



St. Francis Xavier Parish

April 23, 2017
Second Sunday of Easter

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

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BrCourtland@sfxnewmilford.org

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DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org

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FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Mary Vannucci,
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HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mailing Address & Office Location

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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

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:
Susan Andersen Anna Witenko
Paul Babiyan Ernst Reutimann

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 (12th 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 His Family

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass -April 24

TUESDAY - April 25

6:30 P.M. +Barbara Anziano
Req. by The Bohdan Family

WEDNESDAY - April 26

8:00 A.M. +Dathel Lumalcuri
Req. by The Valedes & Miesionczek
Families

THURSDAY - April 27

6:30 P.M. +John Noll
Req. by His Family

FRIDAY - April 28

8:00 A.M. +Sandra Caldwell
Req. by The Jonke Family

SATURDAY VIGIL - April 29

5:00 P.M. +Joe Falk
Req. by His Wife, Bea & Family

Third Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY - April 30

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
The Immaculate Conception Province
10:00 A.M. +Living and deceased members of the
McCarthy Family
Req. by Their Family
5:00 P.M. +Veronica Broderick
Req. by Jamie Watson

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.

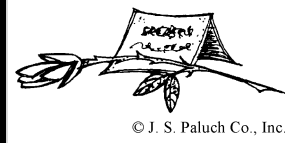
RACHEL'S VINEYARD WEEKENDS FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend June 2-4, 2017 in Litchfield, CT. The weekend healing process includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is totally confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Both women and men have participated in past retreats and have ranged in age from teens to mid-eighties. The fee for the weekend is \$175.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Scholarships are available for financial assistance. For more information contact Marie at 203-631-9030, e-mail her at mlaffin@prolifeministry.org.

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.



Dinner Dance

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.) Last date to purchase tickets is April 23.



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Confraternity of the Rosary-Altar Duty Schedule

May 6	Sally Adams/Jeanne Dingee/Rosie Markstaller
May 13	Helen Manizza/ Kathy Hyland
May 20	Jeanne Schuler/Dorothy Coleman
May 27	Patti Fisher/Sue Fisher
June 3	Jo DeCosa/Judy DeAlessio
June 10	Sally Adams/Jeanne Dingee/Rosie Markstaller
June 17	Helen Manizza/ Kathy Hyland
June 24	Jeanne Schuler/Dorothy Coleman
July 1	Patti Fisher/Sue Fisher
July 8	Jo DeCosa/Judy DeAlessio
July 15	Sally Adams/Jeanne Dingee/Rosie Markstaller
July 22	Helen Manizza/Kathy Hyland
July 29	Jeanne Schuler/Dorothy Coleman
Aug 5	Patti Fisher/Sue Fisher
Aug 12	Jo DeCosa/Judy DeAlessio
Aug 19	Sally Adams/Jeanne Dingee/Rosie Markstaller
Aug 26	Helen Manizza/Kathy Hyland

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 Meeting - Monday, May 1 at 12 noon in the Church Hall; Maura Pauli will display her Bible Quilt and discuss the various blocks in it.

Women's Guild Meeting - Tues., May 9, 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION will benefit: St. Francis Xavier Scholarship Fund.



OFFERTORY - April 9	= \$7,293.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$401.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$401.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$6,491.00
Peter's Pence	= \$2,713.00

Holy Thursday	= \$1,073.00
Good Friday/Holy Land	= \$1,203.00

OFFERTORY - April 16-Easter	= \$14,907.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$820.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$820.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$13,267.00



RICE BOWLS—It's time to collect Rice Bowls!! Our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving have given way to the joy of Resurrection. But that doesn't mean our Lenten journey is over. It is time to collect the CRS Rice Bowls. You may leave them in the back of Church, or drop them off at the Parish Center. If you are writing a check, please make it out to "St. Francis Church" and put "Rice Bowl" on the memo line. Thank you for contributing to this life-changing program. Please return them by Sunday, April 23.

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.



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

LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT: GAME NIGHT: ALL 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders are welcome and encouraged to join us on Sun., May 7th following the 5pm Mass. Come hang out and play games (indoors and out weather permitting). Dinner will be served, but bring a dessert to share. Parent pick up will be at 8:30pm. Any questions or to RSVP call Sue at 860-354-5372 or SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

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 DATE:
Saturday, June 3, 2017

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). 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.

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.

Faith Formation 860-354-5372

CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

- *Sun., Apr. 23rd grades K-5 11:30am-1:00pm
- *Sun., Apr. 23rd Confirm. yr 1&2 11:30am-1:00pm
- *Sun., Apr. 23rd grades 6-8 2:45-4:15pm
- *Sun., Apr. 23rd 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 **THIS Wed., April 26th** 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 2nd at 4:00pm. The 1:00pm group will have rehearsal at the Church on Thurs., May 4th 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 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.

JR. YOUTH GROUP: End of Year Party: ALL 6th, 7th and 8th graders are welcome. Please come join us for a party on Fri., May 5th. Help us celebrate Spring/Summer. Bring a snack to share to the Parish Center. The evening will begin at 6:30pm and parent pick up will be at 8:30pm. Come hang out and dance and sing and laugh. Any questions or to RSVP call Sue at 860-354-5372 or email spullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

The View From **Happy Easter, Again**



My Window

Yes, it's still appropriate to say "Happy Easter" because we are still celebrating the Solemnity of Easter. Easter, as a matter of fact, in the Jewish tradition, is celebrated over an eight-day period, or an "octave." This was to celebrate the High Holy Days over two Sabbaths, thus, eight days. It's an acknowledgement that some feasts are so great, so tremendous, that they cannot be confined by a twenty-four hour period. So today, we are celebrating, not what usually would be called the Sunday after Easter, but the Second Sunday of Easter. Today has also been designated "Divine Mercy Sunday", which is taken from the opening prayer of today's Mass, as we recognize the great mercy of God in sending us his son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins.

It's not by accident that Easter occurs at the beginning of spring. Easter is, in a very real sense, a feast of the spring. The resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday is proclaimed by nature itself, from the budding tulips, to the trees, to the forest. The ice is gone from our lakes and ponds, and even the fish and the sea creatures proclaim that Jesus is risen from the dead.

Well, maybe I am waxing a bit poetic today, but the warmer weather brings new life to all of us. What greater way do we have to celebrate the coming of spring and the end of winter than with the beautiful rituals of the church, in particular the Easter vigil? The signs and symbols of Easter all have their roots in ancient celebrations of the change of season -- candles, baptismal water, flowers, and Easter foods all coincide with nature.

Spring is a wonderful time too for new spiritual life. All of the acts of penance, sacrifice, and almsgiving that we did during Lent should not end now that Easter is here. Rather, they should become part of the ordinary practice of our faith in the risen Lord. Don't you think it would be a shame if, after growing in our faith during Lent, we just lapsed back to our old ways? Or how about those among us who have joined us for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, but who do not make a regular practice of coming to church? It would be wonderful to see them again next Sunday (The Second Sunday of Easter), to continue our Easter celebration, and on every Sunday after that. After all, we are Easter people and every Sunday is a celebration of Easter.

Like so many other things in our lives, religion can be habit-forming. Unfortunately, the lack of religion can be habit-forming, too, and we can easily fall into a pattern of life where church does not have a place in our weekly schedule. For many of us, Sundays have become days of lounging leisurely around the house, having a late brunch, relaxing in front of the television, or taking a ride to the country.

The Easter season, much like Christmas-time, has its own variety of traditions and customs that revolve around church activity and families. One tradition that I think is fading is that of bringing blessed palm to our relatives and friends. On Palm Sunday it was a tradition in my family to bring some of the palms we received in church to our aunts and uncles. I remember each Palm Sunday going with my father to visit his brothers and sisters, each of them receiving a piece of palm. Of course, I used to love doing this, not only because of our visit, but because each of my aunts would have some of their favorite foods prepared. At each stop I would have to have the special cookies, pastries, or Easter bread prepared for that occasion.

Good Friday was always a day of fasting - we ate very little. Mom would have some fish for us for supper, but the afternoon was always spent at church from 12:00 to 3:00, and in silence. I remember my friends trying to coax me into talking during the "grand silence", but I refused to do so (most of the time).

Easter Sunday Mass was always special. New clothes were all in order, and the entire day was very festive. We would go to Mass at my home parish, St. Catharine's at 9 AM, and then dash to St. Rocco's (the Italian parish where my mother sang in the choir) for the 10:30 Mass. Afterward, there would be a big dinner at our house, with all the aunts and uncles, cousins, etc. coming over. We'd have our typical Italian meal, topped off with a roast leg of lamb or ham. Occasionally, we would have a capuzelle on the table. I'm not sure of the spelling of this, but it was the head of a lamb. I'm not going to elaborate on this except to say that us kids were always pretty grossed out by it. By the time we finished the antipasto, the pasta, the meatballs and sausages, and a salad, it was hard to make room for anything else, especially a head on a plate!

Easter brought other special foods. Mom would make her famous pies - pizza rustica, pizza grana- which is more of a cheesecake, and my favorite, pizza chiena, or, as we called it "pizza gain." My spelling on this might not be correct either, but it is a derivative (dialect) of pizza piena, which means "full pie." It consisted of eggs, cheese, salami, prosciutto, capicollo, and enough cholesterol for an instant heart attack. No one was surprised when anyone had a triple bypass after that meal. It was mixed together and baked in the oven with a crust, and it was great hot or cold. I used to love eating it after Easter, having a cold piece for lunch or as a snack. Also, special breads were made, such as sweet breads, which were great for breakfast.

It may seem that a lot of my memories revolve around food, but it was at the dinner table that we experienced the love of family and friends. Although our food was important, and it made us long for mealtime, it was also the place where we interacted with each other. And so, it is no wonder that so many of us have such fond memories of family while at the dinner table.

Today we live in a society where we are constantly running around, always busy, and unfortunately have less and less time to sit down with family and friends. While commercials and advertisements boast of instant meals and ready-cooked dinners, we miss much of the socialization that goes on around the dinner table. The drive-through at McDonald's or other fast food restaurants should never be our model for family or church and we should never be too busy to partake of Jesus' supper every Sunday, not just a few times during the year. I hope Easter was for all of you a most blessed and happy day. And remember that Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead.

Love,
Fr. Joe