



For

unto you
is born
this day
in the city
of David
a Savior,
which is
Christ
the Lord

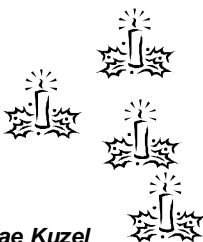
Luke 2:11

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 19, 2020 Late Advent Weekday

5:00 PM + Bill Brewster R/b his family

Sunday, December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Jane & Lea Gertschitz R/b Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM People of the Parish living & deceased

Mass to also be streamed from St. Andrew 9:30 AM

Monday December 21, 2020 St. Peter Canisius, priest, doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Confessions 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Tuesday December 22, 2020 Late Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday December 23, 2020 St. John of Kanty, priest

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Witkowski family
R/b I. Boone

Thursday December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM People of the parish living & deceased

7:00 PM People of the parish living & deceased

Friday December 25, 2020 the Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

8:00 AM People of the parish living & deceased

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

Saturday December 26, 2020 St. Stephen, the first martyr

5:00 PM +William Dlugos R/b Irene, Marie, Brian, Jan, & Estelle

Sunday, December 27, 2020 the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 AM +Ann Marie Keating R/b the Dyer family

10:30 AM 55th Wedding Anniversary – Greg & Linda Jones

Mass to also be streamed from St. Andrew 9:30 AM

Thank you to all parishioners who have mailed in their contributions.

Collection data will be reported next bulletin due to early submission of the bulletin.

There will be two collections on Christmas: Christmas Offertory and Christmas Gift to My Parish. Next weekend's second collection is for building maintenance.

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
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 Spedaliere Jr., U.S. Navy
AEAN 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. Gregoire Fluet, Rev. George Villamthanam CST, Rev. Michael Phillippino, Rev. Patrick Martin, Rev. D. Scott Surrency OFM Cap, Rev. Patrick McCorry, Msgr. Anthony Rosaforte, Rev. Alfred Irving V. Rev. Richard Ricard, Rev. Christopher Feeney, Our Holy Father, Rev. Thomas Sickler MS, Rev. Tadeusz Zadorozny.

We thank You 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.

Weekend of December 26 & 27

5:00 pm Lector: Richard Lataille

8:00 am Lector: Jim Worth

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

**Remember to wear a facemask
Sanitize your hands
Maintain social distancing**

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ❖ Let the Office of Faith Events brighten your Wednesday mornings by signing up for the weekly **Hope and Faith video series**. Throughout the year be inspired with varied reflections on Lent, Advent, the Saints, Gratitude and much MORE! **There are two easy ways to receive our weekly video...** Simply send your e-mail to manicholas@norwichdiocese.net or have the videos sent right to your cell phone by texting @lentvid to #81010
- ❖ **St. Vincent de Paul Place's** community meals program increased 26% since the COVID-19 shut down began and our food pantry sign ups have increased 31%. We have not missed a day or a meal since the shutdown. On the 16th day of September, we distributed a record 8,134 meals. The increase in need from the pandemic grows daily. We rely on your donations to continue this work. You can find out more and donate at svdpp.org. Checks can be mailed to SVDPP, 120 Cliff St. Norwich, CT 06360. Questions, call 860.889.7374. Every donation large or small is appreciated!
On behalf of the thousands served by St. Vincent de Paul Place, thank you for your support.
You saw me hungry and fed me.
One of the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy
- ❖ **Volunteers Needed!**
"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" 1Pet 4:10
Catholic Charities is looking for dependable weekly volunteers to pick up, unload and put away boxes of food for our food pantries in Norwich, New London and Willimantic. If you can lift boxes up to 30 pounds and can make a regular commitment to help one day a week, please contact Cindy Mageski at 860-889-8346 ext. 269 or email cindymageski@ccfsn.org. **Thank you!**
- ❖ **VIRTUAL BINGO FOR ALL AGES**
The Office of Faith Events invites people of all ages to participate in Virtual Bingo! Bingo will take place on New Year's Eve, December 31st from 3:30 – 5pm. You will receive your cards online, mark them and even remark them for the next game. Through video conferencing, we will call the numbers and play different BINGO games from regular bingo, double bingo, and picture frame, to black out! It will be great fun with lots of gift certificates for prizes! The cost is \$6 per card for the whole Bingo event! To register for your Bingo card, go to: <https://bit.ly/3kohQtJ> or call Marianne at 860-848-2237 ex. 304
- ❖ The Office of Faith Events and the Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference Committee are looking for donations of unwanted **BASKETS**.

If you have a basket or baskets you would like to part with, **please contact Marianne at 860-848-2237 ext. 304**

or manicholas@norwichdiocese.org

Thank you!

- ❖ **Please share your e-mail with The Office of Faith Events of the Diocese of Norwich.** Be the first to know about all the virtual programs we are offering throughout the coming year, and also receive our own Advent and Lenten reflections! Send your e-mail address to manicholas@norwichdiocese.net to be added to the list!
- ❖ 2020 ACA Update: As of November 20th, **Saint Francis Parish, Lebanon** has donated \$16,255.93 or 78.98% of its goal, and 12.52% of our parishioners have donated. We are striving for as close to 100% participation as possible. With your donation, our ACA supported ministries do the work of Christ every day. From a Seminarian, "During these difficult times due to the pandemic, with so many people facing their own challenges, we truly appreciate your contributions to the ACA and our education. It is truly through your prayers and support that future priests are being formed for the glory of God and His church!" If you have not made your contribution to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal, "One Faith, One Family", or would like to make an additional gift, please contact the Development Office at (860) 886-1928 or go online to www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org.
Thank you to everyone for your support!

Upcoming Events at Mercy High School

"Mercy Girl for a Day" Visits: Mercy Girl for a Day has been revamped for the 2020-2021 school year to meet the Mercy High School COVID Management Plan. We are now offering the "Inside Look" Program. This program is for 8th grade students who are interested in learning what a day at Mercy High School is like. Space is limited to three students per day. The day will begin at 8 a.m. and will conclude after lunch at 11:45 a.m. The day will consist of three 30 minute classes, advisor group with a Mercy Ambassador, a tour of our campus and lunch in our cafeteria.

"Mornings at Mercy!" – Select dates now through May from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. - For families and students to meet with student ambassadors, faculty, school guidance counselors, and administrators, tour the campus and grab a snack in the Mercy Commons Cafeteria. **Virtual Options Available.**

You can also find all of the above forms and information on our website at <https://www.mercyhigh.com>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saint Francis of Assisi
Thursday, December 24,
Christmas Eve
4:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Friday, December 25,
Christmas Day
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

New Year's Masses
Thursday, December 31, 2020
Vigil 5:00 PM
Friday, January 1, 2021 - 9:15 AM

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saint Andrew
Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve
4:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 11:00 PM
Friday, December 25
Christmas Day
9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

New Year's Masses
Thursday, December 31, 2020
Vigil 4:00 PM
Friday, January 1, 2021- 9:30 AM

Please Note:

Everyone is required to have a ticket to attend Christmas Masses.
Please call the parish office to acquire a ticket.

Christmas Confession Schedule
St. Andrew/St. Francis

Dec. 21 (Mon.) – St. Francis – 6:00pm
Dec. 22 (Tu.) – St. Andrew – 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Dec. 23 (Wed.) – St. Andrew – 6:00pm – 7:00pm
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These names were suggested by St. Francis and St. Andrew parishioners for our new Parish Corporation:

- ❖ Saint Isidore the Farm Laborer (Saint of Farms & Open Spaces)
- ❖ Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- ❖ Saint Sophia (Saint for Faith, Hope, & Charity)
- ❖ Holy Innocents Martyrs
- ❖ Holy Apostles
- ❖ Guardian Angels

Please call the parish office with your choice. All votes must be submitted by December 24th. Votes will be counted and the most popular name will be submitted to the Bishop for his approval.

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An Invitation to Anyone who has been away from the Church

- Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church during this pandemic?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

No matter how long you've been away for whatever reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join us for informal listening session and an update of the Catholic faith. A six-week series will be held in a COVID-safe environment on Mondays at the St. Bernard Parish Hall, 25 St. Bernard Terrace, Rockville, CT 06066, beginning on January 11th, starting at 7 pm with an option for remote participation. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.blessedsacramentct.org/>, email evangelization@cath-comm.org or call (860) 875-0753 x122.



A new tradition is being initiated at St. Francis. This is an ancient Catholic worldwide annual event held on the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the day the three kings presented their gifts to Bambinelli or Baby Jesus. Epiphany Blessing bags will be given to the heads of each household before Masses on January 2 and January 3rd. Father Mark or Father Richard will bless these Epiphany Gift bags prior to the final blessing.

THANK YOU.

LITURGY COMMITTEE



A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
TO YOU.

*Father Mark
Father Richard
Deacon Michael
&
The Parish Staff*

Christmas Flowers in Memory of:

Chester & Isabelle Stygar
Margaret & Robert O'Neill
Nicholas & Ester Olenick
Gail, Vera, & Edward Michniewski
Ron & Teresa Kline
Frank & Mary Rival
Gretchen & Homer Therrien
M/M Isidore Wengloski
Paul Wengloski
Joyce Wengloski
M/M Kazimierz Wieczorek
Michele Beale
Stanley & Anne Dudar
Ernest & Mary Sunega
Ernest Staebner
Joe Weingart
Connie Miner
Katherine Macht
Roy Showalter
Mark Showalter
William & Margaret Fries
Constance & Wallace Arseneault
June & Waldyn Benbenek
Luci & Fernando Duarte
John M. Petrofsky
M/M Jessie Elliott
Al Tays

Deceased members of the:

Hull, Talbot & Nejako families
Dudar & Kulynyck families
Nye family
Hazen family
Sunega family
Pelletier family
Perotti, Wheaton & Cote families
Foley & Dyer families
Brisson & Lataille families
Clinch family
Kuzel family
Prescott family
Carson family
Horan family
Smith family
Flannery family
Coutu family
Clarke family
Garrahy family
Gingras family
McElroy family
Gertshitz family
Curry family
Dehney family
Jones family
Stephenson family
Petersen family
Malone family
DeLaere family

In Honor of Al & Rita Atspins
In Honor of Rita Tays



Christmas Message 2020

**"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone."
(Isaiah 9:1)**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

These words of the prophet Isaiah, taken from the first reading proclaimed at the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, seem particularly poignant for us this year. As we celebrate Christmas and draw near to the end of this calendar year, I think that many of us feel that this has indeed been a year dominated by darkness and gloom. This year has certainly been a difficult one: from the ongoing pandemic that has changed our lives in so many ways and sadly has taken the lives of family members and friends throughout the world, to the devastation wrought by numerous wildfires, hurricanes and natural disasters, continued racial division, as well as what has been one of the most bitterly contentious election cycles in the history of our nation. Chaos and darkness are all around us. It has become increasingly clear, therefore, that our world needs the light of the Lord Jesus now more than ever.

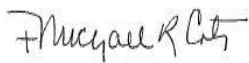
In commemorating His birth at Christmas, it is important we remember that we celebrate something far more profound than simply the Lord's "birthday." What we celebrate is the ultimate triumph of light over darkness. As Saint John writes, referring to the Lord, in the prologue to his account of the Gospel, "...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) While the world was yet still in darkness, a great light broke forth on the first Christmas night: the unchanging truth of God's abundant love for His people - a love so pure that it took flesh in the person of Jesus, born in the manger at Bethlehem; a love so deep that it enabled the Lord to endure the agony of His passion and death on the cross; a love so powerful that it would destroy even sin and death itself in the glory of His resurrection, affording each of us the opportunity to share in the eternal joy of Heaven.

While our gatherings and Christmas celebrations will indeed be different this year, it is vitally important that we remember this central truth: nothing and no one can change the fact that God has sent His Divine Son into the world and that He suffered, died and rose again for our redemption. The same risen Lord Jesus likewise continues to be present through His body, the Church, as the true light which can dispel the darkness and gloom present in our own lives as well as in the world around us. As individual members of His Church, the Lord is now calling each of us, in the midst of our present challenges and difficulties, to allow His light to shine brightly through the witness of our lives, that, as His instruments, we may bring much needed love, hope, and peace to our families, communities and world, here and now.

And so, in this season of light and hope, let us give thanks to God for the tremendous gift He has given to the world in the person of Jesus and spend some time in prayer, asking how He is calling us to reflect and radiate the light of His love to others.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich