



St. Francis Xavier Parish

February 26, 2017
Eighth 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

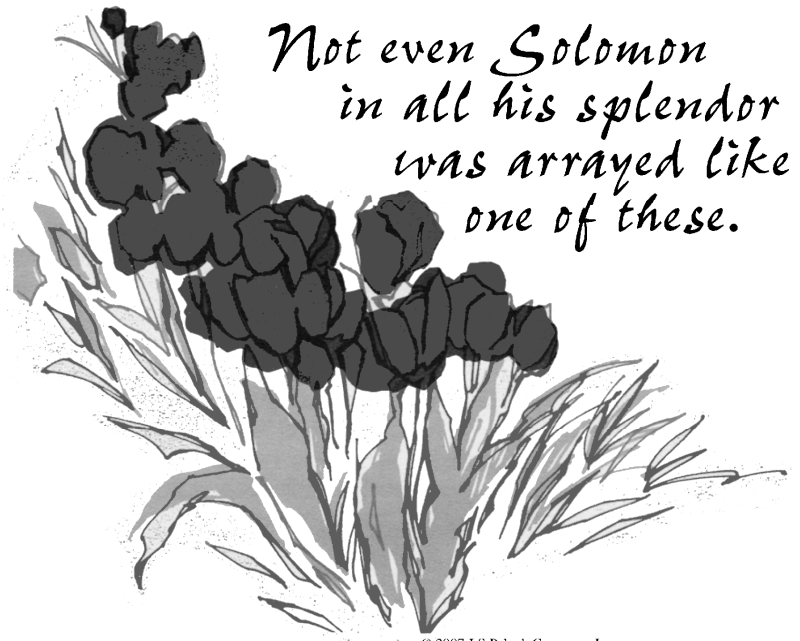
HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

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.



SATURDAY VIGIL - February 25

5:00 P.M. +John J. Haran, Sr.
Req. by Jo DeCosa

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - February 26

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
The Immaculate Conception Province

10:00 A.M. +Ave, Nancy & Peter Pelletreau
Req. by Ave Murphy

5:00 P.M. +Ted Brinkofski
Req. by Kathy & Jack Healy

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - February 27

TUESDAY - February 28

6:30 P.M. +Anna Funaro
Req. by The Lalak Family

WEDNESDAY - March 1 -ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00 A.M. +Bishop Gerald Scarpone, OFM
Req. by Fr. Joe

4:00 P.M. Communion Service with Ashes

6:30 P.M. +George Allingham
Req. by The Reynolds Family

THURSDAY - March 2

6:30 P.M. +Karen Monaghan
Req. by Friends at ABC

FRIDAY - March 3

8:00 A.M. +Joshua Adams
Req. by Paul & Chris Bourdeau

SATURDAY VIGIL - March 4

5:00 P.M. +Jeanne Lahiff
Req. by Kathy & Jack Healy

First Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY - March 5

7:30 A.M. +Patrick Kersten
Req. by Adrienne Coppola

10:00 A.M. +Muriel Moreau
Req. by Carmine & Josephine Buono

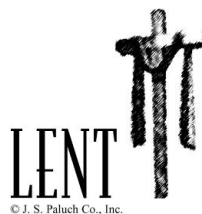
5:00 P.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
The Immaculate Conception Province

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.

Ash Wednesday Schedule:
Wednesday, March 1st

Mass with Ash Distribution:
8:00 am & 6:30 pm

Service with Distribution of Ashes:
4:00 pm



Confessions:

Every Monday 6 - 7 pm
Every Saturday 4 - 4:45 pm

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday 7 pm

LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be open on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Lenten Confessions. For more information visit: Lightforyou.today.

CHURCH REGULATIONS ON FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Fridays in Lent- Days of Abstinence

On days of abstinence, meat may not be eaten at all. This also includes items made from meat, like gravies and soups. Catholics 14 years of age or older are bound to abstinence on Fridays in Lent, and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. REMEMBER: THERE IS NO UPPER AGE LIMIT ON ABSTINENCE. You are not excused from abstaining from meat if you have reached a certain age. However, those who have health issues which prevent them from abstaining from meat on these days should seek other forms of penance.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY ARE DAYS OF ABSTINENCE AND FASTING. Fasting and abstinence are not the same. Fasting is different than abstinence. Fasting means one full meal, two light meals, with no eating in between meals.

Catholics from 18 to 59 are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those who have health issues may find other means of penance if fasting is impossible.

“I Phone Fast! Will u?”

For the first time ever, the Archdiocese of Hartford is inviting people to “fast” from using cell phones on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, and Good Friday, April 14th, in an initiative called: “I Phone Fast!”

Silencing our busy phones, gives God a chance to call our hearts. Please consider including this practice in addition to fasting from food, almsgiving and prayer, which are traditional disciplines by which the Church observes Lent. Visit: archdioceseofhartford.org.


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.

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, and Volunteers.

<p>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.</p>	
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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.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION will be our regular Monthly Collection used to offset the cost of utilities.



OFFERTORY - February 19	= \$5,432.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$299.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$299.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,834.00

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.

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.

More information regarding the next Life Teen Life Night in next weeks bulletin.

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 ceremony is: Saturday, June 3rd.

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.

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:

Sun., Feb. 26th grades K-5 11:30am-1:00pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th Confirm year 1&2 11:30am-1:00pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th grades 6,7&8 2:45-4:15pm
 Sun., Feb. 26th Confirmation year 1&2 2:45-4:15pm
 Mon., Feb. 27th Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm
 Mon., Feb. 27th grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm
 *Tues., Feb. 28th NES grades 1&2 3:30-5:00pm
 *busing as usual (class from last's week Winter recess)

Tues., Feb. 28th grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm

Wed., Mar. 1st Confirmation year 1 & 2 - please attend Ash Wednesday Services at Church with your family. Masses at 8am & 6:30pm; Service at 4pm. ; as per your schedule.

CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

**Tues., Mar. 7th NES grades 1&2 3:30-5:00pm

**Child Lures will be presented during regular class time

Wed., Mar. 8th SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm

***Thurs., Mar. 9th SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5pm

***Child Lures will be presented during regular class

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER FRIEND

MASS: Please attend either the Sat., Mar. 4th 5:00pm or Sun., Mar. 5th at 7:30am, 10:00am or 5:00pm Mass. All third graders will give their "Prayer Friend" booklets to parishioners of St. Francis – details were explained at the parent meeting in Jan. Any questions please call Mary V. in the office 860-354-5372.

5th Grade Mass: The 5th Grade Masses will be Sat., Mar. 11th at 5 pm and Sun., Mar. 12th at 10 am. All 5th graders are asked to participate as either: Lectors, Gift Bearers, Offertory, Greeters or Altar Servers. Please call Mary V. at 860-354-5372 or email her at MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org as to how your child would like to participate and at which Mass.

4th Graders - Children's Stations of the Cross:

If your child would like to participate in the Children's Stations of the Cross on Fri., Mar 31 at 7 pm, please let me know by Mon., Mar. 6. Your child would need to be at the Church at 6 pm to practice with the other children. The parts are: readers, a cross bearer and two candle carriers. Contact Mary Vannucci at 860-354-5372 or email her at MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org.

The View From My Window The Season of Lent



My Window

When I was growing up, Ash Wednesday was a very special day. Since I went to Catholic grade school, we were brought over by class to the church to receive ashes on our foreheads. Our goal as youngsters was to keep the ashes on our foreheads for as long a time as possible. When nightfall would come, my mother would always insist (like any good mother) that I would wash up before I went to bed. This, for her, included the ashes, and I would make every effort to keep the ashes until the next day. Of course, mom always won. She would always tell me that the ashes

weren't as important as doing something penitential for Lent-giving up candy or the movies, giving my allowance to the poor, or some other act of self-denial.

That aspect of Lent hasn't changed. Lent confronts us with the battle between the external and the internal. Very often we, like the scribes and Pharisees, become good at performing the external trappings of our faith, but in turn have difficulties with the internal realities. Witness how many people we see at Mass on Ash Wednesday, which falls on a weekday, no less. I often wonder how many of these people understand why we are receiving ashes. Or how about the crowds that come only on Christmas or Palm Sunday, or Easter. People in church circles refer to them as "CAPE" Catholics. (Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter). How can we reach out to these CAPE Catholics to let them know that we are here on the other 50 Sundays of the year? How can we make them believe that faith and religion can be a positive influence in their lives and the lives of their children and families? How can we impress on them that faith and religion mean entering into a personal relationship with God, a relationship based on love?

I read an article in the newspaper that said that medical researchers have concluded that prayer and religion help a sick person recover. As people of faith, we have long believed this to be true. But the article approached this from a purely scientific point of view. The article said that a doctor's prescription should include "going to church every week." Could science and medicine be reaching the same conclusions that we as Christians and Catholics have believed for centuries? While they wouldn't go so far as saying it was God's intervention that was doing the healing, they did admit that religion was a positive and healthy influence on human lives. In these days of dieting, quitting smoking, working out at the gym, lowering cholesterol, cutting fat, could "Sunday Mass" and "prayer" be another prescription for good health? I would think so. And who knows, it might make all of us (and our CAPE friends) healthier. And it would give us a wonderful fringe benefit when our health finally fails us- ETERNAL LIFE! What could be better than that?

Sometimes the practice of receiving ashes among Catholics in this country (my understanding is that in most other countries, especially European nations, there is a more-balanced view of ashes and Ash Wednesday) becomes more important than the more important aspects of our religion. In fact, for some, receiving ashes borders on superstition. I do not mean that the practice of receiving ashes is superstitious, but when it becomes more important than the Eucharist, the Mass, the sacraments, or seeking to do something penitential during Lent, it certainly borders on that. Some people seem obsessed with receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday that they want ashes distributed 24 hours on that day, at their own convenience, even though it marks the beginning of a time of PENANCE! I have heard the stories of ashes being distributed on the street, in the workplace, in restaurants and even on busses taking people on an excursion to a local casino. Perhaps this does not seem odd to you, but it is inappropriate and diminishes the meaning of Ash Wednesday. Plus, one must conclude that if people cannot get to Mass on Ash Wednesday yet can do such things as work, go out to eat, or even go to a casino or sporting event, there is something wrong with their priorities. If we are in such a hurry on Ash Wednesday to do the things we want to do, what will the rest of Lent look like?

Church regulations are clear that ashes are to be distributed at Masses or during a service and that they must be distributed in a sacred place. There are always exceptions for the sick and shut ins, such as nursing homes and hospitals. Ashes in of themselves are not important- the imposition of ashes is merely a sign of our intentions to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel" during Lent. Like other signs, receiving ashes can be devoid of any meaning if not accompanied by a corresponding effort to be a better person during Lent. If someone receives ashes just because "it is the thing to do," then ashes serve no other purpose than to get our foreheads dirty. If we get ashes to let others know that we are Catholics, then we need to listen to the words of Jesus in the readings on Ash Wednesday, who warns us against doing things for others to see, rather than for the internal spiritual benefit they bring. And this is precisely why the Church wants us to listen to the scripture readings before receiving ashes- so that it does not become for us an empty sign.

Ashes are not magic. They are merely the residue of burnt palms. They do not work wonders or miracles. They will not change our lives one iota. They merely become a reminder to us of the great challenge of Lent that lies before us- so that, at Easter, we can celebrate not only the Resurrection of Christ, but our own resurrection with Him from death.

Fr. Joe