

**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 March 10, 2018 Lenten Weekday**

5:00 PM Eugene Grecki req. by his wife

**Sunday, March 11, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM For the recorded intention in the book near the altar

10:30 AM For the souls in Purgatory

**Monday, March 12, 2018 Lenten Weekday**

NO MASS

**Tuesday March 13, 2018 Lenten Weekday**

NO MASS

**Wednesday March 14, 2018 Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM Living & Deceased members of the Redick family

Req. by the family

**Thursday March 15, 2018 Lenten Weekday**

NO MASS

**Friday March 16, 2018 Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the Blackburn family

Req. Mackie

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

**Saturday March 17, 2018 St. Patrick, bishop**

5:00 PM Michael L. Ledek req. by the Lavin family

**Sunday, March 18, 2018 Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM Emil & Erma Kuzel req. by Norm & Ella Mae Kuzel

10:30 AM Janet Gagnon req. by her family

Offertory: \$ 2,311.00 Extraordinary: \$ 607.00

Next weekend's second collection is for building maintenance.

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 Meet & Greet after 8am Mass  
Sunday March 18*
- ❖ *Confessions Monday March 19 6-7pm*
- ❖ *Ladies Guild Monday March 19 6:30pm*

**Weekend March 17 & 18**

5:00pm Lector: Bob Nejako

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Grace & Genevieve Gardella

8:00am Lector: Jim Dyer

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Sarah & Ryan Dungan

10:30am Lector: Roger Proulx

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Michael

Altar Servers: Drew Taylor & 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

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Miles N. Snelgrove USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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. James Sucholet, Rev. Bogdan Olzacki OSPPE, Rev. Gregoire Fluet, Rev. Russell Kennedy, Rev. V. Antony Alaharasan, V. Rev. Dennis Perkins, V. Rev. Gregory Galvin, Rev. Thomas Hoar SSE, Rev. Thomas Griffin, Rev. John Welch MS. We also pray for those priests who have left the ministry.  
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)

**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.

**Blood Drive – Wednesday March 14 – 1pm – 6pm**

**Lebanon Senior Center Community Room**

**For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
or call 1.800.733.2767**



**An Ecumenical Community Prayer Service for Lent** will be held on Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> (Snow date March 20<sup>th</sup>), 12:45p.m. At the Lebanon Senior Center.

The event is sponsored by the Lebanon Ecumenical Clergy and Franklin Congregational Church. There is no evening service.



### Annual Layette Program

The Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will hold its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Layette Program on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 2 PM, at Christ the King Church, 1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme. All women of the Diocese are welcome to attend. We are collecting **new** baby items such as baby clothes from Newborn to Toddler 3T, as well as blankets, diapers, etc. The collection box will be located at the side entrance, till after the 1030 mass on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Baby items are greatly needed by our Norwich Diocese families and will be donated to Catholic Charities to distribute. Representatives of Catholic Charities will be in attendance to gratefully accept our donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Sandra Spedaliere Committee Chair person

### Junk in Your Trunk



### Ladies Guild JUNK IN THE TRUNK SALE

Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rear parking lot

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

Rent a parking space and sell your treasures out of your trunk or bring a table.

NOW ACCEPTING BOOKINGS

SPACE MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

Contact Estelle to book a space!

(Deadline: April 16)

@ 860-420-7221 or [estelle7moodus@yahoo.com](mailto:estelle7moodus@yahoo.com)

\$20 for a single (8'W x 16'L) space; \$30 for a double (17'W x 16'L) space

*(Cars, vans, pickups only: no trailers allowed - All vehicles must fit in the space provided)*

### Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center

31 Colton Street, Farmington, CT

For more info or to register call 860.677.8519

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

Retreat for Women: Make me an Instrument of Your Peace

March 9-11 April 6-8 April 13-15

**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 new spiritual event: A Marian Day of Recollection with Fr. Francis J. Peffley on Saturday, November 25th.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS - THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

- ✓ **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** every Tuesday at 2 PM Spiritual Renewal Center, 11 Bath Street, Norwich (860-887-0702).
- ✓ **Healing Mass at 2pm** Monday's March 12 and 26, Spiritual Renewal Center 11 Bath Street, Norwich
- ✓ **8 Weeks Life in the Spirit Seminar** March 12 - April 23rd, 7-8:30pm Spiritual Renewal Center, Norwich Leaders Fr. Ray Introvigne and Mrs. Judith Hughes More Info call [860-887-0702](tel:860-887-0702)
- ✓ **Are you separated or divorced and in need of support? The Church is here to help.** The Catholic Family Services Office is sponsoring a Divorce Healing Program entitled **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide**. This is a 12-session DVD ministry program with expertise from Catholic psychologists, theologians and spiritual directors. It is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. The group will meet from 7-8:30 P.M. the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning April 9 through September 24 at St. Matthew Church, 111 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT. Registration is required. To register, call Catholic Family Services, 860-848-2237, ext. 306.
- ✓ **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! Registration forms available at Church entrances. Deadline for registration is March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ **28<sup>th</sup> Annual White Mass for Healthcare Workers & Caregivers** Sunday, April 15 at 9am in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick. Brunch to follow in the Cathedral Auditorium. Featuring Sr. Rita Johnson, S.S.M.N.D. who will deliver the David P. Lauer, M.D. & Joan M. Lauer, B.S.N. lecture. A donation of \$25 per person is requested. For more information, to make a reservation, or to reserve table, please call 8560.88.9294, ext. 100.

### 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](tel:860-456-0474) by March 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

860.760.9705 [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://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](http://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:** April 20-22, & June 1-3

**Catholic Charities "Evening of Hope"** Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at Mystic Aquarium 6:30pm Silent Auction & Dinner Tickets are \$100; \$125 after April 1<sup>st</sup> Recipients of the 2018 awards are: Humanitarian of the Year: Christopher A. Lipinski, Ph.D. ~ Our Heritage: Jane Leger ~ Community Servants of the Year: Middletown Advisory Board ~ Employee of the Year: Cynthia Mageski Contact: Christine Jackel, Development Coordinator [cjackel@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:cjackel@norwichdiocese.net) or 860.886.1928 x12

### **Bishop Daniel P. Reilly's 90th Birthday, May 2018**

The Knights of Columbus in Worcester, Mass are honoring Bishop Reilly and combing a Fundraiser for the Health Care Facility (Notre Dame Health Care Facility), Where he is a resident. A luncheon will be held in his honor on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 12noon at St. John High School, 378 Main Street, Shrewsbury, Mass. Tickets are \$45 per person. Please send any ticket request with a stamped envelope and money to: Bishop Reilly 90th Celebration, 206 Quinsigmond Avenue, Shrewsbury, Mass 01545 "If you plan to come, please order early as we are expecting a grateful attendance!" Any questions call Fr. Ray Introvigne at [1-860-887-0702](tel:1-860-887-0702)

### **10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE**

The St. Andrew Church Choir will be holding their 10<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm – 7:00pm. For table rental and donation information, please contact Carol at 860-303-1842

### **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

**Reliance House, Inc.** 40 Broadway, Norwich [Description](#) Reliance House was opened in 1975. It is dedicated to providing high quality and culturally diverse behavioral health services to adults aged 18 and over. These persons suffer from severe prolonged mental illnesses and issues of homelessness and they meet the targeted population of the Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services. Reliance House serves over 1000 people who suffer from mental illness and approximately 90 people who are homeless. 100% of our members are at or below poverty level. **Amount awarded in 2017 - \$1,500.00**

**St. Vincent de Paul Place** 617 Main Street, Middletown, [Description](#) St. Vincent de Paul Place was founded in 1980 as a ministry of the Dioceses of Norwich to meet the needs of the poor and homeless in Greater Middletown. St. Vincent de Paul Place Soup Kitchen served 92,985 meals to 1,075 different people in the past year, and connects hundreds of people to basic support services and emergency funds through our Community Assistance Program. The Amazing Grace Food Pantry feeds more than 990 families per month and the Supportive Housing Program allows 79 formerly, chronically homeless individuals and disabilities and addiction to live successfully in their own apartment. The Assistant Director for Community Services (ADCS) referred 40 guests who needed detoxification and/or emergency room help. Their Community Assistance Coordinator (CAC) links guests with emergency funds and/or housing opportunities when appropriate. **Amount awarded in 2017 - \$3,000.00**

**St. Vincent de Paul Place** 120 Cliff Street, Norwich [Description:](#) In 2016 the food pantry was open 153 days, and provided food bags to families for preparation at home. Over 1,411 households from 23 towns in eastern Connecticut obtained food, visiting the pantry 12,878 times. The households included over 3,735 unduplicated individuals including 1,195 children. Over 397,375 meals were distributed which represents a 32% increase from the year before. In 2016 the kitchen operated 315 day, preparing and serving an average of 239 meals per day, for over 74,900 meals. The Care and Advocacy program fosters the well-being of their patrons. They offer a shower and hygiene supplies, clothing, and bus tickets, as well as phone, fax, mail, and computer access. They are requesting \$5,000 to fund overall operation of ministering those who hunger. **Amount awarded in 2017 - \$3,000.00**

### THE PRACTICE OF COVERING

#### CROSSES AND IMAGES



Until recent time it was customary to veil prominent statues and crucifixes in church with a purple cloth as a sign of sadness and mourning. In some churches, beginning around 900, one large cloth was hung between the people and the altar from the beginning of Lent. This was done to hide the heavenly glory depicted by statues of saints and crosses with the figure of the triumphant Christ. This custom came to symbolize the exclusion of all sinners from the altar just as public sinners were excluded. Since the 1600's, this veiling was limited to Passiontide, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent, originally called "Passion Sunday". On that Sunday (today only in Cycle B), the final words of the Gospel are: "At that they picked up rocks to throw at Jesus, but He hid Himself and slipped out of the temple precincts" (J. 8:59).

Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.



### **75<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**Did you receive the mailing sent in January?** *We are aware that some parishioners did not get their mailing. If you did not, there are additional donation forms and return envelopes at the entrances.*

*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***

#### **COMMEMORATIVE BOOK**

**In order to be listed in the commemorative book, donations must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thank you to those who have already donated.**

**Attention: Lectors, Ushers, Eucharist Ministers, Altar Servers, Religious Ed Teachers/Assistants, Greeters, Money Counters**

In the Sacristy are lists of names, please review to make sure you are in the correct ministry and that your name is spelled correctly. These will be put in the commemorative book as listed.

#### **MARCH FOR MERCY- WELCOMING FAMILIES**

Join us for the March for Mercy at St. Joseph's in Willimantic for the March for Mercy on March 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am – 2pm. Families are welcome to join us as we strengthen our Love for God and his people through overcoming discrimination and racism. Families will learn about the topic of love and inclusivity, march through Willimantic with promoting God's Love for all, and rally with national speaker Vince Nims. Participants are asked to register in advance, the cost is \$10 per person and \$25 for a family of 3 or more. Registrations can be received by calling (860)848-2237 ex. 305 or email Liza Roach at [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net)

**St. Mary – St. Joseph School in Willimantic Open House on Wed. March 14 7:00am – 7:00 pm and Thurs. March 15 7:00am – 5:00pm.** Stop by to learn more about the amazing programs we offer students in Pre-Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. To enroll in Pre-Kindergarten, a student must be age 3 by August 31. Offer before & after school programs including arts & crafts, band, computer coding, drama & sports. Visit [www.smsjschool.org](http://www.smsjschool.org) Facebook page at St Mary St Joseph School or call 860.423.8479.

**On March 23rd and 24th, 2018 (Palm Sunday Weekend), St Andrew Church, Colchester, will once again present the thirteenth production of the Life and Passion of Our Lord.**

The play is performed Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 with doors opening at 7. There is no charge for admission; however, tickets are required since seating is limited to the capacity of St. Andrew Church located at 128 Norwich Ave. In order to help defray the costs of presenting the play, a free-will offering is appreciated. Tickets may be reserved by calling Teresa Dziatko at 860-295-8315. They are also available at Merciful Savoir gift shop in Colchester, The Colchester Florist, and The Church Rectory.

**My Father's House Eucharist Retreat** from Saturday April 28 to Sunday April 29. **A retreat full of fiery preaching, anointed music, & powerful prayer!**

**Presented by Rocco Fortunato**, Catholic Speaker and Evangelist. Founder of Spread the Blaze & guest speaker on Catholic Radio.

For more information visit [www.spreadtheblaze.com](http://www.spreadtheblaze.com)

This weekend, we ask for your commitment to the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal, **"Standing Together to Build the Future"**. Think about several of the significant occasions in life when we stand...at the Baptism of a baby, at a wedding when the bride enters, when hands are laid upon us at our Confirmation, and at Mass to profess our faith. Standing with others as Disciples of Christ to help others throughout our communities is another important time...a time to rise to make a difference. Your gift to the ACA can help transform lives...allowing our Diocesan ministries to reach out and help make a brighter future for others. Please pledge generously today to help others stand and begin building their futures.

You may also visit [www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org](http://www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org) to make your pledge to the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal.

#### **Defending Our Religious Liberty Mar. 4, 2018**

Earlier this year, the Trump administration took the historic step of creating an entire division dedicated to protecting conscience and religious freedom. Over 20 laws to protect religious freedom that were being ignored will now be followed. This action in changing the HHS mandate will help protect the religious liberty of the Catholic Church.

#### **Defending Our Religious Liberty Mar. 11, 2018**

Recently, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has actively defended religious liberty in court. For example, the solicitor general supported Jack Phillips, the custom-cake baker, by arguing that freedom of expression for ourselves requires freedom of expression for others. Also, when the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) rejected a bus advertisement from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., because it was religious, DOJ attorneys filed a brief objecting to WMATA's religious discrimination. Legal motions like these are much-needed steps toward safeguarding religious liberty.