

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

5:00 PM +Al 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

Monday January 25, 2021 Conversion of St. Paul, apostle

NO MASS

Tuesday January 26, 2021 Sts. Timothy & Titus, bishops

NO MASS

Wednesday January 27, 2021 St. Angela Merici, virgin & religious founder

9:00 AM +Rosario Jacobeno R/b I. Boone

Thursday January 28, 2021 St. Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Friday January 29, 2021 Weekday in ordinary time

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

Saturday January 30, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, January 31 2021 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM +John L. Cowger

10:30 AM Parishioners who are ill

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

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

Offertory 1/17: \$ 829.00

Today'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

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

Lector Schedule Weekend of January 30 & 31

5:00 pm: Steve Wengloski

8:00 am: Greg Jones

10:30am: Angela Corentin

### 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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

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. Anthony DiMarco, Rev. Jonathan Ficara, Rev. Martin Jones, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. James Thaikootathil, Msgr. Leszek Janik, Rev. Walter Nagle, Rev. Michael Castiblanco, Rev. John Antonelle, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Rev. Michael Bovino Msgr. Richard LaRocque, Rev. Roy Parayil, MS, V. Rev. Gregory Galvin.

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.

END OF YEAR  
**GIVING**  
STATEMENTS

**2020 Giving Statements are ready.  
You may pick yours 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net). **A virtual Diocesan Lent mission will be offered online each Thursday during Lent beginning February 25<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.org)

**East Catholic High School** is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year! We are pleased to offer a Virtual Open House on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00p.m. Stay tuned for more details. Tuition Assistance will go fast, so be sure to complete your FACTS application today or risk being placed on the waiting list for aid.

### **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



## **St. Angela Merici**

Feast Day: January 27

Patron of the sick, disabled and physically challenged people and those grieving the loss of parents

Birth: March 21, 1474

Death: January 27, 1540

Beatified: April 30, 1768 by

Pope Clement XIII

Canonized: May 24, 1807 by

Pope Pius VII

St. Angela Merici was an Italian religious educator and founder of the Ursulines whose deep prayer life and relationship with the Lord bore the fruit of mystical encounters with God. She was born on March 21, 1474 in Desenzano, a small town on the shore of Lake Garda in Lombardy.

At just 10-years-old, Angela and her older sister became orphans and went to live with their uncle in Salo. There they led a quiet and devout Catholic Christian life. After the untimely death of her sister, Angela was saddened by the fact that she had not had the opportunity to receive her last Sacraments and was concerned for her sister's eternal salvation.

Angela was inspired by the Holy Spirit to dedicate herself to the Lord and to give her life in service to the Church to help everyone grow closer to the Lord. Still filled with grief, she prayed for God to reveal the condition of her deceased sister's soul. In a vision, she learned her sister was in Heaven with the company of saints. She became increasingly more devout and joined the Third Order of St. Francis where she also pledged to remain a consecrated virgin, forsaking marriage to one man to be married to the Lord and His Church.

When Angela was 20-years-old, her uncle died and she returned to Desenzano. She found that around her hometown there were many young girls who had no education and no hope. Her heart was moved. She also became distressed by their ignorance and upset at the parents who had not educated them.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Angela became convinced there was great need for a better way of teaching these young girls. So, she opened her own home to them and began to teach them herself. She devotedly taught them the Catholic Christian faith. By her example and instruction, she taught them to how to pray and participate in the sacramental life of the Church. She evangelized and catechized these young girls, opening them up to the life of grace.

Another vision from the Lord revealed to Angela that she was to found an institution with other consecrated virgins to further devote their lives toward the religious training of young girls. These women had little money and no power, but were bound together by their dedication to education and commitment to Jesus Christ and service to His Church.

Living in their own homes, the girls met for prayer and classes where Angela reminded them, "Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve [the poor] than they have of your service."



# Guardian Angels<sup>SM</sup>

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.

### **Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!**

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit them at <https://wwwmectw.org/>.

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Bring your marriage to its fullest on the upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience on Feb 12-14, 2021 in East Hartford, CT and Feb 22-Mar 15, 2021 in VIRTUAL 3RE, NY

**XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL'S \$20,000 RAFFLE** will yield one winner. It could be you! The winner will be chosen on April 30 at 11 a.m. in front of Xavier. Tickets are \$100 each, and there is no limit to the number you can purchase. You do not need to be present to win, but you must be 18 years or older to participate.

Tickets can be purchased online, through the mail or in person in the Advancement Office, Room 105. Information on online purchases or a form to be mailed in can be found at [xavierhighschool.org](http://xavierhighschool.org). Click on **Alumni & Giving**, and then click on **\$20,000 Cash Raffle**. The raffle is a game of chance, as such it is not considered a charitable contribution as per State of Connecticut and IRS guidelines. All proceeds will benefit the Xavier Annual Fund. For more information contact the Advancement Office at 860-346-7735 or email [advancement@xavierhighschool.org](mailto:advancement@xavierhighschool.org).

**Reminder to parents who are Home-schooling their children for CCD this year.**



**Please be sure to complete the unit tests and return them to the parish office. If you have placed your copies of the unit tests, please let Cheryl know and a new set will be mailed to you.**



**THE VALUE OF A MASS**

Told by Fr. Stanislaus, SS.CC.

Many years ago, in a little town in Luxembourg, a Captain of the Forest Guards was conversing with a butcher, when an old woman entered the shop to beg for a bit of meat. "I have no money," she said, "but I'm going to Mass now, and I'll offer it to God for you. The butcher & the Captain were amused. They were good men, but indifferent about religion. The butcher teased, "All right. Go to Mass for me, and when you come back, I'll give you as much meat as the Mass is worth." When the woman returned, the butcher wrote on a slip of paper, "I went to Mass and offered it to God for you." He placed the paper on one side of the scale, and a tiny piece of meat on the other, but the paper was heavier. He put a bigger piece of meat on the scale, but again, the paper weighed heavier. No matter how much meat he put on one side, the paper weighed heavier. Puzzled, he tested the scale – it was perfect. "So what do you want from me lady? A leg of mutton?" He put a leg of mutton on the scale; the paper was heavier. The butcher was so impressed, that he promised her a free piece of meat each day. The Captain? He left the shop a changed man and became an ardent lover of the Mass. His two sons became priests, one a Jesuit and one a priest of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Stanislaus concluded, "I'm the Sacred Heart priest, and that Captain was my Father". Each day, the Captain had gone to daily Mass with his little sons. All three treasured the eternal value of the Mass.

**Programs at Enders Island, Mystic  
860.536.0565 [www.endersisland.com](http://www.endersisland.com).**

Enders Island is excited to announce a new, free program for seniors. With the generous support of The Rotary Club of Mystic we've created this program to help us thrive through the long winter and the pandemic.

While we need to stay separated for health reasons, we invite you to come together on the last Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for a virtual Zoom call with Katy Giffault, who brings energy and positivity to provide resources and inspiration to seniors.

Katy and special guests will share information and ideas about things that matter to you, including:

- Resources designed specifically for seniors;
- Positivity strategies to reduce stress and provide comfort;
- Exercises you can do at home;
- New ways to connect with others.

The Zoom calls will be easy to set up and connect from an email link we will send you. You can also call in by phone. Please take advantage of this new opportunity to connect.

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**Dear Parishioners of our New Parish of the Guardian Angels,**

**Both Fr. Richard and I would like to thank you all for your Christmas remembrances. Thank you for your gifts, cards and the tasty treats you too generously gave to us. It is much appreciated.**

**Please be assured of our Prayers for you all as we together journey to the Lord!**

**With the Love of Christ,**

**Fr. Mark & Fr. Richard**