

**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 November 26, 2016 Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM For the intentions of the parishioners written in the intention book before the altar

Sunday, November 27, 2016 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Ed Coutu req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel



10:30 AM Janet Gagnon req. by her family

Monday November 28, 2016 Advent Weekday

NO MASSCONVOCATION

Tuesday November 29, 2016 Advent Weekday

NO MASS CONVOCATION

Wednesday November 30, 2016 St. Andrew, apostle

NO MASS CONVOCATION

Thursday December 1, 2016 Advent Weekday

NO MASS

Friday December 2, 2016 Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Rev. Elsyn Joseph Drummond

Saturday December 3, 2016 St. Francis Xavier

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

Sunday, December 4, 2016 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Norm Pellerin req. by his wife



10:30 AM

Offertory to be reported Dec. 3 & 4 due to early submission of the bulletin.

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.

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 8:30pm ~ Rosary at 6:00pm
~ Benediction at 7:00pm at St. Andrew Church.**

Weekend of December 3 & 4

5:00pm Lector: Bob Nejako

Eucharistic Minister: Carole Briggs

Altar Servers: CJ Frank & Bradley Wiczorek

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Kathy Pellerin

Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Maureen Polana

Eucharistic Minister: Wally Gagnon

Altar Servers: Becca Wheaton & Marienne Clippinger

**The Knights of Columbus will be selling
"Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for \$5
each after all Masses.**

Meetings & Activities

- Life Teen Sunday Nov 27 following the 5pm Life Teen Mass held at St. Andrew Church
- Knights of Columbus Thursday Dec. 1 @ 7pm

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
Airman Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy
Seaman Alex R. Paris, 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. Joseph Castaldi, Rev. John Antonelle, Rev. Alfred Irving, Rev. Thomas Angelo, Rev. William McNulty, Rev., John O'Neill MS, All Priests, Rev. Patrick McCorry, Rev. Michael Gill, Rev. P. Grzegorz Jednaki, Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski, Msgr. Kevin Randall, Rev. Roland Cloutier.

O, Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for the lonely and desolate priests. (Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

The Ladies Guild will again be selling cemetery arrangements. Orders will be taken the weekend of November 26-27th. 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 3-4th in the church garage. Questions, please contact Barbara, 860-642-7168 or bobbi.w@charter.net.

Thank you to everyone who donated their used pots; this project would not be possible without your contributions. And please remember we are in need of greens.

All ladies of the parish are invited to the **Ladies Guild Christmas Party** on Monday, December 19th, 6:00 cocktails/6:30 dinner at The Log Cabin. Reservation forms can be found at the church entrances, the deadline is December 12th to submit entrée choices and payment. Please contact Sandra at 860-537-1372 if you have any questions.

Lebanon Holiday Gift Program

Our Christmas Tree is up with holiday gift tags. Please take a tag and bring the gift back to Church with the tag by **November 27th**. Please do not wrap the gift as the families are provided gift wrap. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



Also on the tree are some seminarian gift tags. These gift tags assist the seminarians with study related expenses.

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, December 3 at 8:30 A.M. Please join our celebrant Rev. Joseph Whittel 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.
- ✓ **Healing Mass Monday, December 12, 2017 at 2PM** Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT
- ✓ **Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations:** December 15 at St. Jude, Willington from 6-7pm.



A Christmas Carol" Musical December 2, 3

As the "Year of Mercy" comes to a close, St Andrew Church, Colchester, will present one of the greatest stories of redemption and mercy ever told, the tale of the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge, in Charles Dickens' immortal "A Christmas Carol." This spiritually uplifting musical includes a cast of talented

performers from Connecticut and Rhode Island, and will be directed by Nathan Caron. The cast includes a 60 voice choir. Special performances will be by Fr Richard Breton (playing a 19th century clergyman) and Deacon Michael Puscas (playing the part of Ebenezer Scrooge) Tickets are limited to 300 each performance, and will be available beginning Nov 7 by calling Jeannine Gilbert at 860 977-9416

What: "A Christmas Carol" musical

When: Friday December 2, 7pm,
Saturday December 3 1pm matinee, and
7pm
Doors open 30 minutes prior to each
Performance

Where: St Andrew Hall

Tickets: General admission (ages 13-61) \$10
(\$12 at the door)

Reduced admission (12 and under, 62 and
Over) \$8 (\$10 at the door)

Phone: (beginning Nov 7) Jeannine Gilbert
860 977 9416

St. Joseph School, Baltic, will hold its **Annual Christmas Auction and Basket Raffle** on Saturday, December 3rd, in the school gym. Viewing begins at 4:40pm. The Basket Raffle starts at 6:15pm followed by a silent auction. This includes fully loaded theme baskets, museum memberships, gift certificates and much more! Dinner is hosted by the Knights of Columbus starting at 5:00pm for \$5.00 per person and \$20.00 per family. For further information, please call 860.822.6141.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Basket program with donations of food and donations of time. Your generosity has brightened the Thanksgiving holiday for many of our Lebanon neighbors.

Christmas 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:

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

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.



The Knights of Columbus Museum, at 1 State Street in New Haven, opens its annual Christmas exhibit November 19. The show features crèches from Germany as well as many from the museum's collection, including a hand-carved cedar nativity scene from Mexico and its popular 120-square-foot Baroque Neapolitan (Italian) diorama. Open daily. Free admission & parking. More information at 203.865.0400 or kofcmuseum.org.

How a Reluctant Priest was Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Wednesday, November 30, 2017 at 2pm and 7pm
Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa speaks about the miracles in his life. He is the Retreat Director for Pope Francis and Leaders of ALL Religious Communities each Advent and Lent.
Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT
(860-887-0702)

Snowflake Fair! Sacred Heart Church, 52 West Town St. Norwichtown, on Saturday, December 3rd from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Featuring; Theme Baskets, White Elephant Items, Home Baked Goodies, Hand Made Items and much more! Refreshments and Lunch Available!

Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford - Advent Day or Evening Retreat: Be My Light – Mother Teresa’s Journey of Doubt and Hope, with Dr. Brandon Nappi - Wednesday, Dec 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Shortly after Mother Teresa died in 1997, her secret journals were published expressing a woman of intense paradox. Even as she lived out the Christian life in heroic radiance, she was accompanied by extreme doubt, struggle and dryness in the spiritual life. In this retreat, we’ll examine Mother Teresa’s incredible contribution to the history of spirituality and discover the constructive role doubt can play in our own Advent journey toward hope and light. \$40, includes meal. [860-760-9705](tel:860-760-9705). www.holyfamilyretreat.org

Emmanuel adoration on Dec. 18th at St. Andrew Church, Colchester.

There will be adoration on Sunday, Dec. 18th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. What a beautiful way to start Christmas week. Every one of every age is invited. Music will be provided by Emily Kubena from St. Francis and Andre Toussaint from St. Andrew. Speaker will be Sean Norris. Sean is from St. Andrew Parish and graduated in 2006. He has been doing ministry and speaking since his graduation from Franciscan University in 2011. There is NO cost to this event.

35th Annual Convocation

for the Priests in the Diocese of Norwich

NEWPORT, RI.—The Annual Convocation for Priests will be held from November 28-30, 2016, 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 “Becoming Merciful Servants of the New Evangelization.” The key presenter will be Reverend Jack Rathschmidt, a Capuchin Franciscan Friar, who holds a M.Th. in spirituality from the Weston College School of Theology and a Ph.D. from Fordham University in Historical Theology. Bishop Cote emphasized the importance of this annual gathering in his letter inviting each priest to the Convocation, “Your presence and commitment to this time together is important to me. This year we celebrate the 35th year of gathering as a presbyterate for the Convocation.”

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

Copies of *The Word Among Us* Advent issue are available at the Church entrances. Please bring home a copy and welcome the King of Glory during this Advent season.

MASS INTENTIONS ~ We have several open Masses during 2016. You may have a Mass said for a variety of intentions: for a deceased loved one, in celebration of a marriage, anniversary, birthday, in thanksgiving, for a special intention, for world peace, etc. To request a Mass intention, please call Cheryl in the parish office during office hours.

East Catholic High Entrance Exam 8th graders Saturday December 3 @ 8am. Pre-registration advised, but not required. www.echs.com or call 860.649.5336 x 6456.

Support Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, Inc. Donate your unwanted car, truck, RV, motorcycle, trailer, boat or camper today! All proceeds benefit children and families in need, in Connecticut. WE DO ALL THE WORK. It is fast and free and you receive a tax deduction! www.donationangel.org/ccfsn / 1-866-434-1131

BAMBINELLI WEEKEND – GAUDETTE SUNDAY

Bambinelli is Italian for Christ Child. This will be the second year at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in celebration of Gaudette Sunday – 10 & 11 December 2015.



Pope Francis, on a recent visit to America said, “The family is the core of the Church.”

A special blessing will take place at all Masses 10 & 11 December 2016 – 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

Defending Our Religious Liberty Nov. 27, 2016
Those who say that the Catholic Church is discriminating against poor women by opposing the health care mandate are completely misinformed. The Catholic Church is against requirements contained in the mandate that would force it to pay for surgical procedures such as: sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception that go against the Church’s moral convictions, and therefore, impede religious freedom. 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 newly elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.



Ring in the Holiday Season by attending The Annual Tree Lighting Program on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon, 580 Exeter Road. The

brief program will include the lighting of the tree, Christmas Carols, and a visit from Santa. Following the program visitors may take a stroll around the Green on the candlelit walking path, visit the historic homes which will be open for tours and enjoy the bonfire behind the Library. Join us with your family and friends and welcome in the Holidays with this fun, family event!

LIVE NATIVITY



All children of our churches & community are invited to participate in the Lebanon Churches & Franklin Congregational Church combined Ecumenical LIVE NATIVITY, Saturday December 17 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.

Free-will donations and non-perishable food/toiletry items will benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry. , If interested in participating please contact Anne McAwley-LeDuc @

a.mccawley.leduc@charter.net or 860.642.1786.

We wish to bring it to your attention that there are a great many people attending Mass on weekends that suffer from asthma, allergies or are undergoing chemotherapy. Colognes, after shave and fragrances can aggravate these conditions. Please be considerate.

Please support our Saint Francis Bulletin and our community by supporting these wonderful businesses who advertise on our bulletin cover. They pay good money to sponsor these ads and provide this bulletin at no cost to St. Francis Parish. Please let them know that you appreciate their generous financial support by saying "Thank You" when you patronize them.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal. The ACA is able to provide substantial support to Diocesan ministries who carry out God's work every day. Through your kindness, we are improving the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors, and especially at this time, our brothers and sisters suffering in Haiti. As this year's campaign, "Mercy – The Beating Heart of the Gospel" enters its final phase we ask those who have been unable to contribute thus far to prayerfully consider using this opportunity to do an act of Mercy and pledge your support. Every single contribution has a positive effect.

To date, our parish has received pledges and gifts totaling \$21,516.38 through the generosity of 104 families (16.94% participation). Reaching our goal of @22, 952 will allow our ministries to help the poor, work for justice, promote dignity of life, care for our seminarians and retired priests and provide programs for the education and faith formation of all our parishioners, young and old. The appeal will end on December 31, 2016.

You may make your donation by visiting www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org or calling 860.886.1928.



All children Grades 3 through 12 are welcome to become Altar Servers. Altar Server training will be provided by Fr. Richard. Please complete the form found at the entrances of Church and return by as soon as possible to the parish office.