



# St. Francis Xavier Parish

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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)  
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[SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org)

Chris Grenier, Administrative  
Assistant to Faith Formation  
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## 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



## 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

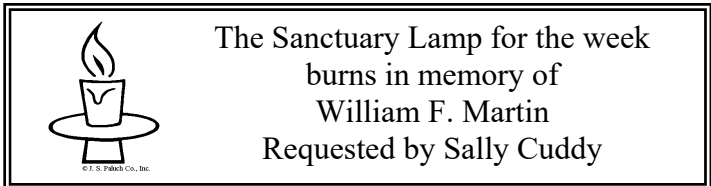
Contact the priest 1 year in advance.

## 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.



**EASTER SATURDAY VIGIL - April 15**

8:00 P.M. For our RCIA Candidates and Their Families

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Our Lord SUNDAY - April 16**

7:30 A.M. +Linda Biondino & Carol Jean  
Req. by Their Family

10:00 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier & The Immaculate Conception Province

**(Please note: No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday)**

**MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - April 17**

**TUESDAY - No scheduled Mass - April 18**

**WEDNESDAY - No scheduled Mass - April 19**

**THURSDAY - April 20**

6:30 P.M. +Francisco & Amada Allen

**FRIDAY - April 21**

8:00 A.M. +For the deceased members of the DiSorbo Family  
Req. by Their Family

**SATURDAY VIGIL - April 22**

5:00 P.M. +Anna Funaro  
Req. by The Lalak Family

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**SUNDAY - April 23**

7:30 A.M. +Joseph Koch (12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
Req. by His Choraleers

10:00 A.M. +Linda Biondino & Carol Jean  
Req. by Their Family

5:00 P.M. +Dennis LaViolette  
Req. by Adrian & Doreen Gray

**PLEASE NOTE:** *There are no scheduled daily masses on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, April 17, 18 & 19.*

**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.

**OPERATION RICE BOWL**

It's time to return your Rice Bowls. Please bring them next weekend to Mass or drop them off at the Parish Center during the week.

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week  
burns in memory of  
William F. Martin  
Requested by Sally Cuddy

**Little Rock Scripture Study**

*Alive in the Word*

Paul: Proclaiming Christ Crucified

Paul discovered his core identity in the crucified and resurrected Christ and spent his final years proclaiming the power of the cross. Explore three key passages from his letters that invite us to embrace the redemptive power of the cross in our lives.

Maura Pauli will present a three week Bible Study on Paul in the Church Hall on Thursdays, April 27, May 4 and May 11 from 1 - 2 p.m. and 7 - 8 p.m. Please call the Parish Office to register 860-354-2202.

**Pilgrimage to Fatima** for the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions with EXTENDED date for FREE books!

Travel to Fatima for the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima and to Poland in the footsteps of Saint Faustina and Saint John Paul II with America's premier Fatima experts: Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR, EWTN's TV Host and Author of "Fatima For Today" and Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, parishioner, EWTN TV Host and Author of two dozen books including: "Our Lady of Fatima: 100 Years of Stories, Prayers, and Devotions" and Our Lady's Message to Three Shepherd Children and the World." Eleven Day pilgrimage at exceptional price September 17 through 27, 2017. Register by April 28th to receive a gift of all THREE books. Pope Francis has decided to grant a plenary indulgence opportunity throughout the entire anniversary year (which began Nov. 27, 2016, and will end Nov. 26, 2017). Learn more about this pilgrimage: <http://www.donnacooperoboyle.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Donna-Marie-Cooper-OBoyle-2017-3.pdf> Or at: [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com)

**2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal**

Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please consider prayerfully supporting the many Good Works of the Archdiocese. Every gift will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated.

**Delicious Challah Bread on sale! THIS WEEKEND**

Life Teen is once again sponsoring the sale of "Resurrection Bread" this Easter Weekend after the Masses to benefit our Steubenville Retreat fund. (\$7.00 per loaf.)

***You Can Change the Life of a Teen...***

Dear Parishioners: The Steubenville Retreat is an amazing opportunity for a teen to grow in faith and encounter God in a large community of teens celebrating their Catholic Faith. There are professional speakers and several opportunities to receive God's love in the Sacraments and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please pray about financially supporting our group that is traveling to St. John's University in NYC to attend this Retreat in July. We are sending approximately 30 teens this year and we are looking for support to offset the cost of the bus and retreat. The total cost for one teen is \$325 this year. God Bless you for all the many ways you have supported our endeavors already. We have several fund raising activities planned in the coming months, but we'll need additional funds to meet our goal.

A donation in any amount to the Steubenville Retreat Fund is greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. Francis and write "Steubenville" on the memo line. You can put your donations in the collection basket or mail them to the Parish Office, 1 Elm Street, New Milford, CT 06776. *Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

**CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY**

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.

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. in the **Parish Center**. New members are always welcome to join this ministry to knit/crochet shawls and lap-blankets for the home bound or infirm.

**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.



OFFERTORY - April 2	= \$5,698.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$313.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$313.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$5,072.00
Monthly Collection	= \$3,556.00

**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.



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**St. Francis Xavier Parish Annual Dinner Dance**

Please join us at Fox Hill Inn on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*) Last date to purchase tickets is April 23.

Sponsored by our Knights of Columbus  
Every Monday night  
VFW Hall (Avery Road, New Milford)  
Doors open at 5:45 p.m.  
BINGO at 6:30 p.m.



**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.



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

**Year 1 & Year 2 Confirmation Notice:**

As per your schedule there will be a **SPECIAL MASS FOR ALL YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES** held on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 5:00pm Mass.

**CONFIRMATION YEAR TWO:** Your mandatory retreat takes place on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Parish Center (school building) and ends on Sunday, April 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. Call Sue P. with questions.

**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 US Postal Service mailbox food collection drive. Any questions call Sue P. at 860-354-5372

**JR. YOUTH GROUP: ALL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> graders:** We have a service project planned for Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at the Parish Center...more details to follow. RSVP by calling or emailing Sue at [SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org) or call 860-354-5372.

**Faith Formation 860-354-5372**

**CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:**

Offices will be closed on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.  
\*Tues., April 18<sup>th</sup> NES grades 1&2 3:30-5:00pm  
\*Tues., April 18<sup>th</sup> grades 6,7&8 6:30-8:00pm  
\*Wed., April 19<sup>th</sup> SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm  
\*Wed., April 19<sup>th</sup> Confirmation year 1 3:00-4:30pm  
\*Wed., April 19<sup>th</sup> Confirmation year 1&2 6:30-8:00pm  
\*Thurs., April 20<sup>th</sup> SNIS grades 3-5 3:30-5:00pm  
\*LAST CLASS

**CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:**

\*\*Sun., Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> grades K-5 11:30am-1:00pm  
\*\*Sun., Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> Confirm. year 1&2 11:30am-1:00pm  
\*\*Sun., Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> grades 6-8 2:45-4:15pm  
\*\*Sun., Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> Confirm. year 1&2 2:45-4:15pm  
\*\*LAST CLASS

**FIRST COMMUNION CROSS CEREMONY** was held if you were unable to attend please see Mary in the office for your cross.

**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 was mailed last week. Catechists and Assistants (CURRENT AND FUTURE) only may register early. We highly recommend you register early especially if you need a particular day and/or the bus.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** The First Communion ceremony will take place on Sat., May 6 at 10:00AM & 1:00PM. The 10:00am group will have rehearsal at the Church on Tues., May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm. The 1:00pm group will have rehearsal at the Church on Thurs., May 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. You must bring your completed butterfly to the rehearsal and a parent/guardian must stay with the child. Any questions please call the office.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Join us on Sat., May 6<sup>th</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



## My Window

### Easter Sunday

Years ago when I was serving in a parish in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, I took some time off in the late winter to visit with friends living in Boston. After a great week of celebrating with my friends, I was travelling back to Pennsylvania, when I came across a place that was very familiar to me. As I was driving across Connecticut on Interstate 84, into New York State, and just before crossing the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, about five miles before Port Jervis, New York, which sits at the tri-state border of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, I stopped at a lake - Lake Hawthorne, where I had spent many summers of my youth.

Lake Hawthorne was a place where three of my aunts and uncles had summer homes, and, as a child, we would spend the entire summer there. Between the three houses there were dozens of us- aunts, uncles, cousins my age, older cousins and younger ones. Our dads had to work so they would join us on weekends. Each Friday evening we would travel down to Port Jervis and meet them at the train station, and after the weekend was over, would bring them back down so that they could get back to New York City for their jobs.

We would literally be there from the day school ended until Labor Day, when we would have a big dinner, a traditional men against women softball game, and then close up the houses for the winter.

I knew the lake like the back of my hand - we had spent countless hours swimming, frolicking, fishing, boating, catching lizards and turtles. At the time it was a haven for all kinds of wildlife that we would never see in Brooklyn.

The forests were filled with beautiful white birch trees, and we would see deer, black bears, all kinds of birds, raccoons. Toward the end of the summer we would go to this particular ridge around the lake and pick wild blueberries. We would have blueberry pie, cakes, pancakes, make jellies and jams. One time, while picking blueberries we came across a beautiful, cuddly baby bear. While we as kids wanted to catch it and bring it home, our parents, in their wisdom had another idea- gather up all the kids and get the heck out of there. They knew that where there was a bear cub there would be a protective mamma bear to follow. I still remember the sense of panic as we all ran down the hill to get away from what could have become an awful situation.

We learned other lessons: not to disturb baby birds in their nests, to always return the fish we caught carefully back into the lake, and never mess with a raccoon.

That visit, however, being winter, everything looked different. The lake was covered with ice and snow. The beautiful birch trees were bare of their leaves, everything was gray and dark. I was disappointed. This was not how I remembered the lake. But I knew in a few weeks, that would all change, and the lake that I knew in my summers would be back. And I realized that, even under the ice that covered the lake, life was still thriving.

Today, we come into the church and we see that it has blossomed. What was barren for the forty days of Lent is now filled with flowers. We know that winter is behind us- a pretty mild winter - and that the warmth of spring is upon us. We know the promise that summer brings- warm weather, lots of sun, more time spent outdoors- and a Yankee World Series and a dismal season for the Mets and Red Sox. LOL

The beautiful flowers of our church is hopefully an image of our own blossoming. During Lent, we made sacrifices, we tried to become a little more holy- closer to God. And today, hopefully, we celebrate not only the resurrection of Jesus from the dead- but our own resurrection from sin to new life.

Now is not the time to lapse back into old habits. Nor is it the time to resume the life we lived before Ash Wednesday. It would be a shame to lapse back into our old sinful habits now that Easter is here. We are called to continue our efforts to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York used to tell us that Lent was like baseball's spring training. It was meant to prepare us for the big leagues and be something we build upon, not abandon. Lent has been an opportunity to continue on the path of growing closer to God.

Hopefully, we are better Christians and Catholics than we were at Ash Wednesday, that we have grown holier and closer to God during this Lent, and that we have made some great strides to achieve our destiny - not to be just "members of the church" but true disciples of the Lord.

Happy Easter,  
Love,  
Fr. Joe

Father Joe, Brother Courtland, Deacon Roland, and the entire staff of St. Francis Xavier Church extends to all of our parishioners and friends many blessings on Easter Sunday and during this entire Easter season.