

**Palm
Sunday**

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 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

Monday March 29, 2021 Monday of Holy Week

NO MASS

Tuesday March 30, 2021 Tuesday of Holy Week

NO MASS

Wednesday March 31, 2021 Wednesday of Holy Week

9:00 AM Kim & Ceara Concannon R/b Pam Roberts

Thursday April 1, 2021 Holy Thursday

7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper - St. Andrew Church

Friday April 2, 2021 Good Friday – (Abstinence)

9:00 AM NO MASS OFFICE CLOSED

3:00 PM Good Friday – St. Andrew Church

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross – St. Francis

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

Saturday April 3, 2021 Holy Saturday

1:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food – St. Francis Church

8:00 PM Easter Vigil – St. Andrew Church

Sunday, April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 AM +Nicholas Emil Kuzel R/b the Kuzel 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 3/21: \$ 1,020.50

Building Maintenance: \$ 181.00

Today's second collection is for Operation Rice Bowl.

Next weekend's second collection is the Easter Collection for Sick & Infirm Priests.

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

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 Spedalieri 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. James Thaikootathil, Msgr. Leszek Janik, all priests, Rev. Walter Nagle, Rev. Michael Castiblanco, Rev. John Antonelle, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Rev. Michael Bovino, Msgr. Richard LaRocque, Rev. Roy Parayil, V. Rev. Gregory Galvin, Rev. Gregoire Fluet, Rev. Joseph Ashe.

Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit., As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.

Lector Schedule Weekend of April 4

8:00 am: Greg Jones

10:30 am: Angela Corentin

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.

**Remember to wear a facemask.
Sanitize your hands.
Maintain social distancing.**

**Due to COVID-19 Gathering
Restrictions
There will be no Easter Egg Hunt
This year.**



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**.
- ❖ **Sung Chant of The Divine Mercy** Join us on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11 at 3pm, for a sung Chant of Divine Mercy. This live event will be streamed from the Cathedral of Saint Patrick and can be viewed on the Diocesan website: NorwichDiocese.org/Masses and on the Cathedral website: CathedralofSaintPatrick.org/Resources/Live-Stream. Social distancing guidelines will be in effect for those wishing to attend in person.
- ❖ **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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

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://wwmectw.org/>.

Let us be open to the love from our spouse and God by participating in a virtual Worldwide Marriage experience on Thursdays/Mondays April 8-29
Friday/Saturday/Sunday April 23-25

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 is 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.

Catholic Charities needs your help!

Due to the enormous impact of Covid-19, we are quickly running out of resources to help all of those who come to us in need within the Diocese of Norwich. Currently, all locations are badly in need of toiletries. Items such as shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste etc. If you would like to donate any of these much-needed care items, please contact one of our locations nearest you.

Norwich- 860-889-8346

New London-860-443-5328

Middletown- 860-346-0060

Willimantic-860-423-7065

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
Mathew 25:40

East Catholic High School

800.649.5336 X6456

OUTDOOR OPEN HOUSE

April 8 from 4 to 6 pm

San Jose Assembly 121, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, is pleased to announce the **Andrew J. Kuhar Memorial Scholarship**. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men based on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Although academics will be one of the criteria for this award, the major criterion will be voluntary service to the applicant's Church, community, or both. This scholarship is open to all graduating high school seniors in eastern Connecticut, who will be attending a two-year College, four-year College, University or Technical School in the fall of 2021. Application deadline is May 15. The award for this year is \$500 and will be awarded on or about June 1, 2021. Applications available in the parish office.

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.

Live-Streamed Classical Music Easter Concert

Let the Light Shine with St. Andrew Church in its live-streamed Easter Concert, "Let There Be Light: A Morning of Easter Song" at 8:50 a.m. on Easter morning April 4, 2021, just prior to the 9:30 A.M. Easter Mass. (The concert will begin shortly after the 8:00 a.m. Easter Mass is over, at approximately 8:55 A.M.) The concert will feature Natalie Wood, Soprano Soloist, and Colleen Puscas, Pianist and Organist. Natalie is a veteran soprano soloist, voice teacher, actor, and performer on the musical stage throughout the tri-state area. Colleen is the 26-year veteran Music Director of St. Andrew Church with dual master's degrees in music composition/Theory and Liturgy/Theology. Natalie and Colleen will perform a program of traditional classical favorites including "The Lord Is My Light," "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" (Messiah), 2 pieces from Mozart's Exultate Jubilate and "Let the Bright Seraphim" featuring professional trumpeter Carey Ozmun. After the concert, celebrate the true meaning of the Easter Season with the St. Andrew Parish Community in its joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at the 9:30 AM Easter Mass. All are welcome to join us Sunday morning, April 4 for the live concert (Note: social distancing norms still apply, and therefore ample room may not be available for everyone to attend the live concert). Alternatively, go to the St. Andrew Website to join the livestream celebration of song and worship: www.standrewcolchester.org



Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday.

The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

During Palm Sunday Mass, palms are distributed to parishioners who carry them in a ritual procession into church. The palms are blessed and many people will fashion them into small crosses or other items of personal devotion. These may be returned to the Church or kept for the year. Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are burned.

The colors of the Mass on Palm Sunday are red and white, symbolizing the redemption in blood that Christ paid for the world.

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

Saturday April 3 at 1:00pm

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Parishioners Are Invited to Bring Their Easter Food Baskets for the Blessing of Easter Food Baskets on Saturday April 15 at 1:00 pm at Saint Francis of Assisi Church (Gathering in the Church)

A traditional Polish Easter Basket would contain a small amount of the following:

- ❖ Butter (maslo) - This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a lamb or a cross. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have towards all things.
- ❖ Easter bread (babka) – A round loaf topped with a cross or a fish, symbolic of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.
- ❖ Horseradish or pepper (chrzan/pieprz) – The bitter herbs of Passover and the Exodus, signifying first the bitterness of spiritual exile; second and more meaningfully, the bitterness of the sufferings of Our Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Eggs (jajka) decorated with symbols of Easter, life, and prosperity (pisanki) – Indicate new life and Christ's Resurrection from the tomb.
- ❖ Sausage (kielbasa) – A spicy sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.
- ❖ Ham (szynka) – Symbolic of great joy and abundance. Some prefer lamb or veal. The lamb also reminds Catholics that the Risen Christ is the "Lamb of God".
- ❖ Smoked bacon (slonina) – a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity.
- ❖ Salt (sol) – So necessary an element in our physical life, that Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth".
- ❖ Cheese (ser) – Shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation that Christians should always have.
- ❖ Wine (wino) – Often added reminds us of the blood of sacrifice which Jesus Christ spilled for us on Calvary.
- ❖ Vinegar (ocet) – Reminds us of the gall (sour wine) which was given to Our Lord as he hung on Calvary.

A candle is inserted into the basket to represent Jesus, The Light of the World. A colorful ribbon and sometimes sprigs of greenery are attached. A linen cloth is drawn over the top and it is ready for the trek to church where it is joined with the baskets of others to await the blessing that will render it fit for consumption on Easter Sunday.



SCHEDULE – 2021

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