

**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 20, 2021 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

5:00 PM Jenifer Wheaton R/b her family

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

Monday February 22, 2021 Chair of St. Peter, the apostle

NO MASS

Tuesday February 23, 2021 St. Polycarp, bishop & martyr

NO MASS

Wednesday February 24, 2021 Lenten Weekday

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

7:00 PM Intentions of Cheryl Wheaton R/b I. Boone

Thursday February 25, 2021 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday February 26, 2021 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Talarico family  
R/b I. Boone

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 27, 2021 Lenten Weekday

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

Sunday, February 28, 2021 Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Harry O'Neill R/b the Stygar family

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

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

**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 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 Our Holy Father, Rev. John Ashe, Rev. William McNulty, Rev. Thomas Angelo, Rev. Edward Wisneski, Rev. Francis Gilbert, Rev. Edward Dempsey DBA, Rev. Kevin Reilly, Rev. George Richards, Jr., Msgr. Henry Archambault, Rev. Luis Agudelo. We also pray for those priests who have left the ministry.

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 27 & 28**

- 5:00 pm: Richard Lataille
- 8:00 am: Jim Dyer
- 10:30 am: .....

**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.

Thank you to all parishioners who have mailed in their contributions.  
Offertory 2/14: To be reported next bulletin  
Today's second collection: 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**

## **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).
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ 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](http://www.norwichdiocese.org) or for more information please contact The Office of Faith Events at 860-848-2237, or [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto: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](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.**
- ❖ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** St. John Church in Cromwell from 6-7pm on March 18th.
- ❖ 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. Chances 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.
- ❖ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** St. John Church in Cromwell from 6-7pm on March 18th.

### **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](mailto:cheryl@stfrancisassisilebanonct.org)**

**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/>.

**“Intense love does not measure, it just gives.”**  
**Saint Mother Teresa**

The Covid pandemic continues on, and the uncertainty of employment is great. Catholic Charities has seen many of our neighbors reaching out for assistance. With your help, we can assist them in their hour of need. All donations are welcome especially monetary donations of any size, non-perishable food, baby items such as diapers & wipes, and toiletries. Visit [ccfsn.org](http://ccfsn.org) or call 860-889-8346 for more information.

**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).

**Operation Rice Bowl - Lenten Program  
For Lent for Life**

Lent is a time of opportunity for us to strengthen our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices bring us closer to God and demonstrate our solidarity with those in need at home and around the world. This Lent make your sacrifices become opportunities to feed the hungry poor. Please participate in CRS Operation Rice Bowl and let the sacrifices you make for the hungry poor nourish them and may these sacrifices witness to the love that disciples of Christ have for all people, especially for the least of the Lord's sisters and brothers.

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: Mar 19-21, 2021 in VIRTUAL 3RE, NJ and Apr 8-29, 2021 in VIRTUAL, MA

**Story of the Day:** Dr. Omar Atiq founded the Arkansas Cancer Clinic in 1991. Over the years, countless patients received everything from diagnostics to radiation and chemotherapy at the Pine Bluff facility. In February of 2020, the clinic closed due to staffing shortages. At the time, there was close to \$650,000 outstanding patient debt on the books. Dr. Atiq attributed the large sum to the fact that no patient was ever denied treatment, regardless of whether or not they could pay. “Not for lack of health insurance or funds nor for any other reason,” he told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. “I’ve always considered it a high honor and privilege to be someone’s physician—more important than anything else. In 2013, Dr. Atiq was named president of the Arkansas Medical Society. Five years later, he became chairman-elect of the board of governors of the American College of Physicians. He credits much of his success to being in the right place at the right time. “I believe the opportunities that have come my way are, in part, because of where I am,” he explained. After the clinic closed last year, Dr. Atiq attempted to settle the debts. He soon realized that many of the folks he’d treated didn’t have the means to pay—especially with so much added financial hardship brought on by the coronavirus pandemic—so with the blessing of his wife, Mehreen, he simply elected to stop asking. “...My wife and I, as a family, we thought about it and looked at forgiving all the debt... We saw that we could do it and then just went ahead and did it,” Dr. Atiq told Good Morning America. Christmas week, Dr. Atiq sent out holiday cards to nearly 200 of his former patients that read: “The Arkansas Cancer Clinic was proud to have you as a patient. Although various health insurances pay most of the bills for the majority of patients, even the deductibles and co-pays can be burdensome. The clinic has decided to forego all balances owed to the clinic by its patients.” “I just hope that it gave them a little sigh of relief and made it easier for them so they could face other challenges they may be facing in their lives.”

## 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 Joiform. 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](mailto:info@ourladyofcalvary.net).

### **FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

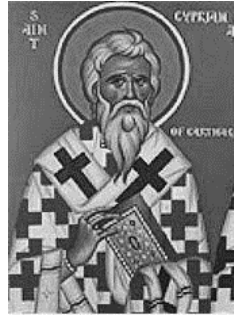
These regulations unite the whole Catholic Church throughout the world in the Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart. Observed in a spirit of generosity, fast and abstinence remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Acts of penance find their completion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



***St. Cyprian of Carthage is second in importance only to St. Augustine as a figure and Father of the African Church.***

He was born to wealthy pagans around the year 190, and was educated in the classics. Like St. Augustine after him, he questioned what truth was and searched

for it in practicing law and rhetoric. He was curious about Christianity, and after much study he converted at the age of 56. He sold all of his property and was ordained a priest a year later, and bishop two years after that.

His writings are of great importance, especially his treatise on "The Unity of the Catholic Church," in which he argues that unity is grounded in the authority of the bishop, and among the bishops, in the primacy of the See of Rome. In it, he wrote, "You cannot have God for your Father if you do not have the Church for your mother.... God is one and Christ is one, and His Church is one; one is the faith, and one is the people cemented together by harmony into the strong unity of a body.... If we are the heirs of Christ, let us abide in the peace of Christ; if we are the sons of God, let us be lovers of peace."

***He was martyred on Sept. 14, 258.***

### **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.