

**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 February 24, 2018 Lenten Weekday

4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Stanley Dudar 10th anniversary req. by his family

Sunday, February 25, 2018 Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM People of the Parish living & deceased
10:30 AM Pierce Holleran Austin req. by his family

Monday, February 26, 2018 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday February 27, 2018 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Wednesday February 28, 2018 Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Msgr. Robert L. Brown

Thursday March 1, 2018 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Friday March 2, 2018 First Friday – World Day of Prayer

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Copp family req.
by the family

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 3, 2018 St. Katherine Drexel, virgin

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Thomas Armstrong req. by the Nejako family

Sunday, March 4, 2018 Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM James Mackey 25th anniversary req by his family
10:30 AM Frank Smutko req. by the Haralson family

Offertory: \$ 1,304.50 Building Maintenance: \$ 437.00
Next weekend's second collection is for extraordinary expenses.
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

MEETINGS

Knights of Columbus Thursday March 1 @ 7:00pm
Altar Server Class Saturday March 3 @ 11am in Church
Parish Advisory Council Wednesday March 7 @ 6:30pm

Weekend March 3 & 4

5:00pm Lector: Stephen Wengloski
Eucharistic Minister: Jim Hay
Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella
8:00am Lector: Kathy Pellerin
Eucharistic Minister: Betsy McComber
Altar Servers: Christian & Jack Terwilliger
10:30am Lector: Angela Corentin
Eucharistic Minister: Tony Coscia
Altar Servers: Erika Densman & Nicholas Barrett

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
1st Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2nd Batt. 6th Marines
AM2 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
2nd 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. Patrick Martin, Rev. Joseph Tito, Rev. Paul Boudreau, Rev. Anthony DiMarco, Rev. Michael Sequeira, Rev. Richard Sliwinski, V. Rev. Ted Tumicki, Rev. William Flynn, Rev. Thomas Angelo, Msgr. Kevin Randall, Rev. Richard Breton, Rev. Joseph DeCosta, Rev. Augustine Naduvilekoot.

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.. (Ven. Mother Catherine Aurelia, foundress)

Grade 8 will be assisting at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday March 4.

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.

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 or call Mercy at 860-347-8957.

LIFETEEN held at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Colchester
Saturday February 24 – February 25 - Rock-a-thon for Haiti
Sunday March 4 – First week of 'Theology of the Body'. Pick up will be at 8:45pm.

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, March. 3 at 8:30 A.M.** Please join 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.
- ✓ **Life in the Spirit Retreat Opportunity** at My Father's House, Moodus, CT Friday, March 9, 7:00pm to Sunday, March 11, 2018 After lunch by Fr. Ray Introvigne
- ✓ **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 under the Office of Faith Events- Upcoming Events. Or contact us at 860-848-2237. Register today! Registration forms available at Church entrances. Deadline for registration is March 20th.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "Brothers and sisters, I should like you to be free of anxieties." Let us learn to calm our anxieties about our spouses by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekend is Jul 6-8, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at <https://wwwmectw.org/>.

My Father's House Pro-Life Conference, April, Sunday 22, 2018: "LET THERE BE LIFE", a conference to inspire, educate and embolden action. Featured Speakers: - Melissa Ohden, advocates for life as a national speaker, author, and has addressed the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. She is a miraculous survivor of a 5 day saline abortion attempt. Her inspirational life story is a compelling witness to God's extraordinary plan for her life. She is the founder of The Abortion Survivors Network, is a board member for the Vitae Foundation and former speaker for Feminists for Life. - Judith Mascolo M.D., Family Practice Medicine - Peter Wolfgang Esq. - Executive Director, Family Institute of Connecticut. - Exhibit by John Martin., Vice President of Human Life International a new spiritual event: A Marian Day of Recollection with Fr. Francis J. Peffley on Saturday, November 25th.

"Discover Mercy" Mercy High School - Middletown, CT Saturday, March 3, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Register online – www.mercyhigh.com For 5th, 6th & 7th 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

The Willimantic District Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invite all women to their annual Lenten Program: *THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN*, Empowerment of women, strong in family with a gentle approach. A presentation by National Council of Catholic Women President Maribeth Steward Blogoslawski, Sunday March 18, 1 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Anne King, 860-456-0474 by March 13th.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center Programs

860.760.9705 www.holyfamilyretreat.org
303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford

Retreat Theme: *Grace Enough* - Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God's grace in our lives. Discover anew how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Together we'll reflect on how living in God's grace guides us to make wise choices, leading to true happiness and peace.

The retreat includes: home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time, and workshops. The retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening and concludes with Sunday brunch at noon. Register at www.holyfamilyretreat.org/graceenough or call Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT at 860.760.9705 for more info.

Men's Retreat Date: March 23-25, 2018

Women's Retreat Dates: March 2-4, April 20-22, and June 1-3

Defending Our Religious Liberty Feb. 25, 2018

"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," says Pope Francis. This is why it is important that our lawmakers protect the rights of the Church and its ministries and organizations when overhauling the current healthcare mandate.

**Operation Rice Bowl:
Our Lenten Program: Encounter Lent**

Rice Bowl donations will be taken on Palm Sunday

Some grant recipients form the Diocesan Rice Bowl Collection. The 2017 grants total \$16,500

Catholic Charities and Family Services – A Ministry of the Diocese of Norwich 331 Main Street Norwich, CT 06360

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich served 50,930 residents throughout Eastern Connecticut, regardless of race, religion or national origin through its four office locations. 73% of our clients were female. 27% of our clients were male. 20% of our clients were under the age of 18. 76% of our clients were non-Catholic. Requests for Emergency Basic Needs continues to be the greatest request. Our Emergency Basic Needs program served over 3,550 children and adults and provided over 3,950 units of service. Our three Emergency Food Pantries distributed over 45,200 meals to families in need throughout Eastern Connecticut. Our three licensed Behavioral Health Clinics provided for over 5,400 units of direct service to people of all ages and situations to address issues including depression, anxiety, domestic violence, sexual abuse, grief, behavioral problems and substance abuse. Intensive Case Management services were provided to help 449 households develop comprehensive plan to greater self-sufficiency. 402 families were assisted through our Parenting Education and Pregnancy Services programs. Amount awarded in 2017 - \$3,000.00

Haitian Health Foundation 97 Sherman Street Norwich, CT Hurricane Matthew devastated the entire region, leaving hundreds of dead, injured, homeless, hungry, and sick women and children in its path. 80% of homes were destroyed and 90 % of crops and livestock were killed by the hurricane winds. The Haitian Health foundation is essentially the only source of food, medicine/medical care, building materials for all of Jeremie and the surrounding 105 rural villeges, totaling over 250,000 people.

Amount awarded in 2017 - \$2,000.00

Care Net's Annual Fundraising Banquet

Speaker: Darlene Pawlik

"Address Exceptions"

March 8

Lunch 11:15-2:00pm Dinner 6:15-9:00pm

Groton Inn & Suites

99 Gold Star Highway Route 184 Groton, CT

RSVP by March 3rd at www.psclife.org

860.449.0386



April 12-15, 2018

Come join us on this year's women's retreat
at

My Father's House

Moodus, CT

Brochures are at all entrances

Email: standrew2018wacts@gmail.com

Saint Joseph School, Baltic is sponsoring a Bingo fund raiser at Foxwoods Casino on Friday, March 2. Bingo tickets may be purchased at \$15 per admission package. If anyone would like to play video Bingo, you may purchase two tickets for \$30. Please contact Mrs. Angela May for tickets at 860.460.7645. Come join us and have some fun while supporting a great school.

Mercy & Xavier High Schools Present

"The Addams Family"

A delightful musical comedy

Friday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. – Saturday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Mercy High School Auditorium

Tickets: \$10. Students and \$15. Adults

To order tickets online, visit www.mercyhigh.com

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

For more info or to register call 860.677.8519

Easter Egg Decorating Workshop Saturday February 24 from 9am – 1pm

One Man's Journey with his Faith Saturday March 3 9am-1:30pm

Celebrate Celtic Spirituality Saturday March 10 from 9am – 1pm

Lenten Retreat Day Wednesday Feb 28 from 7pm - 9pm

Lenten Evening of Reflection Wednesday March 14 7pm – 9pm

Retreat for Women: Make me an Instrument of Your Peace
March 2-4 March 9-11

April 6-8 April 13-15

The Lord says, "I'll Take You!"



Saint Francis of Assisi Parish needs young people (girls and boys, grades 3 and above) to serve at the Lord's Table. Please join Father Richard for the training session **Saturday March 3rd at 11:00am in the Church.** Parents are

welcome.

Please complete this form and return it to the rectory or drop it in the offertory basket.

I am interested in being an altar server.

Please register me for the Altar Server training session.

My Name is: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____



75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A note from the Anniversary Committee:

It is our intention that the events planned throughout the Anniversary year will be paid for by donations. The church will not be financially responsible for the 75th Anniversary celebration.

Please use the envelope that was provided in the mailing to return your donation.

Checks are made out to "Saint Francis of Assisi", with 75th Anniversary on the memo line.

Please mail to: 75th Anniversary Celebration, P.O. Box 75 Lebanon, CT 06249-0075

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 if you can help with one of these.

179 days to go until the start of our celebration!

Come see the **Academy of the Holy Family's unique musical rendition of Shakespeare's famous comedy, *Twelfth Night!*** When seeing this show, you will experience a topsy-turvy love story with rock and roll music and playful characters brought to life by the talent of the Academy of the Holy Family drama club. The performances will be held on Friday, March 9th at 10 am and 7pm as well as Saturday, March 10th at 7pm at the Academy of the Holy Family's Saint Michael's Center. The regular ticket price is \$5, \$2.50 for students and seniors and \$20.00 for families. We hope to see you there!

10th ANNUAL MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE

The St. Andrew Church Choir will be holding their 10th Annual Multi-Family Tag Sale on Saturday, April 21st, from 8:30am – 2:00pm in the Church Hall. All proceeds from the Tag Sale will benefit the local Food & Fuel Banks and the Colchester Free Community Lunch Program. If you have any items that you would like to donate to this worthwhile event, all donations will be accepted on **Friday, April 20th** from 1:00-7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

There is also room for up to 20 families to reserve a space to sell their own tag sale items. The cost is \$20.00 for two (2) six foot tables. Set up will be on Friday, April 20th from 1:00pm – 7:00pm.

For table rental and donation information, please contact Carol at 860-303-1842

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Items needed for the Easter Food Baskets Program are listed below.

- **Canned fruit in juice, such as fruit cocktail, peaches, mandarin oranges, pineapple chunks**
- **Marshmallow fluff, 16 oz.**
- **Strawberry or grape jam**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors now delivers all food baskets and has asked St. Francis to contribute the above items. Please bring all donations to St. Francis by Sunday March 11.

The Chair of St. Peter

“In ancient Rome, families remembered their dead relatives and friends at a feast during the latter part of February in which an empty chair represented their deceased. Since the early Christians did not know the date of St. Peter’s death, they remembered him with a feast around his empty chair on February 22. Later the Church would see the Chair of St. Peter as a symbol of his authority as the first bishop of Rome and Antioch. It was to Peter that Jesus said ‘I have prayed for you, Peter, that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned to me, you must strengthen the faith of your brothers and sisters.’”
From The Book of Saints by Victor Hoagland, C.P., The Regina Press.