

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 20, 2021 Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM +Nick Wengloski R/b his family

Sunday, March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +John Walden R/b his wife

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

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

Monday March 22, 2021 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday March 23, 2021 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop

NO MASS

Wednesday March 24, 2021 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Sabatelle family

R/b I Boone

Thursday March 25, 2021 Annunciation of the Lord

NO MASS

Friday March 26, 2021 Lenten Weekday – (Abstinence)

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Odell family

R/b I Boone

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 27, 2021 Lenten Weekday

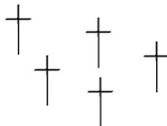
5:00 PM +Stanley & Anne Dudar R/b Alicia Lamb

Sunday, March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

8:00 AM +Peter Rocco R/b the Dyer family

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

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



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

Offertory 3/14: \$ 2,166.00

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.

Next weekend's second collection is for Operation Rice Bowl.

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

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

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 Rev. Michael Gill, Rev. Peter Langevin, Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Rev. John O'Neill MS, Rev. Thomas Smith, Msgr. Michael Donohue, Our Holy Father, Rev. Bijoy Joseph CST, Rev. Jeffrey Ellis, Rev. Anthony DiMarco, Rev. Jonathan Ficara, Rev. Martin Jones, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM, Cv.

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 27 & 28

5:00 pm: Steve Wengloski, Richard Lataille

8:00 am: Rick Kane, Jim Worth

10:30 am: Angela Corentin, 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.

Lenten Confessions:

Every Tuesday at St. Andrew Church from 6:30pm – 7:00pm.
St. Francis of Assisi Church Monday March 29 at 6:30pm – 7:00pm.

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 Stations of the Cross for Couples** – The Catholic Family Services Office and Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual Stations of the Cross for Couples on **Friday, March 26 at 7 P.M.** Join us as we accompany Jesus on His way to Calvary in praying the stations together. The everyday struggles couples face in their relationships can, at times, be a heavy cross to carry, but when we journey with Jesus to Calvary as a couple, we find hope and strength to enrich our relationships. We all need images of hope in living out our vocation to married life, and Jesus offers us those images in His passion. The stations will be led by two married couples. Each will offer a brief reflection and insight on how we can see our relationship with our spouse mirrored in Jesus. Registration is required. Call Mary-Jo McLaughlin, at 860-848-2237, Ext 312 or email mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.org A link will be sent to you prior to the event.
- ❖ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** St. Francis Church in Middletown from 6-7pm on April 15th.

- ❖ **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 25th 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

The Office of Faith Events is sponsoring The Make a Memory Easter Basket Project. We invite every family to make a basket this Easter that will be delivered to a soup kitchen/shelter in the area of the Norwich Diocese for children and families who would not otherwise receive an Easter Basket.

Any size basket or bucket will do, fill with Easter treats (small toys, candy, etc.) ***For safety, make sure all candy is packaged- no loose candy please, and no candy with nuts or peanut butter for allergy reasons.***, wrap whole basket in a cellophane bag (available 2 for \$1- at the Dollar Tree) and drop it off at a designated place in your parish or at the Bishop Flanagan Ministry Center, 199 Broadway, Norwich, CT. A homemade Easter card from your family to theirs would be a great addition. **Please have all completed baskets to us by March 23rd so we can deliver them before Easter.**

Any questions or concerns please contact Andrea at OFE. 860-848-2237, ext.203

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 Thursdays/Mondays April 8-29**

HVAC Project Coordinator: Saint Vincent de Paul Place of Norwich, is seeking a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) volunteer project coordinator to coordinate the installation of two new pieces of HVAC equipment: a walk-in freezer and a packaged rooftop unit (RTU) to supply heating, cooling and ventilation. The coordinator would be responsible for the coordination between Saint Vincent de Paul Place staff, it's patrons, contractors and any City officials. The ideal candidate would have a background in construction management and HVAC. This person will need to be able to come on site to post communications and receive material. To inquire about the position, please contact Jill Corbin at jcsvdpp@gmail.com. The ideal candidate would be a retired volunteer who could assist with this project.

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.

As the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal “One Faith, One Family” continues, we are grateful to the parish families that have already made their gift or pledge.

For us to achieve our overall goal, it will require the personal sacrifice of all members of our faith community. If you have not yet responded to the Appeal, please know your gift, no matter how big or small, will help enable the diocese to provide essential pastoral, educational, and humanitarian needs to many. Pledge envelopes are located at the entrances to Church or you may visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment for alternate ways to give. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

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.

Pre-HSPT Entrance Exam for the Mercy Class of 2026 Saturday, April 24, 2021 ~ 9:00 a.m.

The HSPT (High School Placement Test) is the test Mercy High requires for acceptance and placement into our academic program. The Pre-HSPT practice exam gives current 7th graders an opportunity to prepare for the HSPT by familiarizing themselves with the test content and structure as well as offering insight on their performance. Each student will receive a comprehensive scoring report providing feedback and identifying strengths and areas for improvement. The exam for the Class of 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, **April 24, 2021 at 9 a.m. (The exam will be given virtually)**

**Students who achieved in 90th national percentile or higher were given a \$500 Scholarship at Mercy for the 2021-2022 academic year pending acceptance in November 2021. Registration is required at www.mercyhigh.com.

Mercy offers the **Higher Achievement Program** in the summer for rising 7th & 8th grade girls. During this two-week program, students take a practice HSPT at the beginning and end of the session, have the opportunity to improve test taking skills and gain exposure Mercy educators and students. Afternoon activities include a variety of athletic, artistic, service and social opportunities for the participants.

Mornings at Mercy: now- May'21

Students and parents are invited to spend a morning experiencing Mercy during the school day. Girls in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade, as well as high school students considering a transfer to Mercy, and their parents, are welcome to visit from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. to see for themselves what it's like to attend an all-girls school, to gain an understanding of what happens at a Catholic college preparatory high school during the school day and to explore and experience a learning environment that supports personal growth and leadership development in the classroom, on the playing fields and through clubs and activities. For more information and to register, visit www.mercyhigh.com or call 860-346-6659

Get M-Powered! Join the Mercy High School Summer Program 2021: Calling all (rising) 6th – 9th graders Super Charge your summer and register for the 2021 M-Powered Summer Programs: Basketball, Higher Achievement, Soccer and Theater Arts (co-ed).

Visit Mercy's website for information or contact the school for a brochure www.mercyhigh.com/summerprograms Mercy High School 860-346-6659

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.

It's a Springtime Spectacular!!!

A great time to think of purchasing a special something for that special somebody. Many baskets and wreaths to bid on for special occasions such as Birthdays, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, St. Patrick's Day, etc. The raffle will assist with ongoing bills and help further the mission of ACTS. ACTS' mission (A-Adoration, C-Community, T-Theology, S-Service) is to provide opportunities for each person to focus on his or her faith and build purpose in one's prayer life, to increase their presence at liturgy, and to cultivate friendships among members of the Church community. The purpose is to enter into a new and deeper relationship with Christ and fellow laypersons. To view what is available and purchase tickets, click on <https://go.rallyup.com/427489>. Bidding will begin on Monday, March 1st and end at 6 PM on Wednesday, March 24th. Winners of the baskets or wreaths will be notified on Thursday, March 25th. Drop off deliveries will occur on Friday, March 26th and Saturday, March 27th. For more information, you can contact: Leo Letendre at 269-599-5856, leo.letendre@yahoo.com or Veronica Beaudoin at 860-940-9684, vbeaudoin61@att.net

THE PRACTICE OF COVERING CROSSES AND IMAGES



Until recent time it was customary to veil prominent statues and crucifixes in church with a purple cloth as a sign of sadness and mourning. In some churches, beginning around 900, one large cloth was hung between the people and the altar from the beginning of Lent. This was done to hide the heavenly glory depicted by statues of saints and crosses with the figure of the triumphant Christ. This custom came to symbolize the exclusion of all sinners from the altar just as public sinners were excluded. Since the 1600's, this veiling was limited to Passiontide, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent, originally called "Passion Sunday". On that Sunday (today only in Cycle B), the final words of the Gospel are: "At that they picked up rocks to throw at Jesus, but He hid Himself and slipped out of the temple precincts" (J. 8:59).

Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.



For Lent for Life

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.

HOMESCHOOL:

Please remember to send in your unit tests if you are homeschooling your children for CCD this year. Unit tests were sent in October to you. If you need another set, please call Cheryl in the Parish Office.

You are invited to a Live Virtual Art Auction

Early Registration only: Monday March 29@9 AM EST.
Registration/preview/prebid-maxbid Wednesday April 7@9 AM EST

Live Auction -Friday April 9@7:30 PM EST

No charge to enjoy this event

Where: In the comfort comfort of your own home

How: Visit this link: bid.marlinart.com. Registration required to preview artwork and receive your bid number. Opening bid with full description of each piece will be displayed. You will be able to pre-bid and/or set your maximum bid. Register early! Preview ends at show-time on Friday. All artwork shipped nationwide free of charge directly to your home! For more information, contact Mike 203-645-8343 or email mmuttitt@optonline.net

Art Auction sponsored by W Patrick Donlin Assembly Knights of Columbus - Featuring framed fine art from Marlin Art Inc



Palm Sunday – March 27-28

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Holy Thursday – April 1

Saint Andrew Church

Mass: 7:00pm

Good Friday – April 2

Saint Andrew Church

Good Friday Service: 3:00pm

Stations of the Cross: 7:00pm

&

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

No morning Mass

Stations of the Cross: 7:00pm

Holy Saturday – April 3

Blessing of Easter Food at St. Francis of Assisi Church at

1:00pm

Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00pm

at St Andrew Church only

Easter Sunday – April 4

Masses

Saint Francis of Assisi

8:00am & 10:30am

Saint Andrew

8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am

Remember to wear a facemask

Sanitize your hands

Maintain social distancing