

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 December 19, 2015 Late Advent Weekday

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Fernande Gardner req. by Alicia Lamb

Sunday, December 20, 2015 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Janet Lea Gertsch req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM Patricia Cavanaugh Vogler req. by her son

Monday December 21, 2015 St. Peter Canisius, priest, doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Tuesday December 22, 2015 Late Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday December 23, 2015 St. John of Kanty, priest

9:00 AM Maurice Pelletier req. by his wife

Thursday December 24, 2015 Christmas Vigil

4:00 PM For the people of the parish living & deceased

Friday December 25, 2015 Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas

8:00 AM For the people of the parish living & deceased

10:30 AM For the people of the parish living & deceased
Sanctuary candle is lit in memory of Mary Pudlo. Please remember her in your prayers at Mass and throughout the week.

Saturday December 26, 2015 St. Stephen, first martyr

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Mary Pudlo req. by Pauline Mrowka

Sunday, December 27, 2015 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 AM Margaret O'Neill req. by John & Kathy Walden

10:30 AM Arthur Choquette req. by his family

Offertory 12/13/15 to be reported next weekend due to early submission of the bulletin.

Second collection on Christmas will be Gift to My Parish
Second collection the weekend of Dec. 26 & 27 will be for building & maintenance.

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 26 & 27

5:00pm Lector: Steven Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: Grace Gardella, Bradley Wiczorek

8:00am Lector: Rosanne Coffey

Eucharistic Minister: Peggy Stygar

Altar Servers: Wayne Woodward, Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Ana Campbell, Erika Densman

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 Rev. Tadeusz Zadorozny, Rev. Thomas Smith, Rev. Dariusz Dudzik, Rev. William McNulty, Rev. Christopher Zmuda, Rev. Brian Romanoski, Rev. John Welch MS, Rev. Anthony Gruber, Rev. Damian Tomiczek SDS, Rev. Patrick Martin, our Holy Father, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. Robert Washabaugh. — 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 \$61,625.00.

Our goal is \$67,000.00.

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



Parishioners are invited to join the CCD classes for a Living Rosary, Sunday December 20th at 9:00 in the Lebanon Elementary School gymnasium, 479 Exeter Road.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF:

Bill Brewster
Michael A. Zemantic & family
Regina Boisvert
Margaret & Robert O'Neill
Catherine Fritz
Chester & Isabelle Stygar
Maurice Pelletier
Jim Mackey
Stanley Krawiec
James & Peg Mackey
Irene & Roger Therrien
Nellie & Bill Shanley
Michael Jones
Nicholas Wengloski
Rita DeCaprio
Laurie & Kiena Judd
James Leon & Ursula Arpin
Joe Bendoraitis
All our family & loved ones
Alexander Getman
Paul & Josephine Mathieu
Mom & Dad Elliott
Lauren Lafontaine
M/M Isidore Wengloski
M/M Kazimierz Wieczorek
Andrew Drzydzzyk
Stanley & Edward Pozarycki
William & Margaret Fries
Roy Showalter
Charles Garthwait
Viatuer Morin
Antoni Gutowski



Albert & Rita Granier
John Kane
Kathy Chambers
Real Leclair
Mary Dicello
Richard Chalifoux
Stanley Dudar
Paul Wengloski
Joyce Wengloski
Irene Brown
Clara Schnell
Arthur Choquette
Kaye Macht
Connie Arseneault
"Cookie"
Claire Morin

AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE:

Kalinowski family
Albrecht & Anastasio families
Oliveira & Medeiros families
Sharpe & Montstream families
Clinch & Kuzel families
Flannery & Coutu families
Gingras & Boudreau families
Perotti family
Wheaton family
Smutko family
Haralson family
Hull family
Ernest Bastien family
Bosse & Lavertu families
Brisson & Lataille families
Pelletier family
Valliere & Diette families
Foley & Dyer families
Malinowsky family
Leone Family
Ciarcia family
Horan & Smith families
Garrahy family
Cote family
Chester family
Lynch family
Mickiewicz family
Nejako family
Armstrong family
Trani family
Dudar family
Kulynyck family
Tarvano family
Edgar family

THANK YOU

Recently the Knights of Columbus sponsored a collection to help the A Better Women's Center purchase a new ultra sound machine. The center serves the needs of hundreds of women a year, many who seriously consider aborting their pregnancies. The caring staff at the center has helped about 80% of the women carry their pregnancy to term and the use of the ultra sound machine helped by demonstrating the beating heart of the unborn child.

On behalf of the staff at the center and the Knights, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make this purchase possible. We cannot thank you enough for your generous donations, as well as all of your prayers and support.

You helped make our goal possible. In this way, you, too, have helped to save the lives of unborn babies. God Bless you and thank you again for your generosity and support!

Francis Malozzi
Knights of Columbus

Parish Office Hours
For the next two weeks
Tuesday & Thursday 9am – 2pm

Confessions: Monday December 21st @ 7:00pm

Saint Francis Christmas Masses
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve @ 4 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day @ 8:00 & 10:30 am.
December 31 New Year's Eve @ 5pm
January 1 New Year's Day @ 8am

Saint Andrew Christmas Masses
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve @ 4:00pm, 7:00pm,
12:00 am Midnight
Dec. 25 Christmas Day @ 9:30 am & 11:00
am.



*Wishing You A
Blessed Christmas!*

*Fr. Mark
Fr. Benjamin
&
Deacon Michael*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2015

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Nativity of Jesus Christ opens wide the Door of Mercy for everyone. On the Solemnity of Our Blessed Mother's Immaculate Conception, our Holy Father Pope Francis unsealed the Door of Mercy at the Basilica of Saint Peter at the Vatican. By this symbolic act, the Church initiated the Jubilee Year of Mercy and welcomes us to enter through the Door of Mercy, in order to obtain God's mercy and forgiveness.

In union with Bishops celebrating that same rite in every Cathedral throughout the world, the Holy Father not only unsealed the Holy Door of Mercy at Saint Peter's but also later at the major Basilicas in Rome. The opening of the Holy Door is an invitation by the Church to enter through it and so to change our lives by turning away from evil and sin and seeking the Father's merciful love.

With the richness of Pope Francis' instruction to us, the Opening of the Holy Door of Mercy is far more than symbolic. For our passage through the Holy Door turns our attention to works of mercy, works which define us as Jesus' disciples, disciples of mercy. "Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in His preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as His disciples. "(*Misericordiae Vultus*, No 15) *Corporal Works of Mercy*: Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. *Spiritual Works of Mercy*: Counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, No 15)

The Savior's Birth in Bethlehem took place in the most humble of surroundings; now, formed by the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, His Nativity must take place in our hearts and in our deeds.

As on that first Christmas, like the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we wrap the newborn Savior in the swaddling clothes of our works of mercy. Like the shepherds, we give praise to God for calling each of us to adore His Son by pledging to live as He taught us. With the generosity of the Magi, we share our treasure with the poor and, with unflinching charity, we show our love and respect for the needy.

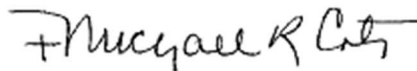
The Birth of Jesus renews in us a desire to serve others and by our witness to Christ to proclaim God's mercy by which we are saved. As we stand before the Crèche depicting Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem, we see the image of the newborn Savior, the embodiment of God's love, and we offer the Father our very selves so that His love can take flesh in us. Changed by the birth of His Son, we must "let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge . . ." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, No 9). Embracing the newborn Savior we give thanks to the Father and we are given the opportunity to be merciful like the Father.

The first steps we take in transforming our hearts are inspired by Jesus' Nativity. Through the eyes of the shepherds we see Jesus and the love of a family who for all ages is a model of family life. In their visit to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, they beheld God's only Son and they were the first to announce the news of His birth. His birth changed them and, today, it changes us and our world and all those who welcome Jesus into their hearts, homes, and lives.

Celebrated in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, may this Christmas renew us in the Father's merciful love and fill us with the abundance of God's grace. Both in word and in our deeds, may the best gifts we give to one another at Christmas be the gifts of love, of mercy, and of peace.

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 20, 2015 The Catholic Church is asking that the U.S. Supreme Court safeguard the rights afforded to us in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, so that we will have the freedom to serve the needy without violating our moral principles and without being penalized with fines.

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.

Trip to India with Fr. Ben.

Pleasant time and Peaceful days with different cultures.

South and North India. 12 days in October 2016. In south - St. Thomas 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 and famous Monuments and Jaipur beautiful palaces. More details will be in the coming month.