

**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 March 12, 2016 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Theresa Baran req. by Ed Bigenski

Sunday, March 13, 2016 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Aurora Estrella req. by Roddy & Betsy

10:30 AM Pierce Holleran Austin req. by his family

Monday March 14, 2016 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday March 15, 2016 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday March 16, 2016 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Therese Phaneuf req. by the Boisvert family

7:00 PM Confession

Thursday March 17, 2016 St. Patrick, bishop

NO MASS

Friday March 18, 2016 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Rev. Anthony Nockunas, MIC

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 19, 2016 St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Nicholas Wengloski req. by Ed Bigenski

Sunday, March 20, 2016 Palm Sunday

8:00 AM Emil & Erma Kuzel req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 2,985.33

Monthly extraordinary expenses: \$ 785.00

Next weekend's second collection is for Operation Rice Bowl.
Rice Bowl.

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 March 19 & 20

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Grace Gardella, Elizabeth Spedalieri

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Joan Grecki

Altar Servers: Anthony Pomerleau & Wayne Woodward

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Dick Lataille

Altar Servers: Becca Chesters, Marianne Clippinger

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 — O Jesus, Eternal Priest, look with love upon Your priests. Fill them with burning zeal for the conversion of sinners. Rev. Joseph Tito, Rev. Tomasz Albrecht, Rev. William Olesik, Rev. Elson Kattookaran MS, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Msgr. Michael Donohue, Rev. Timothy Roth MIC, Rev. William McCarthy MSA, Msgr. Richard LaRocque, Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Rev. Arthur Archer, Msgr. Thomas Bride. 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.

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.

Collected to date for the Happy House in Haiti is \$ 403.54. Our goal for one Happy House is \$1250. Please help our CCD classes with this project. The collection jar may be found by the side exit. Extra funds collected will be used to buy chickens, goats, or pigs.

Meetings

- ❖ **Tragic & Triumphant Cross Bible Study**
Tuesday March 15 @ 7-8pm in Church or Friday
March 18 @ 9:30-10:30am in parish office
- ❖ **Food Basket delivery Saturday March 19**
- ❖ **Children's Mass Sunday March 20th @ 10:30am.** Grades 3 & 4 helping. Refreshments following the Mass in the meeting room.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Council 9653

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Invites all families and
friends to the annual

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday March 20, 2016

at 11:30 AM

Rain or Shine



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.

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 Director @ 860.334.7090, or Virginia Hurlbert (Co-Director) @ 860.803.4220 (Retreat Director) @ 860.614.3901, Tracy London (Co-Director) with any questions you may have. Registration forms are also available on the www.actsct.org website.

Save the Date
Spring Fling
Dinner



Sat., April 2, 2016 6 - 10 pm at the

Fire Safety Complex

Sponsored by the Ladies Guild

More info to follow

Youth Group (www.standrewym.org)

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

Sun. March 13th Life Teen Mass 5pm followed by dinner & our second life night on the Year of Mercy.

Sun. March 20th Life Teen Mass 5pm followed by dinner & our 3rd night of the Year of Mercy.

Meeting @ St. Andrew Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

❖ 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

❖ **WORKSHOP** Life is Changed, Not Ended: How to Prepare a Funeral Saturday, April 9, 2016 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 243 Route 164 Preston, CT 06365 Registration at 8:45 AM. Program from 9:15 to 1 PM. Fee: \$10 For more information go to www.norwichdiocese.org Or call 860-848-2237x203 Registration forms on entrance tables of Church.

❖ 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.

❖ You are invited to our **9th Annual Gala**, to be held April 23, 2016 at Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT. Reception at 6:00pm followed by dinner (4 menu options). Live and silent auction! MC's will be Fox 61 personalities John Charlton and Lorenzo Hall. Live entertainment during reception. For more details or to order tickets, see our website at www.outreachtohaiti.org, or call 860-887-1019 x817.

Holy Family Summer Camp 2016

Theme: Oceans of Mercy

The Sisters of Charity of our Lady Mother of the Church are having their annual Summer Camp from July 28-July 31 located at Holy Family Motherhouse in Baltic, CT. The Camp is for girls from ages 11-15. Come join us for a wonderful spiritual experience and lots of fun!

Contact Sister Mary Kathleen, SCMC at 860.423.5122 or smarykathleen@gmail.com or Sister Rafael, SCMC at 860.822.8241. All forms are on our website: www.sistersofcharity.com God Bless you and we hope that the Ocean of Christ's Mercy fills you with peace and joy!



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, Loudres 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

For more information:

Hosted by Fr. Benjamin Soosaimanickam
St. Andrew Church, Colchester

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

BSA Troop 58 -15th annual Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction and Scout Reunion March 19th 5-7 p.m. at the Lebanon Fire Safety Complex.

Spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

Tickets: \$8 12 years and older; \$6 seniors & 6-11 years old; 5 years old and under free.

Take out available.

All prior BSA Troop 58 Scouts and Leaders eat free. Please feel free to wear your BSA Troop 58 Uniform or bring a photo/BSA memento to share.

For tickets or more information contact Heather at 860-642-7363.

ANNUAL LAYETTE PROGRAM

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Annual Layette Program will be on Sunday, April 3 at St Matthias Church, East Lyme. We are collecting **new** baby items (diapers and blankets) and baby clothing sizes newborn, to size 3T. All items collected will go to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Norwich. You may leave your items in the collection box located at the side entrance of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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
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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSES & ENTRANCE EXAMS

- ❖ **East Catholic High** Make-up entrance exam Wednesday March 16th at 8am to all eighth graders who were unable to take the preceding exams. The exam is given at the school (115 New State Road, Manchester, CT) Non-refundable fee of \$25 required. Pre-registration recommended but not required. ?'s contact the Admissions Office @ 860.649.5336 x6238 or x6456.
- ❖ **Saint Bernard School** Grades 6-12 **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**
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.

The Cross of Mercy

The Cross of Mercy will be displayed for the entire Year of Mercy.

The purpose of the Cross is to provide all our parishioners the opportunity to display their Works of Mercy. As you perform a Work of Mercy we ask you to write it down on the cards provided and using a push pin attach it to the Cross. The cards should be nameless. Cards, push pins and pencils will be provided. Let's be mindful of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

A great Act of Mercy would be to contribute to the Happy House project for Haiti in support of the catechism classes. Containers are available at both entrances.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

We will begin reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Fridays beginning April 1st following the 9 A.M. Mass. Please join us.



Defending Our Religious Liberty March 13, 2016

When evaluating the presidential candidates, keep in mind their position on preserving the Constitution of the United States and our First Amendment right to religious liberty.

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.

Public Way of the Cross on Good Friday

The Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich, will join with clergy of other Christian communities from the Norwich area in leading a public Way of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25, 2016, from Chelsea Parade to Central Baptist Church. This service will begin at 6:00pm. In case of inclement weather, it will be held at the Central Baptist Church in Norwich. You will receive an e-mail alert or you can check the Central Baptist Church website at www.centralbaptistnorwich.com

This year, Bishop Michael R. Cote, D.D., invites you to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. Procession of Priests and Deacons will begin into the Cathedral at 10:20am.

The Chrism Mass is the celebration during which the sacred Chrism is consecrated and the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens are blessed. These oils are sanctified for use at the Cathedral and in all parishes for baptism, confirmation, the anointing of the sick and for the ordination of priests. Together the three oils symbolize the sacramental life of the Church. Three of our parishioners, Rosanne Coffey, Rick Kane, and Jim Hay will be sent to represent our parish at this Mass and to receive the holy oils for the parish. Since the Chrism Mass is truly a Diocesan event ALL parishioners are invited, and we would like as many people as possible to be present.

Sometimes it's hard to envision how your one gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal, "**MERCY – The Beating Heart of the Gospel,**" could make a difference in the Diocese of Norwich, but it does! Your contribution is a charitable action. This action helps to create a ripple effect through our Diocesan ministries...allowing them to achieve their missions of helping the many in our communities who are in need. The need is great. Whether it's material, physical, emotional or spiritual help that is provided, your support makes a difference in the lives of those who are assisted. You are showing your love to your neighbors and living the message of the Gospel. So, let's join together and make a difference in our Diocese through our support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Let it be seen by many, how we as Catholics live out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and build up our Church in the Diocese of Norwich. Visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org to make your pledge.



Saint Francis of Assisi Parish needs young people (girls and boys, grades 4 and above) to serve at the Lord's Table. Please join Father Benjamin for the training session which will be scheduled at a later date. Parents are welcome.

Please complete this form and return it to the rectory or drop it in the offertory basket.

I am interested in being an altar server. Please register me for the Altar Server training sessions, date to be announced.

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Sunday, March 13 from 1 pm - 4 pm

Antiques Appraisal Day

\$5 per item or \$12 for 3 items. Limit 6 items.

Snow date: Sun., March 20

**Held at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum
located at 856 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon**

for more information call 860-642-6579

museum@historyoflebanon.org

www.historyoflebanon.org



THE PRACTICE OF COVERING CROSSES AND IMAGES

Until recent time it was customary to veil prominent statues and crucifixes in church with a purple cloth as a sign of sadness and mourning. In some churches, beginning around 900, one large cloth was hung between the people and the altar from the beginning of Lent. This was done to hide the heavenly glory depicted by statues of saints and crosses with the figure of the triumphant Christ. This custom came to symbolize the exclusion of all sinners from the altar just as public sinners were excluded. Since the 1600's, this veiling was limited to Passiontide, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent, originally called "Passion Sunday". On that Sunday (today only in Cycle B), the final words of the Gospel are: "At that they picked up rocks to throw at Jesus, but He hid Himself and slipped out of the temple precincts" (J. 8:59). Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2016

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

+

Confessions

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 16

+

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday March 20 following 10:30am Mass
(Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus)

+

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Communion and Procession: 7:00 P.M.

Visits to the Repository until 10:00 P.M.

+

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of
Our Lord, Veneration of the Cross
and Holy Communion: 3:00 P.M.

Stations of the Cross: 7:00pm

+

Holy Saturday

1:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food in the Church.

No vigil service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church.
Parishioners are invited to attend Easter Vigil
Services & Mass at St. Andrew Church in Colchester
at 8:00 P.M.

+

Easter Sunday

Masses: 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

Saturday March 26 at 1:00pm in Church

Parishioners Are Invited To Bring Their Easter Food Baskets for the Blessing of Easter Food Baskets on Saturday April 4 at 1:00 pm at Saint Francis of Assisi Church (Gathering in the Church)

A traditional Polish Easter Basket would contain a small amount of the following:

- ❖ Butter (maslo) - This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a lamb or a cross. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have towards all things.
- ❖ Easter bread (babka) – A round loaf topped with a cross or a fish, symbolic of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.
- ❖ Horseradish or pepper (chrzan/pieprz) – The bitter herbs of Passover and the Exodus, signifying first the bitterness of spiritual exile; second and more meaningfully, the bitterness of the sufferings of Our Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Eggs (jajka) decorated with symbols of Easter, life, and prosperity (pisanki) – Indicate new life and Christ's Resurrection from the tomb.
- ❖ Sausage (kielbasa) – A spicy sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.
- ❖ Ham (szynka) – Symbolic of great joy and abundance. Some prefer lamb or veal. The lamb also reminds Catholics that the Risen Christ is the "Lamb of God".
- ❖ Smoked bacon (slonina) – a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity.
- ❖ Salt (sol) – So necessary an element in our physical life, that Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth".
- ❖ Cheese (ser) – Shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation that Christians should have at all times.
- ❖ Wine (wino) – Often added reminds us of the blood of sacrifice which Jesus Christ spilled for us on Calvary.
- ❖ Vinegar (ocet) – Reminds us of the gall (sour wine) which was given to Our Lord as he hung on Calvary.

A candle is inserted into the basket to represent Jesus, The Light of the World. A colorful ribbon and sometimes sprigs of greenery are attached. A linen cloth is drawn over the top and it is ready for the trek to church where it is joined with the baskets of others to await the blessing that will render it fit for consumption on Easter Sunday.

