

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 13, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM +Robert Wheaton R/b his family

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

Monday February 15, 2021 President's Day

NO MASS Parish Office Closed

Tuesday February 16, 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

Wednesday February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday

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

7:00 PM +Dominic Jacobeno R/b I. Boone

Thursday February 18, 2021 Thursday after Ash Wednesday

NO MASS

Friday February 19, 2021 Friday after Ash Wednesday

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

Increase in vocations R/b I. Boone

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 20, 2021 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

5:00 PM

Sunday, February 21, 2021 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Al Tays R/b the Kuzel family

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

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

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

Offertory 2/7: \$ 1,777.00 Extraordinary: \$ 201.00

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 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 all priests, Rev. Charles McGrail, Rev. Alfred Irving, Rev. John Moskus, Rev. Aguirre Palacio, Rev. Joseph Castaldi, Rev. Thomas Griffin, Rev. Paul Boudreau, Rev. Roland Cloutier, Rev. Patrick Martin, Rev. Robert Washabaugh, Rev. Thomas Sickler MS, Rev. Russell Kennedy.

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.

Lector Schedule Weekend of February 20 & 21

5:00 pm: Bob Nejako

8:00 am: Rick Kane

10:30 am: Angela Coentin

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

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.
- ❖ **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 - Lenten Program For Lent for Life

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, our parish with parishes across the Diocese of Norwich is beginning a program of prayer and sacrifice called Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). For 48 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor. Through our participation in this program, we bring hope and healing to another person or family living halfway across the globe. Money saved during Lent is then brought to the parish family Rice Bowl on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, 75% of Operation Rice Bowl funds will feed the hungry poor overseas, the remaining 25% will be used in the diocese to feed the needy. This Lent, gather in prayer and sacrifice as a family to pray and to care for the hungry poor.

Rice Bowl donations are to be brought to Church on Palm Sunday weekend (March 27 & 28. Envelope users do have a Rice Bowl envelope in their envelope packet.

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/>.

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." Does your marriage give glory to God? Learn how to let your Sacrament shine on an upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb 22-Mar 15, 2021 in VIRTUAL 3RE, NY and Mar 19-21, 2021 in HAWTHORNE, NJ

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

olcretreat@sbcglobal.net 860.677.8519

Lenten Scripture Study on Zoom

Four-Week Series Beginning on February 25

Mornings: 10:00 am Evenings 7:00 pm

Free-will Offering

During Lent, we strive to free ourselves from all kinds of clutter – material and spiritual- in order to focus on God and turn back to Him with our whole hearts. If this "turning back" is genuine, it will be a reorientation, a transformation.

To help us enter into the season, we will use the Little Rock Scripture Study Guide written by Amy Ekeh. Amy is an instructor in the Catholic Biblical School in the Archdiocese of Hartford. **Order it on Amazon** or at **Liturgical Press**.

Together with Sr. Eileen Fucito and Kathy Irr, we will explore three key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. The result will be a better understanding of the authentic transformation that God calls each of us to embrace as individuals and as a community.

When you register you will receive two emails from Jotform. The first will confirm your registration and the second will have your Zoom invitation attached. This invitation is good for the whole series so please save it in a safe place on your device.

This is a freewill offering program. Please know that your donation in any amount helps us to maintain OLC during this difficult time so that the center will be ready to welcome you back when we can reopen.

info@ourladyofcalvary.net.

Black Catholic Saints and Leaders: St. Felicity & St. Perpetua

Just after the death of Pope St. Victor I, St. Perpetua and St. Felicity underwent their martyrdom in Carthage, around 203.

St. Perpetua was a young, well-educated noblewoman and mother living in Carthage in North Africa. Her mother was a Christian and her father was a pagan. Perpetua followed the faith of her mother. Despite the pleas of her father to deny her faith, Perpetua fearlessly proclaimed it. At the age of 22, she was jailed for her faith. While in prison she continued to care for her infant child and put up with tortures designed to make her renounce her faith. Perpetua remained steadfast until the end. St. Perpetua was sacrificed at the games as a public spectacle. St. Felicity was a pregnant slave girl who was imprisoned with her. Little is known about her life because, unlike Perpetua, she did not keep a diary. After imprisonment and torture, Felicity was also condemned to die at the games. Only a few days before her execution, Felicity gave birth to a daughter, who was secretly taken away to be cared for by some of the faithful. They share the feast day of March 7, and their names are forever mentioned together in the Roman Canon of the Mass.



World Marriage Day

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Sunday, February 14

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology.

The legends attributed to the mysterious saint are as inconsistent as the actual identification of the man.

One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test.

St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision. Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. Asterius broke all the idols around his house, fasted for three days and became baptized, along with his family and entire 44 member household. The now faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates.

St. Valentine was later arrested again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II).

According to the popular hagiographical identity, and what is believed to be the first representation of St. Valentine, the Nuremberg Chronicle, St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign. The story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. A relationship between the saint and emperor began to grow, until Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became raged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269. However, other tales of St.

Valentine's life claim he was executed either in the year 269, 270, 273 or 280. Other depictions of St. Valentine's arrests tell that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."

Pope Julius I is said to have built a church near Ponte Mole in his memory, which for a long time gave name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, formerly, Porta Valetini.

The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived during the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. According to English 18th-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce, Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia.

Although the exact origin of the holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is widely recognized as a day for love, devotion and romance.

Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

Relics of St. Valentine can be found all over the world. A flower-crowned skull of St. Valentine can be found in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In 1836, other relics were exhumed from the catacombs of Saint Hippolytus on the Via Tiburtina and were identified as Valentine's. These were transported for a special Mass dedicated to those young and in love.

Fr. John Spratt received a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836 containing a "small vessel tinged" with St. Valentine's blood. This gift now stands placed in Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Other alleged relics were found in Prague in the Church of St Peter and Paul at Vysehrad; in the parish church of St. Mary's Assumption in Chelmno Poland; at the reliquary of Roquemaure in France; in the Stephansdom in Vienna; in Balzan in Malta and also in Blessed John Duns Scotus' church in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, Scotland.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14. (Catholic Online)



“And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.” Matthew 6:18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

In the Gospel reading offered for our reflection each Ash Wednesday, the Lord instructs His disciples that when we pray, fast, and perform works of charity, we are not to do so in a public manner that would draw attention to ourselves or with the praise and admiration of others. Instead, we are instructed to give “in secret”, to go to our “inner room” to pray, and to give no outward indication that we are fasting. The Lord is cautioning His disciples to be on guard against behaving like hypocrites who do these things in an overtly public manner that they may appear, in the estimation of others, to be holy and righteous. By contrast, the Lord correctly reminds us that these spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are done, not for us, but in supplication and praise to Almighty God as well as for the good of our neighbors that we are called to serve. So it is that the Lord promises that we will be rewarded for our efforts in these areas, not by the world, but by the “Father who sees what is hidden.”

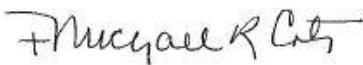
As we begin another Lent, particularly after a year that has been very difficult for so many, it is important for us to remember that nothing escapes the loving gaze of our Heavenly Father. The physical separation necessitated by the ongoing pandemic has resulted in many changes to the way we live our lives of prayer and the manner in which we practice our Catholic faith. Due to the restrictions placed on public worship gatherings, and the fear experienced by many in the face of this pandemic, members of the faithful have been unable to attend Mass in person and receive our Lord in Holy Communion. This has constituted a great spiritual sacrifice for many. Similarly, we have been unable to celebrate the major feast of our faith as we normally would with family and friends. In addition, many in the health care field and front-line workers have made great personal sacrifices in service to others. These challenges, difficulties, and sacrifices, along with many others, have been borne by individuals, largely in secret. It seems, therefore, that the Lord wants to reassure us that the sacrifices and suffering of this past year have not gone unnoticed by our heavenly Father who will reward our fidelity.

There is also, however, a continued challenge contained in these timely words of our Lord: we must never grow complacent with regard to the development of our spiritual lives, no matter the challenges and the external circumstances or limitations we face. It is likely that we will continue to be called upon to sacrifice and to endure comparable challenges for the foreseeable future. Recognizing this reality, we must resist the temptation to close in on ourselves or to despair. We can and should be confident that God is inviting us, here and now, in the midst of these present circumstances, to embrace the Cross in the quiet depths of our hearts. He is likewise inviting us anew to make use of the spiritual discipline of this Lent together with the tools of prayer, fasting, and works of charity to grow closer to Him and to one another, despite our physical separation. If we persist in this work, we can be assured that the Father, who sees our hidden, will reward us with an abundance of His grace.

May Mary, our mother and model, who stood with great love and fidelity at the foot of the Cross, continue to accompany us through these challenging times as we journey together to the enduring light and hope of Easter.

God bless you and may you have a Holy Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael R. Cooney".

Bishop of Norwich

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

These regulations unite the whole Catholic Church throughout the world in the Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart. Observed in a spirit of generosity, fast and abstinence remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Acts of penance find their completion in works of charity and justice.

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence. The **Fridays of Lent** are days of abstinence.

Fasting: Those between the ages of 18 and 59 years old are obliged to observe the laws on fasting. Traditionally, to fast means limiting oneself to one full meal in the day and two smaller meals. The two prescribed days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence: The law of abstinence obliges all those who are over the age of 14. On days of abstinence meat is not eaten at any meal. The prescribed days of abstinence are Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday. Those individuals who have a medical condition in which fasting or abstaining may be considered harmful are not obliged to fast or abstain, but should perform some other act of penance or charity.

All parishioners are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is prescribed by law.

Due to the immediate future possibility of winter storms, regarding both Churches of the Guardian Angels Community please remember that when a "No services" announcement or "Closed" announcement comes for either, with we do ask you to honor what our civil agencies are requesting for the purpose of your own safety and that of your neighbors. Also understand, especially those who have requested a Holy Mass intention for that particular day, the Priest will offer that Holy Mass and intention privately that day. This is the obligation of the Church and of the priest in every parish. The service cancellation announcement simply is to communicate that the properties are not yet ready or safe for people to be arriving, as they should be for your safety. Such announcements will be made on local channel WFSB 3. The caption after the Church name, St. Andrew or St. Francis, should read either "No Services" or "Closed".



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Mass with Ashes

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Due to COVID restrictions, this year the distribution of Ashes will be done in a different way than normal, after blessing the ashes in the usual manner, the Priest pronounces a general prayer ONCE, cleanses his hands, puts on a facemask and SPRINKLES the ashes on top of the head of each person who approaches without saying anything.

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday in St. Francis of Assisi Church at 7:00pm. Also, the pre-recorded Stations of the Cross will be streamed from the Saint Andrew Facebook page at 6:30pm each week.