



St. Francis Xavier Parish

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

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. Gerald Dziedzic, Pastor
PapaGer621@att.net
Rectory Phone: 860-799-7449

Rev. Chacko Kumplam
Parochial Vicar
kumplam@gmail.com

Deacon Roland Miller
DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Grenier,
Administrative Assistant
Parish Office & Faith Formation
CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-2202

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

FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Jessica Higgins, Coordinator Gr. K - 5
JHiggins@sfxnewmilford.org

Sue Pullen, Coordinator Gr. 6 - 12
Edge (Gr. 6 - 8), LifeTeen (Gr. 9-12)
& Confirmation
SPullen@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 - December 2

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

First Sunday in Advent

SUNDAY - December 3

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier

10:00 A.M. +Linda Biondino & Carol Jean
Req. by Their Family

5:00 P.M. +Kevin Trudel
Req. by The Psenicnik Family

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - December 4

TUESDAY - December 5

6:30 P.M. For the living and deceased members of the DeAlessio and Martin families
Req. by John DeAlessio & Family

WEDNESDAY - December 6

8:00 A.M. +Raymond J. O'Brien
Req. by His Wife & Children

THURSDAY - December 7 - Vigil Mass

6:30 P.M. For the living and deceased members of The DeAlessio & Martin families

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FRIDAY - December 8

8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis Xavier

6:30 P.M. +Theresa Lovell
Req. by Her Daughter

SATURDAY VIGIL - December 9

5:00 P.M. +Howard Brown
Req. by His Sister, Theresa

Second Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY - December 10

7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier

10:00 A.M. +Jack McPartland (8th Anniversary)
Req. by His Family

5:00 P.M. +Rita Carollo
Req. by The Jonke 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.

St. Francis sends a final farewell to our dearly departed:
Cassandra DeAlessio
Richard Krosky

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week burns in memory of
Joseph DeCosa
Requested by His Family

The St. Francis Xavier Memorial Window is illuminated this week for
William & Alice Krusky
Requested by
Their Daughter, Gail

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Friday, December 8

Masses at St. Francis Church:
Thursday, December 7 - Vigil Mass
Immaculate 6:30 p.m.
Conception Friday, Dec. 8 - Masses at 8:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Masses at Our Lady of the Lakes Church:
Friday, Dec. 8 - Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Holy Day of Obligation

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
“Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands.” As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT and Jul 6-8, 2018 in Manchester, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

Defending Our Religious Liberty

“Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth,” says Pope Francis. This is why it is important that our lawmakers protect the rights of the Church and its ministries and organizations when considering the changes to the current healthcare mandate.

2017-18 Theme Retreat for Women:

“Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace,” is a weekend women’s retreat that will take place at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat, in Farmington. It begins Friday evening on January 12, 2018 at 7:00pm to Sunday, January 14 at 12:00 PM. The powerful theme is taken from the well-loved Peace Prayer of St. Francis. The Retreat ends with Mass at 11:00 am followed by brunch. Families and friends may join retreatants for Mass and brunch. Offering is \$250. To register call 860-677-8519, olcretreat@sbcglobal.net.

THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 40

I would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their generous Christmas donation of \$1,000 and for the additional \$200 donation for our Youth Group. Your continued support of St. Francis Xavier Parish is both heartwarming and gratifying.

Fr. Gerry

NEXT WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION will benefit: Retirement Fund for Religious.



Sacrificial Giving

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OFFERTORY - November 19 = \$4,695.00
 5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM = \$258.00
 5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS = \$258.00
 ST. FRANCIS’ SHARE = \$4,179.00
 Campaign for Human Development = \$2,078.00

OFFERTORY - November 26 = \$4,834.00
 5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM = \$266.00
 5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS = \$266.00
 ST. FRANCIS’ SHARE = \$4,302.00

SOCIETIES/MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Pastoral Council President - Christine Zona 860-210-7892

Liturgical Ministries:

Altar Servers - Peter Tagley 860-868-7821
Children’s Liturgy - Jessica Higgins 860-354-5372
Eucharistic Ministers - Al Gambone 860-946-9776
Greeters - Noreen Fanella - nafanella@att.net 860-355-2625
Lectors - Barbara Mullen - 860-354-6436
Music Ministers-Doreen Gray, Tina Haddad, Christian Martirano
Ushers - Herman Izzard - 860-354-0430

Prayer/Catechetical/Service Ministries:

Confraternity of the Rosary-First Monday -Noon, Church Hall
Knit for Life - Patty Snodgrass - 860-355-4578
Knights of Columbus - For info call Bill Byrd 860-350-6263
Lay Missionaries of Charity - Joan Kick 860-354-1323
Maintenance Ministry - Tom and Cathy 914-843-5193
Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Thurs., 7:00 p.m. Parish Center
Parish Prayer Line - Terri - 860-355-8143; Debbie - debhmcl@gmail.com
Prayer Shawl Ministry-Jo DeCosa - 860-355-0342
Pro-Life Ministry - Deacon Roland Miller - 860-355-3737
R.C.I.A. - Robert & Barbara Mullen 860-354-6436
Women’s Guild - Second Tuesday of Month - 7 p.m., Church Hall
Youth Ministry - Sue Pullen 860-354-5372
LIFETEEN (High School Youth) **Jr. Youth Group** (Gr. 6 - 8)

Outreach Ministries:

Beautification Committee - Joe Caruso 860-355-0670
Community Garden Ministry - Steve Fugardi - 203-770-4103
Mass Taxi - need a free ride to Mass? Mark Speede 860-210-0289
Martha & Mary Community Care - 860-354-2202
Meals Ministry - Chris Grenier 860-354-2202

Affiliated Groups:

Recovery Anonymous - 7 pm, Thursday, 3rd FL
Boy Scout Troop 66 - Darrin Thorndike 860-799-0730
Cub Scout Pack 66 - Steve Morris 203-526-6254

Do you want to help change the world?

Get involved in Youth Ministry!

Our teens are amazing people and it is an absolute joy to be involved in leading them closer to Christ and supporting them as they figure out ways to use their gifts, and form community within our church. We need more people to get involved and help plan and execute meaningful evenings filled with faith, fun, friendship and service. We have openings in Grades 6 - 12. Please, please consider this vital ministry that will bless your life in more ways than you can imagine. Contact Sue Pullen at 860-354-5372 or spullen@sfxnewmilford.org.



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

Faith Formation
860-354-5372

LIFETEEN (YOUTH GROUP): will be held on Sunday, December 10th following the 5pm Mass. (Dinner will be served.) Parent pickup will be at 8:30pm at the Church.

Carol Sing & Star Wars- The Last Jedi

LIFETEEN (YOUTH GROUP): will be held **ON Fri., 12/15** beginning with the Village Crest Carol Sing at 6:40pm, **parents please drop off at Village Crest.** Followed by pizza dinner (\$5. Donation) at the Parish Center. Then we will walk down to the Bank St. Theatre for **“Star Wars-The Last Jedi”** premiere night (\$12. Includes ticket, popcorn and a drink). Tickets go fast so first come, first served. All high schoolers in grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 are encouraged and invited to join us, and they are welcome to bring a friend. Parent pick up will be texted to parents. Any questions or to **RSVP** please contact Sue Pullen at 860-354-5372 or email her at SPullen@sfxnewmilford.org.

LUMINARY SALES: began on Sat., Dec. 2nd through Sat., Dec. 23rd. Remember and honor someone on Christmas Eve. We are selling Luminary Bags that will be lit during the First Mass on Christmas Eve and bring beautiful light to surround our Church grounds all night. You may purchase your luminary for \$5 each or three for \$10. This is a Christmas tradition here at St. Francis Xavier as we pray and light the night with love. All proceeds will help our teens go on the Steubenville retreat this summer. We thank you for your prayers and support as we Prepare The Way. Bags may be purchased after ALL Masses during Advent or you may stop by the office. God bless you always.

SUBSTITUTES: If you can volunteer to help in the classroom after school and/or evenings please contact the office and let us know of your availability. Thanks.

Office Hours:

The Faith Formation office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9:00am– 12:30pm (closed for lunch) and 1:30–5:00pm. We are closed on Fridays.

CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

Sun., 12/3 11:30am-1pm grades K-5
Sun., 12/3 11:30am-1pm Confirm.Gr.9&10
Sun., 12/3 2:45-4:15pm grades 6-8
Sun., 12/3 2:45-4:15pm Confirm.Gr.9&10
Mon., 12/4 3-4:30pm Confirm.Gr.9&10
Mon., 12/4 6-8:30pm grades 6-8
Tues., 12/5 6-8:30pm grades 6-8
Wed., 12/6 6-8:30pm Confirm.Gr.9&10

CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

Tues., Dec. 12th 3:30-5pm grades K-2
Wed., Dec. 13th 3:30-5pm grades 3-5
Thurs., Dec. 14th 3:30-5pm grades 3-5

The **GRADE 3 Mass, meeting and potluck dinner:** will be held on Sun., Dec. 3. We will begin with the 5pm Mass (children please sit with your families during Mass). Father will speak to the children immediately after Mass and there will be a potluck dinner to follow. RSVP to Jessica.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY: Please come and join us **THIS SUNDAY**, Dec. 3rd at the 5pm Mass. After the opening prayer all the children in grades K-5 will be invited to hear the Liturgy of the Word with adult and teen 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, as well as give their parents a chance to experience Mass with fewer distractions. Please call Jessica Higgins with any questions.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: The rehearsal will be Mon., 12/4 at 5:30pm at the Church. The dress rehearsal will be held on Sat., 12/9 at 9am at the Church. The pageant will be presented on Sun., Dec. 10th at 2pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Mondays – 3:00-4:30pm
10th grade – Assistant
Mondays – 6:30-8:00pm
6th grade - Assistant

HELP KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a poster contest to help remind everyone (young and old alike) "Jesus is the reason for the season". The contest will run from Thanksgiving to December 20th. Entry forms with complete details and guidelines will be available in the back of the church.

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.



Lourdes In Litchfield Gift Shop

Beginning Sunday, November 5th until December 23rd, the Grotto Gift Shop at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield will be open from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Saturday & Sunday, 11:30 am (after Mass) until 4:00 pm.

The Shrine is located on 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield, CT.

There is a varied selection of Advent wreaths and candles along with many new Christmas ornaments, cards & Fontanini Nativity sets. Also, unique gifts and books are available for all occasions, particularly baby & children's items.

Stop by and visit us!

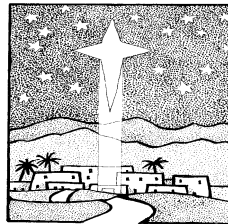
BEQUESTS

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of parishioners who have made a bequest to St. Francis Xavier Parish. These charitable gifts build our parish endowment to help pass on our Catholic faith to future generations.

THE ANNUAL "2017" GIVING TREE:

Christmas tags are on the tree in the Church and we will need all **gifts returned to the Church by Sun., Dec. 10th**. If you wish to help with this project, please take a tag from the tree, purchase the requested item, wrap it and attach the ORIGINAL tag to the exterior of the gift(s) securely. Volunteers needed to help sort and deliver on Mon., Dec. 11th at 9am in the Church Hall, please let Chris Grenier know if you are available to help by calling 860-354-5372. Another way to help is to make a donation and we will buy the item for you. We make sure ALL requests are filled. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

Christmas & New Years Schedule:



Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, Dec. 23 - 5 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday, Dec. 24 - 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Masses:

Sunday, Dec. 24 - 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 12 midnight

Christmas Day Mass:

Monday, Dec. 25 - 10:00 a.m.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:

Saturday, December 30: Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 31: 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31: Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.
Monday, January 1: 10:00 a.m. Mass

Our Lady of the Lakes Christmas Schedule:

Christmas Schedule:

Christmas Eve: 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Day: 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2017 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held on Friday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the John Pettibone Community Center. This Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. All boys and girls 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. (Registration forms will be available at the venue.)