

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 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

Monday March 1, 2021 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday March 2, 2021 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday March 3, 2021 St. Katherine Drexel, virgin

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

Living & deceased victims of addictions R/b Pam Roberts

Thursday March 4, 2021 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday March 5, 2021 Lenten Weekday – (Abstinence)

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

6:00 PM Exposition

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Pre-recorded Stations of the Cross to be streamed from the St. Andrew Facebook page each week.

Saturday March 6, 2021 Lenten Weekday

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

Sunday, March 7, 2021 Third Sunday of Lent

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

10:30 AM + Al Tays R/b the Stygar family

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

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

Offertory 2/14: \$ 1,696.00

Offertory 2/21: \$ 2,682.01

Building Maintenance: \$ 267.00

Next weekend's second collection: 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 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 Spedaliera 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 Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. George Busto Com Rev. Brian Converse, Rev. Timothy Roth MIC, Msgr. Kevin Randall, Rev. Joseph DeCosta, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. Edward Konopka, Rev. Izydor Sadowski SDB, Rev. Gregory Mullaney, Rev. Jose Olczak OSPPE, Rev. Michael Giannitelli, Rev. Michael Phillipino.

God our Father, reveal Your omnipotence in the superabundance of Your mercy.

O Divine High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany Your priests everywhere and protect them from the traps and snares of the devil.

Lector Schedule Weekend of March 6 & 7

5:00 pm: Carole Briggs

8:00 am: Jim Worth

10:30 am: Angela Coentin

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.

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.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on **Saturday, March 6 at 8:30 A.M.** Please join our celebrant **Rev. Ray Introvigne** 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.
- ❖ 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.**
- ❖ **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.

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.

"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 or call 860-889-8346 for more information.

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

WHERE ARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATION RICE BOWL USED?

Operation Rice Bowl receives all of its support from individual and family contributions. Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas aid and development agency of Catholics in the United States, used 75% of all contributions for development projects overseas. 25% of the moneys collected remain in the local diocese where they are used to support projects assisting the needy.

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/>.

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Let us learn to listen better to each other and God by participating in a **virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience on Friday/Saturday/Sunday March 19-21 Thursdays/Mondays April 8-29**

EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: 860-649-5336, ext. 6456

The Admissions office continues to accept students for the Class of 2025! The next exam is planned for March 27th. Students become eligible for the placement test based on when they have returned the enrollment contract and deposit. Once the exam is completed, students will be contacted by school counseling to begin course selection.

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.

**Do you Want to Fast This Lent?
In the Words of Pope Francis**

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; and be silent and listen.

Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center will host a virtual banquet this year on Saturday, March 20 at 7:00 PM! We hope that you can share in an exciting evening of ministry updates, client stories, and a keynote message from author/speaker Steven Holland! As a non-profit, faith-based pregnancy center, we are 100% community-funded and receive no tax dollars.

Contact us for more details about how you can participate on your own, with a small group of friends, with your family, or as part of a viewing party.

860-449-0386/info@carenetsect.org

You must register to receive the link to attend!

Registration and event details are available at **psclife.org/banquet**

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal: Thank you for your past support of the Annual Catholic Appeal which provides funds for many of the pastoral, educational, and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Norwich. As we embark on our 2021 ACA, *One Faith, One Family*, we thank God for the strength and love we have received from him during this past year, when we, relying on our ONE FAITH, have uplifted our brothers and sisters in our ONE FAMILY. The ACA in-pew collection will take place in our parish on March 13/14, 2021. Please give prayerful consideration when contemplating your sacrificial gift to the appeal. The future of our ministries depends on it.

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal Prayer

Loving Father, as we come together as "One Faith, One Family" let us be open to your words.

Remind us of Jesus' call to "love one another as I have loved you".

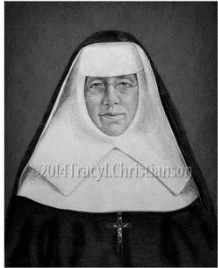
Help us to reflect on the needs of those we know and those we will never meet.

We thank you Lord for inspiring each of us to support, through prayer and deed, all those in need during this pandemic.

Let us remember how our act of giving to 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal will impact many lives, by providing crucial emotional, spiritual, physical support, education, renewal, and hope.

We ask you to guide our clergy, ACA leadership and parishioners, as "One Faith, One Family" to embrace our diocesan ministries which rely on the generosity of each one of us to carry out their missions.

We humbly ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



St. Katharine Drexel is the second American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church. This amazing woman was an heiress to a large bequest who became a religious sister and a brilliant educator. Katherine was born in Philadelphia on November 26, 1858, the second child of a prominent and wealthy banker, Francis Anthony Drexel and his wife, Hannah Langstroth. Her mother passed away just five weeks after Katharine was born. Her father remarried to Emma Bouvier in 1860 and

together they had another daughter in 1863, Louisa Drexel.

The girls received a wonderful education from private tutors and traveled throughout the United States and Europe. The Drexels were financially and spiritually well endowed. They were devout in the practice of their faith, setting an excellent example of true Christian living for their three daughters. They not only prayed but practiced what the Church calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Katharine grew up seeing her father pray for 30 minutes each evening. And every week, her stepmother opened their doors to house and care for the poor. The couple distributed food, clothing and provided rent assistance to those in need. The Drexels would seek out and visit women who were too afraid or too proud to approach the home in order to care for their needs in Christian charity.

Though Katharine made her social debut in 1879, she never let her family's money adversely affect the way she lived her life and faith. She was an example of a Christian with a proper understanding that the goods of this earth are given for the common good.

After watching her stepmother suffer with terminal cancer for three straight years, Katharine also learned that no amount of money could shelter them from pain or suffering. From this moment, Katharine's life took a turn. She became imbued with a passionate love for God and neighbor, and she took an avid interest in the material and spiritual well-being of black and Native Americans.

In 1884, while her family was visiting the Western states, Katharine saw first-hand the troubling and poor situation of the Native Americans. She desperately wanted to help them.

Katharine spent much of her time with Father James O' Connor, a Philadelphia priest. He provided her with wonderful spiritual direction.

When her father passed away a year later, he donated part of his \$15.5 million estate to a few charities and then left the remainder to be equally split amongst his three daughters.

He set up his will in a way to protect his daughters from men who were only seeking their money. If his daughters should die, the money was then to go on to his would-be grandchildren. If there were no grandchildren, the Drexel estate would be distributed to several different religious orders and charities, including the Society of Jesus, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, a Lutheran hospital and the Christian Brothers.

As one of their first acts following their father's death, Katharine and her sisters contributed money to assist the St. Francis Mission of South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation.

Katherine soon concluded that more was needed to help the Native Americans and the lacking ingredient was people. In 1887, while touring Europe, the Drexel sisters were given a private audience with Pope Leo XIII. They were seeking missionaries to help with the Indian missions they were financing. The Pope looked to Katharine and suggested she, herself, become a missionary.

After speaking with Father O' Connor, Katharine decided she would give herself and her inheritance to God through service to both Native Americans and African Americans. She wrote, "The feast of St. Joseph brought me the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Indians and the Colored."

Katharine began her six-month postulancy at the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Pittsburgh in 1889. On February 12, 1891, Katharine made her first vows as a religious and dedicated herself to working for the American Indians and African-Americans in the Western United States.

Taking the name Mother Katharine, she established a religious congregation called the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored, whose members would work for the betterment of those they were called to serve.

From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, she dedicated her life and her fortune to this work. In 1894, Mother Katharine took part in opening the first mission boarding school called St. Catherine's Indian School, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Other schools quickly followed - for Native Americans west of the Mississippi River, and for the blacks in the southern part of the United States.

In 1897, Katharine asked the friars of St. John the Baptist Province of the Order of Friars Minor to help staff a mission for the Navajos in Arizona and New Mexico, and she would help finance their work with the Pueblo Native Americans.

In 1910, Katharine also financed the printing of 500 copies of A Navaho-English Catechism of Christian Doctrine for the Use of Navaho Children.

In 1915, Katherine founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic University in the United States for African-Americans.

By the time of her death, she had more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the country and she established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 different states.

Katharine suffered a heart attack at 77-years-old and was forced to retire. She spent the remainder of her life in quiet and intense prayer. She recorded her prates and aspirations in small notebooks.

Mother Katharine died on March 3, 1955 at the age of 96. She is buried at her order's motherhouse. Neither of Katharine's sisters had any children, so after her death, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament lost the Drexel fortune that supported their ministries. However, the order continues to pursue Katharine's mission with the African-Americans and Native Americans in 21 states and in Haiti.

Katharine was remembered for her love of the Eucharist and a desire for unity of all peoples.

She was courageous and took the initiative to address social inequality within minorities. She believed all should have access to a quality education and her selfless service, including the donation of her inheritance, helped many reach that goal.

St. Katharine was beatified on November 20, 1988 and canonized on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

Relics of St. Katharine can be found at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in the Day Chapel of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish in Sugar Grove, Illinois.

Katharine is the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists. Her feast day is celebrated on March 3.

(Catholic Online)

Help Stop State Sponsored Suicide

Politicians in Hartford are again considering assisted suicide legislation. The Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly is considering legalizing a form of suicide in our state commonly referred to as "aiding - dying" or "physician-assisted suicide". The Committee has raised *House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients"*.

Modern hospice care and the proper use of pain medications render suicide unnecessary, and we need to be mindful of the threat that a suicide mentality poses to vulnerable people and to people with disabilities. Many people believe that a physician is deeply involved in this process. This not true. The physician orders the mixture of medications, the patient must then consume the deadly cocktail of drugs without assistance. Many times without even a physician or nurse present.

We should never allow legislators to establish suicide as a solution to medical issues. Don't let the state persuade us that it's dignified for an ill person to sign their own execution order. Don't let the state create an environment where ill people will feel they have a *"responsibility to die"*.

Catholic teaching condemns physician-assisted suicide because it, like murder, involves taking an innocent human life:

Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder. The Church's tradition has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice: To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested. Saint Augustine writes that "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it." True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill

the person whose suffering we cannot bear. (John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, no. 66).

TAKE ACTION:

Go to the website below, read more on the issue and then sign the petition to stop the legalization of assisted suicide in Connecticut.

www.ctstopsuicide.org