

**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.stfrancisassislebanonct.parishesonline.com
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor
Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Saturday January 30, 2016 Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM For the people of the parish living & deceased

Sunday, January 31, 2016 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:30 AM Souls in Purgatory

Monday February 1, 2016 Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday February 2, 2016 Presentation of the Lord

NO MASS

Wednesday February 3, 2016 St. Blaise, bishop & martyrs; St.

Ansgar, bishop

9:00 AM M/M Anthony Carbone & Rose Carbone req. by
their family

Thursday February 4, 2016 Weekday

NO MASS

Friday February 5, 2016 St. Agatha, virgin, martyr

9:00 AM

**Saturday February 6, 2016 St. Paul Miki & companions,
martyrs**

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM

Blessing of the Throats after Mass

Sunday, February 7, 2016 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Ladies Guild

Blessing of the Throats after Mass

10:30 AM

Blessing of the Throats after Mass

Offertory & Building Maintenance to be reported next weekend due to early submission of the bulletin. Second collection next weekend is for monthly extraordinary expenses. 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 February 6 & 7

5:30pm Lector: Dick Lataille

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty

Altar Servers: Grace Gardella, Elizabeth Spedalieri

8:00am Lector: Rosanne Coffey

Eucharistic Minister: Joan Grecki

Altar Servers: Anthony Pomerleau, Wayne Woodward

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Dick Lataille

Altar Servers: Anna Campbell, Erika Densman

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.

APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER — 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: Msgr. Leszek Janik, Rev. Wojciech Pelczarski SDS, Rev. Bruce Quinn OFDM Cap, Rev. Keith Shuley, Our Holy Father, Rev. Victor Chaker, Rev. Brian Romanoski, Rev. Thomas Smith, Rev. Anthony DiMarco, Rev. John Gallagher OFM Cap, Rev. Jan Swiderski, Rev. Dariusz Dudzik, Rev. Joseph Whittel 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.

2015 Annual Contribution Statements are now available from the parish office.

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.

Meetings

Knights of Columbus Thursday February 4 @ 7pm

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- **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.

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.

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

For more information

Contact Fr. Benjamin 860.537.2355

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."*

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.

TRAGIC & TRIUMPHANT CROSS

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.

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Friends in Christ,

I write to you every year at this time to bring to your attention that **Catholic Schools Week is scheduled for January 31, 2016, through February 6, 2016.** We highlight this special week to emphasize the fact that Catholic education is the center of our efforts to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the young people of our diocese and to encourage you to join us in one of our 12 PreK-8 Catholic schools or one of our 5 Catholic high schools. Your children and grandchildren are the future of the Catholic Church. Together we must do all we can to guide them into the fullness of the Gospels, the power of the sacraments and the richness of our Catholic traditions.

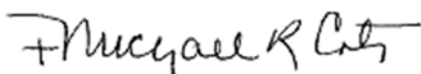
I am well aware that the first priority of parenting is the health and safety of each child. Immediately after that, however, comes education because, we all know, education is the key to opportunity and opportunity opens the door to the possibility of a healthy, successful and fulfilling life. From my perspective as bishop, Catholic education raises the experience for each child and young adult to an even higher level because it allows us to partner with parents and grandparents to bring prayer, religious education, the sacraments and a moral framework for each child to find his/her path to salvation. Character does matters and so does civic virtue. Our schools excel in producing students who exhibit both of these qualities.

It is true: Catholic education is not a tuition free experience as it was years ago. There have been major demographic and sociological changes in society and the Church and tuition is one reality that we have to deal with that creates an added burden for parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic school. The good news is that the fullness of the Church, through parish contributions and donations, provides a subsidy to help reduce tuition costs and other generous benefactors, who know the value of Catholic education, contribute to support our Mission through financial aid.

For activities and programs during Catholic Schools Week please check your church bulletin, take note of information on church posters and/or check the school, parish or diocesan websites.

Nothing would make me happier than to know that we are blessed by God's grace with having every seat in our schools filled by students whose parents and grandparents are eager to join our Mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

Youth Group (www.standrewym.org)

January 31 meeting: Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and the Rock-A-Thon rally. This is open to 8th grade through seniors, Parents of the first time participants are asked to come for the 6:45pm meeting. Teens as always stay for dinner in between the Mass and the meeting. Youth Group meets at St. Andrew Church.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Jan. 31, 2016

In early January, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting Little Sisters of the poor and other ministries challenging the HHS mandate. The brief claims that the government is violating federal law by speaking for the sisters in saying that the accommodation provided is the mandate is compatible with their religious beliefs.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

We have several open Masses during 2016. You may have a Mass said for a variety of intentions: for a deceased loved one, in celebration of a marriage, anniversary, birthday, in thanksgiving, for a special intention, for world peace, etc.

To request a Mass intention, please call Cheryl in the parish office during office hours.

We wish to bring it to your attention that there are a great many people attending Mass on weekends that suffer from asthma, allergies or are undergoing chemotherapy. Colognes, after shave and fragrances can aggravate these conditions. Please be considerate.



Our CCD classes have begun their Project for Haiti. 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.