

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

10 Elm Street, Middletown, CT 06457- Tel; 860-347-4684

E-mail: office@saintfrancisofassisi.com

Website: www.saintfrancisofassisi.com

Secretaries: Paola Rodríguez, Belky Santos, Judy Wright

Father Kennedy cell phone: (860) 334-8925, E-mail: fruss2x@gmail.com

Deacon Octavio Flores; cell: 860-685-1104,

E-mail: oflores@wesleyan.edu

Hispanic Ministry: Sr. Gloria Elena Saldarriaga; cell: 860-949-1554

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. George Busto, E-mail: GeorgeBusto@yahoo.com



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Jan 06, 5:00 pm (English)

Sunday, Jan 07, 9:00 am (English)

Sunday, Jan 07, 12 noon, (Spanish)

Monday, Jan. 08, 2018, 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan 09, 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, Jan 10, 5:00 pm

Thursday, Jan 11, 5:00 pm

+ Jane Zdanowski, (9th ann.)

r/b Myron Markowski.

Friday, Jan 12, 5:00 pm, NO MASS

Saturday, Jan. 13, 5:00 pm (English)

Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:00 am (English)

+ Geralyn Markowski, birthday

remembrance, r/b Myron.

Sunday, Jan 14, 12 noon, (Spanish)



FEAST OF THE THREE KINGS, Jan. 7, 2018 OUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Dec 31, 2017 = \$3,150.00

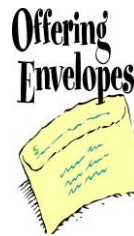
Dec 30, 2016 = \$3,995.00

YTD (Year to Date)

2017/18 = \$95,727.00

2016/17 = \$88,278.00

THE WEEKLY ENVELOPES
ARE IN THE CHURCH HALL.
THE SECOND COLLECTION
IS FOR CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS.



ATTENDANCE FOR

Dec 30 & 31, 2017

Sat. 5:00 pm = 40

Sun. 9:00 am = 87

Sun. 12 noon = 100

TOTAL = 227

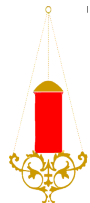
HEALING PRAYERS FOR: Billy & Kathy Kowalski, Nar Scaia, Helen LoGuidice Bousquet, Ethan Heng, Robert Rau, Rick Csuhata, Joe Dorgan, Lydia Perez, Jack Romegialli, Bob Olson, Norma Ramirez, Father Hal Weidner, Jessica Clark.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER KENNEDY

What a storm! I am leaving this Sunday afternoon for Fort Lauderdale for a few days with friends before going to Cuba for two weeks. Judy Wright will be doing the English bulletin, Belky will be in the office full time and Johnny will be keeping the place running. Fr. George will be saying Masses for me and Deacon Octavio will preach, as usual, at the Spanish Mass. I hope to bring back lots of cigars. My next big trip is Ireland. I will have more details on that in the weeks ahead.

REST IN PEACE

Mildred Rogers, Rita F. Roth,
Mary T Davignon



THE SANCTUARY
LIGHT BURNS IN
MEMORY OF DON
SMITH, REQUESTED BY
LOIS SMITH.

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP KITCHEN

Dear St. Francis Parish,

Thank you so much for providing such a wonderful Sunday evening meal for our guests on December 17th. They enjoyed the delicious meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls, muffins, desserts and juice boxes.

What a great meal you provided for our guests! They thoroughly enjoy it!

Thank you as well for the Socks, scarves and hand warmers you provided for the guests.

You will be happy to know that you served 108 meals.

We also appreciate the 15 volunteers who did a wonderful job serving and cleaning up afterward.

You are all to be commended for a job well done.

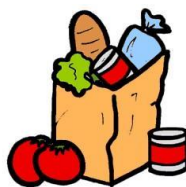
Sincerely and gratefully,

Zabby Torres Administrative Assistant and Program



WEEKLY CEREAL & CAN GOODS REPORT

45 lbs. & \$0.00



Coffee Social and Feast of the Three Kings this Sunday.



REMINDER; If the weather is bad and you do not feel safe coming to church, stay home! Your personal safety is the most important thing.

SPECIAL MASS

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, the 21st Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Consecrated Life will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Norwich. All are invited to join Bishop Cote in thanking God for the gift of consecrated life and for the sisters, brothers, and religious priests who enrich the Church and build up God's Kingdom with the witness of their religious commitment. The homilist will be Father Peter Grover, O.M.V., Rector of Saint Clement Eucharist Shrine in Boston. All are invited to participate in the Mass.

BLOOD DRIVE

here at St. Francis on Wednesday, January 10. Call the office For more information.



CUBA AND IRELAND

On Sunday evening, Jan 7, I am leaving for Florida to spend a day before I go to Cuba for two weeks. I get a special visa so I can stay in a church and celebrate Masses. The warmer weather comes automatically. In June I am planning a pilgrimage to Ireland with a well known company, UNI Tours. I must get there before I pass unto Heaven. Departing JFK, Sunday evening, June 3, returning, Tuesday, June 12. As soon as I know the cost, I will put it in the bulletin.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Whatever your current status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background or ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, whatever your own self-image or esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

EXCELLENT ARTICLE ABOUT RESTRUCTURING IN THE ARCH DIOCESE OF HARTFORD IN THE CITY OF WATERBURY.

In this weeks National Catholic Reporter, a liberal Catholic paper that I enjoy reading every week on line, has a lengthy article on six parishes in Waterbury merging into one parish, called All Saints. A priest from Colombia, South America, is the pastor.

The article speaks for itself. So do the numbers. It is very sad that so many wonderful parishes that used to be full and vibrant are now shadows of their former selves. The people that built and worshipped in thee parishes are long gone and their children have moved away for better economic opportunities. There is no good viable option. Parishes must close and / or merge. Huge churches are now huge liabilities and need millions of dollars in repairs. It is time to downsize, big time.

St. Francis and every other parish in the Diocese of Norwich is going through the same thing; less people, fewer priests, and more expenses. We are merging and yoking. Two thirds of all the parishes in our dioceses are now merged or yoked. That number will undoubtedly increase in the very near future.

They call this "part of life." The tide comes in and the tide goes out. Currently the tide is going out here in the northeast and it will be a long time before it begins to come in.

This is a big challenge that must be met head on. The way we "do church" has to change. Teams of priests, deacons, religious, lay men and lay women have to be formed and given the authority to work things out. One size does not fit all.

The Holy Spirit is calling us to change and I think it is a good idea to listen to the Spirit and stop complaining and start proclaiming the Good News, actually the Great News of God's love for us.

Article can be found at www.ncronline.org

! EPIPHANY ! Today we mark the second major movement of the Christmas season. The child born in the darkness of night in a lowly manger is revealed as the manifestation on (epiphany) of God. Christ is revealed in many ways: as Lord, as king, as the one in whom God is present and acts - the Word made flesh. All of these manifestations are "lights" that shine on Christ, revealing a deeper understanding of who He is.

Traditionally, four events in the life of Christ are remembered as manifestations (epiphanies) of God's presence and acts on through Christ: His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the magi or three kings, the wedding feast at Cana and the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River. This year, because Christmas fell on a Monday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 9. It brings the Christmas season to a close.

(Fr. John Gallagher, OFM, pastor, St. Pius Parish, Middletown.)

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD." As we celebrate Christ the King, let us also learn to serve our spouses 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](tel:860-481-3720) or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.

PROJECT RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS

~ If you are silently grieving or suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. The weekend healing process is confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Upcoming weekends are: November 3-5 in Stockbridge, MA, call 413-452-0661; a Spanish weekend will take place in North Providence, Rhode Island November 17-19 call 401-351-7730 or visit the national website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

"PROJECT RACHEL" is our Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness from an abortion. Priests in the Project Rachel ministry are there for you with God's Grace and Mercy. Call 860-861-4439. All inquiries are confidential.

GIFT PROGRAM - GENERATIONS IN FAITH

TOGETHER is a monthly bi-lingual religious education program which brings together children, parents and grandparents to learn about their faith and grow together as a family. The class meets from October to May between the 9:00 am and 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday, beginning with light refreshments at 10:00 am in the parish hall, with instruction running from 10:20 am - 11:50 am. This is a great opportunity to learn about the church and the teachings of Jesus in an engaging and interactive way. It also provides the opportunity for families who attend the different masses in the parish to get to know each other. The program is open to all, not just those preparing for sacraments, and not just active parish members. Please spread the word so this can be a successful and rewarding program. Registration is \$30.00 per family. Please contact Belky Santos to register or for more information 860-347-4684, ext. 20 office@saintfrancisofassisi.com or visit <http://www.saintfrancisofassisi.com/edu/> Please join us on the following dates: Sunday, October 29 Sunday, November 19 Sunday, December 17 Sunday, January 21 Sunday, February 25 Sunday, March 18 Sunday, April 8 Sunday, May 6.

KEEP IN CONTACT

If you know a parishioner who is now unable to attend mass for whatever reason, please call the office so we can send them a bulletin and bring them Holy Communion.

