

**We are pleased and honored
To welcome you to
St. Francis of Assisi Parish**
67 West Town Street, Lebanon, CT 06249
Telephone: 860.642.6711 Fax: 860.642.4032
www.stfrancisassisilebanonct.parishesonline.com
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor
Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Saturday December 5, 2015 Advent Weekday

4:00 PM Confession
5:00 PM *Fernande Gardner req. by the Ladies Guild*
Sunday, December 6, 2015 Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM *Margaret O'Neill req. by Jim & Barbara Dyer*
10:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory



**Monday December 7, 2015 St. Ambrose, bishop,
doctor of the Church ~ ~ Vigil Immaculate
Conception**

7:00 PM *Victoria O'Mara req. by a friend*

**Tuesday December 8, 2015 Feast of the
Immaculate Conception Holy Day**

9:15 AM *Mary Pudlo req. by Roberta Anthony*
Wednesday December 9, 2015 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtiatzin

9:00 AM *Dominick & Rose Jacobeno req. by a friend*

Thursday December 10, 2015 Advent Weekday
NO MASS

Friday December 11, 2015 St. Damasus I, pope

9:00 AM *Mary & Ross Collura req. by a friend*

**Saturday December 12, 2015 Our Lady of
Guadalupe**

9:00 AM *Henry Blackburn req. by a friend*

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM

Sunday, December 13, 2015 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM *Wanda Hofmann req. by the Dyer family*
10:30 AM *Affonso Fernando req. by the Mastroluca family*



Offertory 11/22: \$ 2969.95
Building Maintenance: \$ 801.00
Offertory 11/29: \$ 2,427.83
Today's second collection is for monthly extraordinary expenses.
Next weekend's second collection is a special collection for the Diocesan Fuel Fund. These monies are used within the Diocese to help those who are without heat or electricity during these cold winter months.
A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

St. Andrew Church – Colchester on Thursdays ~ Adoration at 8:30 ~ Rosary at 6:00pm...Benediction at 7:00pm.

Cemetery arrangements can be picked up after all masses the weekend of December 5-6th in the church garage. Questions, please contact Barbara at 860-642-7168 or bobbi.w@charter.net.
Thank you to everyone who donated their used pots; this project would not be possible without your contributions.

Military Service Honor Roll

SW1 John P. Dyer Jr. U.S. Navy
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
Sgt. Justin A. VonEdwins, U.S. Army
Sgt. Robert Massicotte U.S. Army
1st Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2nd Batt. 6th Marines

Prayer for our Men and Women in Military Service

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask 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 FOR PRIESTS

This week December 6 thru 12: Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Rev. Richard Breton, all priests, Rev. Michael Giannitelli, Rev. Jan Swiderski, Rev. Joseph Tito, Rev. Jude Surowiec OFM Cv, V. Rev. Dennis Perkins, Rev. Elson Kattookaran MS, Re. Thomas Ahern, Rev. Brian Maxwell. — Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas, so that the Divine Emmanuel might find in each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful and loving Mother.. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

We also pray for any priests who have left the ministry.

PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

Pledges received to date total \$61,625.00.
Our goal is \$67,000.00.
If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.

MEETINGS

Christmas Food Basket Delivery Saturday Dec. 12
Sunday Dec. 13 Grades 3 & 4 will help at the 10:30am Mass

Weekend of December 12 & 13

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs
Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako
Altar Servers: Grace Gardella, Elizabeth Spedaliere
8:00am Lector: Norm Kuzel
Eucharistic Minister: Ella Mae Kuzel
Altar Servers: Anthony Pomerleau, Wayne Woodward
10:30am Lector: Angela Corentin
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Dubiel
Altar Servers: Anna Campbell, Erika Densman



GIVING BASKET

Baskets are being delivered early – Saturday Dec. 12. Donations need to be received by Sunday Dec. 6.



LIVE NATIVITY

All children of our churches & community are invited to participate in the Lebanon Churches & Franklin Congregational Church combined

Ecumenical LIVE NATIVITY, Saturday December 19 at 3:00pm on the Lebanon Green. Participants please assemble at 2:30pm.

There are no speaking roles. Everyone will sing Christmas Carols together.

The youth have been asked to portray ANGELS and SHEPHERDS. No fancy costume necessary – very simple attire is fine, such as:

ANGELS: White sweatshirt, wings*, tinsel halo. *to make a simple paper plate wing visit: <http://m.wikihow.com/Make-Angel-Wings>.



Shepherds: Dark hooded sweatshirt, tea towel with rope, and walking stick.

Please bring a lawn chair.

In case of inclement weather the event will be held inside of the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall. In case of severe weather, tune into Channel 3.

If interested in participating please contact Anne McAwley-LeDuc @ a.mccawley.leduc@charter.net or 860.642.1786.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know of someone in need of a Prayer Shawl? The St. Francis Ladies Guild has made a commitment to distribute hand-made prayer shawls to anyone in need; someone who is ill, on potent medication, battling the pain of depression or lost a loved one. The gift of a shawl is not limited to members of the Guild or our parish but can be given to anyone you feel would benefit from this shawl of love and comfort. There are numerous shawls of many colors, shapes and weight as well as lap robes available.

If you wish to contribute a knitted or crocheted shawl (must be certain dimensions) or know of someone who would benefit from this gift, please contact Joyce Hofmann (Keeper of the Shawls) at nonnihofmann@gmail.com or 860-208-0028.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe!** All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Saturday, December 12, 2015. The celebration begins with the Rosary at 6:30, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm celebrated by Bishop Cote. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.
- **On Sunday, December 13, 2015, Bishop Cote will open the Holy Year of Mercy at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick 10:30 a.m. with a special celebration of the Eucharist. During this celebration representatives from every parish of the diocese will be commissioned as Disciples of Mercy. We will also have the traditional ritual of opening the Holy Door of Mercy. All parishioners are cordially invited to participate in this Diocesan Celebration of Mercy. Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the Cathedral Auditorium. All are invited to participate.**
- **Advent Diocesan Prayer Gathering** December 15th at 7:30 PM at St. Mary's Church Hall, Portland. Great music teaching by Fr. Paul Bourdreau, Pastor and Hospitality. Hosted by Light of Christ Prayer Community. All are welcome.
- **Holy Hour for Vocations** Dec. 17 from 6:30-7:30pm at St. Joseph in Norwich.
- **March for Life Trip for High School Youth** The Diocese of Norwich with the Office of Faith Events is offering an exciting and faith filled pilgrimage as we experience what it means to be PRO-LIFE in the D.C. metropolitan area. On January 22, 1974 thousands of pro-lifers took a stand for the unborn and each year it has grown into the annual march which is the largest pro-life event in the world. High School students will begin their day with a rally and mass with national speakers and bishops in the Arlington Diocese then proceed to the March in D.C. mall area. If you are interest, please contact Liza at lroach@norwichdiocese.net or (860)848-2237 ex.305.

WAIM PUBLIC SALE

December 12 & 13 from 10 am until 1 pm
SUMMER CLOTHING CLEARANCE \$1.00 PER ITEM;
FURNITURE (VINTAGE/NEW), DISHES AND KNICK
KNACKS, PRICED TO SELL!
WAIM is located at 866 Main St. Willimantic

During **National Adoption Month**, Catholic Charities Adoption Program is sponsoring an **Essay Contest** for students between the ages of 10 and 17. Participants should write a one page essay that addresses the topic, "How Adoption Has Affected My Life". The Winner will receive \$100.00 and his or her essay will be printed in the 4 County Catholic. Entries should be emailed to susansedensky@ccfsn.org by December 11th.

St. Andrew Youth Group

www.standrwym.org

Life Teen High School Youth Sunday Dec. 6 Life Teen Mass, dinner, life night.

The Edge Middle School Youth Grades 6-8 Sat. Dec. 12 from 7pm to 9:15pm – snow date Dec. 19 parish hall

ADVENT BOOKLETS from The Word Among Us are available at Church entrances. Please bring home a copy to aid in your preparation for Christmas.



All ladies of the parish are invited to the Ladies Guild Christmas Party on Tuesday December 15, 6:30 at The Log Cabin.

Reservation forms can be found at the church entrances, the deadline is December 7th to submit forms and payment. Questions, contact Jennie at 860-642-7168 or Estelle at 860-429-1685.

The **Lebanon Children's Clothing Wardrobe** is in need of the following:

- size 4 girls clothing (winter coat and snow pants), infant girls size 9 footwear and boots
- size 8 woman's snow boots (for an 11 yr. old girl)
- crib (not drop side)
- infant car seat cover and boppy



REMINDER: We will be accepting donations of new or new or gently used, clean toys, books, puzzles, games, etc. (and Winter Outerwear - coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens) on Wednesday, December 9 from 3 pm – 6 pm at the Lebanon

Community Center. Appointments can be made for other days/times.

If you have any of these items or would like to set up an appointment please email lebanonccw@gmail.com or call Rosemarie Bessette @ 860-617-3495. Thank you!!

Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 6, 2015

During the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, beginning December 8th, Pope Francis is asking us to practice both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works of mercy are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs; while the spiritual works of mercy are actions that help our neighbors with their spiritual needs. As we keep this in mind, let us continue to pray for our religious freedom. That it be preserved so we never have to choose between helping our neighbors and following our moral beliefs.

BAMBINELLI WEEKEND – GAUDETTE SUNDAY

Dec. 13, 2015

Remember to bring your Baminelli (Christ Child – Baby Jesus) to Mass next weekend. Your family

Baminelli will be blessed at all the Masses, along with those the children will receive on Gaudette Sunday ~ Baminelli Weekend. Thank you. ~ Liturgy Committee



If you'd ever thought about learning more about the book of Revelation, now's the time to do it.



We are offering "The Lamb and the Beasts, The Book of Revelation" Bible study to take a closer look at the book that:

- momentarily gives us the eyes of God to glimpse the heavenly meaning of our worship
- to look at evil in the face and see its full reality
- to gaze upon the cosmic meaning of Christ's sacrifice
- to envision the world renewed by the hope of God's victory

Come join us Friday mornings in the parish office Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. We will meet from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM.

This interactive Bible study is easy-to-understand and no previous Bible study is necessary.

Sign up is necessary by Sunday, December 13 so that books can be ordered. Call Cheryl at 860.642.6711 or stop in to register.

Ring in the Holiday Season by attending the **Annual Tree Lighting Program** on Sunday, December 6 at 6pm at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon. The brief program will include the lighting of the tree, Christmas Carols, and a visit from Santa. Following the program visitors may take a stroll around the Green on the candlelit walking path, visit the historic homes which will be open for tours and enjoy the bonfire behind the library. Join us with your family and friends and welcome in the Holidays with this fun, family event!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA SUNDAY

December 13, 2015 8:00am to 11:00am
Fire Safety Complex, Goshen Hill Rd.,
Lebanon, CT
ADULTS: \$8.00
KIDS under 12: \$5.00, under 5 FREE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CCD PROJECT 2015-2016

Housing for the poor is scandalously inadequate in rural Haiti, and the 2010 earthquake made the situation worse. Large families live together in small, rickety shacks of cardboard, tin, rags, and straw with dirt floors, unfit for human habitation. Vermin--rats and insects--are impossible to control, and the straw roofs constantly leak or are blown away by even mild rainstorms. Space is so sparse that people often sleep in shifts.

Since 1997, the Haitian Health Foundation's Happy House program has provided clean, healthy housing for the homeless and for poor families in rural southern Haiti. For families who have lived huddled into tiny, dark, un-hygienic hovels, a Happy House can be the beginning of a new life.

Happy Houses replace unstable shacks with four-room, concrete-block buildings. They have cement floors, a tin roof, windows, and doors. Recipients are selected by a vote of village committees to ensure that only the most needy receive them. They participate in building their own house by providing labor (when possible) as well as sand, rocks, and water. Imagine the joy of a family finally able to move into their very own Happy House, and you're sure to feel happy, too!

A Happy House provides humane living conditions, improved sanitation, and dignity. Even better, building a Happy House helps communities grow: improving health by improving sanitation, empowering poor families to contribute to their own homes, employing local tradesmen and laborers, benefiting the local economy through the sale of building materials, and embracing the poor as a part of society. A non-sectarian non-profit, Haitian Health Foundation does not evangelize or require a religious test from recipients. A Happy House creates a win situation for everyone!

You can help a build a Happy House! Every contribution helps. **OUR GOAL: \$ 1,250.00.** Each grade will have a jar to collect loose change. Just send your loose change in each CCD class to add to the jar. A jar will also be available in Church for parishioners to make donations. This project will be ongoing for the entire school year. **Working together Saint Francis can provide a Happy House for Haiti.**



BEFORE



AFTER