



St. Francis Xavier Parish

May 7, 2017
Fourth 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

Br. Courtland Campbell, OFM
Pastoral Associate
BrCourtland@sfxnewmilford.org

Deacon Roland Miller
DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Doreen Gray, Administrative Assistant
DGray@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro
St. Francis Cemetery/Finance Office
JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org
860-350-6753

FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Mary Vannucci,
Coordinator Gr. K - 5
MVannucci@sfxnewmilford.org

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

Chris Grenier, Administrative
Assistant to Faith Formation
CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org

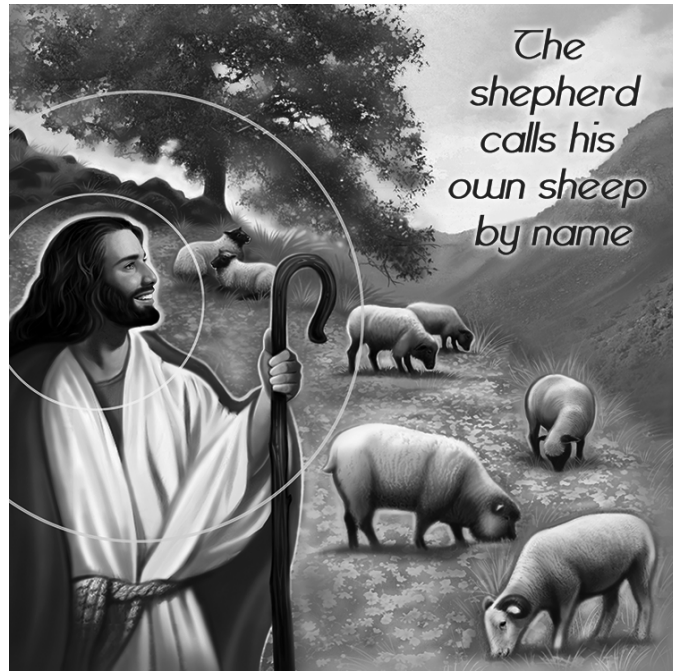
HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director
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 6**

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter**SUNDAY - May 7**

7:30 A.M. +George A. Lalak
Req. by the Lalak Family
10:00 A.M. +Tony Dispensa
Req. by Theresa & Rosa & Children
5:00 P.M. +Filomenia & Anthony Buffamonte
Req. by Their Daughter & Family

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - May 8**TUESDAY - May 9**

6:30 P.M. +Rosaria Santaguida
Req. by Pina Sorbara and Family

WEDNESDAY - May 10

8:00 A.M. +Martha E. Lalak
Req. by The Lalak Family

THURSDAY - May 11

6:30 P.M. +Helen Redmond
Req. by The Mullane Family

FRIDAY - May 12

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

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

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 **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.



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week
burns in memory of
Segundo H. Obregon (5th Anniversary)
And His Parents
Requested by
Maria and Maria J., His Sisters

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.

THANK YOU To the Parish Family,
We would like to extend our heart-felt gratitude for the support in our fundraising efforts. We were able to send \$483.00 to "Save The Storks", a pro-life organization that helps Moms and babies get health care. We made \$483.00 towards getting our group of 33 to Steubenville through the luminary sales. Thank you also for supporting our Easter Bread sale. We are so blessed to have a parish family that assists in our efforts to provide the youth with this valuable opportunity. Thank you! Sue Pullen

Women's Guild Meeting - Tues., May 9, 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

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.

Mother's Day Plant Sale

The Women's Guild will be sponsoring a Mother's Day Plant Sale the weekend of May 13 & 14, 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? Adrienne Coppola at 860-354-9954.



**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.

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.



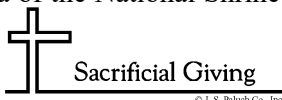
RELAY FOR LIFE

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

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 next weekend. Please stop in the back of the Church to check out the goodies!

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION will benefit: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



- OFFERTORY - April 30 = \$5,042.00
- 5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM = \$277.00
- 5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS = \$277.00
- ST. FRANCIS' SHARE = \$4,488.00

Our Lady of Fatima Presentation

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, parishioner and EWTN TV Host will present a talk on Our Lady of Fatima on May 13, 2017, feast of Our Lady of Fatima. It will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Danbury, CT at 11:00 AM. Adoration will follow her talk and will consist of the Rosary and a Marian Consecration, which will be followed by a book signing of Donna-Marie's two new Fatima books as well as her other titles. It will conclude about 1:00 PM. Attendance is free.

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.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE St. Francis will be holding a Baby Bottle Drive fund raiser beginning Mothers Day weekend in support of Carolyn's Place in Waterbury. They are a charity run group who assist any woman who becomes pregnant and needs 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.

Confraternity of the Rosary-Altar Duty Schedule

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



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

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.

LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT: GAME NIGHT: ALL 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders are welcome and encouraged to join us this 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 email her at SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

FAITH FORMATION VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER: will be held on Tues., May 23rd. Our evening will begin with 6:30pm Mass, followed by wine and cheese, 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 16th at 860-354-5372 or email CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org. Praying we see ALL of you there.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Join us on Sat., June 3rd 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.

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 20th following the 5pm Mass in the Church Hall and Sun., May 21st 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.

CROWNING OF MARY: will take place at the 10am Mass on Sun., May 14th. All First Communion children are encouraged to wear your First Communion outfits and bring flowers to adorn Mary with. Please arrive 20 minutes early to practice. Please meet Mary Vannucci in the Church hall first where all the children's names will be put in a basket and one drawn out to carry the crown in the procession. Any questions call Mary.

The View From *Good Shepherd Sunday*



My Window

This weekend we are celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This is also traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday." In case you are wondering why, look at the readings for today's Sunday mass. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one which has its roots in the Old Testament, especially Psalm 23, which is known throughout the Christian church as "The Lord is my Shepherd." The image of Shepherd demonstrates gentle leadership. The shepherd would have a very special relationship with his sheep, and they would recognize him by a certain call or whistle.

We know that the Pope, Bishops, and priests are also referred to as "shepherds." The very word "Pastor" means shepherd. I hope you find me to be a gentle (but firm) shepherd. This is where we get the word "pasture", "pastoral", and other like words which deal with shepherding.

Today we are also celebrating World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray for vocations today, for vocations to ministry and consecrated life. We know how we are in dire need of more priests, brothers, sisters to carry on their special ministry in the church.

The word vocation comes from the Latin word "Voca", meaning, voice or call. It is an acknowledgment that God calls his people to a commitment that becomes for us a way of life. On this Day of Prayer for Vocations, we zero in on a particular facet of the commitment to the Christian life- the call to ministry through priesthood, diaconate, and the consecrated life of members of religious orders.

The topic of vocations is a special one to me, since for five years, from 1989 to 1994 I was Provincial Director of Vocations for my Franciscan province. As Director of Vocations, my duty was to journey with men who were seeking entrance into the Franciscan way of life. During my five years, almost forty men made the commitment to that journey, and many of these today are Franciscan friars and priests.

My own vocation as a Franciscan and as a priest was nurtured in grade school. At the tender age of 13, I entered our minor seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. That age may seem quite young, and, in retrospect, although our order no longer accepts anyone that young, it was a wonderful experience. All my education and training from high school on was directed toward one goal- service to the church and religious life. Through my years in the seminary, up until my ordination to the priesthood in 1976, I realized that the seeds of my vocation were not in my seminary training, or in the discipline and training of formation programs, but in my early childhood and the influence of my family. I was encouraged every part of the way. My devotion and dedication to the church and to the order was fostered by family and friends.

Never once was I told that I was wasting my life, making a bad decision, or I was running away from society. In fact, the exact opposite was true. My commitment forced me to confront the issues of my life and plunged me into the problems of society. As Vocation Director, I in turn challenged the young men who came to me to deal with life and deal with their problems. "Issues that are buried are buried alive," was my favorite phrase. And in their journey of faith, many had to confront the realization that they were not being called to priesthood or religious life.

The whole nature of vocation is still a mystery to me- why some flourish in religious life and others cannot make a go of it...and why God calls one and not the other. On my ordination day, I was only one who stood before the bishop for Holy Orders- even though many more men had at one time or another joined me as members of my class. Why I was the only one, I do not know. Certainly, I wasn't the smartest of the group, and I was far from being the holiest. If you were to take a poll at the beginning of our seminary experience on who would most likely to succeed, I never would have chosen myself and I am sure I would not have been the choice of many of my classmates. I remember one seminary teacher telling us, back in 1963, that of the 20 or so in my freshman class, only three would be ordained. I remember looking around. There was Jim, the holiest guy in our class. He would definitely be one of them. There was Brian, certainly the most intelligent. He would certainly be a bishop some day. There was Charles, the best personality of us all. His personality would make him pope. Why they eventually dropped out and I was left standing there alone on ordination day, only our God in heaven knows. Maybe it was my Italian stubbornness that made me refuse to leave, who knows.

You may be familiar with the "Magnificat", Mary's wonderful prayer from the Gospel. I am reminded that God chooses the weak to make them strong. Vocations are not the job of Vocation Directors- but rather all of us are called to foster vocations in our lives. You who are parents are the prime "Vocation Directors" of the church today. Through your influence a vocation to priesthood or religious life will be fostered- or discouraged by your attitude. I know my mother and father considered my vocation to the Franciscan life and the priesthood to be one of the crowning moments of their lives. I remember that day in May of 1976, Mother's Day, when I celebrated my first Mass- with my family in the front row of my home parish, beaming with pride. Let me tell you that it is a wonderful experience for a family to have a priest, a religious brother or sister dedicated to God.

Although the road is long and difficult, and the sacrifices are many, the rewards are wonderful and great. So this weekend, we are reminded that we are called to foster vocations, and to show our love for God and His Church by encouraging vocations.

Love,
Fr. Joe