



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
December 24, 2023 • Fourth 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

Monday, Dec 25: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13;
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2: 1-20 or John 1: 1-18
Tuesday, Dec 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday, Dec 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a and 2-8
Thursday, Dec 28: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Friday, Dec 29: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Sunday, Dec 31: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3;
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4,
5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or
Lk 2:22, 39-40

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



Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

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

1/14/2024 Bulletin Deadline:
1/05/2023 at Noon

The Pastor's Corner

December 24, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Looking back over the past several years' worth of Pastor's Corner letters on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, I see a pattern emerging: popular Christmas songs and what they say to us.

A few years ago I wrote about "I'll be home for Christmas." Another year I reflected on "Somewhere in my memory" from the movie "Home Alone." This year it is "My grown up Christmas list" by David Foster and Linda Thompson. It has been recorded by many artists, but my personal favorites are by Michael Bublé and Barbra Streisand. Here are some lines from the song:

*Do you remember me?
I sat upon your knee.
I wrote to you with childhood fantasies.
Well I'm all grown up now,
And still need help somehow.
I'm not a child but my heart still can dream.*

*So here's my lifelong wish,
My grown up Christmas list;
Not for myself but for a world in need.*

*No more lives torn apart;
That wars would never start,
And time would heal all hearts;
And everyone would have a friend;
And right would always win;
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list.*

I loved this song the first time I heard it. It has a wistful, plaintive quality to which many of us of a certain age can relate. Essentially, we no longer hope for expensive or elaborate Christmas gifts, but those things that really matter: reconciliation, peace, healing, friendship, justice, love — all the elements of a truly Christian way of life.

I realize that the Christmas holiday season can be a heavy emotional burden for many people. Even those who aren't weighed down by recent bereavement, ongoing health struggles, or relationship issues, can feel a bit of a letdown during this time of year. Part of it, I

think, is that nagging sense of incompleteness that always leaves us wanting something more. And the world of advertising only exacerbates that feeling. "Now is the time to shop for a new fully-loaded SUV!"

The season of Advent is meant to help us put that sense of incompleteness into a larger perspective. Hope and longing were embedded in the DNA of our Old Testament ancestors. But even the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem didn't automatically fulfill human hope and longing. Jealousy, anger, retribution and all the other terrible things humans do to one another have continued century upon century.

So, what do we continue to hope for? Is this really "the most wonderful time of the year" as Andy Williams used to sing? It can be, if we try not to put too much pressure on ourselves or on our expectations. Engage in what is most meaningful for you, especially if it involves those whom you love.

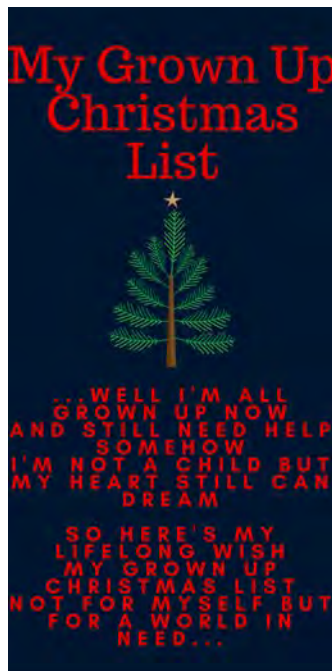
"In dir ist Freude" is an old German hymn which is translated "In you is joy." J. S. Bach composed a festive organ chorale-prelude on this tune which captures the joy of a Christian's faith in Jesus. An English translation of the first verse of the hymn goes like this:

*In Thee is gladness
Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given
The gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.*

As people who believe that Jesus is the source of all our joy, especially in times of distress or sadness, we should find our strength in him who first came to us a helpless baby, whose crib was a feed trough for animals. We come to him, then, in all that we are, weak and wanting. Although we may not always feel "happy" at this time of year, let us seek those little pockets of joy that remind us of God's love for us, a love that we might take for granted, but which is never far from us. I hope you have a blessed Christmas!

Fr. Tim Shreenan, OFM

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.



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, Next meeting is January 8, 2024, in-person at 12:40 PM

Please check the Parish Email for information on the Next Tuesday Meeting.

In Quiet Prayer:

Wednesday, December 27, 7:30-8:00 AM on Zoom

Centering Yoga

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



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



Christmas Flower Memorials

Just a little reminder!

All Christmas Flower Memorials can be found in both the printed and online Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Song sheets.

Thank you for honoring and/or remembering your loved ones by supporting our beautiful Christmas Flowers.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 28, 2023 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.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be January 8 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.



Thank you from the Giving Tree Elves

This has been an amazing Giving Tree Season.

On behalf of the House of Bread, CCMC, and all those they serve, thank you so much for being Gift Angels this year. We wouldn't have been so successful without your generosity and kindness.

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.



Religious Education Update

Fall 2023 was a very busy time for Religious Ed families. Our parish welcomed many new families to religious education from age 3 - high school.

Along with growing deeper in our faith, all ages are involved with service. A cornerstone of all three of our elementary programs is learning to love God, ourselves, and our neighbor as Jesus taught. The older children have the opportunity to experience helping others in ways appropriate for their age, as a centerpiece of our middle school and high school programs is service to others.

Middle school students have worked together with their families at a Levo International urban garden, a part of the urban CSA program that supports those in need. They also hosted an Advent Wreath workshop for the parish. Families made their own Advent Wreaths for their homes, and the middle school students made and delivered wreaths to our homebound parishioners.

High School students have the opportunity to serve at the House of Bread once a month, making and serving meals for those in need, and provide meals for the Hartford No Freeze Shelter once a month through the winter. They also gathered items to make Thanksgiving lunches for our sandwich ministry. Confirmation students hosted the parish wide Pancake Breakfast, setting up, making meals, and cleaning up after approximately 300 people.

If you have any questions about religious education at St Patrick-St Anthony, contact Deb Pelletier at dpelletier@spsact.org.

Sanctuary Lamp

Week of December 24, 2023

Daniel Buckanavage

requested by Pat Buckanavage

Richard Crockett

requested by Connie Crockett



Weekly Offerings

December 4 to 10, 2023

Online: \$8,917.23

Weekly Offering: \$13,098.00

Total for Operating Budget: \$22,015.23

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

Open Hearts Ministry

Monthly Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2024 after the 5:00 PM Mass in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. All Are Welcome. Please join us.

Friends and Family Ministry: Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, January 21, 2024 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.

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 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

Monday, December 25, 2023

9:00 AM Prayer intentions for our Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

7:30 AM Lidia Ferreira & Albano Ferreira

12:05 PM John B. Walsh, 12th Anniversary

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for Art & Annette Corey on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

12:05 PM Daniel La n, Sr.

Thursday, December 28, 2023

7:30 AM In thanks giving to St. Eufemia

12:05 PM Guido & Rosa Rodegher

Friday, December 29, 2023

7:30 AM For the People of St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Jennie Bramante

Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00 PM Monserrate Jimenez

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:00 AM Patrick J. Humphrey

10:00 AM Salvatore & Rosina Rinaldi

11:45 AM Norman Mawson

5:00 PM 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, Malcomb Holland, 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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

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

Stacie Mawson, Saturday Receptionist, smawson@spsact.org

Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist, bsullivan@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

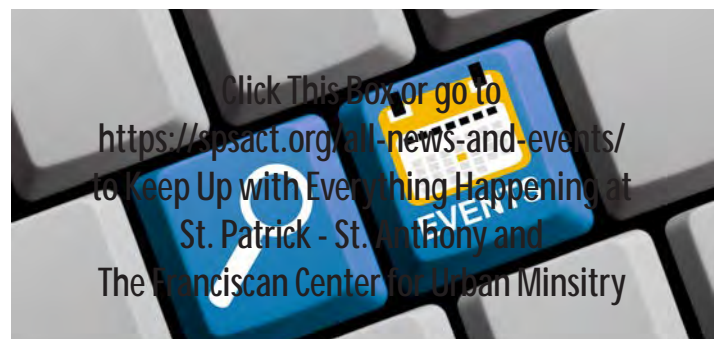
Lauren Kasperowski, Traditional Program

Faith VosWinkel, Confirmation

Abigail Sheehan, 7th & 8th Grade

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian



LAW OFFICES
WILLIAM J. SWEENEY JR., LLC
 Personal, Responsive and Effective Representation
Office 860-827-6453
Cell 860-748-5296
 Email wjs@sweeneylawllc.com
www.sweeneylawllc.com
 One Liberty Square | New Britain, CT 06051 | Parishioner

the original GoldBurgers
 1096 Main Street
 Newington, CT 06111
(860) 665-0478
 OPEN: WED-SUN
 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM
 CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

DZEN
 COMMERCIAL ROOFING LLC
860-528-4660
www.dzenroofing.com

MOLLOY FUNERAL HOME
 906 Farmington Ave.
 West Hartford, CT 06119
860-232-1322

SANTO HAIR FORUM
 SANTO MIANO PARISHIONER
860-293-2300
 21 Main Street
 Hartford, Connecticut

LAZ PARKING
Proud Supporter of St. Patrick-St. Anthony

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
SELECT MECHANICAL SERVICES INC.
 Residential • Commercial • Industrial
 We Service & Install: Central Air Conditioning
 Gas & Oil Heating Systems • Water Heaters
 Air Purification Systems
 Lic. & Ins. • 24 Hr. Emergency Service
860.681.6818
www.select-mech.com

MESTER LAW GROUP
 Over 40 Years Experience
 Disability/SS • Family Practice
 Criminal • Personal Injury
860-527-9111

pampered chef
 Training Specialist - Independent Consultant
CAROLYN ABRAMO
www.pamperedchef.biz/carolynabramo
 CELL: **860-888-4009** • EMAIL: capickle@gmail.com

Thomas M. Sliney, CFA
 "St. Patrick Parishioner"
 Your Local Financial Advisor
 Wealth Management & Retirement Planning
 Accounts held at Fidelity Investments
860-550-2683 • Tom@Baycolonyadvisors.com
 Call for a free initial consultation.
 Investment advisory services offered through Bay Colony Advisors, a SEC Registered Investment Advisor.

YOU GET MORE THAN A LAWYER, YOU GET A LAW FIRM
bps lawyers
 • ESTATE PLANNING
 • PROBATE
 • PERSONAL INJURY
 • FAMILY LAW
 • CRIMINAL DEFENSE
 • LICENSURE
 • SMALL BUSINESS
860-522-3343
www.bpslawyers.com
 100 PEARL ST. • 10TH FL. • HARTFORD, CT
 2252 MAIN ST. • GLASTONBURY, CT

T&J auto body
 36 Jencks St.
 East Hartford
860-528-9337
www.tandjautobody.com

Wethersfield East Hartford
D'Esopo Funeral Chapel
 Dedicated to families since 1905
860-563-6117 www.desopofuneralchapel.com

DEITCH ENERGY
 44 Woodland St. Rear
 Hartford, CT 06105
860-728-5431
 #2 Fuel Oil | Heating & Cooling Service and Installation
 HOD-000924 • S1-303418

SHIPMAN™
 Shipman & Goodwin LLP
Experience Counts
 Jim helps people with injuries, or families of those killed in accidents.
 • Traumatic brain injuries
 • Car, bike, motorcycle or pedestrian accidents
 • Burn victims
 • Wrongful death
 Jim also has more than 40 years of experience as a criminal lawyer, helping victims of crimes as well as those accused of crimes.
Jim Bergenn | 860-251-5639
 One Constitution Plaza | Hartford, CT 06103
 JBergenn@goodwin.com | www.shipmangoodwin.com
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON
S A M I
 STOP ASK MATCH INFORM
ASK #WHATSMYNAME
BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE

ff ti
7k- - DOWNLOAD!
FindinFABER
 QR codes for Google Play and App Store

Owned & Operated by the Carmon Family
CARMON
 Community Funeral Homes
 Funerals • Cremation • PrePlanning • Repasts
860.688.2200
www.carmonfuneralhome.com
 Windsor • Poquonock • Granby • Suffield • South Windsor • Rockville • Vernon • Avon
 9019 St. Patrick/St. Anthony, Hartford, CT (B)

catholicmatch
 Connecticut
CatholicMatch.com/ dateCT

Mallory's Army Foundation
 United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
 Don't Just Teach Kindness...
BE KINDNESS!
www.MallorysArmy.com
(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.