

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.stfrancisassislebanonct.parishesonline.com

Rev. Mark Masnicki, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael Puscas



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

**Saturday February 6, 2016 St. Paul Miki & companions,
martyrs**

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Therese Phaneuf req. by the Boisvert family
Blessing of the Throats after Mass

Sunday, February 7, 2016 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Ladies Guild
Blessing of the Throats after Mass

10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased
Blessing of the Throats after Mass

**Monday February 8, 2016 St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine
Bakhita, virgin**

NO MASS

Tuesday February 9, 2016 Weekday

NO MASS

Ash Wednesday February 10, 2016 Mass & Ashes

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

7:00 PM Dave & Edith Perotti req. by their family

Thursday February 11, 2016 Our Lady of Lourdes

NO MASS

Friday February 12, 2016 Friday after Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Those in the parish who are ill

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 13, 2016 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Therese Phaneuf req. by the Boisvert family

Sunday, February 14, 2016 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Fernande Gardner req. by Ed Bigenski

10:30 AM Gloria Bigenski req. by her family

1/24 Offertory: \$ 1,279.00 Building Maintenance: \$ 180.00

1/31 Offertory: \$ 3,120.00

Rice Bowl envelopes: Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. Save the moneys saved from this meal each week and bring your offering to the Church on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016

Second collection next weekend is 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 February 13 & 14

5:30pm Lector: Steve Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Rick Kane

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Dyer

Altar Servers: Sam & Jack Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Roger Proulx

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Anna Campbell, Marianne Clippinger,
& Becca Chesters

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

Sgt. Chad Pellerin, U.S. Army Dubai

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 — 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 by their devotion to the Eucharist. Bishop Michael R. Cote, Rev. Erik Lenhart OFM Cap, Rev. Francis Rouleau, Rev. Joseph Ashe, Rev. Leon Susaimanickam, all priests, Msgr. Robert Brown, Rev. Brian Converse, Rev. Edward Dempsey DBA, Rev. George Busto CO, Rev. Peter Liszewski, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot - for the sanctity of their souls and for perfect love, that they may be the voice of Christ. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

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

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.

Collected to date for the Happy House in Haiti is \$85. Help our CCD classes with this project. The collection jar may be found by the side exit of Church.

PAVING PLEDGE UPDATE

Pledges received to date total \$64,025.00. Our goal is \$67,000.00. If you have not yet pledged, extra pledge cards are available at the Church side entrance.

SIGN OF PEACE

Especially during the winter months, some parishioners are wary of shaking hands at the Sign of Peace. Just keep in mind that the "Sign" of Peace can be a handshake, a smile, a wave, a verbal greeting, or any combination of these. The most important point is that whatever sign we use to greet one another during Mass, the intention to bestow peace and to live in peace with our neighbors must be heartfelt and sincere.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

**Operation Rice Bowl ~ Our Lenten Program
What you give up for Lent changes lives.**

On Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016, our parish with parishes across the Diocese of Norwich is beginning a program of prayer and sacrifice called Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). For 42 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, strengthen and enriching those persons' lives, both physically and spiritually, and greatly enhancing your parish community's Lenten faith experience. Rice bowl envelopes are included in your packet of weekly envelopes. These envelopes will be collected on our second collection on the weekend of March 20. Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. Save the moneys saved from this meal each week and bring your offering to the Church on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016. 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.

Where Are Contributions To Operation Rice Bowl Used?

Operation Rice Bowl receives all of its support from individual and family contributions. Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas aid and development agency of American Catholics, used 75% of all contributions for development projects* overseas. 25% of the moneys collected remain in the local diocese where they are used to support projects assisting the needy.

**Projects include agriculture projects to help farmers improve crop yields and increase food security; water projects to make clean water accessible for communities; microfinance projects to encourage the growth of small businesses; mother and child projects to provide basic health and nutrition education for families; and education projects to provide participants with opportunities to improve their livelihoods.*

Free programs for children, teens, adults and seniors at the Center for Hospice Care Schedule posted on bulletin board at the side entrance of Church.

Scholarship - Knights of Columbus Council 13 has established a \$500 scholarship for graduating high school seniors entering their freshman year in an approved under-graduate college, university or technical school as a regular full-time student in a program leading to a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent technical certification. Information including application forms and directions may be obtained from the parish secretary. Applications must be received by March 1.

Young Adults Event- Fellowship, Adoration, and Mass – Feb. 11th

Young Adults ages 18 – 39 are invited for Fellowship, Adoration and Mass on Thursday, February 11th beginning at Crossroads in Columbia with a light dinner. It is at 106 Rt. 66 East Columbia 06237. From Crossroads, Young Adults will travel to St. Thomas Aquinas for Adoration and Mass beginning at 8pm – 9:30pm. Address is 46 North Eagleville Rd. Storrs 06268. The event is free and adults are welcome to come for only the fellowship or Adoration or Mass. For more information, contact Liza Roach at (860)848-2237 ex. 305 or lroach@norwichdiocese.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- **Marriage Encounter Weekend** ~ "We thought we had a great marriage, but now our love is so much deeper than anything we could have imagined!" Rediscover each other with a heart-to-heart **Marriage Encounter**. To register for the Feb. 26-28 weekend in Manchester or for more information call 860-376-0440 or visit www.wmect.org.
- **Trip to Haiti** The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is organizing one or more immersion trips to Haiti. Typical places you would visit are schools, clinics, neighborhoods, the national museum, Sunday mass at a Haitian church. Room, board and airfare is in the \$1,000 to \$1,300 range (depending on the airfare you get). The dates being booked now are April 5-12, April 26 to May 3, or May 9-16. If you are interested in any of these dates, contact Outreach at info@outreachtohaiti.org, or call 860-887-1019 x817. If you are interested, but can't make these dates, you can contact Outreach as noted above, and have them put you on a list to be contacted as more trips are planned.
- **St. Patrick and St. Anne Society Reception with Bishop Michael R. Cote** – Bishop Cote will be hosting a reception for all parishioners who have named the Diocese as a beneficiary in their Will or other estate planning documents. Anyone who has remembered the Diocese in this very special way may become new members of the St. Patrick and St. Anne Society, the Diocese's legacy society, and are welcome to attend. Please contact Mary Ellen Mahoney, Development Manager- Major Gifts, mmahoney@norwichdiocese.net or (860) 886-1928 ext. 14 before March 18th for more details and to register for the event or to become a member of the legacy society.

Presentation by DVD Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

- Wednesday Feb. 3 "Love is Truth" at Our Lady of Lourdes 1650 Route 12, Gales Ferry
- Wednesday February 17 "Love is Faith" at Our Lady of Lourdes 1650 Route 12, Gales Ferry
- Wednesday March 2 "Love is Hope" at St. Mary, Mother-of-the-Redeemer, 69 Groton Long Point Road, Groton
- Wednesday March 16 "Love is Eternal at Our Lady of Lourdes 1650 Route 12, Gales Ferry
- Wednesday March 23 "Good Friday Special" at Sacred Heart, 69 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton

Please register by phone: 860.464.7251 or

E-mail: secretary@ololgf.org.

There is no fee.

THE NEXT WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT WEEKEND FOR ST. ANDREW, ST. FRANCIS & ST. PATRICK CHURCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 14-17

at the newly renovated Immaculata Retreat Center in Willimantic. We invite all women to consider making this beautiful life-changing retreat. This is a three day, 3 night Catholic lay Retreat presented by women who have attended prior ACTS retreats. Retreat activities focus on Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service with the goals of renewing yourself spiritually and strengthening your faith and its application to your daily life, and to create lasting and supporting friendships. The cost of the retreat is \$230.00. Registration forms are located at the entrances to the Church. Please call Karen Bouley (Retreat Director) @ 860.614.3901, Tracy London (Co-Director) @ 860.334.7090, or Virginia Hurlbert (Co-Director) @ 860.803.4220 with any questions you may have. Registration forms are also available on the www.actsct.org website.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

July 23rd Youth Event for Gr. 7 -12

Calling all Youth in Grades 7 – 12 to World Youth Day- CT on Saturday, July 23rd from 1p – 5pm. World Youth Day- CT will take place at Xavier High School in Middletown, CT. We will bridge youth to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland through the theme of Mercy with speaker Copper Ray, Praise Band Jerusalem Roads, Mercy Projects, and Mass with the Bishop of Norwich, The Most Reverend Michael Cote. The cost is \$10 and it is a day to rejoice with friends CT, but also from all around New England. If you are interested, please contact your Catechetical Leader or Liza Roach at roach@norwichdiocese.net or (860)848-2237 ex. 305.

Saint Joseph Church 120 Cliff Street, Norwich will be holding their annual **Lenten Fish and Chips Dinner** every Friday beginning February 5, 2016 continuing through March 25th (Good Friday). 4:30-6:30pm. Take out available. A full meal consisting of 2 pieces of fish \$9.00; 1 piece meal \$7.00 and Chowder \$4.00. Please join us! For more information, call 860-887-1565.

"Coping With the Loss of a Loved One"

The Journey to Healing Bereavement Group at Saint Andrew's Church, extends an invitation to everyone who is having a difficult time dealing with the loss of a loved one. Guest are invited to take time to relax prior to the program. Complementary soup and sandwiches will be available at 5:00pm on Friday, June 22nd in the Parish Hall 128 Norwich Ave. A special program will be offered by Kelly Zercie at 5:30pm. Kelly is a representative from Middlesex Hospital Hospice and will offer guidance as one navigates through the stressors of losing a loved one.

Since special materials will be available we request that those planning to attend contact Cathy Russi at crussi45@sbcglobal.net --- 860-887-9621 or Penny Gadbois sewcraftypen@att.net --- 860-537-4046.

East Catholic High Make-up Entrance Exam

East Catholic High School will give a make-up entrance exam on Tuesday February 16 at 9am to all eighth graders who were unable to take the preceding exams. The exam will be given at the school. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required. ECHS continues to accept transfer students from other high schools. Questions? Contact the Admissions Office at 860.649.5336 x6238 or x6456.

Youth Group (www.standrewym.org)

The Edge – Middle School Youth Group Grs. 6-8

February 6: 7-9:15pm. St. Andrew Parish Hall. Come for faith, friends, and food.

Life Teen High School youth Ministry Gr. 8-12.

February 7 meeting: Life Teen Mass at 5pm followed by Super Bowl Party. This is open to 8th grade through seniors. We ask everyone to please bring a snack to share. Youth Group meets at St. Andrew Church.

SECOND SATURDAY FILMS PRESENTS: Old Fashioned

Join us for our Valentine's Day movie. 'Old Fashioned' is the love story about a former frat-boy with outdated theories about love and romance and a free-spirited, spontaneous young woman with emotional wounds. In a world that has largely forgotten the definition of love, 'Old Fashioned' is a refreshing return to the story of dating and courtship.

YOU CAN VIEW THE TRAILER AT WWW.JOURNEYFORLIFE.ORG

AND CLICKING ON 'SECOND SATURDAY FILMS' THE MOVIE WILL BE SHOWN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AT 6:30 P.M.

(DOORS OPEN AT 5:00)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

63 OLD NORWICH RD, QUAKER HILL, CT
ADMISSION IS FREE, (donations accepted)...PIZZA, POPCORN, AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED...PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEATS BY: **EMAILING** brian@journeyforlife.org or **CALLING** BRIAN JOHNSON AT (860) 961-7609

Trip to Incredible India

12 days from October 16th to 27 -2016

South and North India. 12 days in October 2016. In south – St. Thomas the apostle's 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, famous monuments and Jaipur beautiful palaces. It includes all breakfast, lunches dinners and all entrance fees, and air tickets, and visa cost.

Cost \$ 3450.00 per person from New York double occupancy

Visiting -- Chennai, Velankanni, and Kerela state in south India

New Delhi, Agra [Taj Mahal], Jaipur - in North India.

For more information:

Hosted by Fr. Benjamin Soosaimanickam

St. Andrew Church, Colchester

- Contact Fr. Benjamin 860.537.2355
- Email- benjaminvin@yahoo.com.

Defending Our Religious Liberty February 7, 2016

We are called to advocate for the most fundamental of human goods and rights, in particular, the right to life and the right not only to profess our faith, but to live it out. We are advocating for the freedom to "be Catholic," to go about our lives serving the needs of our brothers and sisters, regardless of their race, creed, or religion, not because they are Catholic but because we are Catholic. 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.

Mercy High School, Middletown, CT

- ❖ "Discover Mercy" for 5th, 6th, & 7th grade girls and their parents Saturday March 5 from 9am to 1pm. Register online – www.mercyhigh.com
- ❖ Mercy & Xavier High Schools presents "Into the Woods" Friday March 11th at 7pm, Saturday March 12 at 7pm, and Sunday March 13 at 2pm. Mercy High School Auditorium - \$10 Admission. To order tickets on line, visit www.mercyhigh.com
- ❖ \$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. Tickets are \$100. The drawing is Wednesday May 18th during intermission at Mercy's Spring Concert which starts at 7pm. You do not need to be present to win. Only 600 tickets will be sold. For information, or to order a ticket go to www.mercyhigh.com or call Mercy at 860.347.8957.

Lebanon Children's Clothing Wardrobe LCCW GRAND Re-Opening!

We invite the community to attend our first "Swap" event of 2016 at our new location, the Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Save this date:

Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 9am to 12 noon.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 321 Village Hill Road, Lebanon

We will be accepting donations at the church on the following Thursdays from 4-6pm: February 4, March 3, and April 7.

The LCCW is an organization comprised solely of volunteers who collect and distribute children's clothing. This service offers the community an avenue to donate their children's clean, gently used clothing, as well as the opportunity to "shop" for free clothing items. During our semi-annual "Swap" events, our inventory is on display and families are invited to select free clothing and other items for their children. Between events, feel free to schedule an appointment for donations and/or to browse for clothing. We encourage our families to "Bring what you can, take what you need."

Starting Saturday, March 5th Beloved Video Series

Come and experience "Beloved", a powerful new video series to help you enrich and fortify your marriage.

8 sessions will be held at St. Mary's in Baltic, beginning on Saturday, 3/5, from 7 to 9pm.

The remainder of the sessions will be held on: 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 7/23, 8/13, 9/10 & 10/15. If you are interested, please contact Brenda Peter by February 20th at 860-303-0494 or brendapeter@sbcglobal.net to sign up and purchase a Couples' Guide (\$24.95). Thank you.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE- SAT. APRIL 9th

Women of all ages are invited to enhance their journey of faith and build community by attending the Annual Women's Conference on Saturday, April 9th from 8:30am – 3:30pm at St. Bernard's High School. The day begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Cote, followed by the talented author and Blogger Kathy Irr to dazzle us, a catered lunch, reconciliation, and adoration. It is a great day for women's growth and faith life, so register today by contacting the Office of Faith Events – Marge Vanner at (860)848-2237 ex. 312 or faithevents@norwichdiocese.net.

"Xavier High School in Middletown is having an OPEN HOUSE

on February 11, 2016 from 6:00-7:30 PM. Young men in grades 6 and 7 and those interested in transferring to Xavier and their families are invited. All of Xavier's academic, extra-curricular, and athletic programs will be on display. Talk to our current students, teachers, and coaches to learn more about our programs. Visit <http://www.xavierhighschool.org/admissions/open-house>.

Questions? Contact Nicholas Grasso, Director of Admissions (860-346-7735 ext. 743)."