

St. Francis Xavier Parish

March 19, 2017
Third 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
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860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro
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JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org
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FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Mary Vannucci,
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MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org

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

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HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director
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Mailing Address & Office Location

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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.





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

Eugene Lynch

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

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass

TUESDAY - March 21
 6:30 P.M. +Ronald Carlson
 Req. by The Reynolds Family

WEDNESDAY - March 22
 8:00 A.M. +Bishop Gerald Scarpone OFM
 Req. by Fr. Joe

THURSDAY - March 23
 6:30 P.M. +Raymond Kuss
 Req. by The Mullane Family

FRIDAY - March 24
 8:00 A.M. The living and deceased members of the
 DeAlessio and Martin Families
 Req. by John DeAlessio & Family

SATURDAY VIGIL - March 25
 5:00 P.M. For the Intentions of the Allegany
 Franciscan Sisters, Living and Deceased
 Req. by Cheryl Russo

Fourth Sunday of Lent
SUNDAY - March 26
 7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
 The Immaculate Conception Province
 10:00 A.M. +Linda Biondino & Carol Jean
 Req. by Their Family
 5:00 P.M. +Rosemary Grubb
 Req. by Dianie, Ian, Lauren & Brian

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.


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.

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.

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.



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

Stations of the Cross:
 Every Friday 7 pm

Tickets Available At the Door



FISH FRY

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.

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.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Have you taken home your family Rice Bowl? They are located on the window sills near the exits of the Church. To learn more about what these rice bowls mean to those communities throughout the world, please visit crsricebowl.org. You can watch videos of the people and communities your Lenten gifts are changing through CRS Rice Bowls.

BINGO 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.



OFFERTORY - March 12	= \$5,906.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$325.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$325.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$5,256.00

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.



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)

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.



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

The next **LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT** "Work the Work; Living the Works of Mercy" is Sun., April 2nd following the 5pm Mass. ALL High Schoolers are welcome to join us. Dinner will be served. RSVP to 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 or at the Parish office. Please call Sue P. with questions. Thanks and God bless!

CONFIRMATION YEAR TWO:

Your mandatory retreat takes place on Sat., Apr. 29th at 1:00pm at the Parish Center (school building) and ends on Sun., Apr. 30th at 6:00pm at the Church (following the Mass). More details in next weeks bulletin.

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.

ATTENTION ALL 8TH GRADERS: As per your schedule there will be a special presentation on Tues., Mar. 21st 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 & 8TH GRADERS: Movie night on Fri., Mar. 24th 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

Faith Formation 860-354-5372

CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

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

CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

Sun., Mar. 26th grades K-5 11:30am-1:00pm
 Sun., Mar. 26th Confirmation year 1&2 11:30am-1:00pm
 Sun., Mar. 26th grades 6,7&8 2:45-4:15pm
 Sun., Mar. 26th Confirmation year 1&2 2:45-4:15pm
 Mon., Mar. 27th Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm
 Mon., Mar. 27th grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm
 Tues., Mar. 28th grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm
 Wed., Mar. 29th Confirmation year 2 3:00-4:30pm
 Wed., Mar. 29th Confirmation year 1&2 6:30-8:00pm

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. 31st at 7 pm at St. Francis Xavier Church, please let me know by Mon., Mar. 20th. 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 MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org. God bless!

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 with 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 only may register early.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Praying the Stations with Pope Francis will be offered to **ALL 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th** graders on Sat., April 1st at 10:00AM at Lourdes in Litchfield. Please RSVP to Sue P. by Thurs., March 23rd so that we have enough drivers. A permission slip will need to be filled out and you will need lunch money. Any questions please call Sue in the office or you can send her an email SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

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. at 860-354-5372.

The View From



My Window

Each march we celebrate two feast days that are important to many Catholics in the United States. On March 17, we mark the Feast of St. Patrick, apostle to Ireland. On March 19, we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and foster father of Jesus. This year, since the Feast of St. Joseph falls on Sunday, it has been moved to Monday, March 20. St. Patrick is a great feast in the American church, because so much of our church's foundations have their roots in the Irish immigrants who came to our country. And, of course, they brought with them their traditions and their saints, especially St. Patrick. Indeed, for many years, a majority of priests and bishops in the American Church were of Irish descent.

In New York City, the beautiful cathedral in midtown is named after St. Patrick (as is the "old" Cathedral-Basilica, down on Mott Street in lower Manhattan. This was the original Cathedral of the Archdiocese of New York). And certainly, the Mott Street church is rich in the history of Irish immigrants coming to our country.

Each year, New York sponsors a grand "St. Patrick's Day Parade." By the way, a few years ago, the "Grand Marshall" was none other than Ambassador Raymond Flynn, former Mayor of Boston and former United States Ambassador to the Vatican. On one of my pilgrimages to Rome, while Ray Flynn was still Ambassador, there were rumors that he was going to run for Governor of Massachusetts. When we arrived with our pilgrims on the plane from Logan Airport to Fiumicino Airport in Rome, there was Ambassador Flynn greeting the plane at the luggage pickup. He spotted me and came over to say hello (I had met him numerous times during my days in Boston, and he was friends with some of our friars). I said to him:

"Mr. Ambassador, I heard you were possibly running for Governor, but is this your campaign tactic, meeting every plane that comes over from Boston?"

He laughed and assured me that some friends were arriving for a visit, and were on our flight, so he was there to greet them.

During one of the presidential campaigns, my parish in New Hampshire invited the Democratic candidates to a candidate forum in our church hall right before the New Hampshire primary. You probably realize that New Hampshire is a very popular state early on in a presidential campaign. At any given moment, John Kerry, Howard Dean, Joe Lieberman, John Edwards, and even George Bush, could be seen down on Main Street or some other part of town. Unfortunately, the only one who came was Dennis Kucinich, and he took quite a beating from our pro-life parishioners about his abortion stand, since he was once pro-life and had changed his position when he began running for president. (I admired him for his courage to face a Catholic audience, however).

Anyway, we were privileged to have Ambassador Flynn with us. When he arrived at our parish, and seeing us in our Franciscan robes, he yelled out "I knew this had to be a Franciscan church." Anyway, Ray Flynn stole the day. He could have been elected President by our parishioners that very day. Being a pro-life Democrat, Ambassador Flynn's position on many issues mirrored those of our parishioners. And, like many Catholics who were traditionally raised as Democrats, the Democratic Party's position on abortion was (and continues to be) troubling for Catholics. Unlike others who became Republicans, however, Ray Flynn continued to identify himself as a democrat and sought to work within the party to change attitudes on life before birth.

While he was still serving the government, Ambassador Flynn wrote a letter to one of the provincials of the Franciscans in the United States, narrating this incident:

"I would like to share with you a personal experience which occurred on the occasion of the recent visit of the Holy Father to the United States. I would like to let you know about something which happened to me and which reveals another dimension of the forces of peace in our day. Last October, while speaking with President Bill Clinton and Mrs. Clinton aboard Air Force One, on our way from Washington to meet Pope John Paul II at Newark, NJ, I said to the president that the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi fell on that day (October 4). The president expressed his admiration for Saint Francis and said he wanted to make mention of this happy coincidence on the occasion of the papal visit. So, he began to revise the notes of his address of welcome to the Holy Father, saying he wanted to quote the Prayer of St. Francis. He immediately started to jot down the first lines of the famous prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." There we were, myself, the president, his wife, and Leon Panetta, the Chief of Staff, trying to recall the rest of the words of the prayer. We could remember the remaining words only by singing them: 'Make me a channel of your peace, etc.' The experience of having been in the company of the president and Hilary Clinton on Air Force One, on our way to a meeting with the Pope, while together singing the Prayer of St. Francis, was unforgettable... St. Francis always has had a particular significance for Americans, but for me, that flight on Air Force One made the relationship very special."

Speaking of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, we used to have what I called the "battle of the saints." I don't think there's a rivalry between them up in heaven, but there was one in my home parish in Brooklyn. I'm sure they get along fine. Now I don't know how it happened, but the Italians seemed have adopted St. Joseph as one of their own. So, days after St. Patrick's Day, when the Irish would wear their green, eat their corned beef and cabbage, drink their beer, and sing endless Irish songs and ballads, it was our turn. St. Joseph's Day is a special feast for Italians. There's even a special pastry, called "zeppole di San Giuseppe." Yes, St. Patrick can have his corned beef- I'll take the pastry. Didn't know St. Joseph was a baker- I always thought he was a carpenter. Anyway, a zeppole is like a stuffed stocking or balloon (zeppelin), which is a favorite pastry. These zeppole are usually made with either whipped cream, Italian cream, or a mixture of both and it is sold in pastry shops around the Feast of St. Joseph. I once asked one of my uncles why St. Joseph was so important to Italians. He winked at me and said, "You know that St. Joseph was Italian, right?"

I said, "I thought he was Jewish. Wasn't he from Nazareth?"

"That's right," was his reply, "but everyone knows his family migrated from Italy, maybe Sicily, and even the Blessed Mother's house is in Italy." Which is true. I think Mary's house is traditionally honored in Loreto, Italy- but no one claims that she actually lived in Italy. Rather, it was brought there after being for many years in a basilica in Nazareth. So, I just scratched my head. Our parish was considered an "Irish" parish, though most of the parish was Italian. We had five priests, four of them Irish and one token Italian. The names of the children in our school read like Rome phone directory. As school children we had to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Brooklyn and sing Irish songs. It was fun.

So this weekend we remember these two great saints, and we recall the role they played in the spread of our Christian faith- Joseph, the carpenter from Nazareth, foster father of Jesus, who raised and protect the young Lord Jesus, and Patrick, apostle to Ireland. Happy St. Patrick's Day. Happy St. Joseph's Day. Happy Lent.

Love,
Fr. Joe