

# St. Francis Xavier Parish

December 17, 2017  
Third Sunday of Advent

26 CHESTNUT LAND ROAD  
NEW MILFORD, CT 06776  
860-354-2202

Web Site: [www.sfxnewmilford.org](http://www.sfxnewmilford.org)  
Email: [sfxparish@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto: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](mailto:PapaGer621@att.net)  
Rectory Phone: 860-799-7449

Rev. Chacko Kumplam  
Parochial Vicar  
[kumplam@gmail.com](mailto:kumplam@gmail.com)

Deacon Roland Miller  
[DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:DeaconRoland@sfxnewmilford.org)

## SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Grenier,  
Administrative Assistant  
Parish Office & Faith Formation  
[CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org)  
860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro  
St. Francis Cemetery/Finance Office  
[JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org)  
860-350-6753

## FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372

Jessica Higgins, Coordinator Gr. K - 5  
[JHiggins@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto:JHiggins@sfxnewmilford.org)

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

## HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Marge Cooper, Director  
[HolyInfant@sfxnewmilford.org](mailto: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 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
Req. by Her Family
- 5:00 P.M. +Dennis LaViolette (11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) &  
Robert LaViolette  
Req. by Doreen & Adrian Gray

**MONDAY - No scheduled Mass - December 18**

**TUESDAY - December 19**

6:30 P.M. For the Intentions of Clare Gennario  
Req. by Joan Kick

**WEDNESDAY - December 20**

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

**THURSDAY - December 21**

6:30 P.M. +Marie Capodiec  
(100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in heaven)  
Req. by Her Sister, Rita Capodiec &  
Family

**FRIDAY - December 22**

8:00 A.M. +Anna Funaro  
Req. by The Lalak Family

**SATURDAY VIGIL - December 23**

5:00 P.M. +Edward Mendoza (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
Req. by His Parents & Brothers

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**SUNDAY - December 24**

- 7:30 A.M. For The People of St. Francis Xavier
- 10:00 A.M. +Jack McPartland  
Req. by His Family

**Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24**

- 4:00 P.M. +Ethel Kane  
Req. by Patti & Bob Fisher & Family
- 6:00 P.M. +John Noll  
Req. by His Family
- 12:00 A.M. For the People Of St. Francis Xavier

**Christmas Day - Monday, December 25**

10:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis Xavier



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week  
burns in memory of  
James T. Cuddy & Patricia M. Cuddy  
Requested by Their Family

**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.

**The Pastor's Corner**

I would like to consider offering an **Hour of Adoration** on **First Fridays** at St. Francis as well as Our Lady of the Lakes. Since our numbers are somewhat small, I would like to alternate the Adoration between the two Parishes. Beginning January at **Our Lady of the Lakes**, following the **9:00 a.m.** Mass and February at **St. Francis**, following the **8:00 a.m.** Mass. At St. Francis I would need someone to lead the Rosary and set up the prayer cards.

Thanks,  
Fr. Gerry



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week  
burns in memory of  
Frances Koeble (15 years)  
Eric Koeble  
Ingrid (Koeble) Church  
Inga (Koeble) Phanco  
Augusta & Christopher Born  
Frederick Sprick  
Requested by  
Linda and Tomm Sprick  
Edward Noonan  
Karen Andrews

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

Pope Francis has warned, "When a sick person is not placed at the center and considered in their dignity, attitudes arise which can even lead to profiteering on other people's misfortunes. The growing health poverty among the poorest segments of the population is due precisely to the difficulty of access to care . . ." Let us pray that in transforming the HHS mandate, religious rights of the Catholic Church will be safeguarded.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH  
FAITH FORMATION 860-354-5372  
**BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY**  
**2017-2018**

As winter approaches, the following policy is in place for delays/cancellations of parish activities, etc.

If school is cancelled, all parish functions are cancelled except MASS. For grades K-10, each class will be allowed one snow day for the year. The lesson missed in classes K-8 are to be completed at home. We will notify you if it becomes necessary to makeup additional snow days.

If school is delayed (e.g. delayed 90 minutes), afternoon functions such as Faith Formation classes, evening meetings/events will still take place at their regular time.

This policy does not affect Sunday Masses or Masses on Holy Days of Obligation.

MASS will always be at the regularly scheduled time. Please use your discretion in inclement weather.

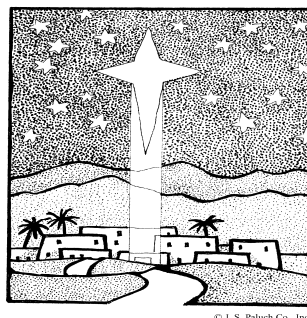
For information about school closings and delays, please check our website at: OR watch your local Connecticut T.V. news stations OR "like" St. Francis Xavier Parish on facebook to receive notifications and cancellations OR we will send out text/emails, but the BEST way to be notified immediately is with the Parish App. If you have not signed up please do so right now by texting App to 88202 for the download.

Thank you and God bless.  
Fr. Gerry, Fr. Chacko, Deacon Roland, Chris, Sue and Jessica



OFFERTORY - December 10	= \$4,498.00
5 ½ % CATHEDRATICUM	= \$247.00
5 ½ % CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	= \$247.00
ST. FRANCIS' SHARE	= \$4,004.00
Immaculate Conception	= \$1,627.00
Retired Religious Collection	= \$1,814.00

**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

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**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.

**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.**

**860-354-5372**

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. 17<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**NOTE:** There will be no Children's Liturgy on Sun., 12/24 and Sun., 12/31. We wish you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year.

**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  
 10<sup>th</sup> grade – Assistant  
 Mondays – 6:30-8:00pm  
 6<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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

**CLASSES FOR NEXT WEEK:**

There are NO classes this week due to Christmas break.

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. 2<sup>nd</sup> run through Sat., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 **JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP (6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS):** are invited to an Ugly Sweater Christmas Contest and Party at St. Francis Xavier Church THIS 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.

**2017-18 Theme Retreat for Women:  
Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace**

“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 and timely theme is taken from the well-loved Peace Prayer of St. Francis. The Retreat concludes with Mass at 11:00 am followed by brunch. Families and friends may join retreatants for Mass and brunch.

Offering is \$250. To register and view our other available Theme Retreat dates: contact OLC at 860-677-8519, [olcretreat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olcretreat@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.ourladyofcalvary.net](http://www.ourladyofcalvary.net).

**LAST CALL to “Keep Christ in Christmas”.**

There is still time to enter your poster. Deadline for all posters is Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Posters may be dropped off at the parish office.

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.



**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.

**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](mailto:info@holyfamilyretreat.org)