

## 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 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

### Monday March 8, 2021 St. John of God, religious

NO MASS

### Tuesday March 9, 2021 St. Frances of Rome, religious

NO MASS

### Wednesday March 10, 2021 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Lepri R/b their family

### Thursday March 11, 2021 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

### Friday March 12, 2021 Lenten Weekday – (Abstinence)

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

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 13, 2021 Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM

### Sunday, March 14, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Emil & Erma Kuzel R/b the Kuzel family

10:30 AM + Barbara Cote R/b the Kuzel family

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

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

Offertory 2/28: \$ 1,978.00

Today'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**

**Easter flower envelopes available at Church entrances. Please return by Palm Sunday.**

### 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 Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Christopher Feeney, V. Rev. Dennis Perkins, Rev. John Welch MS, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. Stanley Szczapa, Rev. Richard Sliwinski, Rev. Brian Maxwell, V. Rev. Laurence LaPointe, Rev. Raymond Introvigne, Rev. Robert Buongiorno, Rev. P. Grzegorz Jednaki.

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 13 & 14

5:00 pm: Anne Staebner

8:00 am: Greg Jones

10:30 am: Maureen Polana

**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](mailto: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](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.
- ❖ **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, April 25<sup>th</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! We are only selling 200 cards, so act fast! 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

### **EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:**

**860-649-5336, ext. 6456**

The Admissions Office is happy to report that we are processing and accepting applications each day and the Class of 2025 continues to grow. Course Selection will begin shortly for students that took the placement exam in February. The next placement exam will be administered on March 27, eligible students will receive details prior to the exam.

**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).

**"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.

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

**OPERATION RICE BOWL REPORT FOR 2020**  
This is a listing of grant recipients from the Diocesan Rice Bowl Collection. The 2020 grants total \$10,000.00  
Catholic Charities \$3,000.00 (Mandated by Bishop Hart)  
Haitian Health Foundation \$1,000.00  
Outreach to Haiti Diocese of Norwich \$1,000.00  
St. Vincent de Paul—Middleton \$1,000.00  
St. Vincent de Paul—Norwich \$1,000.00  
Reliance House \$1,000.00  
St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church \$1,000.00  
(Community Lunch)  
Cornerstone Foundation \$1,000.00

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**

**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.

**2021 Annual Catholic Appeal:** Recently many of you received a letter and brochure describing the many programs and ministries that the Diocese supports through the Annual Catholic Appeal. Today, we will watch a heartfelt message from Bishop Cote thanking you for your prayers and kindness during the pandemic. Over the next week, as you reflect on your many blessings, please remember God calls each of us to be generous in thought, word, and deed. We thank you for any sacrificial offering that you are able to make. Please bring your completed envelopes to church next weekend or if you have not received one, you may find one at Church entrances.

**The goal this year for Saint Francis is \$20,581.**

**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.

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](http://psclife.org/banquet)

## Catholic Trivia

1. Who was the second Pope?  
Leo Louis Linus Lawrence Leopold
2. What was the home country of Pope John Paul II?  
Germany Poland Italy Finland England
3. Which of the following is not true about Pope Francis?  
He used to dance the tango with his former girlfriend.  
He is a Franciscan  
Spanish & Italian are the languages he speaks most fluently.  
He is a fan of soccer and author Jorge Luis Borges  
He became the first pope from the Americas.
4. Pope Adrian IV was the only pope from which European Country?  
Egypt England Netherlands Denmark Finland

Answers next bulletin.

## PASCHAL CANDLE



If anyone would like to help along with other families to purchase the 2021 Paschal Candle in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office.

The total cost of the candle is \$250.

## ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA



**Josephine Bakhita, born in 1869, was a Sudanese-born former slave who became a Canossian nun in Italy, living and working there for 45 years.**

Born in Olgossa in the southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate*. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. She was known for her smile, gentleness and holiness. She even once said, "If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today."

**She died in 1947, and in 2000, she was became the first African woman to be canonized in modern times. She is the first person to be canonized from Sudan and is the patron saint of the country. Her feast day is Feb. 8.**