

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 April 17, 2021 Easter Weekday

5:00PM +Fred Steenbock R/b the Kuzel family

Sunday, April 18, 2021 Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM +Eddie Kasacek R/b the Kuzel family

10:30 AM +Richard Morin R/b his mother

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

Monday April 19, 2021 Easter Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday April 20, 2021 Easter Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday April 21, 2021 St. Anselm. Bishop, doctor of the Church

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

+Mary Wisneski R/b Karen & Larry

Thursday April 22, 2021 Easter Weekday

NO MASS

Friday April 23, 2021 St. George, martyr; St. Adalbert, bishop, martyr

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

+Mary Wisneski R/b Karen & Larry

Saturday April 24, 2021 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr

5:00PM +Bill Brewster R/b his family

Sunday, April 25, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM +Richard Pratt R/b his family

10:30 AM +Mary Wisneski R/b Karen & Larry

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

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

Offertory 4/11: \$ 2,257.00

Extraordinary Expenses: \$ 299.00

Next weekend's second collection is for 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 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 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. Charles McGrail, Rev. Alfred Irving, Rev. John Moskus, Rev. Aguirre Palacio, Rev. Joseph Castaldi, Rev. Thomas Griffin, Our Holy Father, Rev. Paul Boudreau, Rev. Roland Cloutier, Rev. Patrick Martin, Rev. Robert Washabaugh, Rev. Thomas Sickler MS, Rev. Russell Kennedy.

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 24 & 25

5:00 pm: Richard Lataille

8:00 am: Rick Kane

10:30 am: Don Dubile

Parishioners, you are all invited to attend a

special presentation given

by Deacon Michael,

about The Luminous

Mysteries on Monday, April

19th at 6:30pm in the church.

Masks and social distancing

will be required. The Ladies

Guild will hold their monthly

meeting following the

presentation.



Announcements: Diocese of Norwich

- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **Project Rachel Rosary** – Please join the Office of Faith Events staff online the third Tuesday of each month as we pray the **Project Rachel Rosary** for an end to abortion and healing for those who have been involved in an abortion. The next Rosary will be **Tuesday, April 20, 2021**. Contact Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net to receive a link for the Rosary.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Holy Hour for Vocations:** St. Lawrence Church in Killingworth from 6-7pm on May 20th.

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 Friday/Saturday/Sunday April 23-25

Mondays/Thursdays May 3-24

Thursdays/Mondays Jun 3-24

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. At this time, 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

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.

**God needs priests. Is He calling you?
If you are 30-60, you may be surprised.
"Friday Adoration"**

**Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Ave. , Weston, MA
Friday, May 7 at 5:00pm**

Join the Seminary community virtually for prayer & fellowship Holy Hour and Evening Prayer.

<https://www.psis.edu/chapel-live-stream>

Zoom meeting with Seminarians. To get Zoom link.

RSVP Msgr. William Fay to msgr.fay@psis.edu



**Norwich Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women
Annual Layette Program**

The Annual Layette Program will be in late May or early June 2021. There will not be a formal program once again this year due to the pandemic. Each church will be informed where and when to drop off all items collected.

We will be collecting **NEW** baby items such as diapers all sizes, baby clothing (sizes 0-3 years old), blankets, etc.

All items collected will go to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Norwich, and will be distributed to Norwich, New London, Middletown, and Willimantic.

You may leave your items in the collection bassinet located at the side entrance of the church.

We will be collecting items until the day of the event.

Any questions please contact Sandra Spedalieri at 860-537-1372. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich is looking for individuals who are willing to serve on an Advisory Board for our Willimantic office. Advisory Board Members meet once a month and assist the local office in driving the mission and vision of the organization. Advisory Board Members serve as ambassadors of Catholic Charities and are key liaisons with the local parishes. We are looking for every parish to be represented.

If interested and for more information, please contact Susan Connelly at 860-889-8346, extension 264 or at susanconnelly@ccfsn.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)** 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

SAINT GEORGE

It is uncertain when Saint George was born, and historians continue to debate to this day. However, his death date is estimated to be April 23 303 A.D.

The first piece of evidence of George's existence appeared within the works of the Bollandists Daniel Papebroch, Jean Bolland, and Godfrey Henschen's *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca*. George was one of several names listed in the historical text, and Pope Gelasius claimed George was one of the saints "whose names are justly revered among men, but whose actions are known only to God."

George was born to a Gerontios and Polychronia, a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda. Both were Christians from noble families of the Anici and George, *Georgios* in the original Greek, was raised to follow their faith.

When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. by his late 20's, George became a Tribunus and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia.

On February 24, 303 A.D., Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed would be arrested and every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods.

George refused to abide by the order and told Diocletian, who was angry but greatly valued his friendship with George's father.

When George announced his beliefs before his peers, Diocletian was unable to keep the news to himself.

In an effort to save George, Diocletian attempted to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offered him land, money, and slaves in exchange for offering a sacrifice to the Roman gods, and made several other offers that George refused.

Finally, after exhausting all other options, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He was lacerated on a wheel of swords and required resuscitation three times, but still George did not turn from God.

On April 23, 303 A.D., George was decapitated before Nicomedia's outer wall. His body was sent to Lydda for burial, and other Christians went to honor George as a martyr.

Saint George and the Dragon

There are several stories about George fighting dragons, but in the Western version, a dragon or crocodile made its nest at a spring that provided water to Silene, believed to be modern-day Lcyrene in Libya.

The people were unable to collect water and so attempted to remove the dragon from its nest on several occasions. It would temporarily leave its nest when they offered it a sheep each day, until the sheep disappeared, and the people were distraught.

This was when they decided that a maiden would be just as effective as sending a sheep. The townspeople chose the victim by drawing straws. This continued until one day the princess' straw was drawn.

The monarch begged for her to be spared but the people would not have it. She was offered to the dragon,

but before she could be devoured, George appeared. He faced the dragon, protected himself with the sign of the Cross, and slayed the dragon.

After saving the town, the citizens abandoned their paganism and were all converted to Christianity.

Interesting Facts

- Saint George stands out among other saints and legends because he is known and revered by both Muslims and Christians.
- It is said Saint George killed the dragon near the sea in Beirut, thus Saint George bay was named in his honor.
- Saint George's feast day is celebrated on April 23, but if it falls before Easter, it is celebrated Easter Monday.
- The Russian Orthodox Church celebrates three St. George feast days each year -April 23 as is expected, November 3, to commemorate the consecration of a cathedral dedicated to him in Lydda, and on November 26, for when a church in Kiev was dedicated to him.
- In Bulgaria, his feast day is celebrated May 6 with the slaughter and roasting of a lamb.
- In Egypt, the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria calls St. George the "Prince of Martyrs" and celebrates on May 1. There is a second celebration November 17, in honor of the first church dedicated to him.
- Saint George is the patron saint of England and Catalonia and his cross can be found throughout England.
- In older works, Saint George is depicted wearing armor and holding a lance or fighting a dragon, which represents Christ's enemies.

