

**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 February 13, 2016 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Therese Phaneuf req. by the Boisvert family

Sunday, February 14, 2016 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Fernande Gardner req. by Ed Bigenski

10:30 AM Gloria Bigenski req. by her family

Monday February 15, 2016 President's Day

NO MASS ~ Parish Office Closed

Tuesday February 16, 2016 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday February 17, 2016 7 Holy Founders of the Servite Order

9:00 AM Dave & Edith Perotti req. by their family

Thursday February 18, 2016 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday February 19, 2016 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Bob & Jennifer Chesters req. by their family

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 20, 2016 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Stanley Dudar req. by his family

Sunday, February 21, 2016 Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Helen F. Vaughn req. by the Dyer family

10:30 AM Marguerite Welch req. by her friends

Offertory: \$ 2,767.50

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.

Rice Bowl envelopes: Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. Save the moneys saved from this meal each week and bring your offering to the Church on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016

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 20 & 21

5:30pm Lector: Anne Staebner

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Steve Bardes, Bradley Wiczorek

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Peggy Stygar

Altar Servers: Wayne Woodward, Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Becca Chesters, Erika Densman

Collected to date for the Happy House in Haiti is \$85.
Please help our CCD classes with this project. The collection jar may be found by the side exit.

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 — Heavenly Father during this penitential season, we pray that the Blood of Jesus may kindle in the hearts of our priests the divine fire of Your love by their devotion to the Eucharist. Father, we pray for our priests – Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Rev. John Marciniak, Rev. Dennis Mercieri, Rev. George Villamthanam CST, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. Izydor Sadowski SDB, Rev. Edward Konopka, Rev. Martin Jones, Rev. John Welch MS, Rev. Michael Smith, Rev. Kevin Reilly, Rev. Anthony Gruber - 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.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

These regulations unite the whole Catholic Church throughout the world in the Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart. Observed in a spirit of generosity, fast and abstinence remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Acts of penance find their completion in works of charity and justice.

Fasting: Those between the ages of 18 and 59 years old are obliged to observe the laws on fasting. Traditionally, to fast means limiting oneself to one full meal in the day and two smaller meals. The two prescribed days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence: The law of abstinence obliges all those who are over the age of 14. On days of abstinence meat is not eaten at any meal. The prescribed days of abstinence are Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

Our Goal: 67,000 Pledges received to date \$64,025.00.
If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.

Grades 1 & 6 will be helping at the 10:30am Mass on Feb. 21. Refreshments following Mass in the meeting room

Meetings

- ❖ **Ladies Guild** Monday Feb. 15 7pm
- ❖ **Tragic & Triumphant Cross Bible Study**
Tuesday Feb. 16 7-8pm in Church or Friday
Feb. 19 9:30-10:30am in parish office

Collected to date for the Happy House in Haiti is \$105. Help our CCD classes with this project. The collection jar may be found by the side exit of Church.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Operation Rice Bowl ~ Our Lenten Program
What you give up for Lent changes lives.

Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. Save the moneys saved from this meal each week and bring your offering to the Church on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016

75% of monies donated are used for development projects overseas. 25% of the monies collected remain in our diocese.

Some of the 2015 grant recipients in our diocese were: **Catholic Charities and Family Services** served 1,764 unduplicated households for a total of 3,299 individuals (adults & children). **Care and Share Soup Kitchen** in Groton who provide food for the security needs of the elderly and low-income members of the community and surrounding towns. **Haitian Health Foundation** to feed over 3,000 of the hemisphere's malnourished women and children at the Feeding Pavilion and distributes "take home" packets of rice, oil, and beans. They have concentrated their service to the third world's most fragile populations, prenatal women, and malnourished sick children.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- **Charismatic Prayer Meeting:** Every Tuesday at 2:00pm. Prayer, Praise and Worship the Lord Jesus! Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- **Seven Week "Life in the Spirit Seminar":** Begins Wed. Feb. 17, 2016 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- **Mass of Healing and Individual Prayer:** Monday, Feb. 22, 2016 at 2:00PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- **Marriage Encounter Weekend** ~ "We thought we had a great marriage, but now our love is so much deeper than anything we could have imagined!" Rediscover each other with a heart-to-heart **Marriage Encounter**. To register for the Feb. 26-28 weekend in Manchester or for more information call 860-376-0440 or visit www.wmect.org.
- **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.
- **St. Patrick and St. Anne Society Reception with Bishop Michael R. Cote** – Bishop Cote will be hosting a reception for all parishioners who have named the Diocese as a beneficiary in their Will or other estate planning documents. Anyone who has remembered the Diocese in this very special way may become new members of the St. Patrick and St. Anne Society, the Diocese's legacy society, and are welcome to attend. Please contact Mary Ellen Mahoney, Development Manager- Major Gifts, memahoney@norwichdiocese.net or (860) 886-1928 ext. 14 before March 18th for more details and to register for the event or to become a member of the legacy society.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

July 23rd Youth Event for Gr. 7 -12

Calling all Youth in Grades 7 – 12 to World Youth Day- CT on Saturday, July 23rd from 1p – 5pm. World Youth Day- CT will take place at Xavier High School in Middletown, CT. We will bridge youth to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland through the theme of Mercy with speaker Copper Ray, Praise Band Jerusalem Roads, Mercy Projects, and Mass with the Bishop of Norwich, The Most Reverend Michael Cote. The cost is \$10 and it is a day to rejoice with friends CT, but also from all around New England. If you are interested, please contact your Catechetical Leader or Liza Roach at roach@norwichdiocese.net or (860)848-2237 ex. 305.

"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.

East Catholic High Make-up Entrance Exam

East Catholic High School will give a make-up entrance exam on Tuesday February 16 at 9am to all eighth graders who were unable to take the preceding exams. The exam will be given at the school. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required. ECHS continues to accept transfer students from other high schools. Questions? Contact the Admissions Office at 860.649.5336 x6238 or x6456.

Youth Group (www.standrewym.org)

Life Teen High School youth Ministry Gr. 8-12.

February 14 meeting: Life Teen Mass at 5pm NO activity to follow due to February break.

Sat. Feb. 20 – Sun. Feb. 21 Rock-A-Thon.

Sun. Feb. 21 Life Teen Mass 5pm. No activity due to Rock-A-Thon. Youth Group meets at St. Andrew Church.

Starting Saturday, March 5th

Beloved Video Series

Come and experience "Beloved", a powerful new video series to help you enrich and fortify your marriage.

8 sessions will be held at St. Mary's in Baltic, beginning on Saturday, 3/5, from 7 to 9pm.

The remainder of the sessions will be held on: 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 7/23, 8/13, 9/10 & 10/15. If you are interested, please contact Brenda Peter by

February 20th at 860-303-0494 or

brendapeter@sbcglobal.net to sign up and purchase a Couples' Guide (\$24.95). Thank you.

Soup and Salad Supper Fundraiser

Lebanon Senior Center

Saturday, February 20th ~ 5:00-8:00 p.m.

There will be a soup and salad supper to raise money for Bryce Johnson's Eagle Project, which is to build a gazebo at the Lebanon Senior Center. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. There will be a silent auction and music by *Room to Move*. Supper is sponsored by the Lebanon Senior Center. For additional information, please contact Bryce at 860-885-1431 or dieselzorro@gmail.com.



Trip to Incredible India

12 days from October 16th to 27 -2016
South and North India. 12 days in
October 2016. In south – St. Thomas

the apostle's 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, famous monuments and Jaipur beautiful palaces. It includes all breakfast, lunches dinners and all entrance fees, and air tickets, and visa cost.

Cost \$ 3450.00 per person from New York double occupancy

Visiting -- Chennai, Velankanni, and Kerela state in south India

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

For more information:

Hosted by Fr. Benjamin Soosaimanickam

St. Andrew Church, Colchester

- Contact Fr. Benjamin 860.537.2355
- Email- benjaminvin@yahoo.com.

Mercy High School, Middletown, CT

- ❖ "Discover Mercy" for 5th, 6th, & 7th grade girls and their parents Saturday March 5 from 9am to 1pm. Register online – www.mercyhigh.com
- ❖ Mercy & Xavier High Schools presents "Into the Woods" Friday March 11th at 7pm, Saturday March 12 at 7pm, and Sunday March 13 at 2pm. Mercy High School Auditorium - \$10 Admission. To order tickets on line, visit www.mercyhigh.com
- ❖ \$25,000 Education Raffle. Anyone can win! The \$25,000 is tax free and can be used at any accredited school in the U.S. Tickets are \$100. The drawing is Wednesday May 18th during intermission at Mercy's Spring Concert which starts at 7pm. You do not need to be present to win. Only 600 tickets will be sold. For information, or to order a ticket go to www.mercyhigh.com or call Mercy at 860.347.8957.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE- SAT. APRIL 9th

Women of all ages are invited to enhance their journey of faith and build community by attending the Annual Women's Conference on Saturday, April 9th from 8:30am – 3:30pm at St. Bernard's High School. The day begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Cote, followed by the talented author and Blogger Kathy Irr to dazzle us, a catered lunch, reconciliation, and adoration.

It is a great day for women's growth and faith life, so register today by contacting the Office of Faith Events – Marge Vanner at (860)848-2237 ex. 312 or faithevents@norwichdiocese.net.

My dear sisters and brothers in the Lord,

During the Jubilee of Mercy, in the season of Lent, the Church is called to give even greater witness to the merciful face of the Father. Lent helps us to live the gift of God's mercy as it prepares us for the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. In God's mercy, we find the very essence of being a Christian, to be merciful like our Heavenly Father. Our late Holy Father Pope Pius XII summed up our responsibility to live the gift of God's mercy when he reminded us that the faithful are to be the living pages of the Gospel.

By means of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, Christ's followers are strengthened to turn away from sin, to embrace the Gospel, and to witness to God's mercy. Prayer opens the door to our rebirth in Christ. It is our conversation with God in which we open our hearts to listen to His Word. In the Gospel, we hear His mandate to love, to forgive, to serve; in short, to be the gift of the Father's mercy.

By fasting, we live in solidarity with the hungry poor and homeless. Our symbolic hunger deepens our sensitivity to the deprivation experienced by the least of Christ's sisters and brothers in their need for food and shelter. Finally, almsgiving, no matter how small our gift, strengthens our imitation of Christ who came to give His life as our ransom. By offering even a token of our treasure, we reflect the generosity of God and His merciful love.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving lead to repentance for sin and a rejection of evil in our lives. They make visible the mercy of God and help us to become the living pages of Christ's Gospel. Their impact on our lives brings about a hunger for selfless love, genuine compassion, and sincere forgiveness – all qualities of God's merciful love.

A well-lived Lent brings us from death to life, from Calvary to the empty tomb, from a rebirth of our life in Christ to a realization of how much God loves us in Jesus Christ. Faithful to the Gospel, we must live the gift of God's mercy and daily give concrete testimony to His love. As Pope Francis writes, "The mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love" like that of a Father or Mother "moved to the very depths out of love for their child." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, No 6)

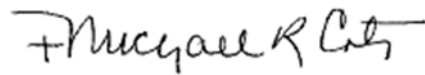
"It is my burning desire that, during the Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy . . . (it is) a way to reawaken our conscience too often grown dull in the face of poverty." (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, No 15.)

Drawing upon the Gospel, the Church teaches us the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as the concrete means to enrich our lives, the life of our Church, and our world with God's love. By embracing the works of mercy, we will live more fully our vocation to be the living pages of the Gospel. By feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, healing the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead, we make our God visible. In the same way, the Spiritual Works of Mercy show forth our life in Christ, by counseling the doubtful,

instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, comforting the afflicted, forgiving offenses, bearing patiently those who do us ill, and praying for the living and the dead.

This Lent, we embrace the Gospel and unite ourselves to Christ by living the mandate of the works of mercy. Lent, well-lived, will help us to reject sin and live the message of the Gospel. Each day, we will know the power of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, the power to embrace His life, and to be faithful to the Gospel.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

Saint Joseph Church 120 Cliff Street, Norwich will be holding their annual **Lenten Fish and Chips Dinner** every Friday beginning February 5, 2016 continuing through March 25th (Good Friday). 4:30-6:30pm. Take out available. A full meal consisting of 2 pieces of fish \$9.00; 1 piece meal \$7.00 and Chowder \$4.00. Please join us! For more information, call 860-887-1565.

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.

Defending Our Religious Liberty February 14, 2016

Beginning on Monday, February 15th, and every Monday during Lent, every Catholic Church in the archdiocese will be open for confessions between 6-7 p.m. Prepare yourself for the coming of Christ by giving yourself the gift of forgiveness and continue to pray for our religious freedom that it will remain our most cherished and inalienable right.

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.

Sunday, February 21 @ 2 pm "The Origins of Connecticut Town Government"

Speaker: Bruce Clouette, Historian and director of Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.

Members free, non-members \$2. Refreshments. *Snow date is Sun, Feb. 28. Held at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum located at 856 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon* For more information call 860-642-6579 museum@historyoflebanon.org Or www.historyoflebanon.org