

St. Francis Xavier Parish

June 25, 2017
Twelfth 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
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860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro
St. Francis Cemetery/Finance Office
JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org
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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
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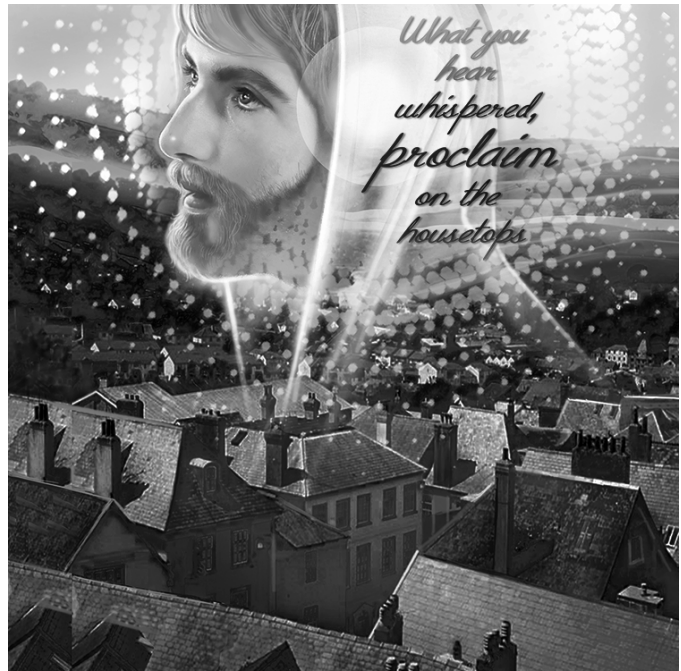
HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

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 - June 24

5:00 P.M. +James & Lucy Matts
Req. by Jo DeCosa

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - June 25

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
The Immaculate Conception Province
10:00 A.M. +Edward Mendoza
Req. by His Parents & Brothers
5:00 P.M. +Jack McPartland
Req. by His Family

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - June 26

TUESDAY - June 27

6:30 P.M. +James Edward Oldham
Req. by The Pearl Family

WEDNESDAY - June 28

8:00 A.M. +Nick Stevenson
Req. by Dennis & Trisha Harrington

THURSDAY - June 29

6:30 P.M. For Fr. Sebastian Vazhakala, MC
Req. by the Lay Missionaries of Charity

FRIDAY - June 30

8:00 A.M. +Timothy Murphy
Req. by The Holyoak Family

SATURDAY VIGIL - July 1

5:00 P.M. +Kenny Hipp
Req. by John & Judy DeAlessio

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY - July 2

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier &
The Immaculate Conception Province
10:00 A.M. For the living and deceased members of
The Reynolds Family
Req. by Lisa Biagiarelli
5:00 P.M. +Gloria Barry
Req. by Patti & Bob Fisher & Family

TUESDAY, JULY 4th - Daily Mass at 9:00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Daily Mass on Tuesday, July 4th,
will be held at **9:00 a.m.** All are welcome to join us
as we pray for Peace celebrating our country's
Independence and the blessings of liberty!!
(No evening Mass on July 4th.)



St. Francis sends a final farewell
to our dearly departed:
Christine Bizier Waldron



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week
burns in memory of
Anthony & Mary DeCosa
Requested by Jo DeCosa



The St. Francis Xavier Memorial
Window is illuminated this week for
Joseph DeCosa (11th Anniversary)
Requested by His Family

At A Glance... Upcoming Dates and Events:

June 24 & 25 - Pray 'n Wash - benefit Steubenville
June 25 - E.M. Commissioning at 10 a.m. Mass
June 26 - Teen Leaders Meeting - 12 noon
June 29 - Life Teen End of Year Party - Church
July 1 - Patriotic Rosary - after 5pm Mass
July 4 - Daily Mass at **9 a.m.**
July 10 - 14 - Summer Spirit!!!
July 21-23 - Steubenville NYC

Parish Council Email Address

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

**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.donnacooperoboyles.com/blog/pilgrimages-2/](http://www.donnacooperoboyles.com/blog/pilgrimages-2/)

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 at 5:45 p.m.
BINGO begins at 6:30 p.m.



Baby Bottle Drive Ended Last Weekend!!!

If you forgot to bring your baby bottle last weekend, it's not too late. Please drop it off at Church or bring it to the Parish Center during the week. Thank you for all you do to support the little ones and their families!!

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal

We are getting closer to our parish goal of \$60,000.00. To date we have received \$52,252.00 in pledges from 250 parish households. We still haven't heard from many of our parishioners, however, and would like to reach our goal as soon as possible. If you haven't yet made a pledge or a gift to the appeal, please consider doing so as soon as possible.



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.

Reminder...We have "Online Giving"

Online Giving is a convenient, secure and confidential way to make your donations.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION will be our regular Monthly Collection used to offset the cost of utilities.



Sacrificial Giving

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OFFERTORY - June 18	= \$5,451.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$300.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$300.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,851.00

My Fathers House Presents:

The Holy Shroud of Turin Retreat

A special One Day Retreat with the Holy Shroud will be held on Saturday, July 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at My Fathers House in Moodus, CT. A relic of the Holy Shroud will be available for veneration. Donald Nohs, known as the Apostle of the Holy Shroud, will be the presenter. Cost is \$40 per person. Breakfast and lunch concession on site. For directions and more info call 860-873-1906.

THANK YOU!!! The Prayer Shawl Committee extends a big thank you to all who made our cake sale a success. We appreciate your support and generosity. God bless all.

MISSION APPEAL JULY 1-2

Next weekend we will be having our annual Mission Cooperative Appeal. We will be hosting Father Julius of the Society of African Missions, a society of missionaries who come from around the world and are dedicated to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in Africa and among African people. The SMA missionaries have been present in Africa since 1856. Our second collection will benefit the Society. Please make any checks payable to the parish (St. Francis Xavier), as we will send the proceeds of our second collection to the Archdiocese to process for the African Missions. Please be generous.

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.



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

LIFETEEN LIFENIGHT: SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER: At the Church RAIN OR SHINE on Thurs., June 29th begins with 6:30pm Mass – parent pick up at 11:00pm. This is open to **ALL high schoolers (grades 9, 10, 11 & 12)**. We will have pizza, ice cream, bonfire (weather permitting) and games (inside and outside). We will also show a movie. Questions or suggestions? Please call Sue Pullen at 860-354-5372 or email her at spullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

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 dropped off at the Parish Center (office) or call and let us know what you will be bringing the first day. Thanks for your help.

PRAY – N – WASH: this weekend; Sat., June 24th before, during and after the 5pm Mass and Sun., June 25th before, during and after the 7:30am and 10am Masses. This will benefit our youth attending the Steubenville retreat in July.

If you have not returned your Catechists/Assistants manual/cds please do so immediately. Thanks.

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 STARTING LAST WEEK. 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.

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

Mondays – 3:00 – 4:30pm

10th Grade – Confirmation – Assistant

Mondays – 6:30 – 8:00pm

6th Grade – 2 Catechists and 3 Assistants

7th Grade – Catechist and Assistant

8th Grade – Assistant

Tuesdays – 6:30 – 8:00pm

6th Grade – Catechist 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



My Window

On April 1, 2004, I had an experience I will never forget. I had the privilege of attending a bill signing at the White House. The occasion was the signing of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, signed by President George Bush. I was invited by Monsignor William Fay, at the time the General Secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We had been stationed together during my deacon internship year at St. Rita's Church in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He was ordained only a year and were close in age. We became good friends.

The bill (also known as Laci and Conner's Law) was inspired by the murder of Laci Peterson and her unborn son, and defined an unborn child as a victim with rights. We gathered in the East Room of the White House, and there, I witnessed a ritual that can rival any liturgical celebration. People were dressed in their Sunday best. The room was filled with senators, Congress members, White House staff, government officials, as well as family and friends. There were also many clergy in attendance, including several Cardinals and many bishops.

As the ceremony began, all stood to attention as President Bush and his entourage entered the room. We continued standing for the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Even when sitting, everyone sat straight up. While the purpose of the day was indeed memorable, the formality of bill signing was inspiring. Nothing was done casually or off-handed. There was formality in everything.

There is a story about some religious leaders from a non-Christian religion who were being given a tour of a large cathedral. They were no doubt very impressed with the beauty and immenseness of the cathedral, as the tour guide, a priest himself, pointed out to them the various places of interest: stained glass windows, the giant pipe organ, the baptistry, the bell tower, the frescoes, the beautiful altar, the Archbishop's cathedra (presiding chair), and the various chapels. And, of course, the Cathedral was packed with visitors, pilgrims, tourists, and devotees saying a prayer or attending Mass or simply taking pictures. When the visitors came to the Tabernacle, they pointed and asked what it was. The priest told them that this was where God was physically present, where Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, dwelt in the Eucharist, Body, Soul, and Divinity. The priest noticed a smile and a snicker on the part of one of the guests, and inquired why such a reaction?

The visitor said, "But you as Catholics really don't believe that, right?"

The priest responded, "Of course. That is the very heart of our faith."

The visitor said, "In my religion, if we had such a place, where we believed God resided, Body, Soul, and Divinity, we would not dare to approach such a place so casually, but would only come to such a place crawling on our hands and knees. Yet you Catholics are so casual in your approach that you make others doubt that you really believe this."

The way we carry ourselves during Mass often reflects on our faith. If we are too casual in the way we act, in our posture, or the way we dress, we show a lack of faith in what we are doing.

If you've ever been to a sporting event you will note that, during the National Anthem, everyone stands, removes their hats, and many place their right hand over their hearts. If someone decides that they are not going to stand, or acts in a contrary way, they will definitely hear about it from the other fans. Even for something like the singing of "God Bless America," which is not our national anthem, people expect a certain type of behavior.

Being on the altar at Mass gives me (and the other ministers) a unique perspective of what goes on during Mass. Here are some things that I witness:

- Inappropriate dress. The way we dress makes a statement. Wearing something that is more appropriate for a gym or beach sends out a message. No one would think of dressing inappropriately for a wedding, or a dinner engagement, or a bill signing at the White House. And yet, we are in the presence of God at Mass. Does our dress reflect our faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?

- Inappropriate posture. People send out a message when they drape themselves over the pews, half kneeling, half sitting, and sometimes even half laying down. Other actions: sprawling out on the pew, exercising or running one's hands through one's hair. At one of my former parishes, we had a parishioner who would clip his finger nails loudly during Mass. Crossing one's legs I believe also reflects an inappropriate casualness. This may seem to be benign (I have even seen priests cross their legs on the altar), but does it convey an attitude that we might consider inappropriate for Mass?

- Reading the bulletin or parish newspaper during Mass. OK I know you can't resist reading my "View from my Window"- maybe you are reading this during Mass right now!!!! LOL If you are- put the bulletin down and pay attention.

- Checking cell calls, texting, checking email on a cell phone. Of course, cell phones ringing during Mass. Last year I went to see "Hamilton" on Broadway. I was sitting in the balcony, and during the show, I was shocked to see how many people in the orchestra section continually checked their cell phones. The light from the phones was very distracting, and I am sure even more distracting to those sitting close to the person checking their phone. Sometimes at Mass, there are distractions. Some we can understand, others may prevent us from entering into a prayerful spirit. Incessant coughing, nose-blowing, clearing of the throat, can not only be distracting to our prayer, but also get others nervous, especially with the increase in flu and disease alerts.

- Talking loudly. This can be a problem when some of the congregation may be a bit hard of hearing. Sometimes what we think is a quiet whisper can turn into a hurtful remark being made publicly. Some of our parishioners who may be getting on in years do not realize how loud they can be when making a comment. I will never forget my first Mass at Saint Anthony's, my former parish in Manhattan, in the chapel at the friary, when someone made a comment about my pronunciation of the name of the person for whom the Mass was being celebrated. That next Sunday, in the church, when introducing myself to some parishioners in the pew, another person made a comment out loud about me when I walked away. This made me wonder what I was getting into!

There are many things that we do that call attention to ourselves and can make other people focus on individuals in the pew rather than on God. At Mass we are called to "lift our minds and hearts to God", but we hope that our own behavior, dress, gestures, and actions, do not cause others to lift their minds on us.