

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

5:00 PM People of the Parish living & deceased

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 Parishioner prayer book intentions

Blessing of Throats

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

Monday February 8, 2021 St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine

Bakhita, virgin

NO MASS

Tuesday February 9, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

Wednesday February 10, 2021 St. Scholastica, virgin

9:00 AM +Robert Burns R/b Irene Burns

Kim Ceara Concannon & family R/b Pam Roberts

Thursday February 11, 2021 Our Lady of Lourdes

NO MASS

Friday February 12, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Times

9:00 AM +Al Tays R/b Katherine Pellerin

Living & deceased members of the Venosh family

R/b their family

Saturday February 13, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM

Sunday, February 14, 2021 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM +Raymond Boisvert R/b his family

10:30 AM +Rev. Augustine Pilatowski, OFM, Conv.

11:30 AM Baptism

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

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

Offertory 1/31: \$ 1,773.00

Today'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

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

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 Bishop Michael R.

Cote, Rev. Francis Rouleau, Rev. Jams Sucholet, V. Rev. Richard Ricard, Rev. Joseph Tito, Most Rev. Daniel Reilly, DD, Rev. Martin Noe, Very Rev. Peter Kucer MS, Rev. John Gallagher CAP, Rev. Dariusz Dudzik, Rev. Ernest Bedard OFM, Msgr. James Carini, Rev. Dennis Mercier.

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 13 & 14

5:00 pm: Anne Staebner

8:00 am: Jim Worth

10:30 am: Maureen Polana

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.
- ❖ **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 11th 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 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 21st 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.
- ❖ **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**.

- ❖ Please join us VIRTUALLY Saturday, March 13, 2021, from 9 AM to noon, for the Spring Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference. Joining us will be keynote speaker, author, storyteller, and retreat leader, **Julianne Stanz**. Julianne has authored the book Developing Disciples for Christ, is the Director of Parish Life and Evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is a consultant for the USCCB committee on Catechesis and Evangelization. Cost is \$10, to register online go to www.norwichdiocese.org or for more information please contact The Office of Faith Events at 860-848-2237, or manicholas@norwichdiocese.net
- ❖ **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.**
- ❖ Virtual Basket Raffle to benefit the 2021 Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference. **Raffle is open to all from February 13 through March 14, winners will be notified March 15. Chance are \$1.** Simply use the following link below to participate <https://go.rallyup.com/baskets> or **send a check with your basket choices by March 5th to:** Bishop Flanagan Ministry Center, 199 Broadway, Norwich, CT, 06360, attention: Marianne

How do we move forward and fight against racism as a Church? How do we break the walls that divide us? How do we as Catholics, combat the racism engrained in our society? Get the answer to this and so many other questions...Sign up for this great **free** series *Moving Towards Antiracism* with Deacon Art Miller. Deacon Miller is a deacon in the Archdiocese of Hartford. The program is sponsored by the Capuchins who are currently in a new corroborative ministry with the Friars of the Atonement in NY. I hope you can attend! To sign up follow the link: <https://www.atonementfriars.org/events/category/retreats/>

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. 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.

Operation Rice Bowl Our Lenten Program For Lent for Life

For 48 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor. Through Operation Rice Bowl --- a program of prayer, fasting, learning, and giving --- what you give up for Lent can give hope to the poorest of the poor. Make this Lenten season one of awareness, compassion, and reflection. Operation Rice Bowl is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services and the Diocese of Norwich. Details of this program will appear in next Sunday's Bulletin.



PARISH GIVING: Did you know that you can have your weekly offering automatically sent to the parish with online banking automatic bill pay through your bank.

No need to find your check book and write out a check.

No need to stop by the ATM.

No need to remember your weekly envelope.

You can choose how much and how often to give.

Your contributions would still be recorded for tax purposes.

BENEFITS FOR SAINT FRANCIS

Offertory becomes more stable.

No more missed offertory due to sickness, weather, or vacation.

Expense for offertory envelope packets for those using online banking bill pay would be eliminated.

All you would need to do would be to contact your bank and ask to set up online banking and automatic bill pay. Questions: Please contact Cheryl in the parish office at 860.642.6711

The offertory collection is the lifeline of our parish. This weekend please consider an increase in your offering. If you are away from home and unable to attend Mass at St. Francis, please make up this offering when you return. By maintaining this type of giving practice on a yearly basis, the parish can rely on a consistent contribution enabling us to better meet our financial obligations.

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

St. Paul Miki & companions, martyrs



Paul was the son of a Japanese military leader. He was born at Tounucumada, Japan, was educated at the Jesuit college of Anziquama, joined the Jesuits in 1580, and became known for his eloquent preaching.

He was crucified on February 5 with twenty-five other Catholics during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, ruler

of Japan in the name of the emperor. Among the Japanese layment who suffered the same fate were: Francis, a carpenter who was arrested while watching the executions and then crucified; Gabriel, the nineteen year old son of the Franciscan's porter; Leo Kinuya, a twenty-eight year old carpenter from Miyako; Diego Kisai (or Kizayemon), temporal coadjutor of the Jesuits; Joachim Sakakibara, cook for the Franciscans at Osaka; Peter Sukejiro, sent by a Jesuit priest to help the prisoners, who was then arrested; Cosmas Takeya from Owari, who had preached in Osaka; and Ventura from Miyako, who had been baptized by the Jesuits, gave up his Catholicism on the death of his father, became a bonze, and was brought back to the Church by the Franciscans.

They were all canonized as the Martyrs of Japan in 1862. Their feast day is February 6th.



Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."

Saint Blaise is believed to begin as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.

In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.

In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did -alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all.

When he reached Sebastea, the woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

In the Middle Ages, Blaise became quite popular and his legend as a beast tamer spread. He was then referred to as the "saint of the wild beast."

Many German churches are dedicated to Saint Blaise, sometimes called Saint Blasius.

In Great Britain, the village of St. Blazey got its name from Saint Blaise, and a church dedicated to the saint can be found in Decon hamlet of Haccombe, near Newton Abbot.

There is a Saint Blaise's Well in Kent, and the water is believed to have medicinal properties. A Blessing of the Throats ceremony is held every February 3 at Saint Etheldreda's Church in London and Balve, Germany.

A Catholic middle school was named after Saint Blaise in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The name was decided upon when the link between Bradford and the woolen industry was connected to the way St. Blaise was martyred: with woolcomb.

Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and the wool trade.

Feast day is February 3. Patron of throat illness, animals, wool combers and wool trading. Died in 316.

(Catholic Online)

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.

Parish Merger Prayer

O God, Who are perfect unity and true charity, grant to us the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Andrew Parishes, the grace necessary to be of one heart and one mind, united in the Body of Christ. May all we do in the coming months, unite us in faith, hope, and love, so that we may flourish in charity and be strong in unity.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Composed by Fr. Richard)