

# St. Francis Xavier Parish

March 12, 2017  
Second Sunday of Lent

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

Web Site: [www.sfxnewmilford.org](http://www.sfxnewmilford.org)  
Email: [sfxparish@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto: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](mailto:FrJoe@sfxnewmilford.org)

Br. Courtland Campbell, OFM  
Pastoral Associate  
[BrCourtland@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:BrCourtland@sfxnewmilford.org)

Deacon Roland Miller  
[DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org)

## SUPPORT STAFF

Doreen Gray, Administrative Assistant  
[DGray@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:DGray@sfxnewmilford.org)  
860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro  
St. Francis Cemetery/Finance Office  
[JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org)  
860-350-6753

## FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Mary Vannucci,  
Coordinator Gr. K - 5  
[MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org)

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

Chris Grenier, Administrative  
Assistant to Faith Formation  
[CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org)

## HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director  
[HolyInfant@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:HolyInfant@sfxnewmilford.org)  
860-354-7284

## Mailing Address & Office Location

1 Elm Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

Fax # 860-355-9485



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## 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.



St. Francis sends a final farewell  
to our dearly departed:  
James M. Lewis

**SATURDAY VIGIL - March 11**

5:00 P.M. +Catherine Brady  
Req. by Kathy & Jack Healy

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**SUNDAY - March 12**

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &  
The Immaculate Conception Province  
10:00 A.M. +For the Valedes and Lumalcuri Families  
Req. by Tom & Cathy Valedes  
5:00 P.M. +Stamathi Sourbis  
Req. by Tom & Cathy Valedes

**MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - March 13**

**TUESDAY - March 14**

6:30 P.M. +Jeremiah B. McKenna (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)  
Req. by His Family

**WEDNESDAY - March 15**

8:00 A.M. +Leon Harding  
Req. by The John Pearl Family

**THURSDAY - March 16**

6:30 P.M. +Robert Gray  
Req. by Doreen & Adrian Gray

**FRIDAY - March 17**

8:00 A.M. +Erin & James Reynolds  
Req. by Their Family

**SATURDAY VIGIL - March 18**

5:00 P.M. +Nelson Gaudenzi  
Req. by His Wife and Family

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**SUNDAY - March 19**

7:30 A.M. +Richard Landgrebe  
Req. by The Samoska Family  
10:00 A.M. +Jack McPartland  
Req. by His Family  
5:00 P.M. +Giulia Salomone  
Req. by Her Family

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Francis Xavier Parish Dinner Dance**

**Details to follow...**

The **2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal** is now underway in our parish. Your support of this year's Appeal ensures that essential charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford are carried forward. We hope that you can help meet our parish goal of \$60,000. If you would like to make a gift, kindly mail in your pledge card.

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, March 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome to join this ministry to knit/crochet shawls and lap-blankets for the home bound or infirm.

**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.

Tickets Available At the Door

Also...  
Homemade Mac 'n Cheese \$2

**FISH FRY DINNER**  
Back by Popular Demand

Please join us on Friday, March 24th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall for a fabulous Fish Fry Dinner!!! Cost is \$8.00/person or \$15.00/two. Our talented "Chef Frank" is firing up the FRYER again this year!! We hope to see you there!!!  
*Proceeds will benefit the SFX Scholarship Fund.*

**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.



**Operation: RICE BOWL**

Join our faith community - and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States - in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's Rice Bowl from the window sills at the exit doors this weekend.

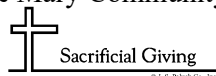
Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more info.

**Teachers and School Administrators**

**Positions available in the Archdiocese of Hartford**

The Archdiocese of Hartford is seeking qualified and committed candidates for positions as teachers and administrators in our Catholic schools. The ministry of Catholic education is personally and professionally rewarding. Those who are trained in the field of education and would like to explore career possibilities are encouraged to do so by applying for a Catholic school position through the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC). You are invited to apply or contact the OEEC at [catholicedct@aohct.org](mailto:catholicedct@aohct.org) and click on Career Opportunities.

**NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION** will benefit: Martha & Mary Community Care.



OFFERTORY - March 5	= \$5,403.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$297.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$297.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,809.00
Monthly Collection	= \$3,472.00
Ash Wednesday	= \$1,984.00



**Confessions:**

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

**Stations of the Cross:**

Every Friday 7 pm

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Washington and St. Patrick Church in Roxbury are co-sponsoring a full-course corned beef and cabbage dinner with music and dancing on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Town Hall. Live music will be provided by the Nick Longo Duo. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. BYOB. Set-ups will be provided. Tickets are \$25. Please call their Parish Office at 860-868-2600 if you would like to attend.

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.



**Dispensation from Lenten Abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2017:** Archbishop Leonard Blair has formally dispensed the Faithful of our Archdiocese from the obligation to abstain from meat on the Memorial of St. Patrick. The faithful who partake of meat on March 17 are encouraged to observe the Lenten abstinence on Thursday, March 16 or Saturday, March 18.

**WE NEED LITURGICAL MINISTERS!**

**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
- Choir Member               Greeter
- Usher

\*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.**

The next **LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT** “Work the Work; Living the Works of Mercy” is Sun., April 2<sup>nd</sup> following the 5pm Mass. Dinner will be served. RSVP Sue P. at 860-354-5372 or spullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> or at the Parish office. Please call Sue P. with questions. Thanks and God bless!

**ATTENTION ALL 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:** As per your schedule there will be a special presentation on Tues., Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> at the Church from 7:00-9:00pm. This is a mandatory part of the program and every student **MUST** attend with a parent or guardian. Our guest speaker will be Miriam Hildago from the Archdiocese of Hartford. She comes to talk to us about Chastity and living our Catholic faith. This is a required night.

**JR. YOUTH GROUP: 6, 7 & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:** Movie night on Fri., Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00pm. We will be watching the movie “Overcome”. Eat dinner before you come and bring your favorite movie snack to share. RSVP to Sue P. at 860-354-5372 or email her at spullen@sfxnewmilford.org

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Praying the Stations with Pope Francis will be offered to **ALL 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** graders on Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00AM at Lourdes in Litchfield. Please RSVP to Sue P. by Thurs., March 23<sup>rd</sup> so that we have enough drivers. Any questions please call Sue in the 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.

**Faith Formation 860-354-5372**

**CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:**

\*Sun., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> grades K-5 11:30am-1:00pm  
 \*Child Lures will be presented to grades 1&2  
 \*\*Sun., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> Confirm. year 1&2 11:30am-1:00pm  
 \*\*Child Lures will be presented to year 1&2  
 Sun., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> grades 6,7&8 2:45-4:15pm  
 \*\*\*Sun., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> Confirmation year 1&2 2:45-4:15pm  
 \*\*\*Child Lures will be presented to year 1&2  
 \*\*\*\*Mon., Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm  
 \*\*\*\*Child Lures will be presented to year 1  
 Mon., Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm  
 Tues., Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm  
 \*\*\*\*\*Wed., Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> Confirmation year 2 3:00-4:30pm  
 \*\*\*\*\*Child Lures will be presented to year 2  
 \*\*\*\*\*Wed., Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> Confirm. year 1&2 6:30-8:00pm  
 \*\*\*\*\*Child Lures will be presented to year 1&2

**CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:**

Tues., Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> grades 1&2 3:30-5:00pm  
 Wed., Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm  
 Thurs., Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm

**THE FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT** will take place on Sat., March 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:45am - \*\*1:00pm at the St. Francis Church hall. Please bring a wallet sized photo with you for the craft project. Please **\*\*NOTE** a parent needs to join their child at 12noon for a Reconciliation Service in the Church. Any questions please call Mary V. in the office.

**4<sup>TH</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm at St. Francis Xavier Church, please let me know by Mon., Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>. 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. Please contact Mary Vannucci at 860-354-5372 or mvannucci@sfxnewmilford.org. God bless!

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY:** Join us on Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 V. 860-354-5372.

## The View From *The Season of Lent*



### My Window

I often tell the story of the time, when I was studying theology in the seminary in Boston, our superior decided that, as a common act of penance for Lent, we would not eat meat or any meat product at all. Now I am sure there are vegans and vegetarians who wouldn't even wince at this, but for ordinary carnivores, it can amount to a difficult penance. As Lent wore on, a lot of things happened. The brothers began to get easily upset and agitated. Some came down with constant colds. Others became impatient and short with each other. Little skirmishes turned into big fights.

Of course, we all blamed the lack of protein as the culprit. Anyone who has attempted to quit smoking after a life time of nicotine, or go on a special diet, may have had similar experiences.

Through the years, I have, like most Catholics, experimented with various forms of penance. When I was a youth, it was giving up candy, or going to movies. This worked out pretty well. As I got older, it meant giving up other things- which sometimes was successful, sometimes not. Later on, it was doing something positive, like being more charitable or humble. But sometimes, my natural instinct to be mean and proud won out (LOL).

Over time, I have come to the conclusion that, in many instances, our penances become what I call "empty gestures", things that may satisfy us in the short run (by making us feel we did something for Lent), but in reality, had little effect on the purpose of Lent- to make us grow in holiness.

Lenten penances, I believe, are not just for Lent. We sometimes call them "Lenten practices" because that's what they can be- practicing for something that we would like to incorporate PERMANENTLY into our lives. For example, in my days in the seminary, I was a heavy smoker. It seems that everyone smoked in those days, so much so that giving us several cartons of cigarettes was a part of our monthly stipend. Each Lent I wrestled with stopping. In the earlier days, this was a disaster- I was back smoking in a matter of days. Later on, I had more success in quitting for Lent- but couldn't wait for Easter so that I could start smoking again. I would actually resume my smoking on Holy Thursday (rationalizing that Lent is officially over.) In my first year as a theology student, when Easter rolled around, I decided to attempt to continue my smoking fast. That was forty years ago, and except for an occasional cigar, never went back to smoking again.

Whatever our chosen penance is during Lent, we shouldn't have the attitude that we can't wait for Easter so we can get back to our old habits. We should choose something that will help us be better Christians and better Catholics (and also better human beings), and see if we can't make that a permanent part of our lives.

One of the problems is we don't take Lent seriously enough. Much like the many people who insist on receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, and then disappear for the rest of Lent (maybe except for Palm Sunday or Easter), many times Catholics do things without understanding why they are doing it. Do we really believe that receiving ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday has any meaning for us? Rather, the ashes should be sign that we are willing to make an effort during Lent to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

It's similar to the husband or wife who constantly says "I love you," and yet does nothing to demonstrate that love. We would consider it to be pretty empty if a man took his wife out on Valentine's Day, lavish her with a great meal, beautiful flowers, even a piece of jewelry (or at least a box of chocolates), and then during the rest of the year treats her with disdain or disrespect.

We cannot say "I love you" to our God and yet do nothing in our lives to prove that love. We cannot say "I will change" to God, and then do nothing to affect that change.

Lent is not just a time of introspection. It is a pro-active time- when we do something positive in our lives to become a better Catholic. This could mean volunteering for some charity, attending Mass on a daily basis, reading the bible, learning more about our faith, participating in Stations of the Cross, and if we are going to fast- then using the money we save from not eating and giving it to a needy charity.

Lent presents us with an opportunity to grow in holiness. My hope is that we will find ourselves holier and closer to Christ on Easter Sunday than we are today.

Happy Lent,

Love,

Fr. Joe