

**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 December 10, 2016 Advent Weekday**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Stella Horiska 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary req. by her family

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Ed Bigenski req. by the Kuzel family

10:30 AM Sandra Perry req. by C Wheaton

**Monday December 12, 2016 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

9:00 AM Dave & Edith Perotti req. by their family

**Tuesday December 13, 2016 St. Lucy, virgin, martyr**

NO MASS

**Wednesday December 14, 2016 St. John of the Cross, priest  
& doctor of the Church**

9:00 AM Jean Sands req. by Ann Sheedy

**Thursday December 15, 2016 Advent Weekday**

NO MASS

**Friday December 16, 2016 Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM Pat Rzewnicki req. by Ann Aheedy

9:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy

**Saturday December 17, 2016 Late Advent Weekday**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Carolyn Sharpe req. by her family

**Sunday, December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

10:30 AM Affonso Fernando req. by the Mastroluca family



Offertory: \$ 3,107.01 Extraordinary: \$ 677.91

Today's second collection is a voluntary collection for the Diocesan Fuel Fund to assist those who have difficulty paying for fuel.

Next weekend's second collection is for building maintenance.

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 17 & 18**

5:00pm Lector: Carole Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Nina Gardella, Elizabeth Spedaliere

8:00am Lector: Jim Worth

Eucharistic Minister: Joan Grecki

Altar Servers: Emily & Anthony Pomerleau

10:30am Lector: Greg Jones

Eucharistic Minister: Paul Pelletier

Altar Servers: Becca Wheaton, Marianne Clippinger

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

**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  
SFC Justin A. VonEdwins, U.S. Army  
Sgt. Robert Massicotte U.S. Army  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. 6<sup>th</sup> Marines  
Airman Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy  
Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy

**Prayer for our Men and Women in Military Service**

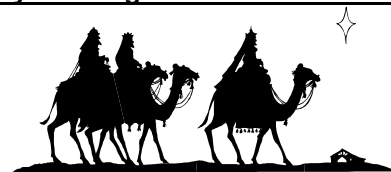
O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask for Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, 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 V. Rev. Michael Phillippino, Rev. Gerald Kirby, Rev. Martin Noe, Rev. Brian Maxwell, Rev. Walter Nagle, Rev. Justinian Rweyemamu, Rev. Joseph Tito, Rev. Tomasz Albrecht, Rev. William Olesik, Rev. Elson Kattookaran MS, Rev. Stephen Gulino, Msgr. Michael Donohue. We also pray for those priests who have left the ministry.

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)

**Christmas Masses**

**Saturday Vigil (Children's Mass) at 4:00 PM  
Sunday Morning Mass 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**



**Christmas flower envelopes available at the Church entrances. Please return your intention request by Dec. 14th.**

**Grades K & 4 will be helping at the 10:30Am Mass.  
Join us for refreshments following the 10:30 Mass in the meeting room.**

## **Meetings & Activities**

- Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa Sunday Dec. 11 from 8am to 11am.
- Living Rosary Sunday Dec. 11 at 9am at the Lebanon Elementary School
- Life Teen Mass Dec. 11 at 5pm followed by dinner and life Teen Christmas Party St. Andrew Church
- Live Nativity Saturday Dec. 17 on the Green at 3pm
- Life Teen Mass Dec. 18 at 5pm followed by dinner and Emmanuel Adoration at St. Andrew Church
- Ladies Guild Christmas Party Monday Dec. 19

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT (860-887-0702) .
- ✓ **Healing Mass** Monday, December 12, 2017 at 2PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich, CT
- ✓ **Our Lady of Guadalupe!** All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Monday, December 12, 2016. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confessions at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.
- ✓ **Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations:** December 15 at St. Jude, Willington from 6-7pm.
- ✓ **Natural Family Planning** is scientific, safe, and is 99 percent effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. A class for married and engaged couples begins on Monday, December 19 th at 6:30 P.M. at St. John's in Old Saybrook. For more information, call Steve and Lisa Collison at 860-399- 8265 or to register for a class go to [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org).
- ✓ **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 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 January 20-22, 2017 weekend in the Hartford area, call 413-525- 1634, or 203-710- 6207, or visit the Website at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).
- ✓ **STEUBENVILLE NYC- JULY 21-23** This summer, join over 3,000 other Catholic teens at Steubenville NYC conference and experience the joy of following Christ and being ELAVATED By HIS Love. The Diocese of Norwich offers youth the opportunity to take advantage of this fun and spirit filled conference with ease. For \$345, The Diocese of Norwich will provide youth and chaperones with Steubenville registration fee, sendoff mass with Bishop Cote and lunch, transportation to and from the Diocese, and 3 t-shirts for each day at the Conference. If you are interested in this life changing opportunity, get in touch with your Youth Minister or Liza Roach at (860)848-2237 ex. 305 or [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net)

The March for Life Bus Trip. The Annual March for Life will take place this year on Friday, January 27, 2017, in Washington, D.C., as a way for people to express their opposition to abortion. This year's event coincides with the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. Buses sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of Connecticut Right to Life will travel to the March leaving from the Norwich Municipal Parking Lot (Exit 11, I-395) on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 9 P.M. Bus fare is \$67 per person. For information, to reserve a seat, or, if you cannot go, to sponsor a seat, please call Margaret Becotte at 860-822- 1362.

## **Programs at Enders Island – Mystic CT 860.536.0565**

- Silent Night for the Broken Hearted w/ Fr. Tom Hoar SSE \$30pp. December 24 12pm midnight <http://enders.is/silentnight>
- Icon Board Preparation & Gilding w/ Susan Von Medicus January 8, 2017. A week long intensive work shop beginning 9at 7pm \$772pp. <http://enders.is/iconboard>

## **Nominations are underway for the Longest Married Couple search**

sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Nominations are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of religious affiliation through January 10, 2017. Email the couple's name, wedding date and city and state where they reside to [wwmelmc2017@gmail.com](mailto:wwmelmc2017@gmail.com). Include your contact phone or email address. Or, visit the national website at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). For more information, contact the Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext 306.

## **Emmanuel adoration on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Christmas GIVING BASKET THANK YOU!**

Baskets were delivered on December 10<sup>th</sup>. To all parishioners who donated or helped with packing and delivery, we are thankful. Your continued support of this program has helped many of our friends and neighbors when they have stumbled upon difficult times. Thank You.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Sr. Mary A. McCarthy, President of Mercy High School, Middletown, CT has announced the names of the following students as honor roll students for the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period for school year 2016-2017. Giana Pirolli - first honors & Sophia Pirolli - first honors



Come share the Reason for the Season with the youth from the Lebanon Churches and Community and Franklin as they present, *The Christmas Story – A Live Nativity, Scripture based, on Saturday December 17 at 3:00pm* on the Lebanon Green. Everyone is invited to support our youth in the true meaning of Christmas. There will be live animals from local farms.

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.

Participants are requested to assemble at 2:30 p.m.

In case of rain or a wind chill of 32 or lower the event will be held in the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall; in case of severe weather, cancellations will be posted on Channel 3.

Free-will donations and non-perishable food/toiletry items will benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry.

For more information, to participate or to bring animals please contact Anne McAuley-LeDuc @ [a.mcauley.leduc@charter.net](mailto:a.mcauley.leduc@charter.net)

**Comfort and Caring Shawl Ministry**

Do you know of someone in need of a Comfort and Caring Shawl? The St. Francis Ladies Guild has made a commitment to distribute hand-made prayer shawls to anyone in need; someone who is ill, on potent medication, battling the pain of depression or lost a loved one. The gift of a shawl is not limited to members of the Guild or our parish but can be given to anyone you feel would benefit from this shawl of love and comfort. There are numerous shawls of many colors, shapes and weight as well as lap robes available. If you wish to contribute a knitted or crocheted shawl (must be certain dimensions) or know of someone who would benefit from this gift, please contact Barbara Dyer (Keeper of the Shawls) at [45bfdyer@gmail.com](mailto:45bfdyer@gmail.com) or 860-822-9400.

**The St Francis Lending Library is always open!** The library is located in the Cry Room and we have left it open now for your convenience. There are many books to be borrowed on a variety of topics: Conversion, Biblical, Historical, Biographies, Saints and much, much more. We also have tapes and dvds to borrow. Please sign out a book, there is a basket to put the library cards in and there is someone there most Sundays after 8:00 Mass. If you have any questions please contact Rachel Bosse, Barbara Dyer or Joyce Hofmann. Please be respectful of these great resource—take out a book, return the book; and parents if you are in the Cry Room with your children and they remove any books—please put them back where you found them.

Defending Our Religious Liberty Dec. 10, 2016  
 May the leaders who were elected last month be guided by the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their positions. 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.

**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 below and return by as soon as possible to the parish office.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: (parent) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: (server) \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mass you are able to serve at:

5:00pm \_\_\_\_\_

8:00am \_\_\_\_\_

10:30am \_\_\_\_\_



Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_