

The painting depicts John the Baptist, a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a simple brown tunic and a white sash, standing on a rocky outcrop. He is pointing his right hand towards a group of men seated on the ground below. The men are dressed in various robes and head coverings, including red, blue, and white. The background is a hazy, rocky landscape. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the painting.

A man named John
was sent from God.
He came for testimony,
to testify to the light,
so that all might believe
through him.

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
December 17, 2023 • Third 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



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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 18:	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday, Dec 19:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday, Dec 20:	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday, Dec 21:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Friday, Dec 22:	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday, Dec 24:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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 Masses

Sunday, December 24

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 Masses

Monday, December 25

8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 am

There is no 5:00 pm Mass.



Christmas Flower Memorials

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

12/31/2023 Bulletin Deadline: 12/20/2023 at Noon

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

The Pastor's Corner

December 17, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I am very grateful to our parishioners who came to our Advent Prayer for Peace on December 7th. It was an opportunity for our parish to come together in the midst of a very busy time, to spend a few moments in prayer and song on behalf of those who are suffering because of violence and war. I am also grateful for our two guests: Denise Wolferman, representing the Jewish community; and Aida Mansoor, representing the Islamic community, who proclaimed readings from their respective faith traditions.

I am particularly grateful to Allison Holst-Grubbe, who offered a powerful reflection on being a peacemaker. Allison is our Director of Community Engagement as well as a member of our music ministry. Allison is currently a candidate for a Masters degree in Interreligious Studies at Hartford International University.

Parishioners Anita Ellis, Jerry Lemega, Carole Fay, as well as Fr. Bill Beaudin, contributed readings and prayers.

During the holiday season, let us continue to pray and work for peace in our world. I invite you to watch the video of the Advent Evening of Prayer for Peace, especially Allison's reflection: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqcLJbYERvA>).



Aida Mansoor, Director of Field Education at Hartford International University; Denise Wolferman, Chaplain Resident with Trinity Hartford; Fr. Tim; Allison Holst-Grubbe.



I do hope you will join us this Sunday evening for our service of lessons and carols as we mark 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. John Nowacki, a host on New England Public Radio, will read excerpts from a letter written by Pope Francis about the Nativity scene and how the various figures play a role in the story of the birth of Christ. The children of our parish will present the various statues of our nativity scene. Gabriel Löfvall will direct our choirs, including the Church Street Singers Children's Choir, and other instrumentalists in a program of music I'm sure you will love.



In just a week, we will celebrate Christmas! On Christmas Eve, at the Mass at Night beginning at 10:30 PM, our choirs and instrumentalists will bring Salzburg to Hartford in a performance of Mozart's *Spatzen-Messe* or "Sparrow Mass" and an Austrian rendition of *Stille Nacht – Silent Night*.

As we approach the final week of a very short Advent season, I hope you will be able to find some quiet time to reflect on the ways you have experienced God's love during the past year, or how you might have experienced doubt or fear and found strength through your faith. Let us always remember that Emmanuel – God with us – is *always* with us, no matter how lonely or abandoned we might feel at times. Let us rejoice in the hope he offers us, and may peace prevail in our hearts, our homes, and in our world.

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

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

Christmas Week and New Years Parish Office Hours

Monday, December 25: Office Closed
Tuesday, December 26: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday,
December 27 through December 30: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Sunday, December 31: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Monday, January 1, 2024: Office Closed
Tuesday, January 2, 2024: Standard office hours resume.



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.



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 18, in-person, 12:40 to 1:40 PM
Tuesday, December 19, on Zoom, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

In Quiet Prayer:

Wednesday, December 20, 7:30-8:00 AM on Zoom

Taproot

Wednesday, December 20, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Zoom

Praying with Sacred Scripture

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

Incarnational Inspiration

Tuesdays, December 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



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.





Thank you from the Giving Tree Elves

On behalf of the House of Bread, CCMC, and all those they serve, we want to thank each and every one of our Gift Angels. Every single gift on our virtual giving tree was selected and returned this year resulting in more than 400 people impacted by parishioners of St. Patrick - St. Anthony.

Because of you, their holidays will be a bit brighter this year. Thank you again for your support of this vital ministry.

Sanctuary Lamp

Week of December 17, 2023

Mary McManus Cormier
requested by family

Daniel Buckanavage
requested by Pat Buckanavage



The Monastery Gallery of Art: Current Exhibit "Ukrainian Art: Multimedia Across Generations"

Through January 6, 2024

Featuring the work of women living in Ukraine and in the United States in an exhibit entitled 'Ukrainian Art: Multimedia Across Generations', it is a combination of contemporary paintings, traditional textiles of linen and fine embroidery. Beaded jewelry and whimsical crocheted dolls and animals as well as Baba Yaga folk dolls.

The Monastery Gallery of Art is located on the campus of Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford, CT. For more information please goto <https://www.monasterygallery.art/>.



Ukrainian Volya
by Olga Fratsuzova

Weekly Offerings

November 27 to December 3, 2023

Online: \$8,851.23

Weekly Offering: \$7619.00

Total for Operating Budget: \$16,470.23

Weekly Offering information for 12/4 through 12/10 will be published in the Christmas bulletin due to holiday publishing deadlines.

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

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 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

Monday, December 18, 2023

7:30 AM Joseph Gora

12:05 PM Mary McManus-Cormier

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for Anthony Rosal & Maria Perez-Rosal

12:05 PM Maria Magdalena Galvan

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

7:30 AM Mary McManus Cormier

12:05 PM William McCauley

Thursday, December 21, 2023

7:30 AM Maureen Kelly

12:05 PM Prayer intentions for Anthony Rosal & Maria Perez-Rosal

Friday, December 22, 2023

7:30 AM Anthony Labriola

12:05 PM Tommy Labriola

Saturday, December 23, 2023

4:00 PM Madeline Capodanno

Sunday, December 24, 2023

8:00 AM Prayer intentions for our Parishioners

10:00 AM Prayer intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

11:45 AM Prayer intentions for our Parishioners

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, Deborah Godin, and Diane Gustin.



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

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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

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Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist, bsullivan@spsact.org

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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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St. Patrick - St. Anthony and
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