

**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
Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor
Rev. Richard Breton
Deacon Michael Puscas**



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Saturday December 3, 2016 St. Francis Xavier

4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Parishioners who are ill

Sunday, December 4, 2016 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Norm Pellerin req. by his wife
10:30 AM For the people of the parish living & deceased

Monday December 5, 2016 Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday December 6, 2016 St. Nicholas, bishop

NO MASS

Wednesday December 7, 2016 St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Rev. Roger Lamoureux OMI
7:00 PM Dave & Edith Perotti req by their family

Thursday December 8, 2016 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:15 AM Jennifer & Bob Chesters req. by their family
Friday December 9, 2016 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtiatatzin

9:00 AM Rev. Roger Lamoureux OMI

Saturday December 10, 2016 Advent Weekday

4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Stella Horiska 5th anniversary req. by her family

Sunday, December 11, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Ed Bigenski req. by the Kuzel family
10:30 AM Sandra Perry req. by C Wheaton



11/20 Offertory: \$ 2,782.50 Parish Fuel Fund: \$ 864.00
Archdiocese of the Military: \$ 873.00
11/27 Offertory: \$ 2,185.00 Building Maintenance: \$ 737.00
Today's second collection is for monthly extraordinary expense.
Next weekend's second collection is a voluntary collection for the Diocesan Fuel Fund to assist those who have difficulty paying for fuel.
A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

**Every Thursday ~ Adoration at 8:30pm ~ Rosary at 6:00pm
~ Benediction at 7:00pm at St. Andrew Church.**

Weekend of December 10 & 11

5:00pm Lector: Anne Staebner
Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty
Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella
Eucharistic Minister: Betsy Petrie
Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger
10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier
Eucharistic Minister: Richard Lataille
Altar Servers: Erika Densman & Wayne Woodward

**The Knights of Columbus will be selling
"Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for \$5
each after all Masses.**

Military Service Honor Roll

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
SFC Justin A. VonEdwins, U.S. Army
Sgt. Robert Massicotte U.S. Army
1st Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2nd Batt. 6th Marines
Airman Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy
Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy

Prayer for our Men and Women in Military Service

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask for 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 — We pray for Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. Richard Sliwinski, Rev. Krzysztof Drybka OSPPE, Msgr. Henry Archambault, Rev. George Richards Jr., Rev. Jose Rizal DiMapiis OP, all priests, Rev. James Thaikootathil, Rev. Richard Ricard, Rev. James Sucholet, Rev. Christopher Feeney.
Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas so that the Divine Emmanuel might find in each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful and loving Mother. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

Christmas Masses

**Saturday Vigil (Children's Mass) at 4:00 PM
Sunday Morning Mass 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**



Christmas flower envelopes available at the Church entrances. Please return your intention request by Dec. 14th.

Meetings & Activities

- Life Teen Mass Sunday Dec. 4 at 5pm followed by dinner & 2nd annual parents life night held at St. Andrew Church
- Life Teen Mass Dec. 11 at 5pm followed by dinner and life Teen Christmas Party
- Delivery of Christmas Baskets Saturday December 10

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702) .
- ✓ **Healing Mass** Monday, December 12, 2017 at 2PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT
- ✓ **Our Lady of Guadalupe!** All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Monday, December 12, 2016. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confessions at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.
- ✓ **Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations:** December 15 at St. Jude, Willington from 6-7pm.
- ✓ **Retrouvaille** Is your marriage tearing you apart? Is there little or no meaningful communication? Are you considering separation or divorce? For serious marriage building and repair: Retrouvaille is a lifeline. At Retrouvaille weekend, couples are given tools to re-establish communication, work on their issues, gain new insights and heal. The weekend is presented by three married couples and a priest. A series of 6 post sessions follow the weekend phase. For more information or to sign up for the January 20-22, 2017 weekend in the Hartford area, call 413-525- 1634, or 203-710- 6207, or visit the Website at www.retrouvaille.org.
- ✓ **STEBENVILLE NYC- JULY 21-23** This summer, join over 3,000 other Catholic teens at Steubenville NYC conference and experience the joy of following Christ and being ELAVATED By HIS Love. The Diocese of Norwich offers youth the opportunity to take advantage of this fun and spirit filled conference with ease. For \$345, The Diocese of Norwich will provide youth and chaperones with Steubenville registration fee, sendoff mass with Bishop Cote and lunch, transportation to and from the Diocese, and 3 t-shirts for each day at the Conference. If you are interested in this life changing opportunity, get in touch with your Youth Minister or Liza Roach at (860)848-2237 ex. 305 or lroach@norwichdiocese.net

The March for Life Bus Trip. The Annual March for Life will take place this year on Friday, January 27, 2017, in Washington, D.C., as a way for people to express their opposition to abortion. This year's event coincides with the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. Buses sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of Connecticut Right to Life will travel to the March leaving from the Norwich Municipal Parking Lot (Exit 11, I-395) on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 9 P.M. Bus fare is \$67 per person. For information, to reserve a seat, or, if you cannot go, to sponsor a seat, please call Margaret Becotte at 860-822- 1362.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 3, 2016
Pope Francis has said: "Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth." This is why it is important that we continue to put pressure on our newly elected officials to change the federal health care mandate which forces religious institutions to pay for medical procedures that violate their moral principles. 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 newly elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Support Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, Inc. Donate your unwanted car, truck, RV, motorcycle, trailer, boat or camper today! All proceeds benefit children and families in need, in Connecticut. WE DO ALL THE WORK. It is fast and free and you receive a tax deduction!
www.donationangel.org/ccfsn/ / 1-866-434-1131

Programs at Enders Island – Mystic CT 860.536.0565

- December Day of Recollection with Sr. Eugenia Brody SJC \$50pp. December 8 at 10am. <http://enders.is/december>
- Bereavement Day Retreat w/ Fr. Ed. Dempsey \$50pp. December 11 at 10am <http://enders.is/bereavement>
- Silent Night for the Broken Hearted w/ Fr. Tom Hoar SSE \$30pp. December 24 12pm midnight <http://enders.is/silentnight>
- Icon Board Preparation & Gilding w/ Susan Von Medicus January 8, 2017. A week long intensive work shop beginning 9at 7pm \$772pp. <http://enders.is/iconboar>

Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford - Advent Day or Evening Retreat: Be My Light – Mother Teresa's Journey of Doubt and Hope, with Dr. Brandon Nappi - Wednesday, Dec 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Shortly after Mother Teresa died in 1997, her secret journals were published expressing a woman of intense paradox. Even as she lived out the Christian life in heroic radiance, she was accompanied by extreme doubt, struggle and dryness in the spiritual life. In this retreat, we'll examine Mother Teresa's incredible contribution to the history of spirituality and discover the constructive role doubt can play in our own Advent journey toward hope and light. \$40, includes meal. 860-760-9705. www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal. The ACA is able to provide substantial support to Diocesan ministries who carry out God's work every day. Through your kindness, we are improving the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors, and especially at this time, our brothers and sisters suffering in Haiti. As this year's campaign, "Mercy – The Beating Heart of the Gospel" enters its final phase we ask those who have been unable to contribute thus far to prayerfully consider using this opportunity to do an act of Mercy and pledge your support. Every single contribution has a positive effect.

To date, our parish has received pledges and gifts totaling \$21,516.38 through the generosity of 104 families (16.94% participation). Reaching our goal of @22, 952 will allow our ministries to help the poor, work for justice, promote dignity of life, care for our seminarians and retired priests and provide programs for the education and faith formation of all our parishioners, young and old. The appeal will end on December 31, 2016.

You may make your donation by visiting www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org or calling 860.886.1928.

Nominations are underway for the Longest Married Couple search sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Nominations are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of religious affiliation through January 10, 2017. Email the couple's name, wedding date and city and state where they reside to wwmelmc2017@gmail.com. Include your contact phone or email address. Or, visit the national website at www.wwme.org. For more information, contact the Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext 306.

Christmas GIVING BASKET

It is time to replenish our food supplies in preparation for Christmas Food Baskets.

We ask that those able and willing to donate consider the following items that are needed:

Gravy, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Flour, Sugar, Pie Crusts and Fillings, Bread and Cake Mixes, Spices, Vegetable Oil, Frostings, Soups, Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Chef Boyardee, Mac & Cheese, Cereals (hot or cold), Jell-O, Puddings, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, etc.

Baskets to be delivered on December 10th. All donations must be to the Church by December 4th.

As always, 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.



Emmanuel adoration on Dec. 18th at St. Andrew Church, Colchester.

There will be adoration on Sunday, Dec. 18th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. What a beautiful way to start Christmas week. Every one of every age is invited. Music will be provided by Emily Kubena from St. Francis and Andre Toussaint from St. Andrew. Speaker will be Sean Norris. Sean is from St. Andrew Parish and graduated in 2006. He has been doing ministry and speaking since his graduation from Franciscan University in 2011. There is NO cost to this event.

Ring in the Holiday Season by attending The Annual Tree Lighting Program on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon, 580 Exeter Road. The brief program will include the lighting of the tree, Christmas Carols, and a visit from Santa. Following the program visitors may take a stroll around the Green on the candlelit walking path, visit the historic homes which will be open for tours and enjoy the bonfire behind the Library. Join us with your family and friends and welcome in the Holidays with this fun, family event!



LIVE NATIVITY

Come share the Reason for the Season with the youth from the Lebanon Churches and Community and Franklin as they present, *The Christmas Story – A Live Nativity, Scripture based, on Saturday December 17 at 3:00pm* on the Lebanon Green. Everyone is invited to support our youth in the true meaning of Christmas. There will be live animals from local farms.

The youth have been asked to portray ANGELS and SHEPHERDS. No fancy costume necessary – very simple attire is fine, such as:

ANGELS: White sweatshirt, wings*, tinsel halo. *to make a simple paper plate wing visit: <http://m.wikihow.com/Make-Angel-Wings>.

Shepherds: Dark hooded sweatshirt, tea towel with rope, and walking stick.

Participants are requested to assemble at 2:30 p.m. In case of rain or a wind chill of 32 or lower the event will be held in the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall; in case of severe weather, cancellations will be posted on Channel 3.

Free-will donations and non-perishable food/toiletry items will benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry.

For more information, to participate or to bring animals please contact Anne McAwley-LeDuc @ a.mcawley.leduc@charter.net



All Parishioners are invited to join the CCD classes for a Living Rosary, Sunday December 11th at 9:00 in the Lebanon Elementary School gymnasium, 479 Exeter Road.

Please join us as we come together to show special devotion to the Blessed Mother in this most holy season.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SUNDAY**

December 11, 2016 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Fire Safety Complex, Goshen Hill Rd.,
Lebanon, CT
ADULTS: \$8.00
KIDS under 12: \$5.00, under 5 FREE
PUBLIC WELCOME!

BAMBINELLI WEEKEND
GAUDETTE SUNDAY

Bambinelli is Italian for Christ Child. This will be the second year at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in celebration of Gaudette Sunday – 10 & 11 December 2015.



Pope Francis, on a recent visit to America said, "The family is the core of the Church."

A special blessing will take place at all Masses 10 & 11 December 2016 – for your Bambinelli (Baby Jesus) from your family Nativity set.

Remember to bring your Family Bambinelli, from home, to Mass that weekend.

Thank you. ~ Liturgy Committee

Thank You

Recently through the generosity of the Ladies Guild, the ladies have purchased hard, reusable covers for the 2017 *Breaking Bread* missals; purchased 24 Bibles and covers to be used by the CCD children in memory of Lynda Kalinowski; in memory of Genie Arson, an Ossuary (cremation urn) Pall, and paid for a major repair to the office copy machine.

Thank you also to Mark, Lauren and the 8th Graders who helped put the covers on the new missals.

Your dedication to your parish is deeply appreciated.



All children Grades 3 through 12 are welcome to become Altar Servers.

Altar Server training will be provided by Fr. Richard.

Please complete the form found at the entrances of Church and return by as soon as possible to the parish office.

Saint Francis of Assisi web site:

Mass Schedules, Parish Organizations, Sacraments, Religious Education, History of Saint Francis Of Assisi Parish, Meetings & Events, Parish Bulletins.



Web address is:

<http://www.stfrancisassisilebanonct.org>

Add this address to your favorites list.