

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.stfrancisassisilebanonct.parishesonline.com

Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael Puscas



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday November 28, 2015 Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Janet Gagnon req. by her family

Sunday, November 29, 2015 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Norman Pellerin req. by his wife

10:30 AM Rheda Cavanaugh Wanstreet req. by her nephew

Monday, November 30, 2015 St. Andrew, apostle

NO MASS

Tuesday December 1, 2015 Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday December 2, 2015 Advent Weekday

NO MASS Convocation

Thursday December 3, 2015 St. Francis Xavier, priest

NO MASS

Friday December 4, 2015 St. John Damascene, priest, doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Joe Blackburn req. by a friend

Saturday December 5, 2015 Advent Weekday

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Fernande Gardner req. by the Ladies Guild

Sunday, December 6, 2015 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Margaret O'Neill req. by Jim & Barbara Dyer

10:30 AM

Monday December 7, 2015 St. Ambrose, bishop, doctor of the Church Vigil Immaculate Conception

7:00 PM Victoria O'Mara req. by a friend

Tuesday December 8, 2015 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

NO MASS

9:15 AM Mary Pudlo req. by Roberta Anthony



To be reported next week due to early submission of the bulletin.

Today's second collection is for monthly extraordinary expenses.

A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

St. Andrew Church – Colchester on Thursdays ~ Adoration at 8:30 ~ Rosary at 6:00pm...Benediction at 7:00pm.

Weekend of December 5 & 6

5:00pm Lector: JoAnn Hay

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: Elizabeth Spedaliere, Bradley Wiczorek

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Norm Kuzel

Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Becca Chesters, Anna Campbell

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

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 FOR PRIESTS

This week November 29 thru December 5: Rev. Joseph DeCosta, Rev. Richard Crawley OFM Cp, Rev. Russell Kennedy, Rev. Paul Murdock, Rev. Martin Jones, Msgr. Thomas Bride, Rev. Roger Lamoureux OMI, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. Justinian Rweyemamu, Rev. Arthur Archer, Rev. David Zergie MSA, Rev. George Richards, Jr. — 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)

We also pray for any priests who have left the ministry.

PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

Pledges received to date total \$60,825.00

If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.

The Ladies Guild will again be selling cemetery arrangements. Orders will be taking orders today. The arrangements are \$10.00 each and come with a bow. Checks are to be made payable to *Saint Francis Ladies Guild*. Arrangements can be picked up after all masses the weekend of December 5-6th in the church garage. Questions, please contact Barbara at 860-642-7168 or bobbj.w@charter.net. Thank you to everyone who donated their used pots; this project would not be possible without your contributions.

MEETINGS

Priest Convocation Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

Knights of Columbus Thursday December 3 @ 7pm

Christmas Food Basket Delivery Saturday Dec. 12



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:

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

Baskets are being delivered early – Saturday Dec. 12. Donations need to be received by Sunday Dec. 6. 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.

LIVE NATIVITY

All children of our churches & community re invited to participate in the Lebanon Churches & Franklin Congregational Church combined

Ecumenical LIVE NATIVITY, Saturday December 19 at 3:00pm on the Lebanon Green. Participants please assemble at 2:30pm.

There are no speaking roles. Everyone will sing Christmas Carols together.

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.

Please bring a lawn chair.

In case of inclement weather the event will be held inside of the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall. In case of severe weather, tune into Channel 3.

If interested in participating please contact Anne McCawley-LeDuc @ a.mccawley.leduc@charter.net or 860.642.1786.

Entrance Exam for East Catholic High Saturday, Dec. 5 at 8am. Pre-registration advised but not required. For more information: 860.649.5336 x6456 or www.echs.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, December 5 ~ 8:30 a.m. Please join us and our celebrant Rev. Raymond Introvigne 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.
- **On Sunday, December 13, 2015, Bishop Cote will open the Holy Year of Mercy at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick 10:30 a.m. with a special celebration of the Eucharist.** During this celebration representatives from every parish of the diocese will be commissioned as Disciples of Mercy. We will also have the traditional ritual of opening the Holy Door of Mercy. All parishioners are cordially invited to participate in this Diocesan Celebration of Mercy. Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the Cathedral Auditorium. All are invited to participate.
- **Advent Diocesan Prayer Gathering** December 15th at 7:30 PM at St. Mary's Church Hall, Portland. Great music teaching by Fr. Paul Bourdreau, Pastor and Hospitality. Hosted by Light of Christ Prayer Community. All are welcome.
- **Holy Hour for Vocations** Dec. 17 from 6:30-7:30pm at St. Joseph in Norwich.
- **March for Life Trip for High School Youth** The Diocese of Norwich with the Office of Faith Events is offering an exciting and faith filled pilgrimage as we experience what it means to be PRO-LIFE in the D.C. metropolitan area. On January 22, 1974 thousands of pro-lifers took a stand for the unborn and each year it has grown into the annual march which is the largest pro-life event in the world. High School students will begin their day with a rally and mass with national speakers and bishops in the Arlington Diocese then proceed to the March in D.C. mall area. If you are interest, please contact Liza at lroach@norwichdiocese.net or (860)848-2237 ex.305.



Our CCD classes have begun their Project for Haiti.

You can help a build a Happy House!

Every contribution helps.

OUR GOAL: \$ 1,250.00.

Each grade will have a jar to collect loose change. Just send your loose change in each CCD class to add to the jar. A jar will also be available in Church for parishioners to make donations. This project will be ongoing for the entire school year. **Working together Saint Francis can provide a Happy House for Haiti.**

Snowflake Fair!

Sacred Heart Church, 52 West Town St. Norwichtown, on December 5 from 9-2. Featuring; Theme Baskets, White Elephant Items, Home Baked Goodies, Hand Made Items and more!

Refreshments and Lunch Available!

Annual Christmas Auction & Basket Raffle

St. Joseph School, Baltic

Saturday December 5

Doors open at 4:30pm Raffle 6:15pm

Live Auction follows the raffle

Fully loaded theme baskets, museum memberships, gift certificates, and much more!

Dinner is hosted by the knights of Columbus starting at 5pm for \$5 per person. \$20 per family. For more information, please call 860.822.6141.

MUSIC TO WARM THE HEART WINTER CONCERT FOR WAIM

Music by Take Note

A Mansfield-based a cappella ensemble

Sunday December 6 at 3:00pm.

Proceeds to benefit WAIM

Saint Paul Episcopal Church

27 Plains Road, Windham Center

**Sunday, November 29 1:30pm –OR-
2:30pm**

Holiday Door Spray-making Workshop

Fun for the whole family. Choose one of two sessions.

Materials fee is \$5 per spray. Non-members pay an additional \$3. Pre-registration required.

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

During **National Adoption Month**, Catholic Charities

Adoption Program is sponsoring an **Essay Contest** for students between the ages of 10 and 17. Participants should write a one page essay that addresses the topic, "How Adoption Has Affected My Life". The Winner will receive \$100.00 and his or her essay will be printed in the 4 County Catholic. Entries should be emailed to susannedensky@ccfsn.org by December 11th.

Are you looking for a prayerful way to begin your Advent?

The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church will host **Solemn Vespers** at Holy Family Motherhouse Chapel, 54 West Main Street, Baltic on Sunday, November 29th, at 5:00pm. Vespers will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, after which a light supper will be served. All are welcome. For more information and to make a reservation for supper, please call Sister Mary Grace or Sister Joan Clare at 860.822.8241.

ST. ANDREW ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE: Time CHANGE: Christmas around the World



Dinner Concert

The St Andrew Principal choir, in cooperation with Doreen's Dance Center, will present a festive Christmas

Dinner Concert Friday, December 4 (snow date Sat Dec 5.) Choir members, in international costumes, will be performing traditional Christmas music from many countries! Special bonus: Fr Mark will sing in Polish, and Fr Ben will sing a song from India! Dinner concert tickets are \$28 (\$25 seniors and children 10 and under). Concert/dessert only tickets (no dinner) \$15 each. Menu: Polynesian Spinach salad, Tropical fruit salad, Vegetable fried rice, Beef stroganoff, Chicken Saltimboca, Honey glazed green beans, gourmet dessert! Please phone Joanne Cannella [860 531 8717](tel:8605318717) to reserve individual tickets or tables of 8. **Note change: Dinner begins 6:00. Doors open at 5:30.** Concert only ticket purchasers should arrive at 7:15 for 7:30 concert. There will be a cash bar (beer/wine) from 5:30-7 pm, since the Diocese has asked that parishes discontinue BYOB.

Christmas Cards: Photographs of the Nativity Scenes taken at the 2015 St. Andrew Passion Play have been transformed into "professional looking" Christmas cards. Cards are on display at the doors of the Church. They are available for sale after Masses.

St. Andrew Youth Group

www.standrwym.org

Life Teen High School Youth

The Edge Middle School Youth Grades 6-8

Sat. Dec. 12 from 7pm to 9:15pm – snow date Dec. 19



Second Annual Toy Swap

We will be accepting donations of new or gently used, clean toys (books, puzzles, games, etc.) on Wednesday, December 9 from

3 pm – 6 pm at the Lebanon Community Center. Appointments can be made for other days/times.

The Toy Swap will be Friday Dec. 11 from 6-8pm at the Community Center.

**34th Annual Convocation
For the Priests in the Diocese of Norwich**

NEWPORT, RI.—The Annual Convocation for Priests will be held from November 30-December 2, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Goat Island in Newport, RI. It will be a time for all priests to gather with their bishop for spiritual renewal, support, education and rest. No parish, school or institutional activities will be scheduled during these days. Please pray for your priests, as they will be praying for you.

The theme of this year's Convocation is "The Melchizedek Project and Priestly Renewal."

Our key presenter will be Father Brett Brannen, Pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Savannah, Georgia. Father Brannen is widely known as a powerful speaker and an expert in priestly formation. He has given over 70 parish missions and retreats to seminarians, priests, and religious orders.

Bishop Cote emphasized the importance of this annual gathering in his letter inviting each priest to the Convocation, "Since the Convocation is essential to our unity and ministry as a presbyterate, I pray that each of you will make every effort to attend."

The Convocation is coordinated by the Norwich Diocesan Continuing Education and Formation Commission, Reverend Michael S. Smith, Chairman; Very Rev. Dennis M. Perkins, Very Rev. David P. Choquette, Reverends John Antonelle, Gregory P. Brozonowicz, Peter B. Liszewski, and Walter M. Nagle.

WAIM PUBLIC SALE

December 12 & 13 from 10 am until 1 pm

SUMMER CLOTHING CLEARANCE \$1.00 PER ITEM;
FURNITURE (VINTAGE/NEW), DISHES AND KNICK
KNACKS, PRICED TO SELL!

WAIM is located at 866 Main St. Willimantic

Defending Our Religious Liberty Nov. 29, 2015

As we prepare to celebrate the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, which Pope Francis will inaugurate on December 8th, let us pray that our religious liberty is upheld when the Supreme Court rules on the pending cases challenging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) mandate.

It are invited to join Archbishop Leonard P. Blair on Sunday, December 13 for the opening ceremony of the archdiocesan *Jubilee Door of Mercy* at the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 3 p.m.

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.

If you'd ever thought about learning more about the book of Revelation, now's the time to do it.



We are offering "The Lamb and the Beasts, The Book of Revelation" Bible study to take a closer look at the book that:

- momentarily gives us the eyes of God to glimpse the heavenly meaning of our worship
- to look at evil in the face and see its full reality
- to gaze upon the cosmic meaning of Christ's sacrifice
- to envision the world renewed by the hope of God's victory

Come join us Friday mornings in the parish office Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. We will meet from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM.

This interactive Bible study is easy-to-understand and no previous Bible study is necessary.

Sign up is necessary by Sunday, December 13 so that books can be ordered. Call Cheryl at 860.642.6711 or stop in to register.

BAMBINELLI WEEKEND – GAUDETTE SUNDAY

Bambinelli is Italian for Christ Child. A new annual family tradition is begin initiated at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in celebration of Gaudette Sunday – 12 & 13 December 2015.

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

A special blessing will take place at all Masses 12 & 13 December 2015 – 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 for your donations to Saint Bernard School. Your contributions will allow students to attend Saint Bernard School who might not otherwise be able to. This year we have provided nearly half of a million dollars in student aid to about 30% of our families. Many of these students are our best and brightest and rely on this support to make a Saint Bernard education possible. We are so fortunate to have you as a part of our Saints family. On behalf of our entire community, thank you for your gift. You are always invited to visit our campus and see the great things happening around the school.