year from 4:30 till 7:00 pm. The last Fish - Fry Friday Dinner will be April 3rd. Everyone is welcome. The menu and prices are the same as in previous years: your choice of Baked or Beer-battered fillet of fried fish, French Fries or onion rings, Homemade Coleslaw, variety of Home-made desserts and soft drinks- all for \$15 donation for adults and \$7 for Kids Ages 5-10. Children under 4 are free of charge. Take out is also available. For more information please call 860-537-2069. Thank you for your support of our very small parish and wish you all a happy & joyful Lenten journey.

**NEW) LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAM - Wednesdays at St. Andrew
Church**

"FORGIVEN", the Transforming Power of Confession. "FORGIVEN" explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and show how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, "FORGIVEN" communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This series is free of charge and will be held in the church, Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 PM on the following dates: **March 4, 11, and 18**

This program is for all, no matter where you are in your faith journey, whether you are just beginning, returning or have many years under your belt. No problem if you miss a week-feel free to join us whenever you can. Flyers with additional information are located in the side and front entrances of the church. If you have any questions, please call Ed or Marie Fusco (860) 537-6386. Please bring a notebook or journal with you.

NEWS FROM THE LENDING LIBRARY

With Lent fast approaching, we will have a series of new inspirational reading available. In the late 80's through the 90's, Fr. Joseph F. Girzone wrote a series of books starting with "Joshua". Seven of his books will now be available. Once you read one, you will be looking forward to the next and won't want to put it down.

In addition, 3 other of his best-selling books will be added to our library: Stories of Jesus: "Forty Days of Prayer and Reflection", Never Alone: "A Personal Way to God", and "A Portrait of Jesus".

Take advantage of these books before, during and after Lent. I promise you will be inspired!

Lenten Message, 2020

“At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.” Matthew 4:1-2

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

The Gospel proclaimed on the First Sunday of Lent each year always takes us into the desert with the Lord Jesus. This is intentional. As with so many of our Catholic traditions and rituals, our annual observance of Lent is intimately tied to Sacred Scripture. The journey of our Blessed Lord into the desert for forty days and nights provides not only the inspiration, but also a model for our own forty-day observance of Lent.

Following His baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus went out into the desert for, what we could call today, a forty-day retreat. He ventured into the Judean wilderness, away from the ordinary, everyday distractions of His life in order to be more recollected and focused. The length of time is significant. The number forty, as with many other numbers that occur in Scripture, has a symbolic meaning and signifies a period of preparation. For example: the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and nights in preparation for a renewal of humanity and deepening of God's covenant with Noah; Moses fasted for forty days on Mount Sinai in preparation for receiving the Ten Commandments; the people of Israel wandered through the desert for forty years in preparation for their entry into the Promised Land – and there are many other such examples in both the Old and New Testaments. In this case, Jesus goes into the desert for forty days and nights to prepare spiritually for His public ministry of preaching and healing.

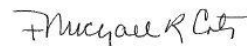
During this period, the Lord prepared by fasting as well as by entering into intense prayer and communion with God the Father. Both of these spiritual practices can help bring us closer to God and know His will; they deepen our understanding of the particular mission entrusted to us by God and strengthen our resolve to accomplish it. It was also during this time, however, that the Lord was tempted by Satan. The goal of the devil is always to tempt us to turn away from God and His divine plan. Thus, the devil tested the Lord and His dedication to His evangelical mission, by appealing to three common areas of weakness for us as humans: His physical hunger after a period of fasting, to the human desire for power, and to the human tendency to put God to the test. Despite his tricks, the Lord resisted Satan by reflecting on the very truth and power of God's Word which He cited in response to each temptation.

This very brief reflection on the time the Lord spent in the wilderness shows us that, as we go out into the desert of this Lent and try to draw closer to God through our own efforts at prayer, fasting and works of charity, our purpose during this season is to not only deepen our relationship with God, but to come to an awareness of, and fuller

participation in the mission that God has entrusted uniquely to us. We must likewise acknowledge that Satan wants to prevent this and that he will try to distract or discourage us. But, if we allow ourselves to be nourished on and strengthened by God's Holy Word; if we seek out the power of His grace available to us through the Sacraments, especially confession and the worthy reception of our Lord in Holy Communion, we too will be able to withstand whatever temptations we may face. Then, we will emerge from this Lent better prepared, not just for the celebration of Easter, but also to live our mission to give witness to the Gospel and, most importantly, for eternal life with God and the Saints in Heaven.

God bless you and may you have a Holy Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

Meetings:

- **Parish Advisory Council Wednesday
March 4 @ 6:30pm**
- **Knights of Columbus Thursday
March 5 @ 7:00pm**

OPERATION RICE BOWL: OUR LENTEN PROGRAM FOR LENT FOR LIFE

When Jesus fed the 5,000, he said, "Give them some food yourselves." Reflect on the challenge of global hunger. How can you contribute to support the hungry in your community? Visit csrricebowl.org for more. 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 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. Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. With the moneys saved from this meal, a donation is placed in the family Rice Bowl and brought to Church on Palm Sunday,