

**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 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

Monday February 22, 2016 Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

NO MASS

Tuesday February 23, 2016 St. Polycarp, bishop, martyr

NO MASS

Wednesday February 24, 2016 Lenten Weekday

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

Thursday February 25, 2016 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday February 26, 2016 Lenten Weekday

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 27, 2016 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confession

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

Sunday, February 28, 2016 Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Harold Geer req. by Betsy & Roddy

10:30 AM Patricia & Robert Martelli req. by Debbie Levesque

Offertory: \$ 2,017.00 Building maintenance: \$ 455.00
Next weekend's second collection is for monthly extraordinary expenses.

Rice Bowl ~ 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.

Confessions at St. Andrew Church every Tuesday from 6-7pm during Lent.

Every Thursday ~ Adoration at 8:30 ~ Rosary at 6:00 ~ Benediction at 7:00pm.

Weekend of February 27 & 28

5:30pm Lector: JoAnn Hay

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: Grace Gardella & Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Gregg Lafontaine

Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Angela Coentin

Eucharistic Minister: Dick Lataille

Altar Servers: Becca Chesters, Anna Campbell

Collected to date for the Happy House in Haiti is \$253.40. 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. Russell Kennedy, V. Rev. Dennis Perkins, Rev. Gregory Galvin, Rev. Roger Lamoureux OMI, Rev. Thomas Sickler MS, Rev. Robert Washabaugh, Rev. Leo Almendra, V. Rev. David Choquette, Rev. Michael Giannitelli, Rev. Domink Libiszewski OSPPE, Msgr. James Carini, Rev. Gregory Mullaney, Rev. Joseph Castaldi, Rev. John Antonelle - 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

- ❖ **Tragic & Triumphant Cross Bible Study**
Tuesday Feb. 23 @ 7-8pm in Church or Friday Feb. 26 @ 9:30-10:30am in parish office

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:
Holy Family Home & Shelter in Willimantic ~ This homeless shelter prepares and serves three meals a day plus snacks. Equaling approximately 17,801 meals.
Hebron Interfaith Human Services This food pantry serves 60 families or approximately 200 people on a bi-weekly basis or approximately 4,800 meals per month.
Martin House ~ providing housing, three meals a day, and supportive services to persons who are homeless or threatened by homelessness primarily because of mental illnesses or other handicapping conditions. Approximately 44,165 meals are served per year.

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.

February is a month all about hearts...loving, mending, sharing, caring for them and, of course, eating candy ones! This year's Annual Catholic Appeal is also about hearts with its theme "**MERCY-The Beating Heart of the Gospel.**" Over the next few weeks you will be receiving information, watching a video, and hearing more about the ACA. Please listen with an open mind and be ready to share your gifts with an open heart when asked to help support those less fortunate in the Diocese of Norwich.

Youth Group (www.standrewym.org)

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

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

Sun. Feb. 21 Life Teen Mass 5pm. No activity due to Rock-A-Thon.

Sun. Feb. 28 Life Teen Mass 5pm followed by dinner & life night with some "special guests".

Youth Group meets at St. Andrew Church.

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)
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS**
If you are silently grieving or suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** weekend. Upcoming weekends are: **March 4-6** in Litchfield, CT, call 203-631-9030; **March 11-13** in Stockbridge, MA, call 413-452-0661; in Rhode Island **March 4-6** in English call 401-351-7730, or **April 8-10** in Spanish call 401-742-1510 or visit the national website at www.rachelsvineyard.org
"PROJECT RACHEL" is our Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness. Priests in the **Project Rachel** ministry are there for you with God's Grace and Mercy. Call 860-848-2237, ext 306. All inquiries are confidential.
- ❖ **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 lroach@norwichdiocese.net or (860)848-2237 ex. 305.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Feb. 21, 2016

The Catholic Church invests in the common good. It runs and operates schools, hospitals, universities, charities and social services. Our government and society have long relied on them for help and taken advantage of the vast network that churches and religious institutions provide to aid people in need and to help form good citizens. But, when we are told we've got to stop being who we are, to put aside our beliefs, or plainly go against our conscience in order to be allowed to contribute to the common good, we must speak out.

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.

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.

The Willimantic District of the Norwich Diocese Council of Catholic Women invites all women to a Lenten Program on March 13th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Willimantic. Guest speaker will be Genevieve Kineke, a wife, mother, and author who writes specifically about authentic femininity. Her topic is **THE AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC WOMAN**. Her goal is to make the Church's beautiful teaching on women accessible, practical and a path to joy. Come join other women of faith. A light lunch will be provided; there is no fee. To make a reservation please contact Barbara at 860-642-7168 by March 5th.



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.

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

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.

Scholarship - Knights of Columbus Council 13 has established a \$500 scholarship for graduating high school seniors entering their freshman year in an approved undergraduate 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.

Vacancy: Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut February 2016

The Superintendent of Schools, as the Bishop's delegate in all school matters, is chief administrator and supervisor of all schools of the Diocese of Norwich. The Superintendent is responsible for all areas of education relating to elementary and secondary schools, including programs and personnel. The Superintendent is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Interested and qualified applicants are asked to submit a cover letter and resume by April 1, 2016 to:

Edward J. Shine, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Please attach the letter and resume to an email and send to Nicholas Graziano, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Shine at adminasstdso@norwichdiocese.net

Letters and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Finalists will be required to provide official transcripts, Sacramental documentation, letters of reference and a list of references.

Details of responsibilities and qualifications posted on the side entrance wall bulletin board.

Principal Vacancy: St. John Paul II Regional, Diocesan PreK-8 School, Middletown, CT

February 4, 2016

The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic with an understanding of and a commitment to the mission of Catholic education. In addition to a record of successful teaching, a master's degree and Connecticut State Certification, bi-lingual (English/Spanish) fluency is preferred, as is demonstrated knowledge of curriculum and the qualities of potential leadership at the elementary level. The principal will possess the ability to work effectively with teachers, parents and pastors, along with an understanding of the complexities of interactions which need to take place between the school and the Diocesan School Office. The candidate should possess superior written and oral communication skills.

The full job description can be found on the diocesan website: www.norwichdiocese.org

To apply, send a cover letter, current resume, three references and certification information to:

superintendentdso@norwichdiocese.net

or

Edward J. Shine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Diocesan School Office
43 Perkins Avenue
Norwich, Ct 06360

Screening begins March 15, 2016. Resumes accepted until the position is filled.

Please join the Most Reverend Michael R. Cote D.D. on Saturday April 9th at the Mystic Marriott in Groton CT to celebrate **Catholic Charities 95th Anniversary Gala**. The evening begins with a Silent Auction and Dinner. We will honor the following individuals: Humanitarian of the Year: Meg Gustafson; Community Servants of the Year: Willimantic Advisory Board; Honoring our Heritage Award: Jacqueline Keller and Catholic Charities Employee of the Year: Therese Fontaine. Tickets are \$100 if purchased before March 18 (\$125 after). Proceeds from this event allows Catholic Charities to continue our mission of providing services for our neighbors most in need in Eastern CT. To purchase tickets, contact Christine Jackel @ 860.886.1928 x12 or e-mail cjackel@norwichdiocese.net

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
OPEN HOUSES & ENTRANCE EXAMS**

❖ **Saint Bernard School** Grades 6-12
Information session on Tuesday March 1 at 6:00pm. **Placement testing** on Saturday March 19 at 8:30am. Saint Bernard School may be just what you are looking for. Expanded transportation routes and financial aid are available. For more information call 860.848.1271 or e-mail admissions@saint-bernard.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.

❖ **Sacred Heart School** - Grades Pre K through 8
Open House on Thursday, March 3rd @ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. 15 Hunters Ave Taftville, CT - Parish Life Center Entrance on South B Street 860-887-1757 www.sacredhearttaftville.org

LENTEN PROGRAMS

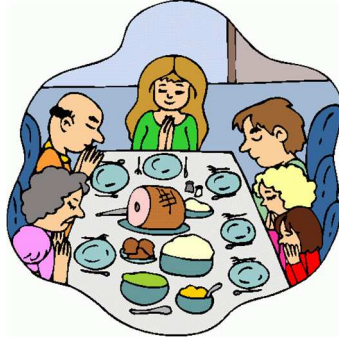
✓ **Saint Joseph Church 120 Cliff Street, Norwich** will be holding their annual **Lenten Fish and Chips Dinner** every Friday through March 25th (Good Friday). 4:30-6:30pm. Take out available. A full meal consisting of 2 pieces of fish \$9.00; 1 piece meal \$7.00 and Chowder \$4.00. Please join us!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

✓ **PROGRAMS at Holy Family Retreat Center**, West Hartford 860-760-9705.
www.holyfamilyretreat.org

Tuesday, Mar 1, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. **Praying Our Broken World with Mary**, led by **Andree Grafstein**. We will look to Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, for guidance on being present to and praying with brokenness. \$65, includes lunch.

✓ **Wednesday, Mar 16**, 6-9 p.m.
Women's Evening Retreat: Life Stages: Taking Care at Every Age, with **Sr. Mary Ann Strain**. The evening will focus on what women of every age can do to create a rich and fulfilling future for themselves. \$40, includes dinner.

Easter Food Baskets



Suggestions:

HAMS

**Boxed Potatoes,
Canned Food & Vegetables
Pasta & Sauce
Cake Mixes & Frosting
Brownie & Muffin Mixes
Mayonnaise
Soups
Peanut Butter, Jams & Jellies
Pie Crusts & Pie Fillings
Coffee & Tea
Cereals Both Hot & Cold
Canned Tuna
Canned Fruit
Pudding & Jello**

We are thankful for food donations of all types. Your continued support of this program has helped many of our friends and neighbors when they have stumbled upon difficult times. Thank You.

ENJOY A YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY 12 DAYS MAY 15-26, 2016

Visiting Rome and Florence's Best Basilicas and Religious Art Museums, Daily Mass in the Holiest of Holies, Papal Audience with Pope Francis, Pass thru the Holy Door at St. Peter's, And a Day at Padre Pio's too! Pilgrimage price is \$3279 per person, double occupancy. Includes Coach to Logan (departs Colchester), Airfare, 3 star hotels, most meals, all tips, taxes, and museum admissions. Organized by Father Brian Maxwell, Missionary of Mercy. To receive further information, or to reserve your space on this wonderful pilgrimage, please contact Teena at Dube Travel: [800-879-3823](tel:800-879-3823) tdick@dubetravel.com

Pancake breakfast/ Knights of Columbus Council #2336 Baltic CT

A pancake breakfast sponsored by the K of C Council 2336 will be held on Sunday March 6 2016 from 8:00 a.m. till Noon in Hanlon Hall. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, home fries, French toast, juice, and coffee will be served to help warm the winter chill. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 & under, Two & under are free or \$20.00 max per family. For more info please contact Brian at 860-822-1788 or BJDaly@aol.com ~Thank you

At Academy of the Holy Family Cafeteria 54 West Main St. Baltic CT . We look forward to seeing you there!



the Date

Spring Fling Dinner

Sat., April 2, 2016

6 - 10 pm

Fire Safety Complex

Sponsored by the Ladies Guild

More info to follow