

-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 16, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM +AI Tays R/b the Wengloski family

Sunday, January 17, 2021 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM +John Dyer R/b the Dyer family

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

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

Monday January 18, 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

NO MASS Parish Office closed

Tuesday January 19, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

Wednesday January 20, 2021 St. Fabian, pope, martyr & St.

Sebastian, martyr

9:00 AM Poor souls in Purgatory R/b Pam Roberts

Living & deceased members of the Blackburn family
R/b I. Boone

Thursday January 21, 2021 St. Agnes, virgin & martyr

NO MASS

Friday January 22, Day of prayer for legal protection of unborn children

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Figler family
R/b the family

Saturday January 23, 2021 St. Marianne Cope, virgin; St. Vincent, deacon, martyr

5:00 PM +AI Tays R/b the Wieczorek family

Sunday, January 24, 2021 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Celebration of all marriages of the Clinch & Kuzel families R/b the Kuzel family

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

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

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

Offertory 1/10: \$ 1,898.50

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

Weekend of January 23 & 24

5:00 pm Lector: Richard Lataille

8:00 am Lector: Jim Worth

10:30am Lector:

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. Michael Sequeira, Rev. Paul Ramen Rev. Bogdan Olzacki OSPPE, V. Rev. David Choquette, Rev. Peter Liszewski, Rev. Tadeusz Zadorozny, Rev. Michael Gill, Rev. Peter Langevin, Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Rev. John O'Neill MS, Rev. Thomas Smith, Msgr. Michael Donohue, Rev. Bijoy Joseph CST, Rev. Jeffrey Ellis.

Father, we pray for our priests: for the sanctity of their souls, and 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 them by word and by deed.

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



2020 Giving Statements are ready. You may pick it up in the Parish Office or call and it will be mailed to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ❖ **Holy Hour for Vocations: January 21, 2021 at St. Joseph Church in Chester from 6-7pm.**
- ❖ **Marriage Preparation Classes to Meet Virtually:** With the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the Catholic Family Service Office will be offering virtual or one-on-one marriage preparation classes for engaged couples. All formal live classes have been suspended through July 1, 2021. Couples getting married in 2021 or beyond, should contact Mary-Jo McLaughlin at the Catholic Family Services Office to establish class dates. She can be reached Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 860-848-2237, Ext 312 or by email at mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **Project Rachel Rosary** – Please join the Office of Faith Events staff online the third Tuesday of each month as we pray the **Project Rachel Rosary** for an end to abortion and healing for those who have been involved in an abortion. The next Rosary will be **Tuesday, January 19, 2021**. To receive a link for the Rosary, contact Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net
- ❖ **2021 Women's Conference: March 13 from 9am to noon.** This will again be a virtual conference. Keynote speaker will be Julianne Stanz. Register online at the Norwich Diocesan website www.norwichdiocese.org or by calling 860.848.2237 ext. 304. **Deadline for nominations for the Our Lady, Queen of Hope Award to honor a woman in the diocese for her vision and leadership in the Catholic Church is January 22. Nomination forms are available on the Diocesan website.**

- ❖ **This Lent grow in a deeper, more intimate relationship with God through the Office of Faith Events (OFE) sponsored weekly Lenten Videos and Mission.** Each weekly video is approximately three minutes long. **To enroll in the series, send a text – (Phone Number) TO: 81010 (TEXT) Message: @lentvid (one word).** It will then ask you to reply with your name. You may also receive the video via email by contacting Marianne Nicholas at manicholas@norwichdiocese.net. **A virtual Diocesan Lent mission will be offered online each Thursday during Lent beginning February 25th. The Mission will run from 7-8 P.M. February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. To register, contact Marianne Nicholas at 860.848.2237 ext. 304 or email her at the address above.**
- ❖ 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

Matthew 11:28-30-Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

WINTER BASKET RAFFLE

Saint Joseph School, Baltic is hosting a Winter Basket Raffle with a variety of delightful and carefully prepared classroom -sponsored baskets in addition to several family baskets as well.

The raffle will run up to and including January 29th, until 11:59 p.m. using the following website: <https://go.rallyup.com/b82c37/Campaign>.

The basket winners will be drawn electronically through the Rally-up system at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2021.

Please join us in this worthwhile and enjoyable fundraiser! God bless

Friday January 22, Day of prayer for legal protection of unborn children

A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.

*Pope Saint John Paul II
Evangelium Vitae*

WE CAN HELP

To report inappropriate contact of any kind by a representative of the Diocese of Norwich or for assistance to victims, please call: 1.800.624.7407

Parish Bulletin E-mailed to You

If you would like the parish bulletin emailed to you, a friend, or a college student away from home,

E-mail the parish office a request to be put on the email list.

***Parish E-mail address:
cheryl@stfrancisassisilebanonct.org***

MASS INTENTIONS

We have several open Masses during 2021. You may have a Mass said for a variety of intentions: for a deceased loved one, in celebration of a marriage, anniversary, birthday, in thanksgiving, for a special intention, for world peace, etc.

To request a Mass intention, please call Cheryl in the parish office during office hours.

Please support our Saint Francis Bulletin and our community by supporting these wonderful businesses who advertise on our bulletin cover. The money paid to sponsor these ads provides this bulletin at no cost to St. Francis Parish. Please let them know that you appreciate their generous financial support by saying "Thank You" when you patronize them.

St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death!

Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower.

In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!"

In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

Next he sent her to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her. At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

Other accounts of Agnes' life hold the Prefect Sempronius responsible for her martyrdom. It is said he condemned the young girl to be dragged through the streets naked. Some versions of the legend state that Agnes' hair grew instantly to cover her entire body and all the men who attempted to rape the beautiful virgin were immediately struck blind.

The stories go on to explain that another man presided over Agnes' trial after Sempronius excused himself. The new man sentenced Agnes to death. At first, Agnes was tied to a stake, but either the wood would not burn or the flames parted away from her. This prompted an officer to draw his sword and behead the girl. It is believed that her blood, which poured out to the stadium, was soaked up with cloths by Christians.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

January 22, 2021 marks the 48th anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The day is set aside as a day of prayer and penance. Traditionally, each year in Washington, D.C. there is the National March for Life. The theme of this year's march (which will be held on January 29) is "Together Stronger, Life Unites".

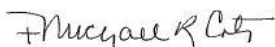
Defense of the unborn is a pastoral priority of Pope Francis. He often speaks about the "throw away culture". In doing so he echoes the clarion call of Saint John Paul II who noted in his encyclical Evangelium Vitae: "It is no less true that we are confronted by an even larger reality, which can be described as a veritable structure of sin. This reality is characterized by the emergence of a culture which denies solidarity and in many cases takes the form of a veritable 'culture of death'. This culture is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic, and political currents which encourage an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency. Looking at the situation from this point of view, it is possible to speak in a certain sense of a war of the powerful against the weak: a life which would require greater acceptance, love and care is considered useless, or is held to be an intolerable burden, and is therefore rejected in one way or another." (EV, 12) Who can be more weak and vulnerable than an unborn child?

At its core, the issue of abortion is fundamentally a spiritual problem. Do we have the trust in God that the developing life within will have enough food, money, resources, love, and support? If not, where is the Christian community? This past year the U.S. Bishops launched a year-long service project to mark the 25th anniversary of Evangelium Vitae - The Gospel of Life. The service project is titled "Walking with Mom's in Need". If our pro-life witness is to be effective, we need to be on the front lines of caring for moms in need. In doing so we are heeding the call of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to go to the margins of society. One of the bright lights in our culture is the work of crisis pregnancy centers/services. Recent ultrasound technology has now been made readily available so that pregnant mothers can see the miracle of life growing in their womb. Many abortion-minded women have changed their minds with the gift of this technology.

As the U.S. Bishops have noted, defense of the unborn is a "pre-eminent priority" for U.S. Catholics. We turn to the Lord of Life and beseech His aid and guidance. God doesn't need large numbers. Remember, in the Old Testament Gideon was successful in battle with just a handful of men. If we are to transform the "culture of death" into a "culture of life" everyone is called to a conversion of heart. Prayer can obtain all things. May the Lord hear our prayers and pleas for a culture that values and treasures human life.

Thank you for your work in God's vineyard and thank you for all you do to build a culture of life in the Diocese of Norwich.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich



On December 29, 2020, Bishop Michael R. Cote approved our new parish community name of **Guardian Angels** for the merger of Saint Andrew Church in Colchester and Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon.

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel:

*Angel of God,
My guardian dear
To whom His love
Commits me here;
Ever this day (or night)
Be at my side
To light and guard
To rule and guide
Amen*