

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 January 23, 2016 St. Vincent, deacon, martyr; St. Marianne Cope, virgin

4:00 PM Confession

5:30 PM Francesco Germano req. by his family

Sunday, January 24, 2016 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Fernande Gardner req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

NO 10:30 AM MASS

Monday January 25, 2016 Conversion of St. Paul, apostle

NO MASS

Tuesday January 26, 2016 Sts. Timothy & Titus, bishops

NO MASS

Wednesday January 27, 2016 St. Angela Merici, virgin

9:00 AM Ed & Christine Clark req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

Thursday January 28, 2016 St. Thomas Aquinas, priest,

doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Friday January 29, 2016 Weekday

9:00 AM Jeanette Thibdeau req. by Julie & Dennis Hoddinott

Saturday January 30, 2016 Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM

Sunday, January 31, 2016 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Fernande Gardner req. by the Palmer family

10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 1,366.00

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.

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.

Weekend of January 30 & 31

5:30pm Lector: Anne Staebner

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: Steve Bardes, Bradley Wiczorek

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Betsy Petrie

Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Erika Densman, Becca Chesters,

Marianne Clippinger

We will return to our regular Mass schedule next weekend.

2015 Contributions statements available in the parish office.

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

Sgt. Chad Pellerin, U.S. Army Dubai

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.

Dear Parishioners,

I am very pleased to announce that through the generosity of The Hugh Leander Adams, Mary Trumbull Adams & Hugh Trumbull Adams Town Memorial Fund, we have received a grant of \$40,000.00 to be used toward finishing our paving project. We will receive the grant in two installments of \$20,000.00 per year and have received the first installment. We plan to complete the paving of the driveways during the summer.

Our parish is very fortunate to have received such a generous gift from The Hugh Leander Adams, Mary Trumbull Adams & Hugh Trumbull Adams Town Memorial Fund.

Through the prayers of our parishioners, God does provide.

What a tremendous beginning for 2016.

Fr. Mark

APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER— V. Rev. Laurence LaPointe, Rev. Luis Agudelo, Rev. Arul Peter, Rev. V. Anthony Alaharasan, all priests, Rev. Paul Ramen, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Joseph DeCosta, Rev. John Ashe, Rev. Thomas Hoar SSE, V. Rev. Ignatius Manfredonia FI, V. Rev. Douglas Mosey CSB. Rev. Richard Crawley OFM Cp. May each day of this New Year bring our priests more good to do, more souls to save and more holy influence to spread around them by word and by deed. Father, we pray for our priests: for the sanctity of their souls and for perfect love, that they may be the voice of Christ. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

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

Grade 8 will be helping at the 10:30am Mass, Sunday January 31. Refreshments will follow in the meeting room.

PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

Pledges received to date total \$64,025.00. Our goal is \$67,000.00. If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.

St Andrew Passion Play Auditions



Auditions for the 2016 passion play (March 18/19) for singers, actors, and dancers will be held in the parish hall on the following dates:

Saturday January 16: 1-3 pm

Sunday January 17: 12-2 pm

Note: These auditions are for people who have **not** previously had major solo roles. People who have already performed major roles need not audition again. All dancers should be at least 8th grade or older, and

should come dressed comfortably and prepared to demonstrate movement. Singers should bring a copy of a song you would like to sing, or be prepared to sing a song from the parish hymnal. An accompanist is provided. For more information contact Colleen Puscas colleenpuscas@gmail.com (860 918 2560)

"Coping With the Loss of a Loved One"

The Journey to Healing Bereavement Group at Saint Andrew's Church, extends an invitation to everyone who is having a difficult time dealing with the loss of a loved one. Guest are invited to take time to relax prior to the program. Complementary soup and sandwiches will be available at 5:00pm on Friday, June 22nd in the Parish Hall 128 Norwich Ave. A special program will be offered by Kelly Zercie at 5:30pm. Kelly is a representative from Middlesex Hospital Hospice and will offer guidance as one navigates through the stressors of losing a loved one.

Since special materials will be available we request that those planning to attend contact Cathy Russi at crussi45@sbcglobal.net --- 860-887-9621 or Penny Gadbois sewcraftypen@att.net --- 860-537-4046.

St. Mary – St. Joseph School Open House

On Sunday, January 31, from 8am – 12pm, St. Mary – St. Joseph School is kicking-off Catholic Schools Week by hosting an Open House. Come join us for coffee and donuts, take a tour, and see what our Catholic school students are learning! You will be amazed by what you see!

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Principal, Miss Abby L. Demars, at demarsa@smsjschool.org, the Secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Denis, at denise@smsjschool.org or call 860-423-8479. We look forward to seeing you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- Mass of Healing January 25th 2016 at 2 PM. Spiritual Renewal Center. Fr. Ray Celebrant, Judith will have a healing prayer. Individual prayer available- 860-887-0702. Praise, Prayer and Worship every Tuesday afternoon at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center.
- On Sunday, January 31, 2016, the 19th Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Consecrated Life will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Norwich. All are invited to join Bishop Cote in thanking God for the gift of consecrated life and for the sisters, brothers, and religious priests who enrich the Church and build up God's Kingdom with the witness of their religious commitment. The theme is *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*, with their testimony of faith, holiness, and hope. The homilist will be Father Jack Rathschmidt, O.F.M. Cap. of Saint Conrad Friary, White Plains, New York. All are invited to participate in the Mass.
- **Marriage Preparation Classes for Engaged Couples** "God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage: offered by the Office of Family Life. To register for the three-session class please call **860-848-2237 ext. 306**.
Date: Fridays, February 5, 12, 19, 2016
Time: 6:30 – 9 P.M.
Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Route 12, Gales Ferry
Cost: \$60 per couple
- **Trip to Haiti** The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is organizing one or more immersion trips to Haiti. Typical places you would visit are schools, clinics, neighborhoods, the national museum, Sunday mass at a Haitian church. Room, board and airfare is in the \$1,000 to \$1,300 range (depending on the airfare you get). The dates being booked now are April 5-12, April 26 to May 3, or May 9-16. If you are interested in any of these dates, contact Outreach at info@outreachtohaiti.org, or call 860-887-1019 x817. If you are interested, but can't make these dates, you can contact Outreach as noted above, and have them put you on a list to be contacted as more trips are planned.

Trip to India with Fr. Ben

Pleasant time and Peaceful days with different cultures. South and North India. 12 days in October 2016. In south – St. Thomas tomb, Place of His martyrdom, Lourdes of east basilica, Famous Hindu Temples, Cultural programs, Elephant rides on the Western Ghats Mountain. In the North- New Delhi, Agra Taj Mahal and famous Monuments and Jaipur beautiful palaces. More details will be in the coming month.

YOUTH GROUP

Life Teen: High School Youth – Sun. Jan. 24 Life Teen Mass followed by dinner and our first annual parents life night. All parents of 8th grade through seniors are invited for Mass, dinner and the night. Pickup will be at 8:45pm instead of 8:30pm.

THE NEXT WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT WEEKEND FOR ST. ANDREW, ST. FRANCIS & ST. PATRICK CHURCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 14-17

at the newly renovated Immaculata Retreat Center in Willimantic. We invite all women to consider making this beautiful life-changing retreat. This is a three day, 3 night Catholic lay Retreat presented by women who have attended prior ACTS retreats. Retreat activities focus on Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service with the goals of renewing yourself spiritually and strengthening your faith and its application to your daily life, and to create lasting and supporting friendships. The cost of the retreat is \$230.00. Registration forms are located at the entrances to the Church. Please call Karen Bouley (Retreat Director) @ 860.614.3901, Tracy London (Co-Director) @ 860.334.7090, or Virginia Hurlbert (Co-Director) @ 860.803.4220 with any questions you may have. Registration forms are also available on the www.actsct.org website.

Young Adults Event- Fellowship, Adoration, and Mass – Feb. 11th

Young Adults ages 18 – 39 are invited for Fellowship, Adoration and Mass on Thursday, February 11th beginning at Crossroads in Columbia with a light dinner. It is at 106 Rt. 66 East Columbia 06237. From Crossroads, Young Adults will travel to St. Thomas Aquinas for Adoration and Mass beginning at 8pm – 9:30pm. Address is 46 North Eagleville Rd. Storrs 06268. The event is free and adults are welcome to come for only the fellowship or Adoration or Mass. For more information, contact Liza Roach at (860)848-2237 ex. 305 or lroach@norwichdiocese.net

Defending Our Religious Liberty Jan. 24, 2016

On December 7, 1965, the Second Vatican Council approved *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Declaration on Religious Liberty. The Declaration addresses a question that comes up in every generation: how do we understand freedom, truth, and the relationship between church and state? Have things changed in the last 50 years?

Visit: usccb.org and search for: Human Dignitatis Humanae for a comprehensive overview.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Scholarship - Knights of Columbus Council 13 has established a \$500 scholarship for graduating high school seniors entering their freshman year in an approved under-graduate college, university or technical school as a regular full-time student in a program leading to a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent technical certification. Information including application forms and directions may be obtained from the parish secretary. Applications must be received by March 1.

UPDATE on Trip to Incredible India

13 days from October 16th to 28 -2016

South and North India. 12 days in October 2016 .In south – St. Thomas the apostle's tomb, Place of His martyrdom, Loudres of east basilica, Famous Hindu Temples, Cultural programs, Elephant rides on the western Ghats mountain. In the North- New Delhi, Agra Taj Mahal and famous Monuments and Jaipur beautiful palaces. It includes all breakfasts, lunches, dinners and all entrance fees, and air tickets.

Cost \$ 3600 per person from New York - double occupancy

Visiting -- Chennai, Velankanni, Madurai and Kerela State - in South India

- New Delhi, Agra [Taj Mahal], Jaipur - in North India.

For more information

- Contact Fr. Benjamin 8605372355
- Email- benjaminvin@yahoo.com.

Lebanon Children's Clothing Wardrobe
LCCW
GRAND Re-Opening!

We invite the community to attend our first "Swap" event of 2016 at our new location, the Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Save this date:

Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 9am to 12 noon.
Redeemer Lutheran Church, 321 Village Hill Road, Lebanon

We will be accepting donations at the church on the following Thursdays from 4-6pm: February 4, March 3, and April 7.

The LCCW is an organization comprised solely of volunteers who collect and distribute children's clothing. This service offers the community an avenue to donate their children's clean, gently used clothing, as well as the opportunity to "shop" for free clothing items. During our semi-annual "Swap" events, our inventory is on display and families are invited to select free clothing and other items for their children. Between events, feel free to schedule an appointment for donations and/or to browse for clothing. We encourage our families to "Bring what you can, take what you need."

Saint Joseph School in Baltic will have an Open

House on Sunday, January 31st, after the 10:00am Mass and again on Wednesday, February 3rd, from 9-11:30am. There will be opportunities to visit classes and speak with current parents, and teachers. For further information, please contact Sister Mary Patrick, Principal at 860.822.6141.



In preparation for the Lenten and Easter season, we are offering "The Tragic and Triumphant Cross" Bible study to take a closer look at the Cross.

The cross is both the world's most contemptible instrument of punishment and the symbol of humanity's greatest hope. In turning this tool of torture into his followers' proudest boast, Jesus produced the most dramatic reversal the world has ever experienced. Worn around our necks, hung in our homes, carried in procession, and set on mountaintops, the cross speaks to what we believe about Jesus and about how we understand our lives in relationship to him.

This study plumbs the depths of Scripture for the horrible and glorious significance of the world's most beloved symbol

Come join us. You have the choice of meeting Tuesday evenings from 7-8pm or Friday mornings at 9:30am.

Cost for materials is \$13.75

New comers welcome.

Tuesday evenings in Church on February 16 & 23, March 1, 8, 15, & 29. We will meet from 7-8pm.

OR

Friday mornings in the parish office February 19 & 26, March 4, 11 & 18, and April 1. 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 Friday, February 5 so that books can be ordered. Call Cheryl at 860.642.6711 or stop in the parish office to register.

Did you know that you can have your weekly offering automatically sent to the parish with online banking automatic bill pay through your bank?



Some parishioners have requested this and we would like to offer this convenience to you.

No need to find your check book and write out a check.

No need to stop by the ATM.

No need to remember your weekly envelope.

You can choose how much and how often to give.

Your contributions would still be recorded for tax purposes.

BENEFITS FOR SAINT FRANCIS

Offertory becomes more stable.

No more missed offertory due to sickness, weather, vacation.

Expense for offertory envelope packets for those using online banking bill pay would be eliminated.

All you would need to do would be to contact your bank and ask to set up online banking and automatic bill pay.

Questions: Please contact Cheryl in the parish office at 860.642.6711

Enders Island Upcoming Retreats

Wednesday February 10 from 10am – 3:30pm

Ash Wednesday – Day of Recollection with Sr. Eugenia Brady, SJC. Day includes two conferences, Mass, confessions, time to explore the Island and a hot served lunch. \$50 per person

February 21-22 Nurturing Your Vocation to Special Motherhood with Leticia Velasquez. Come away for two days and be transformed through prayer, the sacraments, inspiring talks and fellowship with other mothers raising children with special needs. Learn how God has called you to the vocation of special motherhood. \$120 per person shared room or \$150 per person single room.

Contact to pre-register 860.536.0565

or Enders Island, PO Box 399, Mystic, CT 06355

or reception@endersisland.com

or www.endersisland.com.