

**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



Saturday March 26, 2016 Holy Saturday

1:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food in the Church.
No vigil service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church.
Parishioners are invited to attend Easter Vigil Services & Mass at St. Andrew Church in Colchester at 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 27, 2016 Easter Sunday

8:00 AM People of the parish living & deceased
10:30 AM People of the parish living & deceased

Monday March 28, 2016 Monday within the Octave of Easter
NO MASS

Tuesday March 29, 2016 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
NO MASS

Wednesday March 30, 2016 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM Theresa Phaneuf req. by the Boisvert family

Thursday March 31, 2016 Thursday within the Octave of Easter

NO MASS

Friday April 1, 2016 Friday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 Am Rev. Anthony Nockunas MIC

Saturday April 2, 2016 Saturday within the Octave of Easter

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Theresa Baran req. by her family

Sunday, April 3, 2016 Sunday of Divine Mercy

8:00 AM Nicholas Emil Kuzel req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel
10:30 AM

3:00 – 4:00 PM Exposition of Blessed Sacrament at St. Andrew Church

Collections for Palm Sunday & Easter will be reported next week due to early submission of bulletin.

Today's second collection is for Diocesan Retired & Infirm Priests.

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.

Every Thursday ~ Adoration at 8:30 ~ Rosary at 6:00 ~ Benediction at 7:00pm.

Weekend of April 2 & 3

5:00pm Lector: Steve Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Nicholas Barrett, Nina Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Rick Kane

Altar Servers: Sam & Christian Terwilliger

10:30am Lector: Mark Bauer

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Erika Densman, Anna Campbell

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
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 — We pray for Our Holy Father, Rev. Robert Buongiorno, Rev. Michael Sequeira, Msgr. Anthony Rosaforte, Rev. Richard Archambault, Rev. Patrick Martin, Rev. Stanley Szczapa, Rev. William Flynn, Rev. Richard Breton, V. Rev. Gregoire Fluet, V. Rev. Laurence LaPointe, Rev. Luis Agudelo, Rev. Arul Peter. Father, recall to our priests that they hold between their hands the Most Precious Treasure of the Church: the Blood of the Sacred Victim. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

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

Collected to date for the Happy House in Haiti is \$ 614.78. Our goal for one Happy House is \$1250. Please help our CCD classes with this project. The collection jar may be found by the side exit. Extra funds collected will be used to buy chickens, goats, or pigs.

OLD PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF THE ROUTE 87 CHURCH WANTED!!

In two years St. Francis will celebrate 75 years in Lebanon and the memories of the Route 87 church are slowly fading.

Do you have old photos of the Route 87 church? Inside or outside photos are appreciated.

Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, weddings of yourself or other members of your family?

Do you have old video of any of these occasions?

Please contact Barbara at 860-642-7168,

bobbi.w@charter.net if you have any to share.

Copies or originals are accepted and originals will be copied and returned.

If possible, please supply date and identify people in the photos.

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 Director) @ 860.334.7090, or Virginia Hurlbert (Co-Director) @ 860.803.4220 (Retreat Director) @ 860.614.3901, Tracy London (Co- **Director** with any questions you may have. Registration forms are also available on the www.actsct.org website.

Holy Family Summer Camp 2016
Theme: Oceans of Mercy

The Sisters of Charity of our Lady Mother of the Church are having their annual Summer Camp from July 28-July 31 located at Holy Family Motherhouse in Baltic, CT. The Camp is for girls from ages 11-15. Come join us for a wonderful spiritual experience and lots of fun!
 Contact Sister Mary Kathleen, SCMC at 860.423.5122 or smarykathleen@gmail.com or Sister Rafael, SCMC at 860.822.8241. All forms are on our website: www.sistersofcharity.com God Bless you and we hope that the Ocean of Christ's Mercy fills you with peace and joy.

Defending Our Religious Liberty March 27, 2016

Pope Francis has said: "Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth." This is why it is important that we continue to put pressure on our elected officials to change the federal health care mandate which forces religious institutions to pay for medical procedures that violate their moral principles. 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 state representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ❖ **Mass of Healing and Individual Prayer:** Mondays, March 28th and April 11th at 2:00PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- ❖ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting:** Every Tuesday at 2:00pm Prayer, Praise and Worship the Lord Jesus! Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702)
- ❖ **Diocesan Pro-Life Mass will take place at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m.** Please join us and our celebrant **Rev. Ray 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. A brunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow the Rosary this month.

- ❖ **Prayer Group Mass** will be held at St. Joseph Church, Rockville at 7:30 on April 6th. Sponsored by Life in the Spirit Prayer Group.
- ❖ **Marriage Preparation Classes for Engaged Couples:** Registration is currently underway for *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage*, a three-session marriage preparation class to be held Friday nights, **April 8, 15, 22, 2016**, from 6:30 to 9 P.M. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 10 Elm St., Middletown. For more information about the class or to register, call the Catholic Family Services Office at **860-848-2237, ext. 306**. The cost is \$60 per couple.
- ❖ Please join the Most Reverend Michael R. Cote D.D. on Saturday April 9th at the Mystic Marriott in Groton CT to celebrate **Catholic Charities 95th Anniversary Gala**. The evening begins with a Silent Auction and Dinner. We will honor the following individuals: Humanitarian of the Year: Meg Gustafson; Community Servants of the Year: Willimantic Advisory Board; Honoring our Heritage Award: Jacqueline Keller and Catholic Charities Employee of the Year: Therese Fontaine. Tickets are \$100 if purchased before March 18 (\$125 after). Proceeds from this event allows Catholic Charities to continue our mission of providing services for our neighbors most in need in Eastern CT. To purchase tickets, contact Christine Jackel @ 860.886.1928 x12 or e-mail cjackel@norwichdiocese.net
- ❖ **WORKSHOP** Life is Changed, Not Ended: How to Prepare a Funeral Saturday, April 9, 2016 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 243 Route 164 Preston, CT 06365 Registration at 8:45 AM. Program from 9:15 to 1 PM. Fee: \$10 For more information go to www.norwichdiocese.org Or call 860-848-2237x203 Registration forms on entrance tables of Church.
- ❖ 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 .
- ❖ **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 a **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 next weekend on **April 15** in the Hartford area, call 413-525-1634 or visit the Website at www.retrouvaille.org.
- ❖ You are invited to our **9th Annual Gala**, to be held April 23, 2016 at Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT. Reception at 6:00pm followed by dinner (4 menu options). Live and silent auction! MC's will be Fox 61 personalities John Charlton and Lorenzo Hall. Live entertainment during reception. For more details or to order tickets, see our website at www.outreachtohaiti.org, or call 860-887-1019 x817.

East Catholic High – Manchester CT. Make-up Entrance Exam for 8th graders Thursday March 31st at 8am. Non-refundable fee \$25. Call 860.649.5336 X6238 Or x6456.



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

For more information:

Hosted by Fr. Benjamin Soosaimanickam
St. Andrew Church, Colchester

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

ANNUAL LAYETTE PROGRAM

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Annual Layette Program will be on Sunday, April 3 at St Matthias Church, East Lyme. 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.



Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford.
www.holyfamilyretreat.org 860-760-9705

- ✓ Saturday, Apr 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Forgiveness Prayer, with Mary Dwyer. Come discover this prayer practice that opens the practitioner to God's presence and action and grace. \$65, includes lunch.
- ✓ Wednesday, Apr 20, 6-9 p.m. This Changes Everything: Laudato Si, Our Planet, and Our Common Future, with Patrick Carolan. A discussion of what the Pope's groundbreaking encyclical means to us as individuals, as a Church, and as a global family. Includes an engaging presentation and a prayer service for peace with musicians from Holy Family's music ministry. \$40, includes dinner.

The Cross of Mercy will be displayed for the entire Year of Mercy. The purpose of the Cross is to



provide all our parishioners the opportunity to display their Works of Mercy. As you perform a Work of Mercy we ask you to write it down on the cards provided and using a push pin attach it to the Cross. The cards should be nameless. Cards, push pins and pencils will be provided. Let's be mindful of the Spiritual and Corporal

Works of Mercy.

A great Act of Mercy would be to contribute to the Happy House project for Haiti in support of the catechism classes. Containers are available at both entrances.

Divine Mercy Chaplet We will begin reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Fridays beginning April 1st following the 9 A.M. Mass. Please join us.

THE ACADEMY OF THE HOLY FAMILY TOP LIFE CLUB PRESENTS PRO-LIFE CAFÉ Saturday, April 2, 2016

The Academy of the Family Top Life Club is hosting a Pro-Life Café on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30PM at the Academy of the Holy Family in Baltic, CT.

Please come to support AHF Top Life Club so we are able to bring our students to different conferences on Pro-Life topics and assist single moms who are most in need.

Tickets purchased before March 28, 2016 are \$8.00 and tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00. Families will have a reduced price. **RSVP before Monday, March 28, 2016** so we can plan for the event accordingly.

A light supper will be provided, soup and sandwiches, as well as pastries and other treats.

If you are interested in participating with us in the entertainment or talks, please let us know. You can reach us by our emails or by phone at **860-822-9272** or **860-822-8241**.

Sister M. Kateri: srkateri_history@ahfbaltic.org,

Sister Mary Jane: srmaryjane_math@ahfbaltic.org

Please join us in celebrating the gift of life.

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

Sun. March 27 – Easter - No Life Teen Mass.

Youth Groups Meet @ St. Andrew Church



Spring Fling Dinner
Sat., April 2, 2016 6
- 10 pm

at the Fire Safety
Complex

Sponsored by the Ladies Guild

EASTER MESSAGE 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Joyous and blessed Easter to you!

In this season, which presents to us the very heart of our faith, we certainly have reason to be filled with joy! In the resurrection of Christ, light has overcome darkness, life has overcome death and mercy has overcome sin.

In the resurrection of Christ, light has overcome darkness. On Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil, the liturgy began with the lighting of the "new fire." The flame of that fire was then used to light the Paschal Candle. From the Paschal Candle the flame was spread to all the people gathered for the celebration. The antiphon sung during the procession was "Christ our Light" and the response, "Thanks be to God!"

This procession brings out the true function of liturgy as sign and symbol. The participants see and even feel the transformation from darkness into light, beginning with the small flame of the new fire and concluding with the illumination of the whole church. This experience of the senses is sign and symbol of the reality that Jesus' resurrection overcomes the darkness of life with light of faith. In the resurrection of Christ, life has overcome death. The prayers of the Church remind us so often, but especially at Easter, that as Jesus was raised from the dead, so shall we also be raised. Yes, Jesus suffered and died, but death was not the end. Rather, he rose to new life, and so shall we. As a prayer from the Easter Sunday Mass tells us, "Through Him the children of light rise to eternal life ... His death is our ransom from death" (Preface II of Easter).

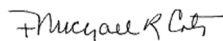
In the resurrection of Christ, mercy has overcome sin. Especially in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are called to reflect on this great truth. As Pope Francis said in proclaiming the Year of Mercy, mercy is the bridge that connects us to God and opens our hearts to the hope of being loved forever, despite our sinfulness. Surely, in this Easter Season, we are encouraged to turn to God, knowing with certainty that whatever our sins and failings, they are no obstacle to the power of God's mercy.

As the resurrection of Jesus from the dead fills our hearts with light, life and mercy, let us strive to share these gifts with others, both now during the Easter Season, and throughout the year. When there is such tension in the world from so many sources, may each of us strive to bring light, life and mercy to all whom we encounter in our daily lives. It is only in sharing the gifts of God that we truly show to God our gratitude.

Oh, sons and daughters let us sing! The King of heaven, our glorious King, O'er death today rose triumphing. Alleluia!

May the peace and joy of Easter be with you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

Our annual gift of seeds will take place at all Masses on Divine Mercy Sunday. Packets of beans, squash, peas, pumpkins, & cucumbers will be available for parishioners to take.



Parish Giving

Did you know that you can have your weekly offering automatically sent to the parish with online banking automatic bill pay through your bank?

Some parishioners have requested this and we would like to offer this convenience to you.

No need to find your check book and write out a check.

No need to stop by the ATM.

No need to remember your weekly envelope.

You can choose how much and how often to give. Your contributions would still be recorded for tax purposes.

BENEFITS FOR SAINT FRANCIS

Offertory becomes more stable.

No more missed offertory due to sickness, weather, vacation.

Expense for offertory envelope packets for those using online banking bill pay would be eliminated.

All you would need to do would be to contact your bank and ask to set up online banking and automatic bill pay.

Questions: Please contact Cheryl in the parish office at 860.642.6711



**Wishing everyone a Joyous and Happy Easter!
Rev. Mark Masnicki
Rev. Benjamin Soosaimanickam
Deacon Michael Puscas**



*Our Easter Flowers
are donated in Memory of*

M/M Isidore Wengloski
Joyce Wengloski
John Kane
Chester & Isabelle Stygar
Charles Garthwait
Constance Arseneault
Roy Showalter
Mark Showalter
Fran Nichols
Theresa Baran
Bette Rovers
Maurice Pelletier
Dave & Edith Perotti
Jennifer & Bob Chesters
Viatuer Morin
Antoni Gutowski
Those who died in service of our country
Marion Jones
Colin Shaughnessy
Mikki Viellieux
Nancy Cavanna
Stanley Dudar
Stanley & Josephine Misinsky
Regina Boisvert
Nicholas Wengloski
Marcy & Kent Werner
Peg & Stan Jusyk
Richard Chalifoux

Paul Wengloski
M/M Kazmierz Wieczorek
Robert & Margaret O'Neill
Henry & Mary Malinowski
For a special intention
William & Margaret Fries
Katherine Macht
Janet Gagnon
Virginia C. O'Mara
Bill Brewster
Carolyn Sharpe
Rita E. DeCaprio
Robert Wheaton
Henry Dabkowski
Claire Morin
Steven Jurovaty
Irene Brown
Andrew Drzydzzyk
Julian Colelli
Grandma Jones
Michael Campbell
John & Barbara Cwikla
Catherine Fritz
Richard & Louise Pratt
Fern Gardner
Raymond III
Joe Worth
Paul & Josephine Mathieu

Deceased Members of the:

Kalinowski family
Medeiros family
Lataille family
Dyer family
Anastasio family
Leone family
Desmarais family
Pelletier family
Paris family
Schnell family
Hull family
Armstrong family
Coutu family
Clinch family
Dudar family
Olenick family
Grecki family

Oliveira family
Brisson family
Foley family
Adamcewicz family
Albrecht family
Ciarcia family
Cherhoniak family
Getman family
Pozarycki family
Parker family
Nejako family
Ernest Bastien family
Clark family
Kuzel family
Kulynyck family
Sikora family



This year's Pascal Candle has been very generously donated with the intention of increasing fellowship during this Year of Mercy.



Eighth Grade Year of Mercy Project

Third Corporal Work of Mercy ~ Clothe the Naked

Clothing Drive



Our Eighth Grade along with our CCD classes are joining with the Lebanon Children's Clothing Wardrobe to collect gently used children's clothing for local families.

Please bring your donations with your children to CCD classes on Sunday April 3 & 10.

A box will be available for your donations.

Attention Graduating Seniors

San Jose Assembly 121, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, is pleased to announce the **Andrew J. Kuhar Memorial Scholarship**. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men based on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Although academics will be one of the criteria for this award, the major criterion will be voluntary service to the applicant's Church, community or both. **This scholarship is open to all graduating high school seniors in eastern Connecticut, who will be attending a two-year College, four-year College or University, or Technical School in the fall of 2016.** Application deadline is May 10. The award for this year is \$400.00 and will be awarded on or about June 5, 2016.

Applications are available at the parish office.



Cancer Benefit for Jason Markowycz

Spaghetti Supper & Dance April 2 from 4pm – 8pm

Jewelry Sale, DJ, Door Prize, 50/50, Basket Raffle

Redeemer Lutheran Hall, 328 Village Hill Road, Lebanon

Advance tickets: Adult \$10/Child \$6/Family \$25

Call Jaci Sinkewicz 860.303.2493 for tickets or visit <https://www.gofundme.com/BigDaddyJay>