

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
February 18, 2024 • First Sunday of Lent

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

News From the Business Office

We are grateful for all the gifts you have shared with us over the last year, and want to make sure you have all the appropriate tax documentation.

As such, you will need to ask for a Year End Giving Statement.

There are 3 ways to get one:

Call the church office at 860-756-4034;
Print via Online Giving (for those exclusively
using Online Giving); or Email your request to
info@spsact.org.



Please be sure to indicate if you want it sent via USPS or email.

We have set up an easy to understand webpage explaining all your options. Just scan/click on the QR Code and it will launch the webpage.

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Feb 19: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, Feb 20: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, Feb 21: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, Feb 22: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Friday, Feb 23: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Sunday, Feb 25: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;

Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19;

Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

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



Publish Your Ministry's News

We have so many active and fulfilling ministries that we would love to highlight on the website. If your favorite ministry has photos or information to share, please contact Sarah Christopher, Director of Communications by filling out the [Ministry News Form \(https://spsact.org/ministries-contribution-form/\)](https://spsact.org/ministries-contribution-form/), and we can work together to let the community know about what you're doing!

The Pastor's Corner

February 18, 2024

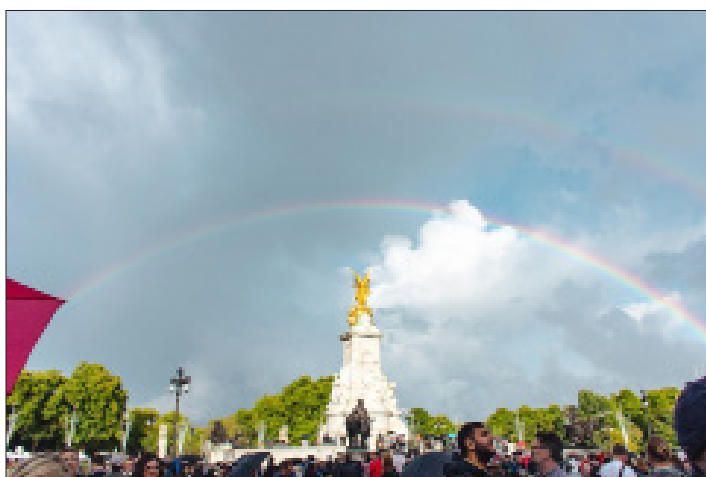
Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Last week's celebration of Mardi Gras during our monthly Community Sunday was a wonderful, fun time for everyone who filled the Franciscan Center after the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses. The live music, provided by Larry Gareau and his band, was especially popular. As one parishioner said to me in an email afterwards, "The joy was evident in the smiling faces of young and old ... I heard positive comments in regard to the decorations and live jazz music which added a special touch ... The music transported me to a place of comfort and joy. I am grateful for this gift of live music offered to us today."

I'd like to thank everyone involved in last Sunday's "super" celebration, including our Open Hearts LGBT Ministry for the decorations and setup, our hospitality team who helped with serving the food and for cleanup afterwards, and of course, Larry and the band for lifting our spirits with music.

So, here I sit, contemplating the memory of a great celebratory weekend, while waiting for an impending snow storm as well as Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. And I'm thinking about rainbows.

There is something comforting and uplifting in today's readings for the First Sunday of Lent, especially in Cycle B. The first reading, from the book of Genesis, speaks about God's covenant with Noah after the great flood. God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that covenant, in which God promised never to destroy mortal beings again. So, rainbows are usually thought of as signs of hope and promise.



They are also very rare and elusive, and I can't remember the last time I saw one in person. I do remember seeing photos of a "double" rainbow that appeared in London (and Windsor) following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022. Folks were speculating that the second arc (just barely visible in the photo below) alluded to the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, who had died in 2021.

I suspect that England is a good place to see rainbows, given its rainy climate and sudden bursts of sunlight following a shower. A rainbow is a beautiful gift of nature caused by sunlight being refracted through water droplets. It can also be caused by a prism of glass. Speaking of London, I was attending a service in Westminster Abbey one time, and I suddenly noticed a rainbow clearly visible on a nearby stone pillar. I looked around, and realized that it was created by the sun shining through a crystal chandelier!

Signs and symbols are important to us as Christians. Because a rainbow contains the full spectrum of light (remember your physics classes and Roy G. Biv?), we can easily associate a rainbow with God, the source of all light. Thus, a rainbow can symbolize God's presence and grace in our world. It can also mean that darkness will turn to light and life will conquer death. All those elements are part of the Paschal Mystery which we will celebrate at the culmination of this season of Lent during the Sacred Triduum.

Many songs about rainbows exist because rainbows are a universal symbol of hope, beauty, and wonder; just think of Judy Garland. As I read recently, "They are often used as a metaphor for positivity, optimism, and the promise of better things to come. The vibrant colors and fleeting nature of rainbows make them a powerful and evocative image that songwriters often use to convey feelings of joy, renewal, and optimism."

May the Lord Jesus lead you through the season of Lent with a spirit of hope and the promise of a springtime of rebirth. And keep your eyes open for a rainbow – you never know when one will appear!

Blessings on your week ahead!

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

Pastor

Open Hearts Ministry & Family and Friends Ministry



Combined Monthly Meeting: Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center. We will view part 2 of Chris Ford's presentation. A recap will be offered for those who missed part 1. Join us for fellowship and this wonderful presentation.

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: February 20, 2024, on Zoom at 12:30 PM

Wednesday: February 21, 2024, in-person at 12:40 PM

In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 to 8:00 AM on Zoom

People of Hope: *The Flowing Grace of Now*: Wednesday, February 21, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Praying with Sacred Scripture: February 21, 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Psalms: A Never-ending Discovery, February 25, 10:30 to 11:30 PM

BELIEVE The Gospel of John "We Have Seen His Glory"

INTRODUCTION TO JOHN'S GOSPEL

MONDAYS, STARTING FEBRUARY 19
7:00 - 8:00 PM, ON ZOOM

Register at tinyurl.com/SPSA-seen-glory
Suggested offering: \$50



Woman of Sorrow - Woman of Hope

TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 20 & 27
AND MARCH 5

FOLLOWING THE 12:05 PM MASS
IN PERSON

Lent through a Franciscan Lens

A Franciscan exploration of Gospel Wisdom

Lent offers an opportunity for contemplation and renewal. Michael Johnson, OFM and Greg Friedman, OFM, have teamed up with friars across the province to create a six-part Gospel series titled, "*Lent through a Franciscan Lens*".

During each week of Lent a friar will provide a reflection on the Sunday Gospel. Each session will ask, "*Who is this 'Good News' for in 2024?*" The series will start on February 12, 2024, with guest speaker, Daniel Horan, OFM. The first session is titled, "*Jesus is tempted in the desert*". To view this session, please click on the link or go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h31uyIkNjI>.

Ignatian Contemplation EXPERIENCING GOD THROUGH OUR IMAGINATION IN PRAYER

Register at
tinyurl.com/SPSA-Ignatian
Suggested offering \$10

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
6:30 - 7:30 PM IN PERSON



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.

"Longing for Peace" Prayer Services



As war and violence continue in several locations around the globe, we feel the urgent need to pray for peace. Trusting that prayer is one response we can make to these distant devastating circumstances, would you please join us for three Prayer Services for Peace? We will gather on **Thursdays, February 22 & 29 from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the church.** Arrive early for the 12:05 Mass and join us for this important time of reflection. Please come to all or any of these communal prayer times as your schedule allows. These services will also be livestreamed.

News from the Parish Office

Did you know the 2024 Calendar has lots of dates still available for your Mass Intentions? **And, the 2025 Calendar is now open for intentions.**



How to request your intentions: Call the office at 860-756-4034 or email info@spsact.org to request your intentions. Please provide a 2nd and 3rd choice when making your request.

Please call the church office, 860-756-4034, if you have questions

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The weekly offering for
February 5 - February 11, 2024
will be noted in the February 25, 2024 Bulletin



"All are Welcome" Day of Reflection ~ Francis and the Language of Praise: Praying with the Saint of Assisi

Retreat Day Leader: Fr. Bill Beaudin, OFM
Saturday, April 13, 2024; 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at
Mercy by the Sea Retreat Center

All men and women are invited to consider this Day of Reflection in the Easter Season to set aside time for one's relationship with God. We will have the opportunity to learn more about the spirituality of St. Francis and enter into the spirit of his prayer in order to enrich our own life with God.

Here's a chance to step away for one day from the ordinary schedule of life and devote this time to your spiritual growth. And, if you have never experienced Mercy by the Sea in Madison CT before, please join us! Mercy by the Sea offers beautiful, simple, and peaceful spaces that enable reflection, open the heart to prayer, and facilitate opportunities for conversation.

REGISTER EARLY to reserve a spot for you and a friend.

Suggested Offering: \$60.00

Don't miss this opportunity open to all!

Registration & payment deadline is April 1, 2024

Please Register at <http://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AAW-DofR>.



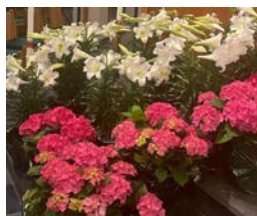
Sanctuary Lamps

Week of February 18, 2024

In Loving Memory of
Gaetano Romano by Jo-Ann Formica

Easter Flower Memorials

We invite you to celebrate the joy in the Resurrection of Christ by remembering or honoring family members and friends with a donation toward Easter flowers and decorations.



The names of those received by Tuesday, March 19, 2024 will be noted in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

Any memorials received after the 19th will be noted in either the April 7th or April 14th bulletin.

Give online by going to <https://bit.ly/3TD18tM> or mail a check to the office.

Please indicate loved one's name(s) below, online in the notes or on a separate piece of paper with your check.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 17, 2024

4:00 PM Stella Rzewnicki

Sunday, February 18, 2024

8:00 AM Denis Geary

10:00 AM Geraldine Davis

11:45 AM Maureen Durkin

5:00 PM Raymond Fusco

Monday, February 19, 2024

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Margaret & Michael Abbruzzese

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

7:30 AM Ernest Burnell

12:05 PM Prayer intentions for Reginalda DeLuca on her 100th Birthday

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

7:30 AM Kate Lilly

12:05 PM Brian Tweedie

Thursday, February 22, 2024

7:30 AM Carlos Garcia

12:05 PM William McCauley

Friday, February 23, 2024

7:30 AM Antonio & Analia Alves

12:05 PM Madeline Capodanno

Saturday, February 24, 2024

4:00 PM Joan Stafstrom

Sunday, February 25, 2024

8:00 AM William A. Leone

10:00 AM Deceased members of the 100% voter's league

11:45 AM Judith Cardoni

5:00 PM



Watch Online:



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



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



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

Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

Large Quantity Sandwich Donations



If your group or family would like to donate a large quantity of sandwiches, please reach out to Allison Holst-Grubbe at aholstgrubbe@spsact.org so that your donation coordinates with current needs.

In general, it is best to provide us with 48 hours notice so that we can be sure to have the room in the refrigerator for storage and usually peanut butter and jelly sandwiches work best for large quantity donations. Thank you so much for your generosity!

No Freeze Shelter Meals - Update

As you know, each Sunday, through March 31st, our parishioners come together to prepare a Sunday dinner for the Shelter. We are still looking for donations for our February 4th and February 11th meals.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-No-Freeze> for a full list of what is still needed.

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.

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 2,879 meals this January.



Habitat for Humanity
Build Community while building a house.
SATURDAYS FEBRUARY 17 & MARCH 16
FROM 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Register at
bit.ly/SPSA-habitat-for-humanity



GHIAA Spring 2024 House Meetings

This house meeting campaign is a little different from previous ones in that our house meetings are being co-hosted by teams of congregations and held on-site at various GHIAA institutions. You are encouraged to register via our online form for any date. Whichever house meeting(s) you attend will be an opportunity to connect with leaders from across our network.

****St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church & The Franciscan Center, along with the Collaborative Center for Justice, will host an interfaith house meeting here in the Center on Saturday, March 2, from 10-11:30 AM.****

At each meeting, participants will divide into small groups to share stories of the struggles you are facing, forces your loved ones are contending with, injustices faced by your neighbors. This is a critically important step in our organizing process, as the stories shared in these house meetings will shape GHIAA's next slate of issues for action. We need to hear from you!

Please contact Allison Holst-Grubbe with any questions, or if you'd like to help on March 2.

House of Bread Education Center:

Volunteer Opportunity – new “Learning Together” program at House of Bread Education Center!

Are you interested in helping immigrants and refugees learn to speak English? The House of Bread would love for you to join us this spring in our efforts at our Jubilee House location (40 Clifford Street in Hartford) to help adult learners improve their language skills. We are expanding our afternoon program (Monday – Wednesday, 12:30-2:00 PM) where parents attend with their young children. Tutors are needed for the parents as well as babysitters for their children. Our wonderful Jubilee House volunteers are the essential ingredient to creating a friendly and safe learning environment where our students can improve communication skills and work towards their goals. You will work with an individual or lead a small group on one or more days each week. All that is needed is patience and a desire to help. For more information, call Michele at 860-247-3030 x 12 or email at mprizio@hobread.org. Come join our community and help make a difference in someone's life!

From around the Archdiocese

Ukrainian “Songs of Faith and Resistance”

February 20 (Rescheduled from an earlier date)

Holy Family Retreat Center presents a concert, performed by the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble, on February 20, 2024 starting at 7:00 pm, in the main chapel at the Holy Family Retreat Center, 305 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT.

The Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble is a Hartford-based choir whose repertoire includes selections from Ukraine’s rich tradition of



liturgical, folk, seasonal, and patriotic choral music spanning more than 200 years.

The Choir has performed in concerts and liturgical services throughout the United States and in benefit concerts with Connecticut’s Polish, Jewish, and Lithuanian communities. Active since 1999, the choir has worked in collaboration with Chorale Connecticut, the Yale Slavic Chorus, the Wesleyan and Fordham Concert choirs, and other regional performing arts ensembles.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

There is no charge for admission, though goodwill donations of \$20 are encouraged to support the humanitarian aid initiatives of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. Checks may be made out to Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation.

To access the livestream, visit holyfamilyretreat.org/livestream-yevshan-concert.



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SPRING WEEKEND OPEN HOUSES

Sunday | March 3, 2024 at 11:30am-12:30pm
St. Thomas Campus

Sunday | March 24, 2024 at 11:00am-12:00pm
St. Timothy Middle School Campus

Open Houses will take place immediately following mass at both churches

 **REGISTER TODAY**

Visit our website to register today or contact our admissions office at admissions@sttmschool.org

Shroud of Turin



The New England Catholic Biblical School invites you to join Shroud of Turin experts: Dr. Cheryl White and Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D as they discuss the theological, historical, scientific, and forensic issues surrounding a cloth that bears the mysterious image of a man who has been scourged, crucified, capped with thorns, and pierced in the right side.



Seating is limited.

Please scan the QR code to register or visit <https://www.catholicdaohct.org/catholic-biblical-school/events> or call 860-242-5573.

Divine Mercy Ministry to Seniors

Volunteers are needed to spread Jesus’ message of Divine Mercy to seniors in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As a volunteer prayer group leader, you would lead a weekly 30-minute Divine Mercy prayer group using a simple prepared model of readings, prayers, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry of mercy, please contact Mary Higgins at (413) 552-7231 or email Mary at: DivineMercyMinistry-ToSeniors@gmail.com.

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

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jmcnee@jppc.net
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