

Dear Parishioners,

Although there is a temporary suspension of the public celebration of the Mass in the Diocese of Norwich, we will offer the daily Mass privately. The Church will be open if you wish to stop by and spend a few moments in private prayer.

We will continue to have the weekly bulletin available in limited numbers.

The bulletin is also posted on the parish website: www.stfrancisassisilebanonct.lebanonct.org

Blessed palms will be available in the Church for Palm Sunday.

We ask that you also remember that although there is no public Mass, our expenses are still here. Please consider mailing in your weekly offering.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the parish office at 860.642.6711 between the hours of 9am – 12pm (noon) Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Temporary Suspension of the Public Celebration of Mass in the Diocese of Norwich

NORWICH – Beginning effective immediately, Bishop Michael R. Cote has mandated that all public celebrations of Mass be temporarily suspended in all churches of the Diocese of Norwich (the Connecticut counties of Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham and Fishers Island, New York), and continuing until further notice. This decision was made in light of the recommendations of healthcare professionals and Governor Ned Lamont's executive order requiring the closure of all restaurants, bars, gyms, and movie theaters and the prohibition of civic, social, and recreational gatherings of 50 or more people, including religious, spiritual, or worship gatherings of such size.

Priests will continue to celebrate a daily Mass with no congregation, remembering in prayer all who are affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Also, pastors are encouraged to make provision for their churches to be open during the day so individuals can still come and pray and make an Act of Spiritual Communion with the Lord.

Further information regarding other sacramental and liturgical celebrations, Holy Week and Easter, and all celebrations beyond that date will be forthcoming.

Coronavirus Precautions

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is commuted (i.e., can be fulfilled in lieu of their participation of Mass) by doing one of the following and making an Act of Spiritual Communion:

- ❖ Watching Sunday Mass on TV or online.
- ❖ Reading and reflecting upon the Scripture for Sunday – available on the Diocesan website, USCCB website and in print through hand missal missals, Missalettes and subscription services.
- ❖ Praying 5 decades of the Rosary – the Sorrowful Mysteries being particularly suited to both the current situation and the Lenten Season.
- ❖ Meditating on the Stations of the Cross – there are many online and print resources available.
- ❖ Please consult the Diocesan website for additional information and resources.

Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Amen.

Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer (Anima Christi)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, embolden me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me. Never permit me to be parted from You. From the evil enemy, defend me. In the hour of my death, call me, and bid me come to Thee, that with Your saints I may praise Thee for age upon age. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lord Jesus Crucified

Behold, O good and loving Jesus, that I cast myself on my knees before You and, with the greatest fervor of spirit, I pray and beseech You to instill into my heart ardent sentiment of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm purpose of amendment. With deep affection and sorrow I ponder intimately and contemplate in my mind Your five wounds, having before my eyes what the prophet David had already put in Your mouth about Yourself, O good Jesus: They have pierced my hands and my feet; they have numbered all my bones (Ps. 21: 17-18)

The Prayer of Pope Francis to Mary during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

**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 21, 2020 Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM +Nicholas Wengloski req. by his family

Sunday March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Virginia Igo req. by the Dyer family

10:30 AM +Rev. Thaddeus F. Malanowski

Monday March 23, 2020 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop

NO MASS

Tuesday March 24, 2020 St. Oscar Romero, bishop, martyr

NO MASS

Wednesday March 25, 2020 Annunciation of the Lord

9:00 AM Sanctification of the Tuwalski family req. by I. Bone

Sanctification of the Drillon family req. by I. Boone

Thursday March 26, 2020 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday March 27, 2020 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM +Jennifer Wheaton req. by her family

& Sr. Laurette Roy on the occasion of her birthday
req. by Suzanne Gorsline

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 28, 2020 Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM

Sunday March 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM

10:30 AM +Milissa Beatty req. by the Meline family

Offertory: \$ 2,142.00 Building Maintenance: \$ 453.00
Next weekend's second collection will be for the CCD project:
Goats for Haiti.
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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL Today our parish will be
conducting the in- pew collection for the 2020 Annual
Catholic Appeal, "One Faith, One Family". From
counseling sessions, food and shelter programs, to our
youth, clergy and religious, your donations are vital in
continuing to meet the needs of our community and
parishes. We ask that each of you please show your
support by placing your completed pledge card or
envelope in the collection basket **today** or by going
directly to www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org.

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
1st Class Petty Officer 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
IT2 Rocky Spedalieri Jr., U.S. Navy
AMSA Jared Swett, 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. Michael
Phillippino, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. Tadeusz
Zadorozny, Msgr. Anthony Rosaforte, Our Holy Father, Rev.
John Gwudz, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Dariusz Dudzik,
Rev. Jonathan Ficara, Rev. Thomas Hoar SSE, Msgr. James
Carini, Msgr. Leszek Janik, Rev. Anthony DiMarco.

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

Weekend of March 28 & 29

5:00 pm Lector: Bob Nejako

Eucharistic Minister: Carole Briggs

Altar Servers: CJ Frank, Genevieve Gardella

8:00 am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic: Jim Dyer

Altar Servers: Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Angela Coentin

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Drew Taylor, Joey Major

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.
- ❖ **Eucharistic Holy Hour** at St. John Church in Cromwell from 6-7pm on April 23rd.
- ❖ **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**.

Programs at Enders Island, Mystic

860.536.0565 www.endersisland.com

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

Pysanky Egg Decorating 3/29 or 4/5 for more info. visit www.enders.is/pysanky

Triduum Retreat April 9 – 12 www.enders.is/triduum

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

Saint Andrew's Ladies Guild Trips

April 28-30, 2020 - Trip to Lancaster, PA. View the brand new show **Queen Easter** at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. Also included, viewing Improv Comedy Show, Old Windmill Farm, Strasburg Railroad, shopping time - travel by deluxe motor-coach, 2 nights hotel, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary. Cost \$521pp double.

Boston Pops on Old Cape Cod:

Aug. 9-10 Pops by the sea with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops, visit JFK Museum and have a Hyannis Harbor Cruise. Travel by deluxe motor-coach, 1 night hotel stay, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner and reserved seats for the Boston Pops. Cost \$369 pp double

Don't wait--deposits are being accepted at this time.

Please contact Cathy Russi if you need added information:

crussi45@sbcglobal.net or 860-887-9621

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"**.

This meeting has been cancelled.

Come Soar with the Eagles! East Catholic High School entrance exam on Saturday March 28 **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

East Catholic High School will hold an entrance exam on Saturday, April 4th from 8:30- 12:00 pm; parents are welcome to stay for an information session while their students take the exam. Please plan on staying for a while to meet administrators, take mini-tours with student ambassadors, and have questions answered about the application process.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: OUR LENTEN PROGRAM FOR LENT FOR LIFE

This is a listing of grant recipients from the Diocesan Rice Bowl Collection. The 2019 grants total \$14,376.86 **Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, Inc.** 331 Main Street Norwich.

Haitian Health Foundation 97 Sherman Street Norwich.

Outreach to Haiti 815 Boswell Avenue Norwich.

Reliance House, Inc. 40 Broadway Norwich.

St. Vincent de Paul Place 617 Main Street Middletown.

St. Vincent de Paul Place 120 Cliff Street Norwich.

Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for your future? How can you ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit csrricebowl.org for more.

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.

Holy Family Summer Camp 2020

Theme: **Jesus Our Eucharistic King**

July 28-July 31

Located at Holy Family Motherhouse in Baltic, CT!

For girls, ages 11-15

Come join us for a wonderful spiritual experience and lots of fun!

Contact: Sister Mary Kathleen, SCMC 860-388-1517

srmarykathleen@gmail.com or Sister Rafael, SCMC 860-822-8241. All forms will be available on our website: www.sistersofcharity.com

Email Sr. Mary Kathleen and she will send these directly to you!

Programs at Mercy High School
1740 Randolph Rd. Middletown, 06457
Register online – www.mercyhigh.com
Office of Admissions 860-346-6659 x115

***Calling all (rising) 6th – 9th graders**
Super Charge your summer and register for the 2020 M-Powered Summer Programs:
Basketball, Higher Achievement, Soccer, Theater Arts (co-ed), plus additional programs for the Mercy Class of 2024. Visit Mercy's website for information or contact the school for a brochure.

\$20,000 Cash Raffle Sponsored by Mercy High School Home & School Association Ticket Price \$100.
Purchase tickets online at www.mercyhigh.com or call 860-346-6659. Only 650 tickets will be sold. You do not have to be affiliated with Mercy High School to Play or Win. Winner need not be present. Winner will be responsible for all taxes.

**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.

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/>.

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

olcretreat@sbcglobal.net 860.677.8519

Women's Retreat

March 27-29 April 17-19

July 17-19 July 24-26

Pysanky Workshop Wednesday March 25 6:00-9:00pm

Awakening Our Creative Self in Recovery August 7 @ 7:00pm thru August 9 @ 12:00pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22-26 6-6:30pm

St. Andrew Church

Our theme is: **The Knights of North Castle**

Volunteer & registration info coming soon



Women's Acts Retreat April 2-6

St. Francis/St. Andrew/St. Patrick/St. Bridget

To be held at Our Lady of Calvary, Farmington, CT. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the following:

Adrienne Davis, Director 860. 670. 4989

Jeanette Girard, Co-director 860.334.9893

Joanne Phillips, Co-director 860.334.8986

CT March for Life – April 15th

St. Francis and St. Andrew Parishes will have a bus to go to the March for Life in Hartford, CT this April 15th. The day will start with a march from Bushnell to the State Capitol at 11:15am and will end with a rally that will begin at noon. Great speakers are promised for the rally. The bus will pick up at St. Andrew at 10:00am, take us to the Bushnell. The return bus will pick us up at 1:30pm at the State Capitol. We are expected to return to St. Andrew about 2:00pm. The cost of this trip is only \$10 per person. Those under 18 must be accompanied by their parents. **To reserve a spot, please send the name of who will be attending along with a check to St. Andrew Church in a sealed envelope and place in the collection basket at St. Francis. Seats will be filled on a first come first serve basis.** Any questions, please feel free to contact Carol Petit at carolannpetit1@gmail.com

Fish Fry Lenten Dinners

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester offers 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.

Lenten Soup & Bread HAS BEEN CANCELLED

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.

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at Enders House on Enders Island, in the Chapel of the Assumption at 6pm. The Lenten Fish Fry has been suspended until Good Friday. **Enders Island, Mystic 860.536.0565**
www.endersisland.com

This year's St. Andrew's Annual Passion Play has been cancelled.

Easter flower envelopes available at the entrances of Church.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Easter Egg Hunt at Saint Francis Palm Sunday April 5 following 10:30am Mass (Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus)**
- **Confessions at Saint Andrews Tuesdays 6:30pm – 7:00pm**
- **Confessions at Saint Francis Monday, April 6 at 7:00pm**
- **Holy Week St. Andrew Church: Saint Francis parishioners invited to attend Holy Thursday 7:00 PM Good Friday 3:00 PM Holy Saturday 8:00 PM No vigil service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Parishioners are invited to attend Easter Vigil Services & Mass at St. Andrew Church in Colchester at 8:00 P.M.**
- **Blessing of Easter Food at St. Francis Holy Saturday 1:00 PM**
- **Easter Sunday Masses at Saint Francis Masses: 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**

Part Time Job Opening- 27.5 hours per week Join the Diocese's Development Office as *Campaign Manager* and apply your skills to help our ministries! Responsible for working with office staff on implementing all aspects of various diocesan campaigns. Requires a college degree preferably in marketing, communications or business. Must be proficient in MS Office, including Excel, Word, Outlook and Access. Additional requisites include marketing skills, ability to work collaboratively as well as independently, attention to detail and deadlines, ability to multitask, and excellent writing/communication skills. Experience in donor relations preferred but not required. For consideration, please email your cover letter and resume to Executive Director, Mary Ellen Mahoney at memahoney@norwichdiocese.net.



Annual Layette Program

All ladies are invited to attend the Annual Layette Program on Sunday, April 26th at 1pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Hall, 63 Old Norwich Road, Quaker Hill. We are collecting NEW baby items such as diapers all sizes, baby clothing

(sizes 0-3 years old), blankets, etc. All items collected will go to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Norwich, and will be distributed to Norwich, New London, Middletown and Willimantic. You may leave your items in the collection box located at the side entrance of the Church. We will be collecting items until the day of the event. Any questions, please contact Sandra Spedaliere at 860.537.1372. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The next First Fridays one hour Blessed Sacrament Adoration is on April 3rd 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.

All parishioners are invited to the consecration of the Chrism and the blessing of the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens at the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 10:30am Procession of Priests and Deacons will begin into the Cathedral at 10:20am. The Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich. Bishop Michael R. Cote will celebrate this liturgy. All are invited.

The Sacred Chrism, oil mixed with sweet perfume, symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit. It will be used in the parishes of the Diocese of Norwich in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. It is also used at the Ordination of Bishops and Priests and at the Dedication of a Church and altar.

The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint those who are suffering from illness so that they may receive strength and healing, both physical and spiritual.

The catechumens will be anointed with the Oil of the Catechumens in preparation for their Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the entire local Church, and the subsequent use of the oils in the various parishes is a sign of unity among God's people. Why not plan to take your family to the Cathedral that day? It is a very special experience!



WAY OF THE CROSS: A Communal Celebration of Scripture and prayer on Good Friday, April 10, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Cathedral of Saint

Patrick. Join with the Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich, and leaders of other Christian Communities as we pray the Way of the Cross. Remembering the suffering of Christ, we will meditate on the Scriptures and sing in commemoration of Christ's journey. We gather as Christians, knowing by faith that the Cross leads to resurrection, even today.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 9653

St. Francis of Assisi Church Invites all children to their Annual EASTER EGG HUNT Palm Sunday April 5 Has Been Cancelled



**Programs at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
303 Tunxis Road West Hartford
860.760.9705**

Women's Evening: Mercy in the City: Doing God's Work at Ungodly Hours, with Kerry Weber.

Wednesday, Mar 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Join us for an evening of laughter, joy and learning as *America's* executive editor Kerry Weber discusses how she has tried to balance breadlines and deadlines and describes how her efforts for service have changed since moving from the "city that never sleeps" to living in the Jersey suburbs with two kids who never sleep.

\$40, includes wine and cheese and dinner. \$40. Register at 860-760-9705 or online holyfamilyretreat.org