

St. Francis Xavier Parish

July 9, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

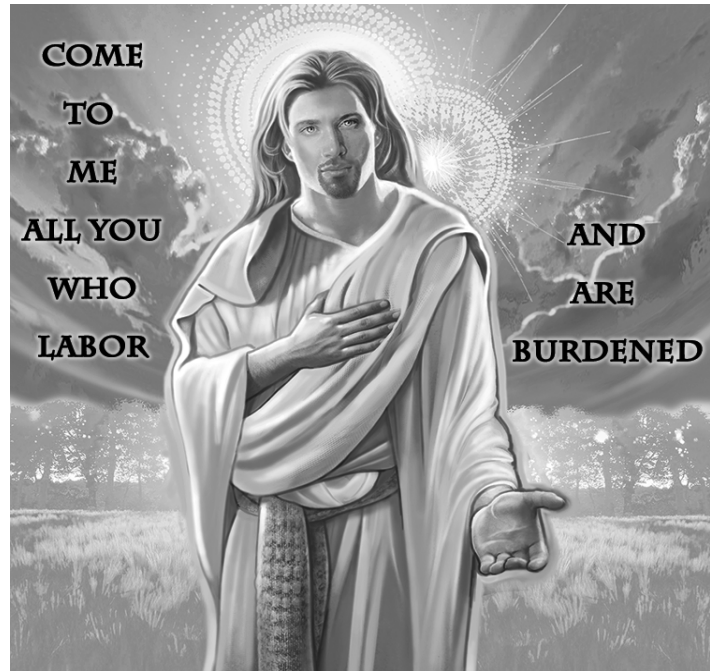
HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director
HolyInfant@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-7284

Mailing Address & Office Location

1 Elm Street
New Milford, CT 06776

Fax # 860-355-9485



© J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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 - July 8

5:00 P.M. For the Intentions of Kaitlyn Lynch and Christopher Teehan on their wedding day
Req. by Their Family

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - July 9

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier & The Immaculate Conception Province
10:00 A.M. +Hugh & Doris Brooks
Req. by Their Family
5:00 P.M. Special Intention of Justin Mylie
Req. by His Mom and Brother

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - July 10

TUESDAY - July 11

6:30 P.M. +George A. Lalak
Req. by The Lalak Family

WEDNESDAY - July 12

8:00 A.M. For the living and deceased members of The Shugrue and Brennan Families
Req. by The Shugrue Family

THURSDAY - July 13

6:30 P.M. +Jean DiSalvio
Req. by The Speede Family

FRIDAY - July 14

8:00 A.M. +Donald W. Matts
Req. by Jo DeCosa

SATURDAY VIGIL - July 15

5:00 P.M. +Robert LaViolette (7th Anniversary)
Req. by Adrian & Doreen Gray

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - July 16

7:30 A.M. +Mark & Bertha Ballard
Req. by Virginia Driscoll & Family
10:00 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier & The Immaculate Conception Province
5:00 P.M. +Lucia Grenier (16th Anniversary)
Req. by Her Son, Marcel & Family

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 Sanctuary Lamp for the week burns in memory of John R. Pavlick, Sr. (10th Anniversary)
Requested by His Family

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - At the request of Archbishop Blair and the Archdiocese of Hartford, we are sorry to announce that the Franciscan Friars will no longer be staffing St. Francis Xavier Church. The effective date of the transfer of the parish to priests of the Archdiocese will be July 17.

At A Glance... Upcoming Dates and Events:

July 10 - 14 - Summer Spirit!!!
July 18 - Prayer Shawl Ministry - 1pm - Parish Ctr.
July 21-23 - Steubenville NYC
July 28 & 29 - Village Fair Days
Aug. 1 - Knights of Columbus - 8pm - Church Hall
Aug. 6 - Donut Sunday
Aug. 6 - Fiddler on the Roof, 2:30 pm, \$25/person
At the Abbey of Regina Laudis Theater.
(More details below)
Aug. 15 - Feast of the Assumption- 8 am & 6:30 pm

Parish Council Email Address

Your Parish Council would like to hear from you!
Thoughts, Ideas, Questions, Suggestions?
sfx.pccouncil@gmail.com

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Through an arrangement with the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, parishioners, families, and friends are invited to attend the 2:30 p.m. matinee performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" on Sunday, August 6. The performance will take place on the Abbey grounds at The Gary-The Oliva Theater located at 249 Flanders Road, Bethlehem. The Parish Council is recommending this wonderful event as a special outing for our parishioners. The group ticket price is \$25.00 per adult, children 11 and under are free with a paying adult. The show is approximately 2 ½ hours long. For information and tickets, please call Christine Zona at (860) 210-7892.

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.





Honoring Those Who Serve!

During the month of July we will be remembering those who have served our country and community. If you would like to honor a loved one or friend, living or deceased, there will be stars in the back of the hall after each Mass. Please write their name and information such as rank and type of service (military branch, police, firefighter, EMT, etc.). We will honor our heroes by placing these stars on a banner to display in the church.

GODPARENTS & SPONSORS...

Have you been asked to be a sponsor or godparent for the sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation? This is a great opportunity to be an example of faith to inspire those receiving these sacraments. However, please be aware that the church expects godparents and sponsors to be practicing Catholics, who will serve as models of faith. If you are asking for a certificate of eligibility for this, or are having your own child baptized or confirmed, please be aware of the requirements: Sponsor/Godparent must be a practicing Catholic (which means regularly attending Sunday Mass and practicing their Catholic faith.) They must be registered here at St. Francis or in the parish where they worship. They must be fully initiated into the Church, that is, have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. They must be at least 16 years of age. If they are married, their marriage must be recognized as valid by the church.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, July 18 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. New members are always welcome to join this ministry.

Reminder...We have "Online Giving"

Online Giving is a convenient, secure and confidential way to make your How Do I Get Started?

1. Visit our parish website www.sfxnewmilford.org
2. Click on the Online Giving link
3. Click on the Create New Account link.

If you have any questions or need help, please call the office staff for assistance.



Due to early bulletin deadlines, the collection totals will be in next week's bulletin.

New Addresses

Fr. Joseph Lorenzo, O.F.M.
St. Anthony Friary
24 Harrison Street
PO Box 487
Catskill NY 12414-0487

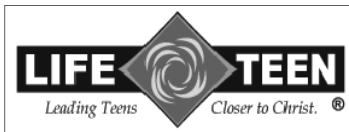
Br. Courtland Campbell, O.F.M.
Padua Friary
151 Thompson Street
New York NY 10012

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima pilgrimage to Fatima and Poland!

Experience Fatima for the 100th anniversary year and receive a plenary indulgence and to Poland in the footsteps of St. John Paul II and St. Faustina with EWTN TV Hosts Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle and Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR on a grace-filled and life-changing pilgrimage from September 17 to 27th, 2017. Spaces are limited. Details are here: <http://www.donnacooperoboyle.com/blog/pilgrimages-2/>

The NEW MILFORD FOOD BANK – suggested items to donate: non-perishable items: peanut butter & jelly, cereal or oatmeal, pasta/pasta sauce, diced or crushed tomatoes, cracker, cookies, rice (white or brown), muffin/cake mixes, juice, coffee, tea, canned soups-chicken, veggie, lentil/cream, canned meals (stew ravioli/chili, etc.), canned vegetables, canned tuna/chicken/salmon, canned fruit or dried fruit, boxed meals (mac & cheese/seasoned rice, seasoned pasta, etc.), quinoa, barley, canned beans or dried beans (black, white, red, baked...), frosting, school snacks (fruit cups, applesauce, granola bars, small snack packs, etc), condiments (ketchup, mayo, mustard, salad dressing, relish), (low salt/low sodium, organic & gluten free products are welcome).

Also needed are personal hygiene (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.), paper goods (paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, garbage bags, sandwich bags, storage bags, tissues, aluminum foil, cleaning products (dish soap, laundry detergent, household cleaners, etc.). These items need to be marked N.M. Food Bank and we will deliver or you may drop them off at the Richmond Center Social Services department. Thanks in advance for your continued generosity to our Community.



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

REGISTRATION 2017-2018: was held. A letter with all the details was mailed in March and phone calls were placed this past week and SEVERAL email reminders were sent out to. A LATE FEE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$25. PER CHILD WILL BE CHARGED. You must **come** or **call** the office to register. The Faith Formation office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9:00am– 12:30pm and 1:30– 5:00pm. We are closed on Fridays.

SUMMER SPIRIT: we are in need of the following items to be donated for the program: apple juice, goldfish, cheese its, pretzels and CHEESE BALLS for the snack portion. The service project portion we will need donations of: shoe boxes, individual pack of tissues, “new” Beanie Babies, puzzles, crayons, balls, stickers, books, matchbox cars (please note these items will be put in a box to be used as “Activity” boxes for children going through illness, relocation, etc.) **Items may be brought on the first day.** Thanks for your help.

NOTE TO CATECHISTS & ASSISTANTS:

If you have not returned your Catechists/Assistants manual/cds please do so immediately. Thanks for all the time and effort you put into sharing your faith with the youth in our parish. May God bless you over the summer and we hope to see you in the Fall!!!

Many thanks to Mary Vannucci for her years of service to our parish as Coordinator for Grades K-5 of our Faith Formation Program. Mary has taken on new employment with the town government and we wish her well in her new endeavors. Mary will still be an active member of our parish community.

Village Fair Days Volunteers Needed:

St. Francis Xavier booth is looking for volunteers to represent the parish in the community and help with sharing information. Our booth will have baskets of goodies for a drawing. If you are available to help in the booth Fri., July 28th and/or Sat., July 29th, please sign up in the Church Hall. There is a time schedule and you may sign up for a few hours or more. Thanks in advance for your help with this fun project. Questions? Please call the office.

Faith Formation 860-354-5372

This Fall, over 570 children and young people, in grades Kindergarten through Grade 10, will sign up to learn more about Jesus and our Catholic Faith. YOU can help them to learn and grow in Faith by becoming a Catechist or Assistant in our Faith Formation program. As you nurture the Faith of our young, you will learn and grow as well. As one long time catechist said, “I learn so much from the children!” We provide you with materials, training and support. Classes begin Sun., Sept. 24th and **meet every other week.** (that works out to be only 15 classes). If interested or you would like more information for grades K-5 please call Chris Grenier and for more information for grades 6-10 or Youth Ministry please call Sue Pullen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Sundays – 11:30am – 1:00pm
 - 5th Grade – Catechist and Assistant
- Sundays – 2:45 – 4:15pm
 - 6th Grade – Assistant
 - 8th Grade - Assistant
- Mondays – 3:00 – 4:30pm
 - 10th Grade – Confirmation – Assistant
- Mondays – 6:30 – 8:00pm
 - 6th Grade – Catechist and 2 Assistants
 - 7th Grade – Catechist and Assistant
 - 8th Grade – Assistant
- Tuesdays – 6:30 – 8:00pm
 - 6th Grade – 2 Catechists and 2 Assistants
 - 7th Grade - Catechist and 2 Assistants
 - 8th Grade – Catechist and Assistant
- Wednesday – 6:30 – 8:00pm
 - 9th Grade – Confirmation – Catechist and Assistant
 - 10th Grade – Confirmation – Assistant
- Tuesday NES – 3:30 – 5:00pm
 - Kdg. – Catechist and Assistant
 - 1st Grade – Catechist and Assistant
 - 2nd Grade – 3 Catechists and 3 Assistants
- Wednesday SNIS – 3:30 – 5:00pm
 - 3rd Grade – Catechist and Assistant
 - 4th Grade – Catechist and Assistant
 - 5th Grade – Catechist and Assistant
- Thursday SNIS – 3:30 – 5:00pm
 - 4th Grade – Catechist and Assistant
 - 5th Grade – Assistant

The View From Back to our Roots



My Window

This coming August 15, I will celebrate my fiftieth anniversary of reception into the Franciscan Order. On August 15, 1967, along with nineteen others, I received the brown robe and white cord of the Franciscan Order in a beautiful investiture ceremony attended by many friars and family members. What is ironic about this anniversary is that this event took place at our novitiate- St. Anthony Friary in Catskill, New York, where I will be returning in another week. I guess life goes around in cycles, and after a fifty year absence I am returning to one of my roots.

I actually began my journey four years before that, in September of 1963, when I entered the formation program of my order. I was thirteen years old, fresh out of grade school, when I was informed that I had been accepted into the freshman class of Saint Francis Seraphic Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts.

One of the most common questions I get asked is this: when did you know you wanted to be a priest? This is not an easy question to answer, because there are different degrees of "knowing," and as I get older I realize that perhaps we never really know. Now please understand that I was very young when I began entertaining the thought of being a priest. In those days- the late fifties and early sixties, it was quite common to have young men going into seminaries after grade school. In my own graduating class at St. Catharine of Alexandria School in Brooklyn, NY, six of us went to seminaries- five to the diocesan school, called Cathedral Prep. I was the only one in the class who went to a religious order. The year after I graduated, another student at my school also joined the Franciscans. Of all these, I believe I am the only one to actually be ordained.

I wanted to be a lot of things in those days, and priesthood was one of my options. I wanted to play baseball for the New York Yankees. I played Little League for many years, but was primarily a first baseman, a right fielder, and then later on, a catcher. But I was so impressed with the priests of my parish, that my deepest desire was to be a priest. From the earliest time, my family members often said "Joseph is going to be a priest." When eighth grade hit, my desire to enter a seminary intensified, but I was afraid to tell my parents, thinking that they wouldn't let me leave home for the seminary at such an early age. You see, I am from an Italian family, where moving to the next block was a traumatic experience. When family members moved to another borough- Staten Island, for example, or, God forbid, New Jersey- another state- it was like the end of the world. Can you imagine how my parents felt- in particular my mother- when I would move to Andover, Massachusetts, some 225 miles away, at the tender age of thirteen? So, I did what most kids do at that age- I didn't tell my parents. I wrote to several vocation directors, and then, one day, while playing stickball with my friends on 38th street, my father came by and told me I had better go home. "Dad, I'm up at bat next. I can't leave now." Dad looked at me sternly. He said, All I know is there's some priest sitting in our living room, looking to sign you up for the seminary, and your mother is crying." When I arrived at home, there was the vocation director for the Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Immaculate Conception, Father Bede Ferrara, sitting on the couch in our living room. My mother and father and Aunt Tess had puzzled looks on their faces. Mom was direct, "Did you write a letter to Father Bede asking him to let you go to the seminary?" I had to admit it. But I didn't expect him to appear at my door the very next day.

We all talked, and mom and dad got the idea that I was serious about this. Obviously, we weren't making a commitment on the spot- we had a lot more talking to do. But, to make a long story short, that September, on September 8, 1963, Mom and Dad, along with my Aunt Rose and Uncle Nick (they were our family members who owned a car) traveled the five-hour trek to Andover, Massachusetts, to bring me to the seminary. There, with eighteen other 13-year olds, I entered Saint Francis Seraphic Seminary, where I would begin thirteen years of preparation for the priesthood.

My classmates and I were greeted by the friars who would be most involved in our day to day lives: Father Mathias Pastore, our Rector; Fr. Alban Montella, the Prefect of Formation (who for many years was our Provincial); and Fr. Nathaniel Rotondi, who was the Vice-Prefect of students and later became my Novice Master in Catskill.

That first night was a restless one. I remember in particular the clocks in the seminary building. They didn't have a second hand, so at each minute there was a loud "click" as the minute hand marched on to the next number. I heard hundreds of those clicks that night. The next morning, we had a Solemn Mass of the Holy Spirit to begin the school year. Then, we had a few hours with our families, and then we were on our own. I remember the feeling of reality hitting home. Mom and Dad were leaving, and I would be staying. I remember how my mother cried when she left. I know she was happy I was entering the seminary, but she had other feelings to wrestle with- that of a mother leaving her son behind with strangers. I know she was consoled by some of the priests and my own joy at living together with so many others. Later on I found out how much my mother grieved over this, and, when I grew older and saw other boys at 13, I knew why.

Being a thirteen-year-old boy, however, I was in a different place. The classes were challenging, some of the priests were grumpy and intimidating, but living with 80 guys your own age was, in itself, a thrill. There were sports- baseball softball, football, we had a bowling alley, there were tons of things to do, and we were living out in the woods, with trips down to the Merrimack River, walks into Lowell. There were great friendships which have lasted to this day, and we got a great well-rounded education. The life was strict and very disciplined, every second of every day was regimented, but I loved it.

During this time of transition, both for me and the parish, it is good for us to remember our faith, our love for God and our desire to serve him, our roots, and the values that we have as Christians and Catholics.

Love,
Fr. Joe