



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

285 Church Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103
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*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, Jan 1: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday, Jan 2: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday, Jan 3: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday, Jan 4: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Friday, Jan 5: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday, Jan 7: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

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

New Years Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:00, 10:00, and 11:45 am & 5:00 pm

Join us in the Franciscan Center for Fireworks
just after the 5:00pm Mass.

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00 am Only

(No 7:30am or 12:05pm Masses)

Watch Online:



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Facebook>



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-YouTube>



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Streamspot>

New Years Parish Office Hours

Sunday, December 31: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Monday, January 1, 2024: Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2024: Standard office
hours resume.



The Pastor's Corner

December 31, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Those of us of a certain age will remember watching Guy Lombardo and his orchestra serenading a sea of revelers at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on New Year's Eve. At the stroke of midnight, the orchestra would launch into its unique rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" with a chorus of saxophones warbling out the tune.

The words of the song come a poem by the Scottish author, Robert Burns (1759-96), who based it on an earlier Scottish poem. These are the words we usually sing today:

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

Surely, the song evokes wistful feelings about the passing of the old year, as well as hopeful feelings about the one just starting. Some years leave us with memories that we would rather forget (or never bring to mind). For me, 2023 leaves me with a mixture of both happy as well as sad memories.

I will remember 2023 as the year I came down with Covid back in February. It was a relatively mild case, fortunately, but I still had to remain isolated for about ten days until I tested negative. I remember saying that getting Covid was a moment to be more patient and understanding of others who had struggled through it. And that was a good thing.

The past year also saw the end of Holy Name Province and the beginning of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, a moment that we friars had been preparing for over the course of several years. But it was still a wistful moment when it finally came to pass. The future of our lives as friars in the United States will be stronger because now there are more of us living out the Franciscan vision of the Gospel life together. And that's a good thing.



Looking around the world, 2023 will be remembered as a year of ongoing conflict between nations, resulting in more suffering on the part of countless numbers of innocent people, especially children. The war between Russia and Ukraine still grinds on, as another conflict between Israel and Hamas takes more civilian lives. Haiti continues to suffer under the onslaught of dangerous gang activity. But our parishioners have made concerted efforts to advocate on their behalf, and we can be very grateful for their efforts, which we hope will some day bring some positive results. And that is a good thing.

Most recently, the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith released a document giving permission for priests to bless persons in irregular marriages or same-sex marriages. This is a big moment in the Church's pastoral approach to those who have felt excluded from the ecclesial community. As one commentator put it: "What the declaration does is say that the church will not treat people in 'irregular' situations — like being in a LGBTQ relationship or being divorced and remarried — as if they are beyond the pale. We welcome them into the church. Full stop. We cannot perform a marriage for a relationship that our Catholic tradition does not recognize as a marriage, but that should not be any bar to our welcoming people." And that is a good thing.

As we come to the end of 2023 and look forward to 2024, I am grateful for all that has happened, both good and bad, because we can learn so much from the difficulties and struggles we experience throughout our lives. When we learn to be more patient, more accepting and understanding, more respectful and loving — that's a very good thing!

I want to close with sincere thanks for all of you who make this parish such a wonderful community. The celebrations of Christmas, especially the 800th anniversary of St. Francis at Greccio, were extraordinary events that will live long in our memories. I am grateful to the friars and our lay staff who work very hard to serve you in so many ways. The past few weeks have had their joys and sorrows, but we have been gathered together by our faith in a loving God who is with us all our days. And that's the best thing!

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

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

A Message from our Parish Nurses

The Parish Nurses welcome you to join us on Community Sundays for a blood pressure check.

We also remind you to get your flu shot, covid booster and make sure you are up to date on any or all of your vaccines.

Any parishoners who are nurses and would like to help with blood pressures once a month, we would welcome you. Please contact Judee Martz at 860 798 4928.

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.

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:

Tuesday: January 2, 2024, on Zoom at 12:40 PM

Monday: January 8, 2024, in-person at 12:40 PM

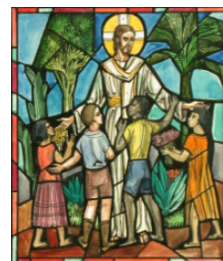
In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday, January 3, 7:30-8:00 AM on Zoom

Praying with Sacred Scripture: January 3 & 17, 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Drumming: January 8, in the church at 6:30 PM.

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.

Centering Yoga

Parishioner Michael Leahy (YT200) is offering a FREE one-hour yoga class in the Franciscan Center, the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month through April at 9:00am:

January 13 and 27

February 10 and 24

March 9 and 23

April 13 and 27

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry: A Long Standing Tradition

We congratulate Janet Bristow and the Prayer Shawl Ministers of SPSA on this 25th Anniversary of compassionate presence to all who would be wrapped by one of their creations. We invite you to read the story of the ministry in Janet's reflection:

"Twenty-five years ago, Janet Bristow and Vicky Galo, graduated from the first Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary where women explore their spirituality. We were ready to see what we could do with all that we had learned. Vicky and I wanted to reach out and validate women in the common, ordinary things. So, we started knitting shawls as a symbol of God's comforting, motherly love that wraps around us, holding us close in good times as well as difficult ones.

When Vicky and I began knitting and giving shawls to the people in our lives, we meant the gift of a shawl to embody that time, energy, thought and prayers for the person receiving it. We wanted women to know that there is value in the work of their hands--that it is prayer and blessing. The shawl was not only a utilitarian garment but also something special from the hands of the shawl maker to the heart of the receiver. We hoped that those who took on this spiritual practice of making prayer shawls would understand the importance and value of the simple act of making something for someone with intention, no longer dismissing what they made.

When others saw the impact of the shawls, they wanted to do the same. Articles about the ministry were written in magazines and newspapers and interest came from all over the country and other parts of the world, as well. We started a website so that others could avail



themselves of all the information they needed to begin. Soon we were invited to speak to church groups. The speaking engagements expanded into workshops and we became very busy, even flying to different parts of the country to get groups started.

We were even invited to write a book! The first one, **The Prayer Shawl Companion** was published in 2008. That was followed by **The Crocheted Prayer Shawl Companion**, **The New Prayer Shawl Companion**, and finally, **The Prayer Shawl Journal & Guidebook**. All the patterns, stories, and prayers were contributed by professional designers and everyday folks: A great mix for this grassroots movement.

Women create, whether it's cooking or baking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, gardening, painting, or crafting from the work of their hands. Many times, I've heard, "Oh, it's just something I made" said dismissively about a handmade gift, as if it isn't quite good enough not having been purchased from a store.

I know for myself that I treasure any handmade gift I have received knowing the time, energy, and thought that went into it.

Prayer shawls are tangible expressions of the shawl maker's prayers. The intention of making a prayer shawl starts with the shawl maker. That intention goes from the act of selecting the yarn at the store or from one's personal yarn stash, to blessing that yarn and needles or hook, to casting on or chaining the initial row, throughout the knitting or crocheting, to the binding off and finishing touches, and the final blessing. It's called a prayer shawl because it came from the prayers of the shawl maker holding the person receiving the shawl in her or his prayers. The shawl is to be used as prayer and for prayer by the recipient. Many have said that they can feel the energy of those prayers in the shawl as they wear it. It can be a sheltering place, a comfort amid illness or sorrow, or even a celebratory space for a special time in someone's life.

From simple gestures to bigger outreaches, through the years, shawl makers from across the country and around the world have rallied to the call for shawls in extraordinary circumstances. Their wish is to bring some comfort to others involved with tragedies; be it the mass shootings in Sandy Hook or the families who have lost loved ones in wars in far-off lands. And, more than 3,000 prayer squares were delivered to patients and nurses at Hartford Hospital during the pandemic.

This ministry has been passed on from hand to hand, and heart to heart, guided by the Spirit for 25 years, blessing everyone it touches. May it continue to be an inspiration to those who want to bring comfort and solace to the world."

For more information about this fabulous ministry please go to <http://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Shawl>.



Baptisms on Sunday, December 31, 2023

Nora Dolan
child of Kolby Hanson & Lindsay Dolan

and

John Stafford
child of John & Kara Capuano
baptized by Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.

Weekly Offerings

December 11 to 17, 2023

Online: \$7,670.00

Weekly Offering: \$9,729.23

Total for Operating Budget: \$17,399.23

Sanctuary Lamp

Week of December 31, 2023

Josephine Tanasi
requested by Connie Crockett



Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Dr. Jay Corning

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Thomas Dowd

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

7:30 AM Concetta Gianni

12:05 PM Parishioners of St. Genevieve

Thursday, January 4, 2024

7:30 AM George Hajjar

12:05 PM Francis Hartigan

Friday, January 5, 2024

7:30 AM Isabel Cameron Fairweather

12:05 PM Josephine Picone

Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 PM Arleta Alves & Jose Thomaz

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:00 AM Sal Gianni, Anniversary Mass

10:00 AM Millie Intino

11:45 AM In thanksgiving to St. Cristina

5:00 PM Raymond Ramsey

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, wlbeaudin@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

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