



St. Francis Xavier Parish

December 10, 2017
Second 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



© 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 - 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

MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - December 11

TUESDAY - December 12

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

WEDNESDAY - December 13

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

THURSDAY - December 14

6:30 P.M. For the children, staff and families of
the Sandy Hook Elementary School
(December 14, 2012)

FRIDAY - December 15

8:00 A.M. +James & Lucy Matts
Req. by Jo DeCosa

SATURDAY VIGIL - December 16

5:00 P.M. For the People of St. Francis Xavier

Third Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY - December 17

7:30 A.M. +Aldo Toranto
Req. by His Family

10:00 A.M. +Josephina Magana (4th Anniversary)
Req. by Her Family

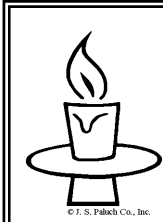
5:00 P.M. +Dennis LaViolette (11th Anniversary) &
Robert LaViolette
Req. by Doreen & Adrian Gray

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:

Richard Krosky



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week
burns in memory of
Frances & Eric Koeble
Augusta & Christopher Born
Ingrid Church
Inge Phanco
Frederick Sprick

Requested by
Linda & Tomm Sprick
Edward Noonan
Karen Andrews

5th ANNIVERSARY DAY OF ADORATION & PRAYER FOR THE "INNOCENTS OF NEWTOWN" St. Joseph Church of Brookfield will host its annual day of Eucharistic Adoration & prayer in remembrance of the Innocents of Newtown, the children & adults killed on 12/14/12. Adoration will begin following the 8:45am Mass on Thurs., 12/14 and will continue through 8pm. All are welcome.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. New members are always welcome to join.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." Let us learn to comfort each other better 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/>.

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.

HELP KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Do you know why we celebrate Christmas? Do your children know why we celebrate Christmas? This would be a great time to sit down and talk to them about Christmas and have them express their ideas as a picture. This is why the Knights of Columbus sponsor the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. It's not too late and not too complicated. Pick up an entry form at Church today.

Archdiocese of Hartford

March for Life in Washington DC

Please join us for the March for Life in Washington, D.C., January 18-19, 2018. The theme for this year's March is "Love Saves Lives." The pilgrimage includes a bus trip to the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and March for Life in Washington, D.C. The two-day bus trip and the breakfast with Archbishop Blair at the hotel will cost \$110 per person. Our guest speaker at the breakfast will be the Reverend Paul Scalia, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, and son of late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Father Scalia is a frequent speaker on matters of faith and doctrine and is the author of the book, *That Nothing May Be Lost*, published by Ignatius Press in 2017. *You are responsible for a separate payment of your hotel stay.* A block of rooms is being held for our group at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town, in Alexandria, VA. Call Pro-Life Ministry at 203-213-5079 or 203-639-0833 for guidelines in making hotel reservations.

Visit the Relics of St. John Paul II

Maria Reina De La Paz Parish
494 New Britain Ave, Hartford

All are welcome to attend on December 12, 2017. Begins with Holy Hour at 8:00 a.m. and Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Veneration of Relics & Confession at 10:00 am until 5:00 p.m. when Catechesis begins with Msgr. Plocharczyk. Spanish Holy Hour and Mass will begin at 6:00 p.m.



OFFERTORY - December 3	= \$5,336.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$293.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$293.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,750.00
Monthly Collection	= \$3,364.00

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.

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:

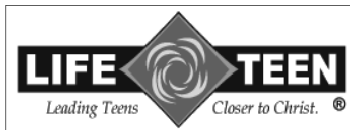
- Confraternity of the Rosary**-First Monday -Noon, Church Hall
- Knit for Life** - Patty Snodgrass - 860-355-4578
- Knights of Columbus** - For info call Bill Byrd 860-350-6263
- Lay Missionaries of Charity** - Joan Kick 860-354-1323
- Maintenance Ministry** - Tom and Cathy 914-843-5193
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group** - Thurs., 7:00 p.m. Parish Center
- Parish Prayer Line** - Terri - 860-355-8143; Debbie - debhmel@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



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

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Please come and join us **THIS SUNDAY**, Dec. 10TH 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.

HELP: Over **560** children and young people, in grades Kindergarten through Grade 10, have signed up to learn more about our Catholic Faith. **YOU can help them to learn and grow in Faith by becoming a Catechist or Assistant in our Faith Formation program. Classes meet every other week Sept.-Apr.** If interested or you would like more information for grades K-5 please call Jessica Higgins for more information and for grades 6-10 and/or Youth Ministry please call Sue Pullen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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

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.

CLASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

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

CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:

Sun., 12/17 11:30am-1pm grades K-5
 Sun., 12/17 11:30am-1pm Confirm.gr.9&10
 Sun., 12/17 2:45-4:15pm grades 6-8
 Sun., 12/17 2:45-4:15pm Confirm.gr.9&10
 Mon., 12/18 3-4:30pm Confirm.gr.9&10
 Mon., 12/18 6:30-8pm grades 6-8
 Tues., 12/19 6:30-8pm grades 6-8
 Wed., 12/20 6:30-8pm Confirm.gr.9&10

Faith Formation 860-354-5372

Let's Go Caroling: Fri., Dec. 15th. We are meeting at Village Crest Nursing Home at 6:40pm in the lobby. After singing, we will walk to the Parish Center for **pizza** (\$5.). Then we will walk to Bank St. for the 10pm showing of the **"THE LAST JEDI"** (\$12. ticket, popcorn & drink). RSVP to Sue at spullem@sfxnewmilfordorg or call her.

The **GRADE 4 Mass, meeting and potluck dinner:** will be held on Sun., Jan. 4. 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.

LUMINARY SALES: began on Sat., Dec. 2nd and run 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. for one or \$10. for three. 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.

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 THIS 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.

The **JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP (6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADERS):** are invited to an Ugly Sweater Christmas Contest and Party at St. Francis Xavier Church on Sun., Dec. 17th. We will first attend the 5pm Mass together, then have pizza dinner, dessert and a scavenger hunt. Please bring a grab bag gift for a game, but please spend no more than \$5.-\$10. Parent pick up will be at 8:30pm. RSVP to Sue Pullen at or call her at the office at 860-354-5372.


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.)

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.



The Women's Guild is having an **Hors d'oeuvre & Champagne Party** on Tuesday, December 12th at 7PM in the Church Hall to celebrate the Christmas season. All women of the Parish are welcome. RSVP to Ellen Cote, (860) 354-5883 or ebcote@yahoo.com if you plan to come. Bring an hors d'oeuvre and if you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a small gift worth no more than \$10.00. Decaf coffee and non alcoholic beverages will also be available.

Defending Our Religious Liberty

In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that it stands ready to work with Congress to address problems with the Affordable Care Act in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. They said, "The Catholic Church remains committed to ensuring the fundamental right to medical care, a right which is in keeping with the God-given dignity of every person, and the corresponding obligation as a country to provide for this right. Health care debates must not be reduced to only those elements which appear most politically expedient; those without a strong voice in the process must not bear the brunt of attempts to cut costs."

Holy Family Retreat House offers the following:

Grace Enough - Retreat

Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God's grace in our lives. In an age of division, tension and change, *Grace Enough* will explore the many ways God's presence empowers us and supports us through every step of life's journey. Discover anew how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Together we'll reflect on how living in God's grace guides us to make wise choices, leading to true happiness and peace. Call for details 860-521-0440.
Men's Retreat: January 12 -14, 2018
Women's Retreat: January 5 - 7, 2018

Centering Prayer Workshop -January 20, 2018

In Centering Prayer Introductory workshops you'll learn the method and principles of this prayer practice and have the opportunity to experience this ancient method in a quiet, reflective atmosphere. The workshop covers the history, psychology, and theology and includes prayer sessions along with Questions and Answers. Four conferences and two periods of Centering Prayer experiences are provided as follows:

Prayer as Relationship: This section focuses on the fact that any form of prayer expresses our desire to be in relationship with God and how Centering Prayer deepens that relationship.

The Method of Centering Prayer: In this section the participants are taught the four guidelines of Centering Prayer. The first period of Centering Prayer occurs after this section.

Thoughts and Use of the Sacred Word: This section focuses on the fact that thoughts will inevitably occur during Centering Prayer and how one can effectively handle them. A second period of Centering Prayer follows this section.

Deepening Our Relationship with God: In this section the focus is on how the method of Centering Prayer deepens our relationship with God and how this ever deepening relationship is manifested in our daily life. Offering: \$30

For more information, please contact Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center 303 Tunxis Road - West Hartford, CT 06107 Phone: 860-521-0440, info@holyfamilyretreat.org