

# St. Francis Xavier Parish

May 14, 2017  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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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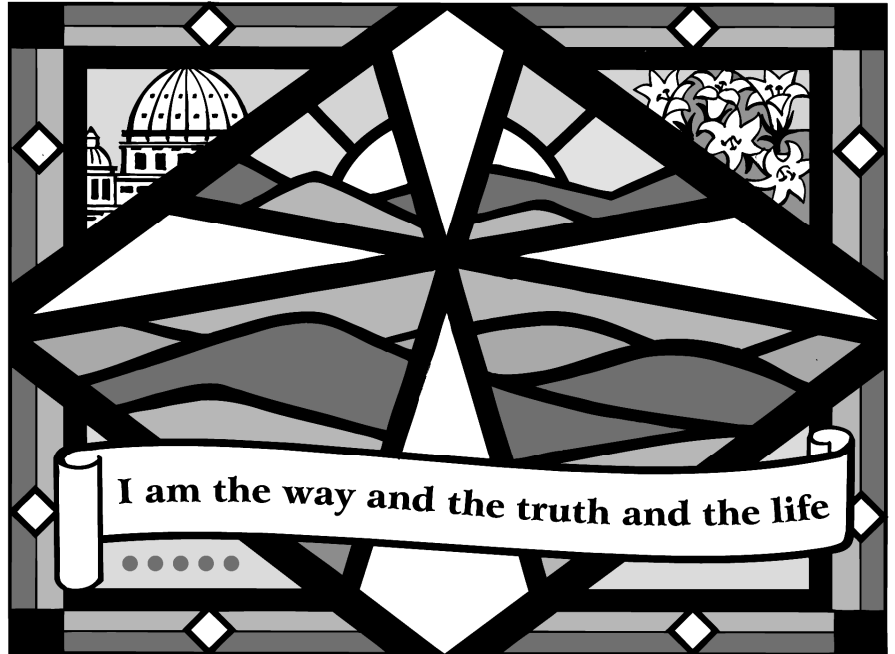
## HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

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



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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.



**SATURDAY VIGIL May 13**

5:00 P.M. +For the Jennings and Finn Families  
Req. by The Maguire Family

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**SUNDAY - May 14**

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &  
The Immaculate Conception Province

10:00 A.M. +For All Mothers - Living and Deceased

5:00 P.M. +Robert Gray  
Req. by Joe Grimaldi

**MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - May 15**

**TUESDAY - May 16**

6:30 P.M. +Anna M. Walter  
Req. by Joe & Kristin Cascone

**WEDNESDAY - May 17**

8:00 A.M. +Mary & John Farrell  
Req. by Jacqueline Farrell

**THURSDAY - May 18**

6:30 P.M. +Kevin O'Marra  
Req. by Virginia Driscoll

**FRIDAY - May 19**

8:00 A.M. +Anna Funaro  
Req. by The Lalak Family

**SATURDAY VIGIL - May 20**

5:00 P.M. +The Lynch Family  
Req. by The Maguire Family

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**SUNDAY - May 21**


7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &  
The Immaculate Conception Province

10:00 A.M. +Michela Dispensa  
Req. by Theresa, Rosa and Children

5:00 P.M. +Rosemary Grubb  
Req. by Daria & Richard Wielebinski

**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.

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



**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. Both women and men of all ages participate. The fee for the weekend is \$175 for meals, private room and retreat materials. Scholarships are available for financial assistance. Contact Marie at 203-631-9030.

**The Patriotic Rosary - Saturday, May 20, 2017**

Come join the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the Church to honor our great nation with the Patriotic Rosary. The Patriotic Rosary is different than our regular rosary. (Booklets will be available for you to participate.) This rosary is a way to show the world how we feel about our great nation. Our nation is under attack and we need to pray to keep it strong. Don't miss this opportunity. Light refreshments will be served.

Training for **new Eucharistic Ministers** will be offered on two evenings in the Church. It is only necessary to attend one evening as the training will be the same at each session. Below are the dates and times.

Tuesday, May 16, following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, May 17, at 6:30 PM

Father Joe will go over the necessary training that all new EM's need. We look forward to seeing you all at one of the two training sessions.

**Parish Dinner Dance Thank You's**

We would like to extend appreciation to those who helped make the dinner dance a great success. Thank you to parishioner, Jim Derbyshire, for donating his time and talent as our DJ. A thank you to Enza Sorba, of Enza Events, for the donation of the beautiful centerpieces. Thank you to our dance instructors from JK Shuffles and to Fox Hill Inn for a beautiful venue. And thank you to all who attended for making this a memorable evening!!

**SAVE THE DATE...**

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

October Day of Reflection at Enders Island

**"The Poor Man of Assisi"**

All parishioners are invited to attend this Day of Reflection honoring the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We will carpool to Mystic, CT. The program runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include a 3-course hot lunch. \$50/per person. More details and sign-ups to follow.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on **MONDAY**, May 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. New members are always welcome to join.

**LONG TERM CARE PRESENTATION**

**Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a seminar on Long Term Care on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 pm in St. Francis Church Hall. The K of C Field Agent, Terry Petiprin, will inform and educate all parishioners about Long Term Care and it's personal and financial implications. Terry will have a 20-30 minute presentation and then be available for questions. For more info, please contact Grand Knight Bill Byrd at 860-350-6263.

**Boy Scout Troop 66 Tag Sale**

Boy Scout Troop 66, sponsored by St. Francis parish, will hold a Tag Sale on Saturday, May 27 from 9 am - 2 pm on the Front Lawn of the Parish Center, 1 Elm Street. There are many items for sale including: household items, toys, games and a raffle. Please come and help support our Troop.

Join **The Confraternity of the Rosary** on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at the Retreat House at The Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield. Gathering time with coffee will be from 9 - 9:30 a.m. The speaker will be Deacon Arthur Miller of the Hartford Archdiocese. Lunch will be at 12 noon at the Retreat House. You are also invited to recite the rosary and participate in the Stations of the Cross in the Grotto. We will meet in the lower parking lot at Lourdes at 9a.m. and carpool to the House. Bring \$20.00 (cash only) on the day of the retreat. To register please call Connie or Marcy at 1-860-361-6564 by May 31.

**BABY BOTTLE DRIVE** St. Francis will be holding a Baby Bottle Drive fund raiser beginning this weekend (Mothers Day) in support of Carolyn's Place in Waterbury. They assist woman of all ages who become pregnant and need support. Each family is asked to take a bottle home and put whatever loose change that has accumulated during the day into the bottle. The bottles will be collected on Fathers Day. Thank you in advance for your support.

**NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION** will benefit: Catholic Communications.



OFFERTORY - May 7	= \$5,242.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$288.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$288.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,666.00
Monthly Collection	= \$3,104.00

**Please stop in the Church Hall this weekend** after Mass where there are several fund raisers taking place. You can purchase a lovely plant for Mom from the Women's Guild, or a sweet treat to support one of our teens going on a Mission Trip, or support another teen participating in the Relay For Life.



**Mother's Day Plant Sale**

The Women's Guild will be sponsoring a Mother's Day Plant Sale this weekend after the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass and the Sunday morning 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Masses. Please stop by the Church Hall and bring home a lovely plant or hanging basket for Mom. Questions? Call Adrienne Coppola at 860-354-9954.

**BAKE SALE**

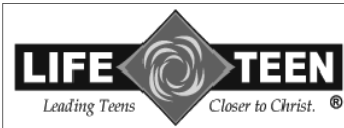
Matthew Clarke, a junior at NMHS and member of St. Francis Xavier Parish, is pursuing a volunteer service trip to Accra, Ghana - West Africa for two weeks this July. While there, Matthew will have the opportunity to work with other teenage volunteers on community service projects and, with the help of local coaches, teach underprivileged children soccer. He will be living with a host family during his stay. To help offset the cost of his service trip, Matthew will be selling baked goods after each Mass this weekend. Please stop in the back of the Church to check out the goodies!

**RELAY FOR LIFE**

Michael Raffaele, a member of our LifeTeen group and Choir, will be walking with the Relay for Life on June 3<sup>rd</sup> sponsored by the American Cancer Society. He will be in the Church Hall this weekend seeking support for this worthy fundraiser. He is selling bracelets and lanyards as well as seeking sponsors.

**100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima**

May 13 marks the 100th Anniversary of the first apparition of our Lady of Fatima. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared 6 times to 3 shepherd children; Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta; between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She came to the little village of Fatima which had remained faithful to the Catholic Church during the recent persecutions by the government. Our Lady came with a message from God to every man, woman, and child of our century. Our Lady of Fatima promised that the whole world would be in peace.



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

**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 Pullen with questions 860-354-5372.



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**I will  
 put my spirit  
 in you**

**FAITH FORMATION VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER:**

will be held on Tues., May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our evening will begin with 6:30pm Mass, followed by a buffet dinner and desserts. Please come and let us Give Thanks to the Lord! We have been blessed by the gifts of your time and talents this past year. Please come let us show our gratitude and appreciation of you “our” volunteers. Please RSVP to Mary, Chris or Sue by May 16<sup>th</sup> at phone number 860-354-5372 or email CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org. Praying we see ALL of you there.



**GRADUATION MASS AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY:**

will take place on Sun., June 4<sup>th</sup> following the 5pm Mass. All High School seniors and their families are invited to attend this special Mass where they will be recognized for all their hard work and dedication. A reception will follow in the Church hall. Please call 860-354-5372 to RSVP with your name and number attending with you. Thanks.

**Faith Formation**  
**860-354-5372**

**REGISTRATION 2017-2018:** was held. A letter with all the details was mailed a few weeks ago. You must now come to the office to do so. The Faith Formation office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am – 12:30pm and 1:30 – 5:00pm. We are closed on Fridays. Late fees go into effect June 6.

**SUMMER SPIRIT 2017:** Join us this summer in our fun-filled Summer Spirit program. This year’s program will be held July 10-14, 8:45am – 12:00noon (Monday through Thursday) and until 1:00pm on Friday for our annual Friday cookout. Your child will have a great week participating in music, art, outdoor play, Bible stories and other great activities. Summer Spirit is open to children entering Kindergarten through and including grade 6. Campers and counselors must be currently enrolled in Faith Formation or have been Confirmed to register. Cost: \$20./one child, \$20./two children and \$35./three or more children. \$10./counselor. \*\*Cost includes Summer Spirit t-shirt, arts and crafts, daily snack and drinks, Friday cookout, special entertainment. Registration is Sat., May 20<sup>th</sup> following the 5pm Mass in the Church Hall and Sun., May 21<sup>st</sup> following the 10am Mass in the Church Hall or come to the Faith Formation office during office hours. Any questions please call 860-354-5372.

A special **THANK YOU** goes out to ALL our First Communion children, their families and loved ones on receiving their First Holy Communion this past Saturday. Also our deepest **thanks** to the wonderful catechists: Kelly Gray, Lucille Fedak, Nicole King, Inga Natoli, Jillian Murphy, Hannah Murphy, Nicole McCaffrey, Stephen Riley & Aida Morataya who worked so hard preparing them. **Thanks** also to the members of the Music Ministry, Eucharistic Ministers, Master of Ceremony, Altar Servers as well as the St. Francis Women’s Guild for donating the certificates and hosting the receptions and last but not least to the many families who provided the goodies for the receptions. **Thank you** and God bless you.

**Deadline for St. Francis Scholarship is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18!!!**

## The View From



## My Window

## HAPPY MOTHERS DAY MY THREE MOMS

I grew up with what I believe is a fantastic example of love and sacrifice. Let me give you some background. I grew up with three moms. Now, I wasn't living in some kind of hippie commune or in some alternative household. I shared our house with my mom and dad, my sister, my maternal grandfather, and my Aunt Tessie. My real mom, Anna, and Aunt Tessie were sisters. Aunt Tessie was the matriarch of the family. She was one of the oldest of the sisters, and she had never married and was very religious. She had wanted to be a nun in her younger days, but, as customary in a lot of Italian households, stayed home to assist my grandmother and take care of the family. Aunt Tessie was everyone's godmother. She was so holy. She taught us all how to pray before we could walk. She would teach us to make the sign of the cross, and say amen. I think every child in our family learned their prayers on Aunt Tessie's lap. She had a thousand novenas she would say each morning at her bedside before going to work, and tons more when she came home.

I had another Aunt Tessie, who we called Aunt Tessie Junior. Aunt Tessie Junior had almost the same exact name as the other Aunt Tessie- Teresa DePalo (but she spelled her first name with an "h"- Theresa, and she was the wife of my mother's and Aunt Tessie's brother, my Uncle Happy. Yes, I know. What kind of name is Happy? His real name was Patsy or Pat or Pasquale. But we all knew him as Uncle Happy. Aunt Tessie Junior was very different than Aunt Tessie Senior. She was a wild blonde that had gotten my uncle's eye when she was very young. In her younger days she was a flapper, was a lot of fun, and loved to entertain and dance. She was always the life of the party, playing pranks and entertaining everyone. Aunt Tessie Junior was everyone's best friend.

When I was about 5 years old, my grandfather got sick. He could no longer walk. My mother and two Aunt Tessies decided they would take care of him, and they did so every day for five years. They sacrificed so much in their lives. Every day I was surrounded by these three wonderful women, and saw the great sacrifices they made for their father and father in law. It was a life long lesson.

I could never pick a favorite among them. Mom was mom, nurturing, caring, and when needed, the disciplinarian. I had a soft place in my heart for Aunt Tessie, because she never married. I always felt that because of this she was "alone", although I realized that, because of the love she had for all of us, she was never really alone. She was so proud of me when I was ordained a priest. Aunt Tessie Junior was special. She was a friend. When I cried and cried on my first day of school at Saint Catharine's in Brooklyn, Reverend Mother Veronica told my mother to take me home. My mother was furious about this, as she had prepped me for months about going to school. Every day that summer Mom would buy something for me for school. "Joseph's got a new lunchbox," she'd announce.

"Joseph's got a new pencil case."

"Joseph's got a new school bag."

"Isn't Joseph excited about going to school? And he's not even going to kindergarten. He's going right into the first grade."

By the way, my mother always called me Joseph. And she insisted that everyone else call me Joseph, saying this was my given name, not Joe or Joey or anything else.

Anyway, I know this embarrassed her - especially with Mother Veronica yelling at her in front of all the other mothers. Mom bit her finger all the way home. That's what she'd do when she was angry...it's an Italian thing, I guess. When we got back, mom let me have it, in her own way. Boy was she mad.

The next day I decreed - since I already knew at the tender age of 5 that I would one day be a pastor (I was already issuing decrees), that I would only go back to school with Aunt Tessie Junior. This burnt mom up even more. So, every morning for that whole year, Aunt Tessie Junior would take me to school in the morning and pick me up in the afternoon. I loved her so much.

We know that in life, no relationship can be sustained unless there is a willingness to sacrifice. I tell couples when I perform their weddings, that from now on, their spouse must be the most important person in their lives, even more important than themselves. In any relationship, be it husband and wife, parents and children, or friends, we must be willing to give up things - to sacrifice for one another.

The example of my three moms is one that has guided me as a priest. We must be willing to sacrifice for each other if we really love one another.

Happy Mothers Day to my three moms. I miss you so much.