

**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 February 25, 2017 Blessed Virgin Mary**

4:00 PM Confessions

**5:30 PM** Stanley Dudar req. by Alicia Lamb

**Sunday, February 26, 2017 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Josephine Leclerc req. by Betsy & Roddy

**No 10:30 AM Mass**

**Monday February 27, 2017 Weekday**

NO MASS

**Tuesday February 28, 2017 Weekday**

NO MASS

**Wednesday March 1, 2017 Ash Wednesday ~ Mass & Ashes**

9:00 AM Rev. Steven Furtado req. by a friend

7:00 PM Gary Kusian req. by a friend

**Thursday March 2, 2017 Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

NO MASS

**Friday March 3, 2017 St. Katharine Drexel, virgin**

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

**Saturday March 4, 2017 St. Casimir**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Ken Gardner req. by Alicia Lamb

**Sunday, March 5, 2017 First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM James Mackey 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary req. by his family

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

2/12 Offertory: \$ 1,715.85 Building Maintenance: \$ 514.00  
2/19 Offertory: \$ 1,873.85  
Next weekend's second collection is for monthly extraordinary expenses.  
A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

**Adoration of our Lord. Jesus is the Friend who never abandons us. (St. Luigi Guanella) Adoration begins at 8:30am following the 8:00am Mass on Thursdays and continues until Benediction at 7:00pm at St. Andrew Church.** There is always a need for faithful adorers, please consider omitting to a specific hour. Contact Dennis Girard @ 860.334.9894 or dennisgirard51@gmail.com

**Weekend March 4 & 5**

5:00pm Lector: Dick Lataille

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: CJ Frank, Steve Bardes

8:00am Lector: Kathy Pellerin

Eucharistic Minister: Rick Kane

Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia

Altar Servers: Erika Densman & Marianne Clippinger

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors needed for 5pm and 10:30am Masses. Please call Cheryl in the office and leave your name. Training with Fr. Mark to be scheduled at a later date.

**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  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. 6<sup>th</sup> Marines  
Airman Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy  
Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy  
LCPL Chad Wengloski, U.S. Marines  
Seaman Jonathan Wengloski, 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 Rev. William McNulty, Rev. Stanley Szczapa, Rev. William Flynn, Rev. Christopher Feeney, Rev. John Gallagher OFM Cap, Msgr. Robert Brown, Rev. Charles McGrail, Rev. Joseph Whittel, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. David Zercie MSA, Rev. Victor Chaker, Rev. Joseph Castaldi and All Priests. 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 y their devotion to the Eucharist. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

**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.

**Men's ACTS Retreat Weekend  
March 2-5, 2017  
Location is Immaculata Retreat House  
289 Windham Road, Willimantic, CT  
To register see Bob Paris or  
[www.actsct.org](http://www.actsct.org) Cost: \$240**

## MEETINGS

- Knights of Columbus March 2 @ 7:00pm
- Altar Server Training for new and for old servers 10:00am in Church Saturday March 4
- Parish Advisory Council Wednesday March 8 @ 6:30pm
- Liturgy Committee Wednesday March 15 @ 6:30pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702) .
- ✓ **The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on **Saturday, March 4th at 8:30 A.M.** Please join our celebrant **Rev. Walter Nagle** at Mass as we pray to end abortion and for the healing for those who have had an abortion. Following the Mass, the Rosary will be prayed both at the Cathedral and Planned Parenthood. A brunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow the Rosary this month.
- ✓ **THE NEW RITE OF MARRIAGE** As of December 30, 2016 a new rite for the Sacrament of Marriage is in use in the United States. There will be two workshops offered in the diocese to explain this, and what the changes mean for the liturgy in which the Sacrament is celebrated. All are welcome: those interested to learn more, parish musicians, parish wedding coordinators, wedding planners, and especially couples planning to marry in 2017. **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to Noon at St. Patrick Parish, East Hampton (Register by March 2)** OR **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 7 PM to 9 PM at St. Joseph Parish, Willimantic (Register by March 6)** **Registration materials available at:** HYPERLINK "<http://www.norwichdiocese.org>" **[www.norwichdiocese.org](http://www.norwichdiocese.org) Or call: 860-848-2237x203**
- ✓ **Natural Family Planning** is scientific, safe, and is 99-percent effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. Two three-session classes for married and engaged couples will begin in March. For information about classes in the Montville area beginning **Saturday, March 4**, call **Chad and Sara Estabrooks at 860-917-3938**. For classes in the Old Saybrook area beginning **Monday, March 13**, call **Steve and Lisa Collison at 860-399-8265**.
- ✓ **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND** ~ If you are widowed, separated or divorced and want help in resolving the pain and grief of losing the marriage relationship, consider attending a **Beginning Experience weekend March 3-5 at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT**. Catholic-based, the weekend focuses on such topics as the grief process, changes in family and other relationships, trust and coping with life as a single person. *For more information, contact Victoria at 860-993-7866, email at [vs2525@gmail.com](mailto:vs2525@gmail.com), or call the Catholic Family Services office at 848-2237, ext. 306.*
- ✓ **Marriage Encounter Weekend** ~ By offering married couples the beautiful experience of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, the Catholic Church is affirming and supporting you in your chosen vocation – Marriage. Take advantage of this great gift to enhance your relationship and enjoy a love-filled weekend away together. For more information or to register for the March 3-5, July 7-9, or November 3-5 weekend in

Manchester CT area, call Frank & Margie Pearson 860-742.6934 or visit [www.WWMECT.org](http://www.WWMECT.org).

- ✓ **Rite of Election:** March 5 at 2pm at Saint Patrick Cathedral in Norwich. Celebrate the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion of all catechumens who will be received into the Church on Easter Sunday. All are invited to attend and welcome our newly elected.
- ✓ **Coping with Divorce and Separation.** Are you divorced or separated and struggling with the loss of the marriage relationship? Come and learn about a new Diocesan Support Group that is forming for separated and divorced Catholics. March 8 from 7-8:30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- ✓ **Pope Francis Message of Mercy.** Listen to Pope Francis' message of God's mercy with Sr. Elissa Rinere of the Office of Worship, March 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to noon at St Joseph Church Hall, Willimantic. Registration required. Call 860.848.2237 ext. 304.
- ✓ **Caregiver Spirituality Support Group:** Join us for a night to listen and share with others who are experiencing the struggles of caregiving. March 21 from 6:30-8:00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry. This night will be interactive and designed to provide support and hope to caregivers.
- ✓ **Chrism Mass.** The Diocesan Chrism Mass will take place on April 11 at 10:30am at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Norwich. All are invited to attend this yearly celebration of faith and tradition in which the holy oils used in administering the Sacraments throughout the diocese are blessed by Bishop Michael Cote.
- ✓ **The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti invites you to our 10th Annual Gala,** Saturday, April 29, 2017, 6pm cocktails, dinner, silent auction, at the Deanston House, Storrs, CT. Come meet Bishop Cote, LT. Governor Nancy Wyman and guest speaker Bishop Eric Toussaint from Haiti. The price, \$100/person, is to benefit the children of Haiti. We are also in need of ad sponsors and auction items. For more information visit [www.outreachtohaiti.org](http://www.outreachtohaiti.org) Thank you for your generosity."

### Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (March 1). During this time families are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl.

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, our parish with parishes across the Diocese of Norwich is beginning a program of prayer and fasting called Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). For 44 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor. Through our participation in this program, we bring hope and healing to another person or family living halfway across the globe, strengthening and enriching those persons' lives, both physically and spiritually, and greatly enhancing St. Francis' community's Lenten faith experience. Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. With the monies saved from this meal, a donation is placed in the family Rice Bowl to be brought to Mass on Palm Sunday, April 9. 75% of Operation rice Bowl funds will feed the hungry poor overseas, the remaining 25% will be used in the diocese to feed the needy. This Lent, gather in prayer and sacrifice as a family to pray and to care for the hungry poor.



Third Annual Collection of Household Goods for WAIM Weekend of April 8 & 9. Just in time for spring cleaning. A truck will be in the Church parking lot before and after all Masses on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for

the drop off your good, usable items.

**March for Mercy- Youth Service Event** – A great way to get service hours! On Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 3pm, Youth are invited to a special service event; The March for Mercy. The March will begin at St. Joseph in Norwich with a witness talk about the realities of drug addiction. Followed by a physician speaking on the effects of drugs. We will then tour St. Vincent de Paul Place, and March to the Cathedral. At the Cathedral, Cooper Ray, a national speaker and musician, will lead our Service Rally Event in the hall. Youth are asked to collect pledges for the mile walk to benefit the Catholic Charities Substance Abuse and Treatment Program, the minimum to participate is \$15. Contact your Catechetical Leader or Liza Roach at [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net) or (860)848-2237 to attend.

**Life Teen @ St. Andrew Church**

**Life in the Spirit – Seven weeks that could really change your life.**

**Open to grades 9-12**

**Sunday March 5** - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week four of our Reconciliation Night – Forgiveness

**Sunday March 12** - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week five of our Life in the Spirit Seminar – Power of the Holy Spirit

**Sunday March 19** - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week six of our Life in the Spirit Seminar – Baptism of the Holy Spirit

**Sunday March 26** - Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by dinner and then Week seven of our Life in the Spirit Seminar – Living a transformed life

**Programs at Enders Island – Mystic CT**

860.536.0565

- **March Day of Recollection Wed. March 1 \$50 includes hot served lunch**  
<http://enders.is/marchdor>
- **Fish Fry on Lenten Fridays including Stations of the Cross at 6pm. \$15pp** <http://enders.is/fishfry>

**Save the Date!**

**7th Annual Catholic Women's Conference of the Diocese of Norwich**

**Sponsored by the Office of Faith Events and Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women**

**Sat. April 8, 2017, 8:30am – 3:30pm**

**St. Bernard School-Uncasville, CT**

**Keynote Speaker: ValLimar Jansen**

**The day includes Mass with Bishop Cote, Reconciliation, Lunch, Adoration, Music, Vendors and much more!!!**

**“Discover Mercy” for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls and their parents** at Mercy High School, Middletown, CT. Saturday March 4, 2017 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Register on line @ [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com)

**Mercy High School is sponsoring a \$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. (grades K – College) and for student loan payments. Tickets are \$100. The drawing is Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Mercy's Spring Concert starting at 7:00 p.m. You do not need to be present to win. Only 650 tickets will be sold. For information, or to order a ticket, go to [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com) or call Mercy at 860-347-8957.

**Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford**

**Upcoming Programs**

[www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) 860-760-9705

- **Ash Wednesday Day or Evening Retreat: The Price and the Promise of Easter, with Bill Walsh - Wednesday, Mar 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 6-9 p.m.** As we begin another Lenten season in preparation for Easter, we'll examine why Jesus died and how Jesus' passion, death and resurrection can bring healing and hope in our world. We'll also explore how our own struggles relate to Christ's resurrection and what the cross reveals about God's relationship with humanity. \$40, includes meal.

Saint Joseph Church 120 Cliff Street, Norwich is hosting their **annual Lenten Fish and Chips Dinner** every Friday beginning Feb.24 and ending April 14<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday) from 4:30-6:30. A full meal consisting of 2 pieces of fish; a 1 piece meal and Chowder will be available. Meals include fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Please join us! For more information, call 860-887-1565.

The Willimantic District of the Norwich Diocese Council of Catholic Women invite all ladies to a Lenten lunch and presentation Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. The theme is Body & Soul: Joseph Zukel, Hartford Health Care Center for Healthy Aging Resource Coordinator will offer resources available for stress management, coping skills, chronic illness management, unique needs and challenges faced by our aging population. For the Soul portion, Rev. Jeffrey Ellis, Parochial Vicar at St. Bernard's, Rockville & St. Mathew's, Tolland will speak on holiness. There is no admission fee for this event. Please contact Lynda Nappi at 860.423.5064 or Annette Murphy at 860.423.2397 to make a reservation. The deadline is Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>.



Enrich your 40 day Lenten Journey.

Join a small faith sharing group that will meet each week to read, reflect,

and pray using the page-a-day Lenten resource *Becoming Whole, Becoming Holy*. Author Alice Camille says, "Lent is a season that assists us in putting all the pieces of our lives in proper order, and if we thoughtfully observe these forty days, our purpose becomes clearer, and our direction, truer."

Groups will meet Friday mornings, 9:45-10:45 AM in the rectory beginning March 3 OR Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:00 PM in the cry room beginning February 28 To register, please call Cheryl at 860-642-6711 by February 25. Cost of the booklet is \$1.25.



### ANNUAL LAYETTE PROGRAM

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Annual Layette Program will be on Sunday, March 26th at St Mary's Church, Portland. 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.

### Bring a Friend to Church Sunday!

Bring a friend, family member or loved one to Church with you on **Sunday, March 26, 2017** and share your faith with someone who is important to you! Spend some personal time away from the world and all its stress in a worshipping community where God loves unconditionally. Receive a blessing just for you!

Sr. Mary A. McCarthy, President of Mercy High School, Middletown, CT has announced the names of the following students as honor roll students for the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period for school year 2016-2017.

Congratulations to:  
Giana Pirolli First Honors  
Sophia Pirolli First Honors

### **2017 Lenten Message**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In his message for Lent, Our Holy Father Pope Francis writes, "Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving." These cherished practices of every Lent unite us with Christ, the source and summit of our spiritual life. But what exactly are they?

Fasting is an invaluable aid to understanding our reliance on God for our daily nourishment both spiritually and physically. It focuses our spiritual lives on Christ in the Eucharist and the nourishment our spiritual lives need by regularly receiving the Bread of Life come down from Heaven. By fasting, we identify more closely with the least of Christ's sisters and brothers who hunger, thirst, are homeless, unemployed, ill, or in prison. Fasting helps us experience the deprivation of those who are less fortunate and their need for our assistance and the need each of us has for God and one another.

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." How beautifully Saint Therese of Lisieux describes prayer. Saint John Damascene tells us that prayer begins by raising our minds and hearts to God. In that act, we see Christ and we hear Him speak to us in our hearts. Prayer is our communion with Christ the Son of God. In the Gospels, Christ teaches us to pray. When Christ prays, we witness the fullness of His humility as He always seeks to do the will of the Father. For followers of Christ, Saint Augustine gives great insight into prayer. "Jesus prays for us as our priest, prays in us as our Head, and is prayed to by us as our God." The Lord teaches us to pray with the confidence that our prayer will be heard. "Everything you ask in prayer, believe that you have it already, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24) Imitating Christ as He prays to the Father, we begin by thanking the Father. Our gratitude demonstrates our faith in God, our confidence that He hears us, and our realization that Our Father is more precious than the gifts that He gives. Prayer ultimately brings us to Christ's Cross, the greatest gift of God's love. In reflecting on Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, we cannot help but be filled with gratitude and love. Indeed, the Cross leads us to prayer. Christ's

Cross raises our minds and hearts to God and calls us to live in His love, a selfless love, a self-giving love.

Almsgiving helps us to appreciate our generous God who gives us life and faith and teaches us no matter how little or how much we have received, we need to share. Remember the poor widow who placed two small coins in the temple treasury. Jesus tells us that she has put more in the treasury than all those who have contributed because from the little that she has, she has given everything, "all she had to live on." (cf. Mark 12:41-44) Almsgiving teaches us our need to share, to be concerned for those less fortunate – in short to live like Christ by living a life for others. "Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ." (Pope Francis, 2017 Lenten Message) The Holy Father points out that when we close our hearts to the "gift of God's word, we end up closing our hearts to the gift of our brothers and sisters."

Once again, this Lent, in every deanery of the Diocese, we will observe **24 Hours for the Lord**, on the weekend of March 24-25, when a Church will be designated by your Dean in which Confessions will be heard and the Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated. Date to be announced in the parish bulletin.

Lent begins our journey in faith with the reminder that we are dust and unto dust we shall return and it ends with the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the gift of new life. Through the cherished practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, with the celebration of the Sacraments, especially Penance and the Eucharist, we will be more closely united with the Lord. We will be refreshed, renewed, and recreated to be the person God calls us to be, His daughter, His son, made in His image and His likeness. We will be one with Jesus Christ and experience the joy of His victory over sin and death, the joy of Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

### **Saint Bernard School Grades 6-12**

**Classical \* Spiritual \* Global  
Information Session – Thursday March 16 @ 6pm  
Placement Testing – Saturdays,  
March 4 & March 25 @ 8:30am  
Come by and visit.**

**For more information call 860.848.1271  
or email [admissions@saint-bernard.com](mailto:admissions@saint-bernard.com)  
or visit [www.saintbernardschool.org](http://www.saintbernardschool.org)  
Expanded transportation routes and Financial Aid are  
available. Ask about our Tailored Tuition.**

**Thank you to all who made our recent "Mid-Winter Break" dinner such a terrific success. We sincerely appreciate our parishioners and the community members who joined us for the evening supporting our fundraiser. Everyone had such a great time! We couldn't do it without all those came and those who volunteered their time to help with set up and the many that stayed afterward to help clean up. Thank you to everyone!!!**

**Jennie Brewster & Alicia Lamb, Co-Chairs  
Ladies Guild Dinner Committee**