

## 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 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

Monday February 1, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

Tuesday February 2, 2021 Presentation of the Lord

NO MASS

Wednesday February 3, 2021 St. Blaise, bishop & martyr; St.

Ansgar, bishop

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Burns family

R/b their family

Thursday February 4, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

Friday February 5, 2021 St. Agatha, virgin, martyr

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Sardi family

R/b I. Boone

Living & deceased victims of addictions

R/b Pam Roberts

6:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday February 6, 2021 St. Paul Miki & companions, martyrs

5:00 PM

*Blessing of Throats*

Sunday, February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Ladies Guild & the

Anniversary of their Constitution Adoption

*Blessing of Throats*

10:30 AM

*Blessing of Throats*

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

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

Offertory 1/24: \$ 3,422.00

Building Maintenance: \$ 194.00

Next weekend's second collection is for extraordinary expenses.

**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**

### 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

CTN2 Jonah Swett, U.S. Navy

IT2 Rocky Spedalieri 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. Gregoire Fluet, Rev. Joseph Ashe, Rev. William Flynn, Rev. William Olesik, Rev. James Caldarella, Rev. Brian Romanowski, Rev. Ben Vinjoe, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Keith Shuley CDR, CHC, Rev. Thomas Hoar SSE, Rev. Arul Peter, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot, Rev. Ernest Bedard, OFM, Rev. John Gwudz.

Our priests speak to the faithful with their hearts and their faith. O Jesus, Eternal Priest, look with love upon Your priests. Teach them to penetrate the secret of the tabernacle...the Divine Blood.

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.**

### Lector Schedule Weekend of February 6 & 7

5:00 pm: Carole Briggs

8:00 am: Jim Dyer

10:30am: Paul Pelletier

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**

- ❖ **Virtual Project Rachel Rosary:** The third Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm. Pray for an end to abortion and healing for those who have been involved in an abortion. To obtain the link, contact [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net).
- ❖ **The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on **Saturday, Feb. 6 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.
- ❖ **THE DOUG & DAVE SHOW- FAMILY, FAITH, & FUN** National Catholic musicians and talents, The Doug and Dave Show, will join the Office of Faith Events on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for Family, Fun and Faith- everyone is encouraged to join us. Filled with characters that delight young and old, songs that will make you sing out loud, stories which will inspire, and Catholic truths learned in a new and lighthearted ways. Join the live streamed event on the Diocese of Norwich page <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Live-Events> If you would like to have the links sent to you of where you can see the event, please contact Marianne Nicholas at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net) or call (860)848-2237 ex.304.
- ❖ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** St. Michael Church in Pawcatuck from 6-7pm on February 18th.
- ❖ **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 Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 – 5pm. You will receive your cards online, mark them and even remark them for the next game or you can print them and play. Through video conferencing, we will call the numbers and play different BINGO games from regular bingo, double bingo, picture frame, and finally 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/2Laol7Y> or call Marianne at 860-848-2237 ex. 304
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **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.

**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://www.mectw.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.**

***Together We Rise*** men's online retreat with the Holy Family Retreat Team **from 9:00am to 12:30pm on Saturday, February 6, 2021.**

During these months of isolation and separation, we have felt a *longing* to gather together as a community. Many of us are struggling with loneliness and mourning a sense of normalcy in our lives. Join us as we come together to process this experience on our journey of reconnection.

*Together We Rise* – as a community of Christ's followers and as interdependent human beings. Visit [holyfamilyretreat.org](http://holyfamilyretreat.org) for more info and to register or call us at 860.760.9705. Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford.

**Thanks to You!**

Catholic Charities deeply appreciates your ongoing support which has allowed us to continue to provide much needed basic human necessities to those in our community. With your generous donations over the holidays, Catholic Charities was able to provide 313 individuals and families with a Thanksgiving meal and 404 families and children with toys, gift cards, food and much more this Christmas! You have made an impact in the lives of your neighbors in need, and we THANK YOU! Visit [www.ccfns.org](http://www.ccfns.org) to see how you can help!

**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.

## Conversion of SAINT PAUL

Saint Paul is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Canon of the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century.

St. Paul was originally known as Saul, and he was a Roman citizen and a Pharisee. He even presided over the persecutions of the early Christians and was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

However, Saul experienced a powerful vision that caused him to convert to Christianity while on the road to Damascus. He was duly baptized and took the name Paul.

Paul traveled the world, first to Arabia then back to Damascus. He also visited Jerusalem to see St. Peter, the first pope and pay homage to him. During these travels, he preached ceaselessly, often drawing criticism and ire from those who rebuffed his message. Jews, in particular, hated his preaching as they saw him convert people to Christianity from Judaism.

Eventually, Paul returned to Tarsus, where he was born. He preached there until he was called by Barnabus to come to Antioch. After a year spent in Antioch, a famine occurred in Jerusalem and the pair was dispatched to the city with alms.

The accomplished this mission, and returned to Antioch.

Paul and Barnabus then went forth on a mission to Cypress and throughout Asia Minor. They established several churches in their travels. After establishing his churches, Paul remained in communication with the faithful, often writing letters to answer questions and resolve disputes.

The letters that have survived have become part of the Bible. It is believed that Paul wrote other letters, which were lost even before the Bible was established by the Church. Paul's writings are important because they provide good advice for how Christians should live.

Paul traveled throughout much of Europe, particularly in Macedonia, Greece, and Italy. While preparing for a missionary trip to Spain, he was imprisoned in Caesarea by the Jews for two years. He traveled again, was shipwrecked in Malta, and was imprisoned for another two years for preaching in Rome. Despite these imprisonments, Paul continued to preach.

Paul eventually made his way to Spain, then returned to the East, and finally returned to Rome once again. In 67 AD, Paul was arrested in Rome for a second time and this time he was beheaded under the insane Emperor Nero. According to John Chrysostom, Nero knew Paul personally.

Paul is among the most famous, intelligent and influential of the apostles. There are some who argue that he was the leader of the apostles, but this is not supported by the evidence. Instead, he likely preached at the request of St. Peter, who was pope.

St. Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers, and tent makers. His feast day is on June 29 when he is honored with Saint Peter, although he is also honored on other days throughout the year, January 25, for his conversion, February 16, for his shipwreck, and Nov. 18 for the dedication of his Basilica.

(Catholic Online)

## YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH



On the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter about Saint Joseph and declared a "Year of St. Joseph" which will be observed from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The letter, *Patris corde* ("a Father's heart") was released on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as

patron of the Universal Church.

The Pope writes:

After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church", Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer". Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death".

**Merger Status:** Parishioners have inquired on the progress of the merger of St. Francis Church with St. Andrew Church.

As of today, we have not received any new information on the merger process.

As reported to you on the weekend of November 21 & 22: "Recently, the Diocese has found it necessary to continue planning for the future. This new plan moves from yoking parishes, to the plan merging parishes together. On, November 3, 2020, we were informed that our parish families of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Andrew will be moving in this new direction. The good news in this process is that **NO PARISH BUILDINGS WILL CLOSE!** The merger of our parishes will affect us basically only on an administrative level."

We completed the first step by choosing a name for the new corporation of **Guardian Angels**, consisting of St. Andrew Church and St. Francis Church. The names of the two Churches will not change.

Now that our new parish name has been accepted, we will move into the restructuring of our assets. Since both parishes are individual corporations, we will need to dissolve the current corporations, and erect a new one under the new parish name. What does this mean? It means eventually that all our assets will be merged into one: one finance council, one parish council, one checkbook, and one bulletin. This should not affect us too much, but, as we know more, we will inform you.

In the end, the date chosen to begin our new parish will be July 1, 2021. This will enable us to begin our new parish family with time for the many preparations necessary.

## Comfort and Caring Shawl Ministry



Do you knit or crochet to take up the time? Do you know someone in need of a Comfort and Caring Shawl? The St. Francis Ladies Guild has made a commitment to distribute

hand-made prayer shawls to anyone in need; someone who is ill, on potent medication, battling the pain of depression or lost a loved one. The gift of a shawl is not limited to members of the Guild or our parish, but can be given to anyone you feel would benefit from this shawl of love and comfort. There are numerous shawls of many colors, shapes and weight as well as lap robes available. If you wish to contribute a knitted or crocheted shawl (must be certain dimensions) or know of someone who would benefit from this gift, please contact Barbara Dyer (Keeper of the Shawls) at [45bfdyer@gmail.com](mailto:45bfdyer@gmail.com) or 860.822.9400.