



St. Francis Xavier Parish

February 12, 2017
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 CHESTNUT LAND ROAD
NEW MILFORD, CT 06776
860-354-2202

Web Site: www.sfxnewmilford.org
Email: sfxparish@sfxnewmilford.org
Office Hours: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Mon. - Thurs. (Closed on Friday)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Joseph Lorenzo, OFM, Pastor
FrJoe@sfxnewmilford.org

Br. Courtland Campbell, OFM
Pastoral Associate
BrCourtland@sfxnewmilford.org

Deacon Roland Miller
DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Doreen Gray, Administrative Assistant
DGray@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro
St. Francis Cemetery/Finance Office
JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org
860-350-6753

FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Mary Vannucci,
Coordinator Gr. K - 5
MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org

Sue Pullen, Coordinator Gr. 6 - 12
Edge (Gr. 6 - 8), LifeTeen (Gr. 9-12)
& Confirmation
SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org

Chris Grenier, Administrative
Assistant to Faith Formation
CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org

HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director
HolyInfant@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-7284

Mailing Address & Office Location

1 Elm Street
New Milford, CT 06776

Fax # 860-355-9485



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday at 7:30, 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. (Life Teen)

Wednesday, Friday at 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

SACRAMENTS CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

BAPTISMS

Call Parish Office - 860-354-2202.

MARRIAGES

Contact the priest 1 year in advance.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

The parish clergy and Ministers of Holy Communion visit New Milford Hospital, Candlewood Valley Health & Rehab, Village Crest Center for Health & Rehab and some homebound regularly. For other specific visits, please contact the Parish Office.

WELCOME

We are glad you are here.
If you would like to join the parish, please call the parish office.



St. Francis sends a final farewell to our dearly departed: Gloria A. Barry

SATURDAY VIGIL - February 11

5:00 P.M. +John MacInnis
Req. by Dr. David & Nancy Lynch & Family

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - February 12

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier & The Immaculate Conception Province
10:00 A.M. +Jack McPartland
Req. by His Family
5:00 P.M. +Julia Kandefer
Req. by The Kersten Family

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - February 13

TUESDAY - February 14

6:30 P.M. +Deceased Family and Friends
Req. by The Alvarez Family

WEDNESDAY - February 15

8:00 A.M. +Alice Germano
Req. by The Kersten Family

THURSDAY - February 16

6:30 P.M. +Mary Lou Schnell
Req. by Frank & Erin DeCapua

FRIDAY - February 17

8:00 A.M. +Maggie Rose Trumpfeller
Req. by The Trezza Family

SATURDAY VIGIL - February 18

5:00 P.M. +Ralph Trapanese (16th Anniversary)
Req. by Linda & Bill Kamp

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - February 19

7:30 A.M. +Robert Bria
Req. by Tom Fogarty
10:00 A.M. +Martha E. Lalak
Req. by The Lalak Family
5:00 P.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier & The Immaculate Conception Province

RACHEL'S VINEYARD for healing after abortion - If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend March 3-5, 2017 in Litchfield, CT. The weekend healing process includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is totally confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Both women and men have participated in past retreats and have ranged in age from teens to mid-eighties. The fee for the weekend is \$175.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Scholarships are available. Contact Marie at 203-631-9030 or mlaffin@prolifeministry.org, or visit our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Statement Regarding the Executive Order on Refugees and Migrants

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair affirms the January 27 statement made in Washington, D.C., by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that the Bishops "believe in assisting all those who are vulnerable and fleeing persecution, regardless of their religion... welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope."

The social teaching of the Catholic Church has long given consideration to the issue of immigration based on fundamental moral principles that flow from both faith and reason.

"What are some of those principles?" Archbishop Blair asked in an article published in 2014, "For one," he wrote, "people have a right to a decent life in their own homeland so that they don't have to leave; but if that fails, people also have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families, just as so many of our ancestors did. Another principle is the rule of law and the right that sovereign nations like the United States have to control their own borders, but this does not abolish the duty every country has not only to grant asylum to the persecuted and to war refugees, but also to respect the basic human dignity and human rights of every immigrant... As good Catholics and good citizens, let us make a positive, informed and morally principled contribution to the national debate."

ITEMS FOR THE MISSIONS: If you have any of the following items: rosaries, prayer cards, medals, small religious books, Bibles, etc, to send to the missions, please contact Judy at 860-354-7254.

Sponsored by our Knights of Columbus Every Monday night VFW Hall (Avery Road, New Milford) Doors open at 5:45 p.m. -BINGO begins at 6:30 p.m. BINGO logo

Retreat Day for Parish Ministers - "You Can't Pour from an Empty Cup" Fri, 3/31 or Sat, 4/ 1, from 8:30 am- 12:00 noon at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield. Keynote: Dr. Jo Ann Paradise (Our Sunday Visitor). Free, but you must register by 3/17. Call 860-242-5573 ext 2677. For DREs, Youth Ministers, RCIA Coordinators, Volunteers.

ONLINE GIVING - St. Francis offers the opportunity to give your weekly donations through online giving. Please go to our website: sfxnewmilford.org and follow the links to set up your personal account.

Please note: If you used online giving during 2016 with automatic donations, **you must reinitiate your account for 2017** (you will not have to do this again next year). Please call us if you have any questions.

New Parish App! St. Francis Xavier Parish has our own app for iPhone and Android smart phones. This will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates. It will be a great resource by providing daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins and more. We hope for our new app to be a tool for fostering stronger parish life at St. Francis Xavier and better engaging the New Evangelization.

There will be no need for parishioners with smart phones to remember to silence their phones before Mass. The app will send you a reminder to silence your phone 20 minutes before the Mass you select. So, be sure to download the app today by visiting myparishapp.com or searching for myparish on your phone's app store or text **App** to 88202 to download the app, and then select St. Francis after opening. Stay connected with us all week.

Seeking Job Opportunities

The New Milford Refugee Resettlement group, a volunteer interfaith organization that is sponsoring a wonderful family of six from the Congo, is in the process of seeking job opportunities for the parents. They are fully legal to work. Though skilled and educated they currently speak only French and Swahili, a language barrier that may somewhat limit their prospects. They are in the process of receiving intensive English. These wonderful people are very motivated and open to any type of employment. Any job would have to be near the bus route. Contact: dswifta0902@sbcglobal.net to help.

The **Women's Guild meeting** on Tuesday, February 14th has been CANCELLED, we'll be having lunch at Italia Mia on Saturday, February 18th at 12:30PM instead. The next Women's Guild meeting will be Tuesday, March 14th in the Church Hall at 7PM. All women of the Parish are invited. For further information, contact Ellen Cote, (860) 354-5883 or ebcote@yahoo.com.

++SACRIFICIAL OFFERING++

OFFERTORY - February 5	= \$4,946.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$272.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$272.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,402.00
Monthly Collection	= \$2,617.00

Is Homeownership Within Your Reach? Habitat for Humanity has an answer. Four main qualifications: Live or work in our immediate area, household income between \$50,000 and \$70,000, demonstrate a need for affordable housing and fulfill 250 hours of "sweat" equity, including financial literacy training. Free Information: Thurs., Feb. 16 at 7:00 p.m. at New Milford Town Hall or Sat., Feb. 18 at 3:00 p.m. at JC Penney Court in Danbury Fair Mall. For more info or application: info@housatonichabitat.org or call 203-744-1340.

Called to be a Permanent Deacon?

Diaconate Formation Pre-Application Program from the Archdiocese of Hartford -If you are interested in applying for the Diaconate Formation program you must attend two information sessions. If you are married, your spouse must also attend. Diaconate Formation encompasses vocational, human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral dimensions. All sessions will be held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. Sunday, March 12 & 19, 1:30—3:00 p.m. To register please call the Office of Diaconate at (860) 242-5573 ext 7447 or email mary.ellen.horan@aohct.org.

Donation Tax Statements are available for those who use our envelope system. Please call Doreen at 860-354-2202 or email DGray@sfxnewmilford.org.

WE NEED LITURGICAL MINISTERS!

Please, please consider assisting us in these liturgical ministries. It would be so great to have a full complement of ministers on the altar at ALL our Masses. Thanks for considering this. If you feel you will be able to assist us, please fill in the form below in this bulletin, detach it, and turn it into the parish office or place it in the collection. You will be contacted in the future for training.

Ministry Sign-Up Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Requested Ministry:

(Please check as many as you would like)

- Youth Altar Server Reader/Lector*
- Eucharistic Minister* Master of Ceremonies

*To be a Reader or Eucharistic Minister, you must be a Catholic in good standing and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.



LIFE TEEN MASS
Every Sunday
5:00 P.M.

LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT: is this Sun., Feb. 12th following the 5:00pm Mass. Please attend Mass first then join us for “A Friend Indeed”. Dinner will be served, bring a dessert to share. Call or email Sue P. and let her know you’ll be coming. Thanks.

NEW NEWS: This Lenten season we will be selling **Luminaries for lighting at the Easter Vigil in memory or honor of a loved one(s).** The bags are purple with a cross cutout. The price for a Luminary is \$10. Half the proceeds will go to our Youth Ministry program here at St. Francis Xavier and the other half will go to SavetheStork.com. You may purchase after all the Masses beginning March 4th or at the Parish office. Please call Sue P. with questions. Thanks and God bless!

CONFIRMATION YEAR TWO:

The date for the Confirmation ceremony is:
 Saturday, June 3rd.

Steubenville: We will be attending Steubenville the weekend of **July 21 – 23, 2017** at St. John’s University in New York City. Steubenville is open to all high school age teens and those who will have completed the 8th grade. Our fund raising efforts have begun. Please call Sue Pullen at 860-354-5372 with questions. An email regarding payment was sent for those registered to attend.

CANCELLATION POLICY: 2016-2017: In case of inclement weather the following policy will be in place for delays/cancellations of Parish activities:

If school is cancelled, all Parish functions are cancelled **INCLUDING DAILY MASS.** For grades K-10, each class will be allowed one snow day for the year. The lesson missed in class is to be completed at home. We will notify you if it becomes necessary to makeup additional snow days.

If school is delayed (e.g. two hours), afternoon functions such as Faith Formation classes, evening meetings/events will still take place at their regular time.

This policy does not effect Sunday Masses or Masses on Holy Days of Obligation. MASS will always be at the regularly scheduled time. Please use your discretion in inclement weather.

For information about school closings and delays, please check our website at www.sfxnewmilford.org or watch WFSB news stations. “Like” St. Francis Xavier Parish on Facebook to receive notifications and cancellations.

Faith Formation 860-354-5372

CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Mon., Feb. 13th Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm
 Mon., Feb. 13th grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm
 Tues., Feb. 14th grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm
 Wed., Feb. 15th Confirmation year 2 3:00-4:30pm
 Wed., Feb. 15th Confirmation year 1&2 6:30-8:00pm

CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

*NO Tues. NES classes due to Winter recess; Tues. NES classes will be held next week
 Wed., Feb. 22nd SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm
 Thurs., Feb. 23rd SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th grades K-5 11:30am-1:00pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th Confirmation year 1&2 11:30am-1:00pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th grades 6-8 2:45-4:15pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th Confirmation year 1&2 2:45-4:15pm

RECONCILIATION REMINDER: the date for the First Reconciliation celebration is Sat., Feb. 25th at 10:00am in the Church. Please arrive by 9:45am as the ceremony will begin on time. Keep practicing the procedure for Reconciliation and always pray every day with your child. Any questions call Mary V. in the office at 860-354-5372.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY: Join us on Sat., March 4th at the 5:00pm Mass. After the opening prayer all the children in grades kindergarten – grade 5 will be invited to hear the Liturgy of the Word with teen and adult leaders in the Church Hall. The children will return to their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist after the petitions. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to hear the Gospel and its meaning in words they understand. Any questions please call Mary Vannucci at the Faith Formation office.

SNACKS: **APPLE JUICE** and goldfish, cheese its, pretzels, animal crackers or cookies are needed for our Faith Formation program. These donations may be left in the Church hall or brought to the School building. This is for use for ALL (grades K-10) Sunday – Thursday classes, thanks.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED: for all grades levels Sunday – Thursday. Please let us know by calling the office if you would like to be a substitute for any of our classes offered.

OFFICE CLOSED: on Mon., Feb. 20th for President’s Day. We will reopen Tue., Feb. 21st at 9:00am.

What Your Pastor Won't tell you about parish giving

"Our parishes are getting by on too little from too few, but it wouldn't take much to change that."

By Joanne McPortlandIt (Reprinted with permission from aletheia.org)

It's that time of year. Your new set of Sunday offering envelopes arrives in the mail, or you pick up the box after Mass. Maybe you're still hearing echoes of last fall's pleas for a renewed commitment to weekly parish giving. Or your parish is beginning the pledge process for the annual diocesan collection. Registration opens for next fall's Catholic school classes. You might catch yourself grumbling, "Money! Money! Money! That's all Father ever talks about!"

Here's a secret: Father dreads this even more than you do. And another secret: Whether it's once or twice a year (which is standard) or more frequently (when driven by dire necessity), chances are that if Father has to mention money at all, he's not talking about it nearly often enough.

Think about that first part. Your pastor is living out his priestly vocation to preach the Gospel, minister the sacraments, and bring people to Christ. Unless his was a late-in-life calling from the business world, it's unlikely that he was ever trained in the branch management of a good-sized non-profit corporation, which is the equivalent of the pastor's secular responsibilities. Your average diocesan priest hates talking about money even more than you hate hearing about it.

Fortunately, your pastor probably has more support to draw on now than pastors had in your parents' or grandparents' day. Diocesan stewardship offices provide guidance and resources, and many parishes have finance committees or parish councils with members who have business and finance backgrounds. Pastors have more help making wise financial decisions.

But here's something that hasn't changed in generations – and it's the reason Father can't talk about money enough. The average share of our income that we U.S. Catholics give to our Church (including not just weekly parish giving, but special collections and other Church-related charities) is a mere 1% – the same as it's been as long as anyone's been counting.

That's the lowest percentage of giving of any major religious denomination in the United States.

The truth is that fewer than 1 in 3 Americans who identify themselves as Catholic attend Mass on a "regular" basis (defined as at least once a month). And of those regular attendees, only 30% give to the support of their parish. Of those, many are likely to toss the same 2 or 3 crumpled dollar bills into the collection basket as their parents did before them. And this in a time when just keeping the lights on, the boiler heated up, the organ in tune, and the parking lot free of potholes costs more than ever.

Nobody wants to talk about the basic operating costs of a parish, but if they aren't met there is no place for the community to worship, no support for the many ministries and outreach efforts that make a parish so much more than a building. Father hates having to nickel-and-dime the congregation from the pulpit. But when so few of us have any real notion of or commitment to real parish stewardship, he often has no choice. That term, stewardship, has become more familiar in recent years, as Catholics are called to a more integrated, conscious discipleship. In parishes where real attitudes and practices of stewardship have taken hold, there's a relatively seamless and widely shared commitment of time, talent, and treasure. It shows up in higher attendance levels, successful evangelization, and well-funded parish ministries. It also shows up in Father not having to talk about money all the time.

Too often, though, pastors get such blowback from parishioners about pushing the "treasure" element of stewardship that parishes settle for commitments of time and talent by the same small group of people who always volunteered them anyway. And because time and talent do not substitute for treasure, poor Father is back to nickel-and-dime. It makes parish giving, which should be a grateful response to God's gifts and a regular part of Catholic discipleship, feel like being hounded to pay an overdue cable bill. That's not pleasant for anyone!

So the hard truth is that our parishes are getting by on too little from too few. (That's especially a problem, paradoxically enough, in our largest parishes, maybe because everybody figures everyone else must be giving.) The good news is that it wouldn't take much from each of us to change that. Here are some things to consider as the new year begins.

Give consciously. Write your parish into your family budget. Whether it's on a yearly, monthly, or weekly basis, make your parish offering a line item. Planning ahead will keep you from resorting to digging in your pockets for spare change as the collection basket comes by. Using weekly offering envelopes or participating in an online giving program, if your parish offers one, are two good ways to make your giving conscious.

Give off the top. When determining how much to give our parish, many of us look to what's left over after other obligations have been met. We give out of scarcity and fear, rather than gratitude. Try (at least for a few weeks or months) putting your relationship with God and his people first. Whatever we have we owe to God's generosity.

Give more than you think you can. People sometimes ask about whether there's a biblical standard. The tithe, or one-tenth of one's wealth or income, is often mentioned in the Bible, and many Christians today aim for a 10% level of annual giving divided among church and charities. (Parish giving, though tax-deductible, is not charity for Catholics. It's a precept, a joyful obligation.) But Jesus told his rich follower to sell all that he had and give it to the poor – 100%! He praised the poor widow who gave her last two coins to the Temple. In your prayerful consideration, strike a balance between 1% and 100% — pledge to give what you really can and maybe a little more, and to give it gladly and regularly. Don't compare yourself to others; your giving is a covenant between you and your family and God, and God is never outdone in generosity.

Give yourself. Consider ways to be more involved in the life of your parish this year. See your gifts at work in the various ministries. Explore new ways to use your time and talents in the service of others, not as a substitute for financial support, but as a way of living what that support symbolizes.

It would take very little, in practice, to move that 1% of annual income level of giving to 2%. For most people, that's the weekly equivalent of a couple of large lattes or a gallon or two of gas. What could your parish do with twice as much financial support every week? And it wouldn't take much to make it 2 out of 3, or even 3 out of 3, who give regularly.

You can make that difference, starting now. And then maybe you and Father can both stop dreading this time of year.