

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

285 Church Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103 tel 860-756-4034 • info@spsact.org • www.spsact.org



We are a welcoming and dynamic community of Christian disciples. Rooted in the Franciscan experience of the Roman Catholic tradition, we proactively endeavor to extend hospitality both at the Eucharistic Table and as we minister reciprocally and in solidarity among the alienated and the poor, nurturing the mind, body, and spirit in the Greater Hartford Community. All are welcome!

+

Celebration of the Eucharist

Masks are optional at all Masses

Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation

4:00 PM Public & Livestream

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM Public

10:00 AM Public & Livestream

(Special "Mask Only" section available)

11:45 AM Public

5:00 PM Public

Weekday Masses

7:30 AM Public

12:05 PM Public & Livestream

Sacrament of Reconciliation

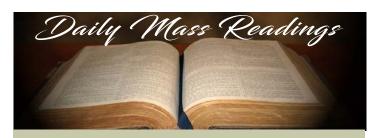
Masks are required for everyone during Reconciliation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:15 to 11:45 AM Saturday 3:15 to 3:45 PM

Parish and Center Office Hours

Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am to 11:30 am



Monday, Dec 12: Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, Dec 13: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13;

Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, Dec 14: Isaiah 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25;

Luke 7:18B-23

Thursday, Dec 15: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30
Friday, Dec 16: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36
Sunday, Dec 18: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Go to http://www.usccb.org/ for readings online.

Open Hearts Ministry

Monthly Meeting: The Open Hearts Ministry is postponing its regularly scheduled December meeting from December 11th to December 18th, to coincide with Lessons

and Carols. Please email info@spsact.org or contact the church office if you would like to help with the reception.

Friends and Family Ministry: The Friends and Family group will not meet on December 18, 2022. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center. Our group provides support and guidance to parents, friends and allies of our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. Please contact either Tim Curran (timothy.curran@trincoll.edu) or Rich Broggini (richardbroggini@gmail.com) for more information.

The Pastor's Corner

December 11, 2022

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The illustration on the cover of today's bulletin is taken from the Mainz Gospels, a book containing the four Gospels which was created around



1250 for the cathedral in that Germany city. All of the text of the Gospels was written in gold ink, and over 70 illuminations were painted throughout the volume. The one you are looking at shows John the Baptist in prison, sending two of his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the promised Messiah. In the lower half, we see Jesus telling the disciples to look around them and see the manifestations of his Messianic presence.

Today, as we look around our world we might be tempted to ask the same question. How is the presence of the kingdom of

God manifested in a world where there is still so much pain and suffering, hatred and injustice? They are realities that we continue to struggle with because the forces of evil often seem to be more powerful than the forces of good. However, we are a people of faith, people of hope, and we must not allow ourselves to become discouraged or defeated.

A powerful example of this is a recent letter that the leadership of the Franciscans of Holy Name Province sent to the friars. In it, the Provincial Council addressed the mass shooting which took place at an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs in November. Reflecting on Isaiah 11:1-10, the first reading for the First Sunday of Advent, they wrote:

"A prime example of our disconnect from Isaiah's vision is the Colorado Springs shooting at Club Q, a nightclub that welcomes members of the LGBTQ+ community, where five people were murdered and nineteen others were injured by gunshot wounds. No justification exists for this mass shooting and mass murder; yet, it is reasonable to conclude that a prime motive for this crime was the pronounced hatred for LGBTQ+ people prevalent in our country and, at least in part, abetted by long-standing Church teaching. The criminal charges against the individual who was arrested for this act include not only five counts of murder, but also several counts of committing bias-crimes against the human

beings in Club Q. As Franciscans, we join with people of good will to condemn these types of 'crimes against humanity.' We recognize and lament the availability and continual misuse of assault rifles and handguns in our country, which harm and kill our brothers and sisters. We resolve to continue to raise our voices in prayer, in



conversation, and in efforts to promote legislation that seeks to reduce the means of perpetrating such violence.

"Yet even with such positive efforts guiding our response to this latest act of violence and hatred, we need to do more in order to work more fully with God's grace to promote Isaiah's vision - especially during this Advent time and at this *kairos* moment in our Church's history when we are invited to let ourselves be guided by the full experience of the Synod and its methodology. Specifically, we need to probe deeper and to recognize that aspects of our Roman Catholic teaching have marginalized, stigmatized, and put forward the immoral view that our brothers and sisters in the LBGTQ+ community are 'inherently disordered' — that they are a 'mistake,' so to speak, in God's creation. What is 'disordered' is this stance, since it violates a basic and repeatedly-stated biblical tenet about creation: that 'God saw what God had made and pronounced it good.' This truth applies to all people regardless of their sexual orientation and expression."

In addition to the letter, the Provincial Council sent a \$5,000.00 donation from Holy Name Province to "Inside Out Youth Services," an organization in Colorado Springs, CO, which works with LGBTO+ youth in educational and advocacy programs. If you wish to make a donation yourself, you can do so at their website insideoutys.org.

In a reflection posted on his Facebook page last week, Bishop Peter Rosazza, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford wrote: "LGBTQ persons deserve to be welcomed and treated with respect with a particular emphasis on gay and transgender youth and their families. They need and deserve the parish's support. We must try to see the face of Christ in them, as he shines forth especially from the most vulnerable."

Messages such as these help us to see more clearly the presence of the Lord in our midst. I pray that all of us may be able to look around and see all the good that Christ's disciples are doing in his name, especially right here in Hartford, and right here at St. Patrick-St. Anthony.

Blessings on your week ahead!

Fr. Tim Shreenan, ofm Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

Pastor

Advent Evening of Reflection

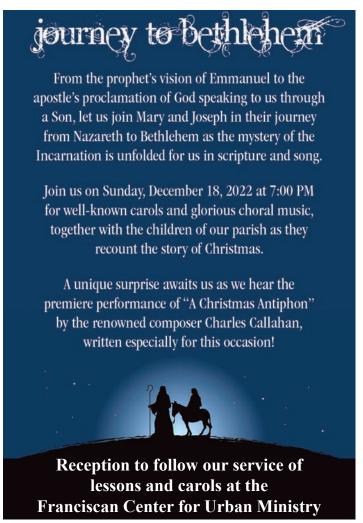
Invitation from our Synod Team...

For almost a year, our parish has been on the Synod Journey at the invitation of Pope Francis. At the heart of this journey has been the Holy Spirit guiding our listening and sharing sessions at our parish and at national and international gatherings for conversation and prayer. Now, as we start this new liturgical year, we venture to consider how our Advent sacred scripture texts reflect our synodal journey together. What awaits us as we gaze upon the central figures of Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the Maqi?

Join us on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 7:00-8:00 PM for a special evening engaging our imaginations to break open insights to renew, inspire, and lift our hearts to see God's redeeming and healing love at work in our lives, our Church, and our world.

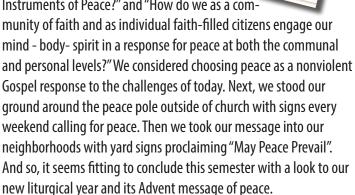
<u>CLICK here</u> to register and receive the Zoom link.

Free Will Offering can be made payable to "St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church" and mailed to 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103, Attn. Pat Curtis.



Advent Instruments of Peace

We began this fall semester with a couple of questions as we celebrated the Feast of Saint Francis in early October: "How can we be Instruments of Peace?" and "How do we as a com

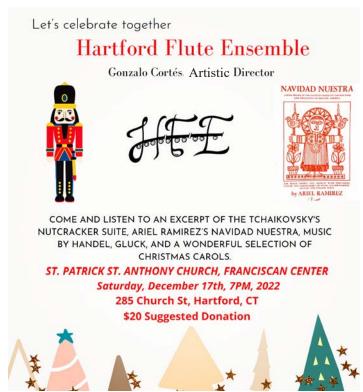


AMAZING PEACE

Join us Thursday, December 15 from 7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom as we use Maya Angelou's Christmas Poem, "Amazing Peace", to explore yet again the call and invitation to become instruments of peace.

If the events happening in our local and global communities disturb you, step into this reflective evening time to recover a balance \sim a promise of and a hope for \sim PEACE. *Facilitator: Pat Curtis* CLICK here to register and receive the Zoom link.

Free Will Offering can be made payable to "St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church" and mailed to 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103, Attn. Pat Curtis.







Adult Faith Formation

Please **CLICK here** for information on all programs.

A **Free Will Offering** for any program can be made payable to "St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church" and mailed to 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103, Attn: Pat Curtis.

Group Spiritual Reflection: Every Tuesday via Zoom from 12:30-1:30 PM. All are welcome! <u>CLICK Here</u> to register and receive Zoom link. *Co-facilitators: Elaine Wiatr and Mary Espinosa*

Quiet Prayer: Join us every Wednesday morning from 7:30 - 8:00 AM to start your day with Quiet Prayer. You can find the Zoom link in Monday's email. Our next session is **Wednesday**, **December 14**, **2022 from 7:30 - 8:00** AM.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our December Meetings: Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM on Zoom and Thursday, December 29, 2022 at 10:30 AM in-person.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Patrick — St. Anthony Parish serves the parish family, and the local and global community by making and giving shawls as a gesture of love in times of sorrow and fear, as well as in times of joy.

Please Call Pat Curtis at 860-756-4034, ext 113 to register and receive the Zoom link.

People of Hope: Birthing The Dream



Wednesday, December 14, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Guest Facilitator **Gloria Ulterino**.

Please consider joining us for this conversation in

faith and prayer time together. It might be just what is needed to sustain your Spirit. Join us! <u>CLICK here</u> to register and receive the Zoom link.

A Novel Idea Book Club

Our December book selection is *What Angels Fear* by C.S. Harris, bestselling, award-winning author of more than a dozen novels.

Consider joining the discussion on **December 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**. For more information and a list of upcoming books, please <u>CLICK Here</u>. Contact the office at 860-756-4034 or email <u>info@spsact.org</u> if you need the Zoom Link.

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents

The Emmaus Grieving Parents Ministry supports parents whose



spiritual journey includes the death of a child. All who have suffered the loss of a child at any time — including prior to birth and many decades ago — are welcome.

Please consider passing along our information to parents you know who are walking this difficult journey.

We gather by Zoom (and telephone), on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 PM. Our in person gathering is in the Franciscan Center on the third Sunday of the month at 3:30 pm.

We understand that electronic meetings are a challenge under the best of conditions. If you have lost a child and would like to chat with a parent walking the same path, members of our group would be honored to speak with you one-on-one. Please know that you are never alone.

The next in person meeting is Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 3:15 PM. Our next Zoom meeting is Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Please <u>CLICK Here</u> to request more information online or call the church office at 860-756-4034, leave your name and phone number, and a Ministry Member will get in contact with you.

Weekend Volunteers Needed



Weekends at St. Patrick - St. Anthony don't simply "happen".

Many volunteers work together to help us gather as a community during and outside of Mass. Please consider whether these volunteer opportunities might be a way for you

to share your gifts with us!

Front desk greeter before and during 8:00 AM Mass. Help to let our Religious Education Families in for our first session on a Sunday morning. Tasks include, answering the door and smiling. No experience necessary! We will train you.

Sacristans at weekend Masses. Tasks include setting up for Masses and providing a warm and welcoming smile to those coming to Mass.

Livestream camera operator at 4:00 PM or 10:00 AM Masses. This is a relatively simple job which helps bring Mass to those at home. No experience is necessary. We will train you.

Interested? Contact Allison to learn more!

Altar Servers are also needed. No experience is necessary — we will train you. You can choose which Masses and how often you serve. Have you ever considered serving as a parent /child ministry? This could be a great experience for a parent and child to serve during Mass together. Please contact Deb Pelletier at dpelletier@spsact.org for more information.

Time and Talent Giving Tree



Through our love of God and one another, we find ways in which we can use our time and talents to share with others. Consider giving the gift of your time and talent this

holiday season by participating in our Time and Talent Tree. From

joining the prayer network to helping to distribute sandwiches, the options are endless. Access our Time and Talent Tree by using your smart phone to scan the QR code or going to https://spsagivingtree.org/time-and-talent-tree/.



Haiti Giving Tree



St. Patrick St. Anthony parish and St. Genevieve parish in Zoranje, Haiti have been joined in a covenant relationship since 2005. As a part of this covenant, our parish has provided a hot lunch and teacher salaries for the school. Our Christmas in July fund raiser this past summer met our goals, of ensuring each student has a meal, and every teacher and staff member received a modest increase in salary. Thank you!

Every year, SPSA holds a Giving Tree fund raiser as part of our efforts to support St. Genevieve School. This Advent, our Giving Tree will focus on helping to provide school workbooks and textbooks, and tuition support. We'd like to share this reflection from a Sister Parish committee member:

Thinking back, I remember how my school notebooks and supplies were so personal and important to me. When I was growing up the school supplies and the educational support from my family and community

made it possible for me to feel that each new school year was also a new beginning to create and discover.

Although no student is turned away from the St. Genevieve School, our tuition support will help all families in their deep desire to assist in providing a quality education for their children and support their parish school. It gives me great joy to know that I can help give students and parents at St. Genevieve the same sense of beginning that I had, through my giving. I hope you can find the same joy

in your giving this Christmas.

The annual tuition for a student is equivalent to \$30. US. CLICK or scan the QR Code to make a donation online at our webpage or donate via check (made out to SPSA Church, with "Sister Parish-Giving Tree" in the memo) dropped in the collection basket or mailed to the office. MESI-THANK YOU!





Is God calling you to live a life of love, peace, and holiness in the model of St. Francis of Assisi? Join us for our gathering in the lower level of the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony on December 18, 2022 to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order. We will meet at 2:00 PM to celebrate our annual Christmas Crib devotion to celebrate the birth of Christ.

After all the Masses the weekend of December 17 and 18, the Secular Franciscans will be distributing small packets of birdseed to members of your parish because St. Francis wanted everyone to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One way was to feed the birds, especially at Christmas.

Please accept this gift from the Secular Franciscans and assist your children and grandchildren with this mission.

Volunteer to Provide Dinner at Hartford Warming Center

Looking for an opportunity to feed the hunger? The no freeze shelter in Hartford opens for winter shelter for the homeless on December 1st and once again we will be providing Sunday dinners and Wednesday pasta nights to the clients of the shelter. We still need help with both groceries and Wednesday dinners. CLICK Here or call the church office if interested.

For Wednesdays in December we are looking for people to prepare 2 lbs of either baked ziti, mac & cheese or chili (also served with pasta). Trays can be dropped off cold or frozen. <u>CLICK Here</u> or call the church office if interested.



And finally Christmas Sunday dinner, our plan is to have people drop off pots of stew and Sunday evening around 4:00 PM we will start to combine and reheat. If anyone is available to help that evening or make a pot of stew, a tray of salad or desserts it would be greatly appreciated. <u>CLICK Here</u> or call the church office if interested.

Please don't be shy we need your help in a variety of ways - prayers accepted!

Local Giving Tree: "Wrapping" Up



The last day to return your wrapped and labeled gift was Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 PM.

If, for some reason, it was beyond your control to drop your gifts off prior to today please Call Frances D'Amico at 203-715-6313 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to select a gift to give to our local neighbors this year. Your kindness will help to brighten up the holiday of so many people, from those at CCMC to our friends at the House of Bread.

We also want to thank all of our volunteers who make this effort such a success each year. Without your time and talents, it would NOT be the success it is!!



Blessings and Congratulations

Married Saturday, December 3, 2022 Brandon Findlay and Amanda Hamilton

Married Saturday, December 10, 2022
James Tomlinson and Erin Looby

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

Dec. 18 Bulletin: Monday, Dec. 12 at noon Dec. 25 Bulletin: Thursday, Dec. 15 at noon Jan. 1, 2023 Bulletin: Thursday, Dec. 22 at noon

Women Deacons



Late in 1994, Saint Pope John Paul II decreed: "the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and ... this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful." Then, in December of 2009, Pope Benedict XVI made some changes to Canon 1009 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, regarding the diaconate. While Vatican officials maintained that the purpose was to "ease difficulties" in interpreting the role of deacons, the change began to raise some questions. Because the deacon was now to serve the People of

God in the "liturgy, the word, and charity," might not a woman be ordained to the diaconate? That question insistently remains to this very day. In fact, we know that women like Phoebe served as deacons early on, as Paul noted in his Letter to the Romans of the late 50's (Romans 16:1). Phoebe was a recognized "first," but others came along in the First Millennium of the Church: preaching and teaching, serving women at adult Baptisms, caring for other needs of their people, and carrying important documents to other communities. However, by early in the Second Millennium, the number of women deacons died out, due to prejudice against their leadership, the replacement of adult immersion Baptism by infant Baptism, and other societal pressures.

Which brings us to today. Right now, the following question is being persistently raised, here, there, and all over the world: "why not ordain women as deacons?" For example, the Amazonian Synod of October, 2019, insistently raised this issue, since women were already serving their communities in this way. Clearly, voices in this country are not unique in pursuing this possible solution to believers' needs.

To explore these questions and learn more about our historical precedence to ordain women as deacons, please join in the conversation at our Women Deacons series on consecutive Tuesdays, January 17 & 24, 2023. Our parish Synod process gave voice to the desire of women, men, and students for the expansion of leadership roles in the Church. Please plan now to join us in January!

CLICK here to register and receive the Zoom link.



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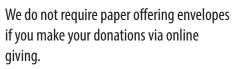
your contributions at any time. Simple. No need to contact your bank or the church office. Contribute using direct withdrawal (ACH) or credit cards.

Church Benefits

Stabilize Contributions. Regularly scheduled gifts occur automatically. Allows church to effectively manage monthly expenses. Secure and Confidential. No need to store member account information. Efficient. Participation saves time and expense in bookkeeping. Current. A tool for people who prefer to use electronic services.

Offering Envelopes

Did you know...





Consider saving a tree.

If you would like to discontinue them, please contact the parish office at 860-756-4034 or info@spsact.org.

2022 Archbishop's Annual Appeal As of 11/30/2022

Parish Goal: \$115,000

Nbr Families: 251

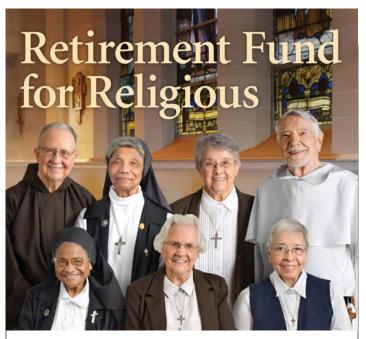
Total Donated: \$88,880

Average Gift: \$354.10

Percent of Goal: 77.29%







Our Second Collection this Sunday, December 10/11, 2022 is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. CLICK Here to donate online or simply drop a check or cash in next week's second collection basket.

Christmas Flower Memorials



The beautiful poinsettias and greenery that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of our celebration of Advent and Christmas at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church.

We invite all to share in the experience through a Christmas Flower Memorial. The names of your loved ones will be published in the Christmas Weekend Bulletin which will be available on line and in the Church. The deadline for memorial



submissions is **December 15, 2022. (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE)**

There are three ways to submit a Christmas Flower Memorial:

- Utilize the Christmas Flowers Envelope you received with your bi-monthly envelopes then drop it in the offering basket or mail to the church office.
- 2. Use the form below, drop in the offering basket or mail to the church office.
- 3. Click/Scan the QR Code to submit your memorial and offering online.

Church Address for mailing in memorials:

St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103 Attn: Christmas Flowers.

Please remember:	
at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church.	
Requested by:	
Address:	
Offering \$ Enclosed	



Week of November 20th
In Loving Memory of Concetta Romano

Week of December 11th
In Loving Memory of Larry Tracey, Jr.

Week of December 18th
In Loving Memory of
Larry Tracey, Jr

Mary McManus-Cormier (5th Anniversary)

Week of December 25th
In Loving Memory of
Richard Crocket
Larry Tracey, Jr
Daniel Buckanavage



Please Pray for the Sick

Paula Molitar, Joseph Shertick, Mary Kay Hannon, Greg Reed, Kathryn Eagers, Tommie Henry,

Cecy Mickey, Syl Ciraulo, Mary Ertel, Mary Joyce Castafero, Dave Godek, Tim Hindman, Judy Smith and Susan Degennaro.

St. Anthony's Bread for the Poor

House of Bre	ts help to support our Weekend Meal Program at t ead and our daily Sandwich Distribution Program.
Address:	
Send to:	Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103 (checks made payable to FCUM)

CLICK TO GIVE ONLINE

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 10, 2022

4:00 PM Ronald D. Gina, Sr., 11th Anniversary

Sunday, December 11, 2022

8:00 AM Brendan M. Fox

10:00 AM John V. Ramos, 30th Anniversary

11:45 AM In Thanksgiving for St. Lucy

5:00 PM Olidy S. deOrozco

Monday, December 12, 2022

7:30 AM Gilda Bongiovanni

12:05 PM Marlene Kelly

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

7:30 AM Evelyn Sogaro

12:05 PM Richard Shea

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

7:30 AM For our parishioners

12:05 PM Mary & Harold Cleary

Thursday, December 15, 2022

7:30 AM Sarah S. Conforto

12:05 PM Mary & Harold Cleary, Sr and Harold Cleary, Jr

Friday, December 16, 2022

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Robert J. Lemega

Saturday, December 17, 2022

4:00 PM Pauline S. Ward 9th Anniversary

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM Joseph Gora

11:45 AM Elaine LePage

5:00 PM Donato & Maria Monaco







Watch Online:



https://www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-St-Anthony-Church-109359789104825/



https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UC8Vhk8-hhlyAJenBxueHySQ



https://venue.streamspot.com/cdc76f52

St. Patrick - St. Anthony Staff

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Timothy J. Shreenan, O.F.M., Pastor, tshreenan@gmail.com
Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Guardian, wlbeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDominzio, Business Manager, kdidominzio@spsact.org

Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Outreach/Volunteer Ministry, aholstgrubbe@spsact.org

Fr. Michael Johnson, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, mikeinbolivia@gmail.com

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, jleonard@spsact.org

Dr. Gabriel Löfvall, Director of Music Ministry, glofvall@spsact.org

Fr. A. Francis Soucy, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Senior Associate Friar, afsofm@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Abramo, Parish & Center Administrative Assistant, cabramo@spsact.org

Michael Boone, Office Assistant, mboone@spsact.org

Sarah Christopher, Parish Communications Director, schristopher@spsact.org

Stacie Mawson, Saturday Receptionist, smawson@spsact.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Deborah Pelletier, Religious Ed Team Coordinator, dpelletier@spsact.org

Sarah Christopher, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mary Gray, Family Program

Lauren Kasperowski, Traditional Program

Faith VosWinkel, Confirmation

Michelle White, 7th & 8th Grade

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Orville Russell, Director of Maintenance Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian

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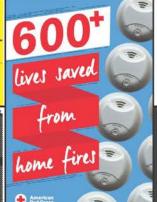
860-563-9999

STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY AND STAY POSITIVE!



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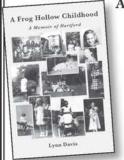
(973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org

It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message: Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started. *

*Message and data rates may apply.



World Peace



A Frog Hollow Childhood: A Memoir of Hartford by Lynn Davis

Once a child's fun included an interaction with its environment. Davis writes of a time before technology and computers took over. She recreates a nostalgic reminiscence of the 1940s and 1950s for those who lived in them and introduces the times to those who didn't.

Available for purchase on Amazon.com, or at Barnes & Noble and other fine retailers everywhere.



Wethersfield East Hartford 563-6117