



One mightier than I is coming after me...
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
December 10, 2023 • Second Sunday of Advent

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



*Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors*

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

Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation

4:00 PM Livestream available

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM

10:00 AM Livestream available

11:45 AM

5:00 PM

Weekday Masses

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Livestream available

The Church is open weekdays from 7:00AM until 1:00 PM

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

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Dec 11:	Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday, Dec 12:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday, Dec 13:	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday, Dec 14:	Is 41:13-20 Ps 145: Mt 11:11-15
Friday, Dec 15:	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Sunday, Dec 17:	Is 61:1-2A, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Christmas Weekend Mass Schedules

The 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23: 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 24, Masses at
8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 am.

There is no 5:00 pm Mass.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24 Masses at

4:00 pm, Featuring the Liturgical Dancers

5:30 pm Featuring the Church Street Singers
with the Treble Clef Choir

10:30 pm Mass at Night with Carols
starting at 10:00 pm. Featuring
the SPSA Music Ministry.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, Masses at
8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 am.

There is no 5:00 pm Mass.



Christmas Flower Memorial Change

Christmas Flower Memorials will be printed in the Christmas Songsheets instead of the Bulletin due to the bulletin company submission deadlines. Please submit your memorials by December 19, 2023 at noon.

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

12/24/2023 Bulletin Deadline: 12/13/2023 at Noon

12/31/2023 Bulletin Deadline: 12/22/2023 at Noon

1/07/2024 Bulletin Deadline: 12/27/2023 at Noon

The Pastor's Corner

December 10, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

A few weeks ago I mentioned that I would be having an appointment with Coadjutor Archbishop Coyne on November 29th. I would like to report that our meeting went very well! After a brief prayer, the Archbishop opened my "dossier" – two pages of what looked like some very brief and incomplete information. He asked me to help him fill in some dates and other information about my education background, and so forth. I also explained the recent merger of five Franciscan provinces in the United States into the new Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The ensuing conversation ranged over several topics, including the makeup of our parish staff, parish finances, our LGBT ministries (of which he is very supportive), and our parish's social outreach programs. Needless to say, there was a lot to talk about! He was especially curious to hear about how we serve the poor and disadvantaged, and I was pleased to be able to describe some of the many ways we address those needs through the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. Archbishop Coyne also mentioned that he is very familiar with our location since he likes to stop by the Banh-Mee Vietnamese restaurant on Ann Uccello Street for lunch once in a while! Of course, I invited him to stop by to say hello if he ever has the chance to do so. I also hope that he will celebrate Mass for us in the near future. The hour we spent together flew by far too quickly, and I felt I had to send him a short follow-up email, not only to thank him for the opportunity to talk about this unique parish, but to include a brief mention of our parish's participation in the Synod process.

Last Sunday's celebration of the First Sunday of Advent was a splendid opportunity for us to come together as a community with our Advent Wreath Workshop and Pancake Breakfast after the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses, as well as gift returns for our Local Giving Tree. Our Confirmation candidates and members of the 7th & 8th Grade Ministry outdid themselves by assisting in the making of the wreaths, cooking pancakes and serving them, and helping to make for a very festive atmosphere! I received many comments from parishioners about how happy they were to be able to hold the pancake breakfast once again after a four-year hiatus. Events such as these are truly enjoyable for everyone, and we certainly know how to throw a party! Several others said how much they enjoyed the slide show

on our new big-screen television; so I hope we will have more photos to display as time goes on. If you have any photos you'd like to contribute, please email them to me, and I will add them to the collection.



As I mentioned last week, this year marks the 800th anniversary of the visit of St. Francis to Greccio where he celebrated Christmas and created what is believed to be the first nativity scene. The Franciscan Order wishes to mark this occasion with special observances and events to draw attention to Francis' deep love for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. At our service of **Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 17th**, we will feature a beautiful letter by Pope Francis which he wrote to encourage families and individuals to set up a nativity scene in their homes as a way to contemplate the Christmas story and how the various "members" of the nativity scene played their role in it. The children of our parish will present the various statues of our nativity scene. Along with our wonderful choirs and instrumentalists under the direction of Gabriel Löfvall, I am also happy to say that John Nowacki, a well-known local host on New England Public Radio, will be joining us as our narrator.



There is still time to send me your photo for our Christmas Tree. Many of those who have sent a photo have said how happy they are that we are doing this, and I hope you will be pleased with the results! Email a digital file to tshreenan@gmail.com, or you can bring a photo to the parish office which we will scan.

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

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

Ongoing Adult Faith Formation Programs

For full program descriptions, Zoom links, and more information, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AFF>.

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Monday, December 11, in-person, 12:40 to 1:40 PM

Tuesday, December 12, on Zoom, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

In Quiet Prayer:

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30-8:00 AM on Zoom

Taproot

Wednesday, December 13, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Zoom

Praying with Sacred Scripture

Next Meeting: December 20, 7:00-8:00 PM in-person.

Royal Psalms: The Anointed One

Thursday, December 14, 10:30 to 11:30 AM on Zoom

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry serves the parish family and the larger community by making and giving shawls as a gesture of love in times of sorrow and fear, as well as in times of joy. Shawls are given and received as a symbol of God's all-encompassing love. Come join us!!!



Our next meeting: Monday, December 11 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Zoom. Please check Monday's email for the Zoom Link.

Incarnational Inspiration

Tuesdays, December 12 & 19 following the 12:05 Mass

Advent is a magical time of anticipation. It's like the excitement of walking past that shiny little package under the tree that has your name carefully written on the tag. Let's explore this blessed season as we pray and reflect on Mary's journey with God Incarnate using the magnificent stained glass windows in our church. Their vibrant colors and symbols will guide us into the Advent journey with the Holy Family.

Co-facilitators: Pat Curtis and LouAnn Warren
Free Will Offering



Giving Tree:

Today, Sunday, December 10, is the deadline for bringing in your giving tree gifts. Please reach out to the parish office if you have questions, 860-756-4034



Centering Yoga

Parishioner Michael Leahy (YT200) is offering a FREE one-hour yoga class in the Franciscan Center on the following dates:
Saturdays December 16 and 23 at 9AM.

All ability levels are welcome; please bring your own mat.
Email aholstgrubbe@spsact.org to register.



The Secular Franciscan Order Meeting

After all the Masses the weekend of December 16th and 17th the Secular Franciscans will be distributing small packets of birdseed to members of the parish because St. Francis wanted everyone to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One way was to feed the birds, especially at Christmas. Please accept our gift to 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 on December 17th to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order. We will meet at 2:00 to celebrate our annual Christmas Crib devotion to celebrate the birth of Christ.

A Novel Idea Book Club

Our December selection is *The Lipstick Bureau* by Michelle Gable. From Goodreads.com: Inspired by a real-life female spy, *The Lipstick Bureau* is a novel about a woman challenging convention and boundaries to help win a war, no matter the cost. Please join us on **December 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**. For more information and a list of upcoming books, please [CLICK Here](#). Contact the office at 860-756-4034 or email info@spsact.org if you need the Zoom Link and we will forward it to you.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to
those who have
given a lifetime.



Our Second Collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Elderly religious need your help. 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. To donate online please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Retirement-Fund-REL>

For more information please go to <https://retiredreligious.org/>.

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. **NOTE CHANGE:** The names of your loved ones will be published in the Christmas Weekend Songsheets which will be available on line and in the Church. This change is due to the submission deadlines set by our bulletin printing company. The deadline for memorial submissions to be included in the Christmas Songsheets is December 19, 2023.



There are three ways to submit a Christmas Flower Memorial: Utilize the Christmas Flowers Envelope you received with your bi-monthly envelopes; Use the form below, drop in the offering basket or mail to the church office or Click/Scan the QR Code to submit your memorial and offering online.



Christmas Flower Memorials

Please remember:

at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season

Requested by: _____

Offering \$ _____ Enclosed

Sanctuary Lamp

Week of December 10, 2023

Hank Cleary

requested by Prudence & Michele Cleary



Weekly Offerings

November 20 to 26, 2023

Online: \$8,851.23

Weekly Offering: \$7,519.00

Total for Operating Budget: \$16,470.23

Weekly Offering information for 11/27 through 12/03 will be published in the 12/16-17 bulletin due to holiday publishing deadlines.

Thanksgiving Blessings 2023



215 turkeys were donated by parishioners during the 15th Annual Turkey Drive. Those frozen turkeys, taken to the House of Bread, were shared with families in need,

prepared for the HOB's own Thanksgiving feast, and finally, turkey meat was cooked and shared back with us for our Thanksgiving morning outreach activity.

40 loaves of bread were donated by the Hartford Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians to make the 400 turkey sandwiches.

28 Confirmation families donated juice boxes, cookie snacks, fruit, and chips for our lunch bags.

17 children from 6 families decorated our 16 lb. brown bags with heartfelt, inspiring messages and drawings about gratitude and giving thanks.



16 volunteers made 400 sandwiches and assembled 200 beautiful bags on Thanksgiving morning.

2 Sandwich Ministers distributed the bountiful bags at 4:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving afternoon to our grateful urban neighbors.

Many thanks for such impactful generosity!

Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

Thank you so much to the St. Patrick-St. Anthony Faith Community for all your hard work and generosity in funding food purchases, baking, providing treats and loaves of bread, making sandwiches and preparing hot meals, and serving them.

Together, as a community, we were able to provide more than 2,684 meals this November.



No Freeze Shelter Meals

The shelter will once again be located on Washington Street in Hartford and serve approximately 60 individuals with warmth, a cot, a warm meal and perhaps moments of peace. The shelter stays open from 7pm to 7am, with the clients leaving each morning. Each Sunday, through March 31st, our parishioners come together to prepare a Sunday dinner for the Shelter. When we think of Sunday dinner, we think of family and this is a way that we here at St. Patrick St Anthony Church share our gift of family, our gift of love, each week. We are still looking for help each week whether it is help cooking, cleaning, delivering or providing supplies.

Christmas Eve Dinner: We need pots of stew (30 servings to be exact) along with 3 lbs of frozen peas and 3 lbs of frozen green beans, salad and desserts for 30. Please reach out and let us know where you can pitch in.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-No-Freeze> for more information.

St. Francis Builds: Upcoming Mission Trips

Puerto Rico January 21-28, 2024: The work offered by SFB volunteers will be needed in January! The group will be staying in Yabucoa on the southeast section of the island. Possible tasks include painting, tiling, grouting, sealing roofs and installing cabinets, windows and doors.

While skilled labor experience is fabulous. . . it's certainly not essential. Enthusiasm, interest and a commitment to learning and helping others are some of the most important skills needed for this trip! Please email Sue O'Donnell at sodonnell38@gmail.com for more information.

To view the video from another trip to Puerto Rico <https://tinyurl.com/SFB-PR-Trip-2022>

The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,200. This fee includes housing and all meals. Airfare is not included.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:00 PM Kevin Sweeney

Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM John V. Ramos, 31st Anniversary

11:45 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Lucy

5:00 PM Pauline Ward

Monday, December 11, 2023

7:30 AM Barbara Aston & Jose Mendes Branco

12:05 PM Carl Tinti

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

7:30 AM Joanne Speziale

12:05 PM Emilia Lopez

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

7:30 AM Cathy Sweeney

12:05 PM Evelyn Sogaro

Thursday, December 14, 2023

7:30 AM Intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Carol Guy

Friday, December 15, 2023

7:30 AM Carol Blute

12:05 PM Ivy John

Saturday, December 16, 2023

4:00 PM Daniel Buckanavage

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:00 AM Sheila Dumeer

10:00 AM Robert J. Lemega

11:45 AM Elaine LePage

5:00 PM Donato & Maria Monaco

Please Pray for the Sick

Paula Molitar, Joseph Shertick, Greg Reed, Kathryn Eagers, Tommie Henry, Syl Ciraulo, Mary Ertel, Mary Joyce Castafero, Bobby Lombardo, John Gannon, Rosemarie Perkoski, Susan Degennaro and Deborah Godin.



We are here to serve you...

We are here to serve you. The programs and ministries listed below are just a sampling of our many offerings. Please go to www.spsact.org or call the Parish Office at 860-756-4034 for more information.

Baptism: Baptism of infants and young children may be celebrated during Sunday Mass and Group Baptisms on the 1st Saturday of each month outside of the season of Lent.

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate; 860-756-4034, EXT. 113.

Matrimony: The Sacrament of Marriage at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church are celebrated Friday and Saturdays. The Bride or Groom should contact *Carolyn Abramo, Wedding Manager; 860-756-4034, EXT. 111* or <https://spsact.org/wedding-request-form/> to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance and before any other arrangements are made for a reception.

Pastoral Care Outreach Ministry: We offer holistic care in collaboration with the parish staff (friars, ministry coordinators, and parish nurses). Members of this team are responsible for visiting parishioners at home or in long term and short term care facilities. *Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.; 860-756-4034, EXT. 129.*

Prayer Network: The St. Patrick–St. Anthony Prayer Network consists of approximately fifty parishioners who commit themselves to praying daily for those in need. <https://spsact.org/prayer-network-prayer-request/> or Parish Office; 860-756-4034.

Open Hearts LGBTQ+ Ministry: This ministry consists of two Groups: **Open Hearts** holds monthly fellowship meetings, and **Friends and Family (LGBTQ+) Support Ministry**, which supports members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

For information on Open Hearts:

<https://spsact.org/contact-open-hearts-ministry/>

For information on Friends and Family contact:

<https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-friends-family-ministry/>

Volunteering and Outreach Ministry Information:

St. Patrick-St. Anthony invites individuals to give freely of their time and expertise in order to make a difference. Our volunteers participate in liturgical ministries as well as other forms of service to the church, the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry and the community at large. *Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement; aholstgrubbe@spsact.org; 860-756-4034, EXT. 110.*

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, wbeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDomenzio, Business Manager, kdidomenzio@spsact.org

Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement, 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

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Sarah Christopher, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mary Gray, Family Program

Lauren Kasperowski, Traditional Program

Faith VosWinkel, Confirmation

Abigail Sheehan, 7th & 8th Grade

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian

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