

**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 31, 2016 St. Sylvester I, pope ~ New Year's Eve

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM David Mott req. by Stanley Baran

Sunday, January 1, 2017 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God ~ New Year's Day

8:00 AM For parishioners living & deceased

10:30 AM Raoul Pomerleau req. by his family

Monday January 2, 2017 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors of the Church

NO MASS

Tuesday January 3, 2017 Most Holy Name of Jesus

NO MASS

Wednesday January 4, 2017 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

9:00 AM Rose Collura req. by Mackie

Thursday January 5, 2017 St. John Neumann, bishop
NO MASS

Friday January 6, 2017 St. Andre Bessette, religious

9:00 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory req. by P. Roberts

9:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Saturday January 7, 2017 St. Raymond of Penyafort, priest

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday, January 8, 2017 Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Ed Bigenski req. by Paul Puhlick

10:30 AM

Monday January 2, 2017 Parish Office is closed.

12/18 Offertory: \$ 1,943.50 Building Maintenance: \$ 637.00

12/25 Offertory to be reported later due to early submissions of the bulletin.

Today's second collection is for the Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary.

Next week's second collection is for our monthly extraordinary expenses.

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 January 7 & January 8

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Flaherty

Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella

8:00am Lector: Rick Kane

Eucharistic Minister: Kathy Pellerin

Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett & Marianne Clippinger

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 Our Holy Father, Rev. Michael Sequeira, Rev. Keith Shuley, Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. Krzysztof Drybka OSSPE, Rev. Anthony Gruber, Rev. James Sucholet, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. John O'Neill MS, Rev. Thomas Angelo, Rev. Roland Cloutier, Rev. Mark Curesky OFM Cv, Rev. Joseph Tito.

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)

MEETINGS

**Parish Advisory Council Wednesday Jan. 4 @ 6:30pm
Knights of Columbus Thursday Jan. 5 @ 7:00pm
Liturgy Committee Wednesday Jan. 11 @ 6:30pm**

Parishioners of St. Francis:

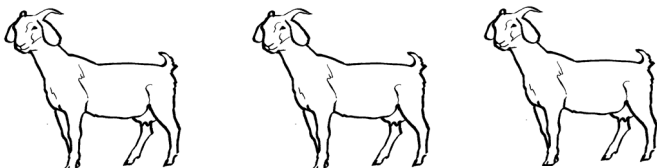
Thank you so very much to all who have contributed this year to various Social Service Events for the Town of Lebanon. It is greatly appreciated!

Blessings to all.

Shelly Ashcom, Director of Lebanon Social Services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **FACEBOOK:** Office of Faith Events Diocese of Norwich Enriching the Faith of Youth, Young Adults, Adults, and Families. Please LIKE us on Facebook www.facebook.com/Office-of-Faith-Events-Dioecese-of-Norwich Get up to date info on fun, faith-filled events and help us reach our goal of 1000 likes by 2017!
- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702) .
- ✓ **Healing Mass** Monday, January 9, 2017 at 2PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT
- ✓ **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 wwwmelmc2017@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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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. We 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.
- ✓ Natural Family Planning is scientific, safe, and is 99-percent effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. A three-session class for married and engaged couples begins on Saturday, January 28 at 7 P.M. in Gales Ferry. For more information, call Craig and Liz Schantz at 860-464- 1184 or to register for a class go to www.ccli.org. Natural Family Planning is scientific, safe, and is 99-percent effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. A three-session class for married and engaged couples begins on Saturday, January 28 at 7 P.M. in Gales Ferry. For more information, call Craig and Liz Schantz at 860-464- 1184 or to register for a class go to www.ccli.org.



Defending Our Religious Liberty Jan. 1, 2017

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The federal health care mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn't stand for the government telling news programs whom to interview or what articles to write.

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.

Sports and Spirituality: How Do We Balance Both in Today's World?

Vs. Who: Adults, Coaches and Parents
When: January 10, 2017, 7-8:30 pm
Where: Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry
A panel of experts with over 70 years of experience in organized athletics on the college and high school levels will discuss the importance of "Coaching the Whole Person" Speakers include: Mr. Anthony Jaskot, Athletic Director, Xavier HS, Middletown, Ct Mr. Nicholas Cerreta, Varsity Baseball Coach Xavier HS, Middletown, Ct. Fr. Gregory Galvin, Pastor St Bridget of Kildare, Moodus, Ct and Varsity Hockey Coach, Xavier HS, Middletown, Ct Sign up with the Office of Faith Events at 860-848- 2237, ext. 312 or via email at faith_events@norwichdiocese.net.

CCD Project: Twelve Goats for Haiti

Hurricane Matthew devastated southwestern Haiti. The city of Jeremie and surrounding villages were at the storm's epicenter, and 80% of buildings and 90% of crops were destroyed. Over 1,000 lives were lost. Desperate families continue to face homelessness, hunger, and disease.

Since the hurricane the Haitian Health Foundation has been working non-stop to collect food, medicine, and building supplies to ship to Haiti, gather the latest information from Jeremie, respond to donor inquiries and fundraise.

HHF has recently been able to access many of the mountain villages under their care; in many cases HHF is the only agency to reach these rural villages.

HHF continues to work to access more remote locations, which is difficult as flooding, mudslides, and debris still block the roads. This has been made worse by the rain that continued daily since the hurricane struck. Cholera is a growing threat, as the number of cases rise, and other medical conditions – malnutrition, pneumonia, and intestinal problems like diarrhea –are widespread among vulnerable children and pregnant women.

This year we will again work to raise monies for goats for Haiti. The cost for one goat is \$150.00. Each goat given is pregnant. As the people raise their goats, they are provided with milk, meat, and a source of income through the sale of goats as the herds become larger. Our CCD will be able to name the goats. When the goats are presented to the selected families, a picture is taken and sent back to us.

Each class will have a collection jar and one will also be near the giving basket in Church. This project will continue until mid-May.