



St. Francis Xavier Parish

April 2, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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



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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

Mondays during Lent 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
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 April 1

5:00 P.M. +Veronica Broderick
Req. by The DeCrescenzo Family

Fifth Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY - April 2

7:30 A.M. +Bernard Kindilien
Req. by Joyce & Stan Wetmore
10:00 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
The Immaculate Conception Province
5:00 P.M. +Francisco & Amada Allen

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - April 3

TUESDAY - April 4

6:30 P.M. +George A. Lalak
Req. by The Lalak Family

WEDNESDAY - April 5

8:00 A.M. For the living and deceased members of
The DeAlessio and Martin Families
Req. by John DeAlessio and Family

THURSDAY - April 6

6:30 P.M. +Martha E. Lalak
Req. by The Lalak Family

FRIDAY - April 7

8:00 A.M. For the living and deceased members of
The DeAlessio and Martin Families
Req. by John DeAlessio and Family

SATURDAY VIGIL - April 8

5:00 P.M. +Robert Gray
Req. by Dave and Nancy Lynch

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord


SUNDAY - April 9


7:30 A.M. +Michael & Roseanne Macri
Req. by Theresa Shepard
10:00 A.M. +Edward & Grace Martini
Req. by Tom & Cathy Valedes
5:00 P.M. +Francis Afra
Req. by The Lee Family


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.



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.

 St. Francis sends a final farewell to our dearly departed:
In Memoriam George Pilch

 The Sanctuary Lamp for the week burns in memory of Mildred Sargeant
Requested in love from Her Family

 The St. Francis Xavier Memorial Window is illuminated this week for Mildred Sargeant
Requested in love from Her Family

Fish Fry Thank You... Thank you! To the many people who attended our Annual Fish Fry! It was a wonderful evening coming together with other parishioners during this Season of Lent.

There were many families who helped cook, set-up and clean-up - thank you to the Zona, Lipari, Ginn, and Fanella families, and to Bill Byrd and Joseph Caruso. A special thank you to Brother Courtland (our King of dishes) and Mary McPartland (our Queen of desserts). And thank you to our Lord for allowing us to have just the right amount of fish. Yes, we sold out of fish! It was a great success. We hope to see you all again next Lent!!

BAKE SALE - This weekend, April 1 & 2, after all the Masses, there will be a Bake Sale sponsored by one of our 4th Grade Faith Formation Classes. They are learning about "Service to Others" and are raising money to aid the new refugee family in New Milford. Stop by the Church Hall and pick up a sweet treat!!

St. Francis Xavier Parish Annual Dinner Dance

Please join us at Fox Hill Inn on Friday, May 5th from 7:00 - 11:00 pm for an enjoyable spring evening of great food, great fellowship, and fun! Tickets will be on sale following the Masses and are \$40 per person. Our evening will include: an hor d'oeuvres hour, a pre-dinner champagne toast followed by a fresh spring salad, and your choice of Filet Mignon, Mahi -Mahi or Chicken Normandy. Dessert and coffee will also be served. One cocktail ticket, soft drinks, and juice are also included with this incredible ticket price (cash bar available). Come dance the night away on the beautiful Fox Hill dance floor and join us to welcome in spring! *(Tickets will also be available in the Parish Office.)*

Wheelchairs - We have acquired two new wheelchairs for church use. If you or someone you know needs a wheelchair in the church, please notify one of the ushers.

We are pleased to announce the ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOLARSHIP 2017
 All high school seniors attending college, community college, trade school, etc. in the Fall of 2017, who are active members of St. Francis Xavier Parish are invited to apply for the St. Francis Xavier Scholarship. Application forms are available in the Parish Office at 1 Elm Street, and must be completed and returned by **Thursday, May 18, 2017**. Also required: 3 letters of recommendation from adults who are non-relatives, one from church, one from school and one from an employer, your high school transcript and response to an essay question. Call the office for info 860-354-2202.

OPEN HOUSE...

Saint Joseph School in Brookfield is holding an Open House on Tuesday, April 4 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. They are located on 5 Obtuse Hill Road in Brookfield. You will have the opportunity to meet their community, visit their classrooms and learn about their curriculum for Grades K - 8. For more information, please call 203-775-2774. There are currently 69 students from New Milford attending St. Joe's. *Mark the date on your calendar now!*

CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 3 at 12 noon in the Church Hall. All women of the parish are invited. A representative from the New Milford Police Department will speak on safety issues and scams. Lunch will follow. Please bring your own sandwich, we'll have dessert and coffee for you.

Reminder: The Annual Confraternity of the Rosary Ladies Retreat will be on June 7th at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Litchfield. More details to come.

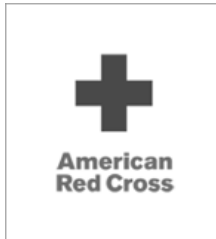
2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal - If you have not yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Your gift will help continue the vital services, ministries and programs that help so many throughout our Archdiocese.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION will benefit: *Peter's Pence*. This collection supports the charitable works of Pope Francis to reach out to the marginalized and suffering around the world. We rely on your help along with our brothers and sisters in faith from around the world to make this campaign successful.



OFFERTORY - March 26	= \$5,362.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$295.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$295.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,772.00

Announcing the Knights Annual State Raffle
 Proceeds are used to fund state scholarships, youth activities, Pro-Life activities and much more. The local proceeds will be donated to the parish youth group. Tickets are \$10 each with 10 prizes totaling \$15,000. Drawing will be held on May 5th. For tickets contact the following knights Francis Gorglione, Frank Greco, Gene Calarco or the Parish Office.



BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, April 8 - 7:45 am to 1:00 pm
 At the New Milford Community Ambulance Training Room, 1 Scoville Road, New Milford.
 For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

(Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #40)

Employment opportunity at St. Francis Xavier

We are looking to fill a part-time maintenance position for our Parish Center at 1 Elm Street. Basic maintenance of building, including grounds. Person should have some knowledge of building maintenance, repairs, etc. Position is part-time, 25 hours a week (flexible), starts after Easter. Please contact Fr. Joe (frjoe@sfxnewmilford.org) or speak to him after Mass if interested.



Monday, April 10

Confessions 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday, April 13

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Our Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 14

12 noon - Faith Walk on the Green
 3:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross
 7:00 p.m. - Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion

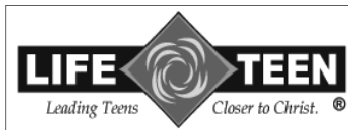
Holy Saturday, April 15

8:00 p.m. - Easter Vigil Mass
 (No Confessions on Holy Saturday)

Easter Sunday, April 16

Masses 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
 (There is NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.)

The **Women's Guild** will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome.



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

The **LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT** "Work the Work; Living the Works of Mercy" is this Sun., April 2nd following the 5pm Mass. ALL High School teens are welcome to join us. Dinner will be served. RSVP to Sue P. at 860-354-5372 or SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT: movie night: The Passion following the 5pm Mass on Palm Sunday, April 9th. A soup and bread supper will be served. Parent pick up is at 9pm. Please let Sue know if you're coming.

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 or at the Parish office. Please call Sue P. with questions. Thanks and God bless!

As per your schedule there will be a SPECIAL MASS for all YEAR 1 & 2 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES held on Sun., April 23rd at the 5:00pm Mass.

CONFIRMATION YEAR TWO: Your mandatory retreat takes place on Sat., Apr. 29th at 1:00 pm at the Parish Center (school building) and ends on Sun., Apr. 30th at 6:00 pm at the Church (following the Mass). A letter was sent home with more details, please call Sue P. if you did NOT receive yours.

CONFIRMATION YEAR TWO: the date for the Confirmation ceremony is: Sat., June 3rd. If your son/daughter is in the Wednesday afternoon or evening classes your Confirmation will be in the morning ceremony (10:00am). Rehearsal for the morning ceremony is Tues., May 30th at 7:15pm. If your son/daughter is in the Sunday classes your Confirmation will be held in the afternoon ceremony (1:00pm). Rehearsal for the afternoon ceremony is Wed., May 31st at 6:30pm. Please bring your sponsor to the rehearsal if possible, if not a parent or guardian MUST stand in. Both rehearsals and ceremonies will take place at the Church. Call Sue P. with questions

JR. YOUTH GROUP: 6TH, 7TH & 8TH graders: We have a service project planned for Fri., Apr. 21st from 6:30-8:30pm at the Parish Center...more details to follow.

Faith Formation 860-354-5372

CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

*Mon., Apr. 3rd Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm
 Class is two weeks in a row due to Easter Monday (offices closed) & this is your LAST CLASS for 16-17
 **Mon., Apr. 3rd grades 6,7 & 8 6:30-8:00pm
 **Class is two weeks in a row due to Easter Monday (offices closed) & this is your LAST CLASS for 16-17
 Tues., Apr. 4th NES grades 1&2 3:30-5:00pm
 Wed., Apr. 5th SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm
 Thurs., Apr. 6th SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm

CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

NO Classes due to Spring Recess!

Please note: The Holy Week schedule is on page 3 of this bulletin.

The Office will be closed on Mon., April 17th.

FIRST COMMUNION CROSS CEREMONY MASS:

All 3rd graders please attend with your parents either Sat., April 1st at 5:00pm or Sun., April 2nd at either 7:30am, 10:00am or 5:00pm. All the First Communion children will be receiving a cross as a gift. Details were discussed at the January meeting. Please call Mary V. with any questions.

REGISTRATION 2017-2018: will be held on **Wed., April 26th** at the **Church** from **10:00am-12:00noon** and **5:00-7:00pm**. A letter with all the details will be going out the first week of April. Catechists and Assistants (CURRENT AND FUTURE) only may register early.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Join us on Sat., May 6th 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.

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY: STAMP OUT HUNGER: will take place on Sat., May 13th at the New Milford Social Service department in the Richmond Center building. They need help sorting food for the food bank from 2:00-6:00pm. This is taking place after the US Postal Service mailbox food collection drive. Any questions call Sue P.

The View From



My Window

The View From My Window

I think for a lot of us, things get more and more cluttered as we go on in life. We tend to accumulate a lot of things, whether these are objects, or burdens, or even relationships. I am sure one of the attractions of Lent for us is the nostalgic feeling we get when we remember Lents gone by. As a child, Lent was simple - you gave up candy and desserts, tried to be extra nice to Mom and Dad, and went to church a bit more. As I got older, Lent became more complicated. In the seminary, it varied between hours of long rituals that we didn't understand, to days upon days of fasting.

When I was in theology seminary, we lived in a house of our own across from St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Boston. In those days, we attended St. John's for our priesthood studies. This house consisted of 14 Franciscan theology students (all of us friars) and several priests who watched over us day and night. One day Father Alan, our superior, thought it would be a good idea that we would all abstain from meat during Lent. Now, when I say abstain from meat, I mean completely: meat, meat products, gravy, meat sauce, soups made with meat- and it also meant every single day from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday. We had always understood that the Sundays of Lent were not fast days, but not this time. We had no meat.

At first it wasn't bad. Some of us were able to lose some unwanted pounds, and we had enough variety to substitute other things that we found enjoyable. But as the weeks went on, our meatless diet took its toll. Some of the brothers started snapping at one another, others got outright belligerent, and still others began to get sick. Now, I don't want to over-dramatize this situation. We were all healthy enough, and maybe we blamed common late-winter colds and sniffles on the diet, but we definitely missed meat. We found ourselves taking the long way home from school (it always brought us by the Stockyard Restaurant- famous for its beef, where we could at least smell what a steak was.) After three or four weeks, our house was unbearable. Everyone was snapping at each other, and fights were breaking out left and right. We told our superior that our fast was becoming unbearable, but he refused to budge.

One night I was sitting at my desk in my room on the third floor of the friary, pouring over a very difficult concept in systematic theology (I think it was St. Thomas Aquinas' treatise on the spiritual benefits of fasting), when I decided I couldn't take it anymore. After all, any graces I was receiving from my Lenten fast were erased by my hostility with the brothers. I even caught myself salivating over the contents of our dog Ollie's food bowl. Who said Alpo doesn't taste good? So I convinced myself that it was not worth it. I went downstairs, got the keys to one of the friary cars, and drove to downtown Brighton where I purchased a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken. This was in the days when they had 24 piece buckets. I couldn't wait to get home. On the way down Washington Street, my right hand found its way into that mass of flesh and grease and skin and bones, and I came up with a juicy drumstick to munch on as I turned up Foster Street.

I pulled into the driveway, quietly made my way to one of the back doors, and skipped up the stairs (yes, I could skip up stairs in those days-I was still in my mid-twenties), bounded down the hallway, got into my room and locked my door. There, laid out before me, were 24 (no, now 23) delicious pieces of Kentucky Fried Chicken, original recipe, as greasy as you could get. I quickly started devouring the chicken like some ravenous fox in a hen house. Suddenly, there was a knock on my door. "I'm cooked," I thought, thinking it was Father Alan, my Superior. Instead it was one of my classmates. I didn't dare open the door, lest he learn of my fall from grace. "What do you want?" I said through the door. "Open that door, I smell that chicken," he said. I let him in and the two of us desperately began stuffing the chicken down our throats. Then came another knock, and then another, and another. Before I knew it, there were six of us in my room, getting chicken grease all over my term papers, and having a great time. When we were done, we took great pains to get rid of the chicken bucket, the bones, and anything that could have possibly survived our feast, actually walking across the street to the seminary to place the remains in their dumpster. We made sure there was no evidence of our weakness.

The next morning, six of us were feeling great about Lent, and the upcoming celebration of Easter. Unlike the other brothers, we were no longer testy, or angry, but filled with mirth and laughter. When Father Alan joined us for breakfast, he couldn't help but notice our smiles. Then, he asked, "Did anyone smell Kentucky Fried Chicken in the house last night?" I am sure our guilty faces gave us away. We did not betray ourselves that morning at breakfast, and maybe Easter came a little bit early for us. Or maybe even more likely, we learned a lesson about human weakness, about frail humanity, and about how sometimes when we think about our weaknesses, it would someday make us better priests and confessors. Anyway, I hope all of you are having a wonderful Lent.

Love, Fr. Joe