

**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**



**Saturday January 20, 2018 St. Fabian, pope, martyr; St. Sebastian, martyr**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Theresa Baran req. by Stan Baran

**Sunday, January 21, 2018 Third Sunday Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Evelyn Dzialo req. by the Ladies Guild

10:30 AM Raoul Pomerleau req. by his family

**Monday, January 22, 2018 Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

NO MASS

**Tuesday January 23, 2018 St. Marianne Cope, virgin**

NO MASS

**Wednesday January 24, 2018 St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor of the Church**

9:00 AM Ed & Christine Clark req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

**Thursday January 25, 2018 Conversion of St. Paul, apostle**

NO MASS

**Friday January 26, 2018 St. Timothy & St. Titus, bishops**

9:00 AM Living & Deceased members of the Drago family, req. by family

**Saturday January 27, 2018 St. Angela Merici, virgin, religious founder**

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM

**Sunday, January 28, 2018 Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Mary Mateycik req. by the Dyer family

10:30 AM

Offertory: \$ 2,240.25 Goats for Haiti: \$ 1,010.00

Today's second collection is for building maintenance.

Next weekend's second collection is a special collection for offertory makeup due to the recent heavy weekend snowstorms Dec. 9 & 10, Dec. 15 & 16, and Dec. 24 & 25. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

A very sincere thanks to all those parishioners who make-up their offertory while away.

**Adoration of our Lord. Jesus is the Friend who never abandons us. (St. Luigi Guanella) Adoration begins at 8:30am following the 8:00am Mass on Thursdays and continues until Benediction at 7:00pm at St. Andrew Church.** There is always a need for faithful 1.adorers, please consider omitting to a specific hour. Contact Dennis Girard @ 860.334.9894 or dennisgirard51@gmail.com

### PASCHAL CANDLE

If anyone would like to help along with other families to purchase the Paschal Candle in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office. The cost of the candle is \$250.

### 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

AM3 Emerson Flannery, U.S. Navy

Seaman Alex R. Paris, U.S. Navy

LCPL Chad Wengloski, U.S. Marines

CTN3 Jonah Swett, U.S. Navy

ITSA Rocky Spedaliere Jr., U.S. Navy

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tyler McGuire, U.S. Air Force

### 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. Kevin Reilly, Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski Rev. Michael Parisi, Msgr. Anthony Rosaforte, Rev. Peter Liszewski, Rev. Roland Cloutier, Rev. Mark Masnicki, Rev. Mark O'Donnell, Rev. Luis Agudelo, Rev. Alfred Irving, Rev. Grzegorz Brozonowicz, Rev. Christopher Feeney, Msgr. Henry Archambault, Rev. Edward Konopka.

Glory to the Blood of Jesus! May each day of this New Year bring our priests more good to do, more souls to save and more holy influence to spread around them by word and deed. Father, we pray for our priests: for the sanctity of their souls and for perfect love, that they may be the voice of Christ. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

### Weekend January 27 & 28

5:00pm Lector: Steve Wengloski

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Nejako

Altar Servers: Steve Bardes, C.J. Frank

8:00am Lector: Kathy Pellerin

Eucharistic Minister: Gregg Lafontaine

Altar Servers: Sarah & Ryan Dungan

10:30am Lector: Paul Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia

Altar Servers: Felipe & Gabriela Mastroluca

Please support our Saint Francis Bulletin and our community by supporting these wonderful businesses. 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.

## **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** at 2pm Mondays, January 22, 2018 Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ On Sunday, February 4, 2018, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Consecrated Life will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Norwich. All are invited to join Bishop Cote in thanking God for the gift of consecrated life and for the sisters, brothers, and religious priests who enrich the Church and build up God's Kingdom with the witness of their religious commitment. The homilist will be Father Peter Grover, O.M.V., Rector of Saint Clement Eucharist Shrine in Boston. All are invited to participate in the Mass.

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." Learn how to better love your spouse by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekend is Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

### **Save the Date**



**Dinner with Music by Wojo**  
**Saturday, February 10th**  
**6 to 10 pm**

**At the Fire Safety Complex**  
**Tickets will be sold after Masses**  
**Advanced ticket sales only**  
**\$20 per person**

**Sponsored by the St. Francis Ladies Guild**  
**Questions call Alicia at 860-465-7603**

**Celebrate Marriage** – Now that the holiday rush is through, it's not too early to begin thinking of Valentine's Day. Give your Valentine something special this year – the gift of your time. Come celebrate your marriage at a day-long enrichment that will renew your dreams, increase your passion and refresh and celebrate your marriage. This marriage enrichment aptly entitled, "**Celebrate Marriage**," will take place on **Saturday, February 10, 2018**, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Christ the King Parish, 1 McCurdy Rd., Old Lyme. The cost is \$35 per couple, which includes workbook and lunch. Registration is required. To register, call the Diocesan Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext. 306.

### **Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center**

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT  
To register call 860.677.8519

**Art, ARP and Intuition** Jan. 24 9am – 1pm includes lunch  
**Feelings and Faith** Jan. 27 8:30am – 4:30pm \$60 includes lunch  
**Wellness Retreat** Feb. 2-4  
**Men's Retreat** Feb. 10-11

### **Grief Support Group @ Center for Hospice Care**

**227 Dunham Street, Norwich**

**860.848.5699 hospicesect.org**

**All programs free of charge**

- Coping with the loss of a spouse/partner: Mondays Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 5 5:30-7:00pm @ Center for Hospice Care
- Coping with the loss of a parent: Tuesdays Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 5:30-7:00pm @ Center for Hospice Care
- Grieving the loss of a loved one due to addiction: Every 2nd Thursday Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8 5:30pm-7:00pm @ Center for Hospice Care
- Coping with the loss of a loved one: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday Jan. 2 & 16, Feb. 6 & 20, March 6 & 20 10am-11am at Mystic Noank Library, 40 Library Street, and Mystic.

### **Comfort and Caring Shawl Ministry**

It's cold outside and it gets dark earlier, do you knit or crochet to take up the time? 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.

### **Saint Joseph School in Baltic will have an Open House**

on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, starting in the school gym following the 10:00 a.m. Mass and again on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

There will be opportunities to tour the school and to speak with teachers and parents. For further information, please contact Sister Mary Patrick, Principal at (860) 822-6141 or at [sistermarypatrick@gmail.com](mailto:sistermarypatrick@gmail.com).

### **Women's Conference 2018:**

Called to Joy! The Office of Faith Events and the Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women welcome women of all ages. Offering workshops on parenting, relationships, prayer, scripture and more.

Keynote speaker ValLimar Jansen, and Mass with Bishop Cote...Saturday, April 14, 2018, 8:30-3:30, St. Bernard High School, Uncasville.

Find the registration form at [www.norwichdiocese.org](http://www.norwichdiocese.org) under the Office of Faith Events- Upcoming Events. Or contact us at 860-848-2237. Register today!

***Parish Bulletin E-mailed to You*** *If you would like the parish bulletin emailed to you, a friend, or a college student away from home, E-mail the parish office a request to be put on the email list... [cheryl@stfrancisassisilebanonct.org](mailto:cheryl@stfrancisassisilebanonct.org)*

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

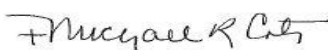
January 22, 2018, marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. On January 19, 2018, the annual March for life will be held in Washington D.C. This year's theme is "Love saves lives." Tens of thousands, young and old, will march in the largest Pro Life event in the world. The enthusiasm of all present gives witness to the fact that all human life is sacred-the unborn, the forgotten, the unwanted-yes, every human life. Every life matters.

Abortion is a grave moral evil. The church has taught this from its earliest years. The Didache, a first century instruction says "Do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant." The teaching of the Popes and the magisterium have been clear in their teaching on abortion. Saint John Paul II, in the Gospel of Life, says: " In the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness." Continuing the teaching of the church on abortion Pope Francis wrote in Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love: "If the family is the sanctuary of life, the place where life is conceived and cared for, it is a horrendous contradiction when it becomes a place where life is rejected and destroyed. So great is the value of a human life and so inalienable the right to life of an innocent child growing in the mother's womb, that no alleged right to one's own body can justify a decision to terminate that life."

Since 1973, more than 58 million unborn children have lost their lives. Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, a community working with the special needs population, wrote a book titled Tears of Silence. In it he pens the following words, words that echo the theme of this year's March for Life (Love saves Lives):" Love is the greatest of all risks...to give myself...to you...do I dare...do I dare leap in to the risky, swirling, living waters of loving fidelity." Do we dare to build a culture of life that embraces the humanity of the unborn? Do we dare to love enough to see in the migrant, the homeless person, the imprisoned, the face of Jesus? When Our Savior came into the world there was "No room for Him at the Inn."(LK 2:7) Do we have enough love to build a world that welcomes the down-syndrome child? Do we have enough love to respect the life of the elderly and resist attempts to legalize physician assisted suicide? "Who will hear the silent cry?" Jean Vanier asks. Do we hear the silent cry of the unborn?

Together let us work together to build a civilization of love. Love saves lives. We give thanks for those who volunteer in crisis pregnancy centers and those who open their hearts and their homes to adoption. Thank you for all you do to promote a culture of life here in the Diocese of Norwich.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

### **The Catholic Family in Today's Society!**

How has our reality of family changed and how do we continue to make God a priority in our families? Topics to be addressed... blended families, social media, scheduling, sports, prayer, catechesis and so much more!

**Come join us for a night of discussion and reflection  
January 24, 2018, 7:00 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes,  
Gales Ferry, CT.**

**Sponsored by the Office of Faith Events**

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT** ~ If you are in need of consolation after the loss of a loved one, consider attending *Seasons of Hope*, a new Bereavement Support group that will meet Thursday evenings from 7-9 P.M. at **St. Andrew Church Library, 128 Norwich Ave, Colchester**. The program, which consists of four, six-week sessions, will explore issues of mourning through Scripture, prayer, reflection and faith-sharing. For more information, contact Cheryl Laporte at 860-537-4463 or e-mail her at [calaporte48@gmail.com](mailto:calaporte48@gmail.com).

### **Defending Our Religious Liberty** Jan. 21, 2018

Fifty years ago, the Second Vatican Council adopted a declaration on religious freedom called, *Dignitatis Humanae*. In it, it says that religious freedom includes the freedom to practice our faith in public. In our culture, some tend to think that religious liberty means only that individuals can worship without interference from the government. This understanding is inadequate. Religious schools, hospitals, and charities should be able to operate in accordance with their faith. Indeed, the work of these organizations is part and parcel of their faith. They are expressions of religious mission, and religions must have the space to live out their missions. Let us pray that legislators who work to replace the federal health care mandate will read and be inspired by *Dignitatis Humanae*.

### **Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center Programs**

860.760.9705 [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org)

303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford

- ❖ Blessings Workshop Saturday Feb. 3 from 10am – 5pm Create practices that nurture our ability to sustain a life lived in blessing, including the making of blessing postcards to share. \$65. Includes lunch.
- ❖ Couples' Weekend Retreat Fri. – Sun. Feb. 9-11 \$575
- ❖ Ash Wednesday or Evening Retreat Wed. Feb. 14 from 10am-2pm or 6-9pm \$40 includes meal.

**The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass** will take place at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on **Saturday, Feb. 3 at 8:30 A.M.** Please join our celebrant **Rev. Walter Nagle** 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.

**Free Seminar: Human Trafficking – the dangers, risks and signs!** Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> (snow date: Feb 7<sup>th</sup>) from 6:30-8pm, the Mercy Alumnae Association is hosting a seminar at Mercy High School to inform the local community on the dangers, risks, and signs of human trafficking. Panelists, including an FBI agent, Middletown Police Officer, and representative from DCF, will discuss local occurrences and provide advice to local youths and adults. Following the panel, the audience will be invited to ask questions. After the program, the panelists as well as a registered therapist will be available for audience members who would like to speak confidentially. Contact Barb Miller, Director of Alumnae at [bmiller@mercyhigh.com](mailto:bmiller@mercyhigh.com) or 860-347-8957 for more information. The event is free and open to the public. Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Rd. Middletown, CT 06457.....[www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com)

**“Discover Mercy” Mercy High School - Middletown, CT Saturday, March 3, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Register online – [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com) For 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls Girls participate in two activities of their choice followed by lunch in the dining commons. The day concludes with closing comments and a performance by the Mercy/Xavier “Vocal Dimension” Show Choir in the auditorium. This year’s activities: Chemistry of Tie-Dyeing & Simple DNA, Cupcake Decorating, Field Hockey Clinic, Introduction to Italian, Mad about Math, Mini Mock Trial, Paint the Town – Everything French, Show Choir Workshop, Theater Arts Workshop  
Optional Parent Activities: Parents will have the opportunity to participate in the choice of the following sessions: Admissions Process & Questions for the Administration, School Counseling Department Personnel and Faculty Health and Personal Concerns for your Teenage Daughter Parent-to-Parent – Current Parents Answer your Questions School Tour – Join Mercy Students on a Guided Tour of the Campus

Mercy High School is sponsoring a **\$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. (grades K – College) and for student loan payments. Tickets are \$100. The drawing is Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at Mercy’s Spring Concert (concert begins at 7:00 p.m., Drawing at 8:00 p.m.) You do not need to be present to win. Only 650 tickets will be sold. For information, or to order a ticket, visit [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com) or call Mercy at 860-347-8957.

Programs at Enders Island – Mystic 860.536.0565  
Winter Day of Recollection Wednesday February 21st at 9am.  
Fee: \$50pp. The Mystery of Lent: Finding God in the Feasts and Fasts of Lent. <http://enders.is/WinterDOR>

Please join us on Thursday evening, February 1st, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Church for an evening of praising and worshipping God with music, teaching, witnessing, and prayer. The service planned for January 4th was canceled because of a snow storm. We will be repeating the theme for that evening. Deacon Michael Puscas will be teaching about "Grief," and Shelly Pollo from Seeds of Hope will be telling everyone about a new Catholic Bereavement Support and Education Program which began on January 11th at St. Andrew Church.

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Watch your mailboxes for a mailing from the Anniversary Committee with upcoming events, a donation request and items needed.

Does anyone know what happened to the Stations of the Cross that were in the old Church? They were used here on West Town Street until they were replaced in 1989.

### **Our Wish List**

Perhaps you or your family knows someone who can help for a reduced fee or in-kind services. These include catering/food service and baker (for September 16th) and printing services (book, program & banner). Please contact Barbara at 860.642.7168 or [bobbi.w@charter.net](mailto:bobbi.w@charter.net) if you can help with one of these.

### **DRAWING FOR A 12 X 16 FRAMED & MATTED Nancy Bergeron, Moment in Time, St. Francis Print**

Tickets: \$5.00 each

Tickets will be sold after all Masses:

January 27-28 & February 3 & 4

And the Ladies Guild Dinner February 10<sup>th</sup>

**Drawing will be held at 9:00pm February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Do not need to be present to win

For more information on anniversary events please read the weekly bulletin or visit the parish website: [Stfrancisassisilebanonct.org](http://Stfrancisassisilebanonct.org) in the Ministries section.