

O Lord, you are our father;  
we are the clay and you the potter;  
we are all the work of your hands.

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut  
December 3, 2023 • First 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 4: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, Dec 5: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, Dec 6: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, Dec 7: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, Dec 8: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec 10: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-10-11-12,  
13-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

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

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Wednesday, December 8  
at 7:30 AM and 12:05 PM



### **Ladies Guild**

A heartfelt Thank You to all who participated in our Christmas Corner and Craft event. The Christmas Corner Drawing will be held at our Annual Christmas Party, on Sunday, December 10th, at 12 Noon in the Franciscan Center. Please join us. Please call the office to register to attend. The cost for this event is \$15.00 per person. NOTE: Tea Cup Auction tickets will be available there for your last-minute chances.

# The Pastor's Corner

December 3, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This is one of those years that pastors dread – when the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve! Unlike last year, when Christmas fell on a Sunday, and we had four full weeks of Advent; this year, we will have just three weeks and a few hours of Advent! Needless to say, a lot is going to happen in a shorter span of time.

On this First Sunday of Advent 2023, we are starting the season with our annual Advent Wreath Workshop as well as the return of the Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by our Confirmation classes.



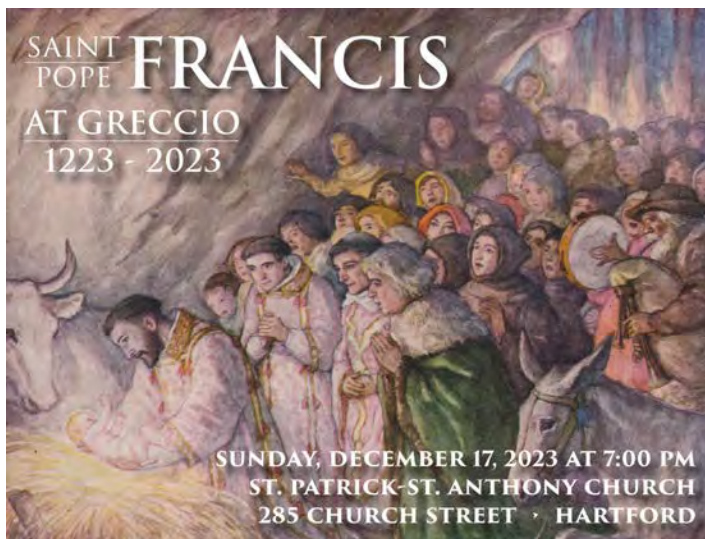
On **Tuesday, December 5th**, I will present an **Advent Daytime Retreat: The Art of the Jesse Tree**, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Franciscan Center. If you haven't signed up for it, that's okay. We have decided to eliminate the fee and ask only a free-will offering from the participants.

For the remaining Tuesdays in Advent (December 12 and 19), we invite you to participate in "Incarnational Inspiration" with Pat Curtis and LouAnn Warren after the 12:05 Mass, using the stained glass windows in our church. You can find more information about these programs in this bulletin.



On **Thursday, December 7th at 7:15 PM**, we will hold an **Advent Evening of Prayer for Peace** in the church. With violence occurring in the Middle East, Ukraine, Haiti and other parts of the world, we want to pray that peace and reconciliation may come upon all who are suffering and forced to leave their homeland to seek safety. We are inviting members of the Jewish and Muslim communities to

join us to offer readings and prayers. Three of the world's major religions – the monotheist traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – were all born in the Middle East and are all inextricably linked to one another. Christianity was born from within the Jewish tradition, and Islam developed from both Christianity and Judaism. I hope you will be able to join us for this moment during a time in which we Christians are especially attuned to the prophetic promises of peace and justice that embody the spirit of the Advent season.



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 read from a 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 figures of our nativity scene.

Please continue sending your photos for our Christmas Tree. Email a digital file to [tshreenan@gmail.com](mailto:tshreenan@gmail.com), or you can bring a photo to the parish office which we will scan.

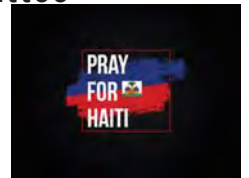
There is a lot happening here, so blessings on your week ahead!

*Fr. Tim Shreenan, OFM*

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

## From the Sister Parish Committee

We have heard from many of you that you would be contacting CT's two senators and the member of the House of Representatives who represents you to advocate for actions by the US government to alleviate the terrible conditions which the Haitian people are enduring. We are gratified that many of you are instruments of the hope that Christmas exemplifies. So that we can have some specific information regarding your efforts, we're asking those of you who have contacted the members of Congress to tell us whom you have contacted and whether you have received any response by going to <https://tinyurl.com/Sister-Parish-Info>. Please be assured that your name and email address will NOT be shared publicly.



## Drumming Circle: Mondays, December 4 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the church

Did you know that drumming is good for the spirit as well as the heart and mind! Please join us for an evening of African drumming rhythms once a month in the church. Anyone can learn to drum - no musical experience is needed. If you have a drum, please bring it with you. Let us know if you need a drum by calling the parish office, 860-756-4034. First-time participants, please arrive by 6:15 PM.



*Facilitator: Elaine Wiatr      Sponsored by the Women of Hope*

**Ryan Matthew**  
child of  
Jeremiah & Kristen Piescik  
baptized by Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.  
Saturday, December 2, 2023

## Centering Yoga

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



All ability levels are welcome; please bring your own mat.  
Email [aholstgrubbe@spsact.org](mailto:aholstgrubbe@spsact.org) to register.

שלום Peace мир  
lapè مالس

We invite you to join us as we pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Haiti, where there is so much violence and suffering.

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:15 PM  
St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church  
285 Church Street, Hartford

## Christmas Flower Memorials

Please remember:

at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed



## Advent Daytime Retreat:

### The Art of the Jesse Tree

Tuesday, December 5

The presentation and prayer will take place in the Center from 1:00-3:00 PM.

Join us for an afternoon in early Advent as we explore the various ways in which the Jesse Tree has been pictured from the Middle Ages to the present day in illuminated manuscripts, stained glass windows, painting, and sculpture. Afterwards, we will create our own Jesse Tree with specially designed "ornaments" representing the men and women who figured prominently in the history of ancient Israel, leading to Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. *Presenter: Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.*

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Jesse-NL> to register.

Free Will Offering

## 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.

## 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 4, in-person, 12:40 to 1:40 PM

Tuesday, December 5, on Zoom, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

### In Quiet Prayer:

Wednesday, December 6, 7:30-8:00 AM on Zoom

### Taproot

Wednesday, December 6, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Zoom

### Praying with Sacred Scripture

Next Meetings: December 6 & 20, 7:00-8:00 PM in-person.

### Royal Psalms: The Anointed One

Thursday, December 7, 10:30 to 11:30 AM on Zoom

## 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



## Weekly Offerings

November 13 to 19, 2023

Online: \$12,656.23

Weekly Offering: \$12,095.50

Total for Operating Budget: \$25,001.73

CCHD 2nd Collection (11/18-19): \$1,747.00

Weekly Offering information for 11-20 through 11/26 will be published in the 12/9-10 bulletin due to holiday publishing deadlines.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to  
those who have  
given a lifetime.



Our Second Collection on December 9/10, 2023 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. For more information please go to <https://retiredreligious.org/>.

## Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

### Habitat Build: December 9, 2023

Join others from our SPSA and Franciscan Center Community on Saturday, December 9 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will be working on a house in Hartford. Specific skills not required, but enthusiasm and a willingness to learn are welcome!! If interested in signing up or for more info, contact Sue O'Donnell by going to <https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-habitat-for-humanity/> and filling out the contact form.

### St. Francis Builds: Upcoming Mission Trips

St. Francis Builds (SFB) was developed 16 years ago by Fr. Mike Johnson while working in Maryland at St. Camillus parish. SFB has worked with underserved communities in the United States and in other countries. During the past year, groups have travelled to Tijuana, Mexico and New Orleans.

#### 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](mailto: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 2, 2023

4:00 PM Ronald Gina, Sr., 12th Anniversary

### Sunday, December 3, 2023

8:00 AM Concetta Gianni

10:00 AM Tony Intino

11:45 AM Rose & Angelo Perrone

5:00 PM Manuel Almagro

### Monday, December 4, 2023

7:30 AM Nicholas Pizey

12:05 PM Deceased members of the Coleman Family

### Tuesday, December 5, 2023

7:30 AM Emile Birch

12:05 PM Robert Fichter

### Wednesday, December 6, 2023

7:30 AM Stanley Tabara

12:05 PM Michael Gannon

### Thursday, December 7, 2023

7:30 AM Intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Joseph Kelliher

### Friday, December 8, 2023

7:30 AM In thanksgiving to the Immaculate Conception

12:05 PM Frank Brennan & Joseph Marut

### Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:00 PM Kevin Sweeney

### Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joann Speziale

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

11:45 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Lucy

5:00 PM Pauline Ward

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tshreenan@gmail.com)

Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Guardian, [wbeaudin@gmail.com](mailto:wbeaudin@gmail.com)

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, [pcurtis@spsact.org](mailto:pcurtis@spsact.org)

Kristina DiDomenzio, Business Manager, [kdidomenzio@spsact.org](mailto:kdidomenzio@spsact.org)

Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement, [aholstgrubbe@spsact.org](mailto:aholstgrubbe@spsact.org)

Fr. Michael Johnson, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, [mikeinbolivia@gmail.com](mailto:mikeinbolivia@gmail.com)

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, [jleonard@spsact.org](mailto:jleonard@spsact.org)

Dr. Gabriel Löfvall, Director of Music Ministry, [glofvall@spsact.org](mailto:glofvall@spsact.org)

Fr. A. Francis Soucy, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Senior Associate Friar, [afsofm@gmail.com](mailto:afsofm@gmail.com)

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Abramo, Parish & Center Administrative Assistant, [cabramo@spsact.org](mailto:cabramo@spsact.org)

Sarah Christopher, Parish Communications Director, [schristopher@spsact.org](mailto:schristopher@spsact.org)

Stacie Mawson, Saturday Receptionist, [smawson@spsact.org](mailto:smawson@spsact.org)

Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist, [bsullivan@spsact.org](mailto:bsullivan@spsact.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Deborah Pelletier, Religious Ed Team Coordinator, [dpelletier@spsact.org](mailto: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



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