



# St. Francis Xavier Parish

March 26, 2017  
Fourth 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  
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Jocelyne Verrastro  
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## FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Mary Vannucci,  
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## HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director  
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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.



St. Francis sends a final farewell to our dearly departed:  
Eugene Lynch  
Roger Russell

*In Memoriam*

**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

**MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - March 27**

**TUESDAY - March 28**

6:30 P.M. +Mae Trapanese (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
Req. by Linda & Bill Kamp

**WEDNESDAY - March 29**

8:00 A.M. +Mary Britton  
Req. by Rosie Markstaller & Family

**THURSDAY - March 30**

6:30 P.M. +Michael Gabor  
Req. by The Bohdan Family

**FRIDAY - March 31**

8:00 A.M. +Roger Ploof  
Req. by Dot & Tony Souza

**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

**Retrouvaille April 21st Weekend Announced**  
Marriage help - If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; even if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, the Retrouvaille program can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly, and re-discover why you fell in love. The next local Retrouvaille weekend is April 21-23, 2017. For info, call 800-470-2230, email cherylandsteve@cox.net, or go to their website www.helpourmarriage.com for registration.

**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!*

**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 5<sup>th</sup>. For tickets contact the following knights Francis Gorglione, Frank Greco, Gene Calarco or the Parish Office.

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.

The **2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal** has raised over \$13,000 from St. Francis in just a few short weeks. 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.

### CHURCH REGULATIONS ON FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Fridays in Lent are Days of Abstinence. The church in USA has asked that we use this as a common penance. 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. 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.

**New Parish App! Remember** - St. Francis Xavier Parish has our own app. 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](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

(Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #40)

#### 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](http://crsricebowl.org). You can watch videos of the people and communities your Lenten gifts are changing through CRS Rice Bowls.

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



OFFERTORY - March 19	= \$5,334.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$293.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$293.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,748.00
Martha & Mary Community Care	= \$3,385.00



#### Confessions:

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

#### Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday 7 pm

#### 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 7<sup>th</sup> at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Litchfield. More details to come.

**BAKE SALE** - Next 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!!

**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 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. 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.

**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. 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Parish Center (school building) and ends on Sun., Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm 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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders on Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00AM at Lourdes in Litchfield. Please RSVP to Sue P. ASAP 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Post Office mailbox food collection drive. Any questions call Sue P. 860-354-5372.

## Faith Formation 860-354-5372

### CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

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

### CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

\*Mon., Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm  
 \*you have class two weeks in a row due to Easter  
 Monday (offices closed)  
 \*\*Mon., Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm  
 \*\*you have class two weeks in a row due to Easter  
 Monday (offices closed)  
 Tues., Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> NES grades 1&2 3:30-5:00pm  
 Wed., Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm  
 Thurs., Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** If your child is participating in the Children's Stations of the Cross on Fri., Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at St. Francis Xavier Church he/she will need to be at the Church at 6:00 pm to practice with the other children. Questions? Contact Mary V. at 860-354-5372 or MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org. God bless!

### FIRST COMMUNION CROSS CEREMONY MASS:

All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders please attend with your parents either Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm or Sun., April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**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 Vannucci at the Faith Formation office.

## The View From **Fasting and Penance**



My Window

I am sure a lot of you remember the days when the one thing that defined us as Catholics is the fact that we didn't eat meat on Fridays. Yes, the fish stores and restaurants did very well on Friday, as Catholics consumed fish, eggs, cheese, instead of meat.

In the early church, fasting from meat included fish. After all, we may interpret fish as not being meat, but it simply is another animal. Also included in earlier days were even meat products like eggs, milk, and cheese- after all, these are things that come from animals too, right? Eventually concessions were made until we had a narrower interpretation of what "meat" is. Meat even included such meat-based foods as soups made from meat and gravies. As Italians, we could have our marinara or clam sauce, but not Bolognese.

One of my most vivid stories of the strictness of this regulation took place when I was a student in grade school. I came home from school one day and looked in the refrigerator for a quick snack to hold me over before dinner. I spotted a dish of Aunt Tess' fried meatballs- which were the greatest. I quickly popped one in my mouth, closed the fridge, and walked away. Halfway through the living room, as I was swallowing the first morsels of the meatball, I realized that it was Friday and a meatball was made of...yes, meat. I ran to the bathroom and tried to spit out what was in my mouth. After all, this was MORTAL SIN we were talking about. I quickly realized that I had swallowed some meat, and I was in deep trouble. Now, theologically (or legally) there was definitely some question as to the extent of my sin. After all, it was not something I gave full consent to- it was almost a reflex act. But, not having studied theology and not knowing the nuances of Catholic moral theology, I thought one thing and one thing only- I was condemned to an eternity in hell. I thought of running up to the church, banging on the rectory door, and going to confession immediately. But then I remembered- Monsignor Mullaney...He would not be happy with this at all. Thankfully, confessions would be held the next day (Saturday), so I only had about 24 hour to get through without getting run over by a bus or murdered. I could do this.

That night my friends were going to the movies. I couldn't go- suppose the theater blew up, or something happened? Bad enough getting killed, but then going to hell over a meatball? No, I was staying home. That night and the next day I didn't venture far from home. If my mom didn't get on my back, I may have stayed in bed all day until 3:00- the time of confessions at my home parish. But I made sure I didn't go anyplace where my life would be in danger (not easy in Brooklyn, I assure you.)

The next afternoon, I went to church. I had to cross about six or seven streets, including two major thoroughfares (13th Avenue and 12th Avenue). I looked both ways ten times each way before I crossed, and finally made it safely to St. Catharine's. Of course, I still had to deal with Monsignor Mullaney- maybe he wouldn't be on for confessions this week. Sure enough, as I entered the church, I saw the line of penitents at Monsignor Mullaney's confessional. This would not be fun, especially since MORTAL SIN was involved.

I am sure I was sweating profusely as I waited on line, and each time I heard the monsignor raise his voice, scolding a penitent, I worried even more. Heck, getting run over by a trolley may be easy compared to dealing with the monsignor. Soon, it was my turn. This was the worst sin I had ever committed in my life (at least in my own mind) and I deserved whatever penance Monsignor Mullaney wanted to give me. I explained in detail what had happened, and expressed my extreme remorse for this terrible transgression against God.

Surprisingly, the monsignor didn't have anything to say. He didn't yell at me, or raise his voice. He gave me a pretty easy penance- five Hail Mary's, which I quickly said at the altar rail of the church. On my way home, I felt a great burden had been lifted. I was happy, I had been forgiven, and if I got run over by a trolley on my way home, at least I'd go to heaven. And then the thought hit my mind- there's still about three or four of those fried meatballs in the fridge...I'd better get home fast before someone else eats them.

Today we know that times have changed in regard to fast and abstinence in the church. We also know the purpose of fasting and abstaining from meat is not to plague us with thoughts of hell, but to help us on our journey to the Lord. And each of us needs to examine our own attitudes (and practice) of fasting and abstaining. We may wonder why the church changed the practice of abstaining from meat. Then again, we know that very often we look at things from our American perspective. When we realize that a good portion of our world population never eat meat, because it is unavailable to them, or that others may be vegetarians by choice (or because of medical reasons), then we need to look at other ways to practice penance.

For some, fasting from other foods (or practices) may be more appropriate than refraining from eating meat. We shouldn't, for example, see eating a tasty lobster dinner as an appropriate penance while giving up a hamburger. In preparation for Lent, we should examine our own practice of penance- and what is important to us, and act appropriately.

Love,  
Fr. Joe