

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut  
November 24, 2024 • Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

**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**

Masks are optional at all Masses

**Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation**

4:00 PM Public

**Sunday Masses**

8:00 AM Public

10:00 AM Public & Livestream

11:45 AM Public

5:00 PM Public

**Weekday Masses**

7:30 AM Public

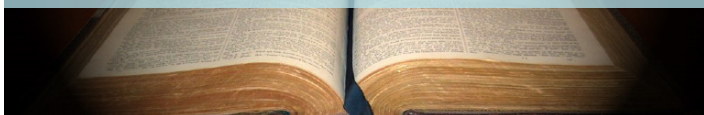
12:05 PM Public & Livestream

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:15 to 11:45 AM

Saturday 3:15 to 3:45 PM

**Daily Mass Readings**



Monday, Nov 25: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; LK 21:1-4  
 Tuesday, Nov 26: RV 14:14-19; LK 21:5-11  
 Wednesday, Nov 27: RV 15:1-4; LK 21:12-19  
 Thursday, Nov 28: Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19  
 Friday, Nov 29: RV 20:1-4, 11—21:2; LK 21:29-33  
 Sunday, Dec 1: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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

**Thanksgiving Week  
Schedule**

**Masses**

Mon, Tues & Wed (11/25-11/27)  
7:30 am & 12:05 pm

Thanksgiving (11/28): 10:00 am

Fri (11/29): 9:00 am

Sat (11/30): 4:00 pm

Sun (12/01)  
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:45 am & 5:00 pm

**Parish Office Hours**

Mon, Tues & Wed (11/25-11/27)  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thurs & Fri (11/28 & 11/29)  
Office Closed

Saturday, 11/30  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines**

12/08/2024 Bulletin Deadline: 11/28/2024 at Noon  
 12/15/2024 Bulletin Deadline: 12/06/2024 at Noon  
 12/22/2024 Bulletin Deadline: 12/11/2024 at Noon  
 12/29/2024 Bulletin Deadline: 12/18/2024 at Noon  
 1/05/2024 Bulletin Deadline: 12/23/2024 at Noon  
 1/12/2025 Bulletin Deadline: 1/03/2025 at Noon

# The Pastor's Corner

November 24, 2024



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Okay, I'll get all the clichés out of the way. I can't believe that it's Thanksgiving week already. Where has the year gone? It seems like the years go by faster and faster. Yada yada yada.

I don't mean to sound like the proverbial broken record, but I do believe that the older I get the quicker time passes. As such, I try to make some time to think and reflect about my life and what I have to be thankful for, especially at this time of the year.

I'm thankful for a number of things: first, my health. Many of you may know of the little health scare I had back in March that started with some chest pains. Fortunately, it wasn't anything serious, and I ended up going through a long round of cardiac tests over the ensuing months. I'm on medication to control heart palpitations, and overall I feel fine. So, I'm thankful for that, and I appreciate your concern. As my mother once told me, after she and my father hit 70 it was nothing but doctors' appointments.

Speaking of hitting 70, I'm also thankful for another milestone that occurred this year: 40 years of priesthood. In some ways, I feel that my ministry as a priest didn't fully kick in until I came to St. Patrick-St. Anthony. Here, I have had the opportunity to become more involved in the lives of our parishioners. Something which only happened in a rather limited way during my previous ministry assignments. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me as your pastor, and I hope that I have fulfilled your expectations in some modest way. I feel like I'm still learning!

I'm thankful for the many wonderful friends I've made here, whether they be in the parish, or in the Archdiocese of Hartford, or even among the local music world. My life has been enriched by all the acquaintances from these three sectors of my life.

I'm truly grateful for the glorious music we are privileged to have at St. Patrick-St. Anthony. As you well know, choral and organ music are the great loves of my life, and I feel so blessed for all the inspiring music that is performed here on a weekly basis, as well as in concerts. I'm also grateful that I've had the opportunity to compose some music for our choir, and they make it sound pretty

decent! So, thank you, Gabe and company for your gift of music.

Which is not to exclude any of our other ministries! I am thankful for the hundreds of volunteers who give their time and talent in so many ways. I just can't say it enough: you all make a difference by your service to others in need. You make our world a bit brighter and offer hope, welcome and acceptance to those who live on the edges of society.

I am grateful for the supportive staff of our parish, both the friars and lay members, who work hard to serve you and whatever needs you may have. We enjoy one another's company, and are always eager to help each other when necessary. I am sure our parishioners appreciate all that you do for us.

Finally, I am very grateful for the response we've received so far in our Parish Appeal. At this moment, we have a total of \$71,642 from some 205 donors. I had no particular goal in mind, but my expectations have certainly been met, and I am humbled to see how much this parish means to those who have made a contribution. If you haven't yet made a pledge or gift, I hope you will do so soon. I have several projects in mind which the appeal can finance, and I will keep you informed as we move forward with them.

So, those are the things for which I am thankful this year. I hope you will find just as many reasons in your own life to give thanks.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

Pastor



## Send us your photo!

Once again we will decorate our parish Christmas tree with photos of you and your family. If you participated last year but would like to send a new photo, you can. Just make sure the resolution is high enough to print clearly. Email the photo to [tshreenan@gmail.com](mailto:tshreenan@gmail.com).

## From the Sister Parish Committee



Hopeful news from St. Genevieve's - the school is open and over 400 students are receiving education and a hot lunch! Despite the dire situation in Haiti, the strength and faith of Fr. Gaby, the principal and teachers and parents is a testament to the presence of good amidst the violence. And we know our funds are secure and are reaching Fr. Gaby safely.

In this season of thanks - we sincerely thank everyone for their continued spiritual and financial support for our Sister Parish parishioners.

Sad news close to home, we mourn the passing of our beloved committee member, Joe Cirusuolo, Co-Chair of our Haiti Advocacy committee. He leaves behind a large and strong national group, which he helped form and led, that will continue to advocate for solutions to end the violence and arms trafficking in Haiti.

Mesi!

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this wonderful and prayerful ministry. Our next meetings:

Monday, December 9 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Zoom.

Thursday, December 19 from 10:30 AM TO 12:00 PM in person.

Please check Monday's email for the Zoom Link.



### Secular Franciscan Order

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 for Urban Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony on Sunday, November 24th, to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order. Our meeting starts at 2:00 and we will be celebrating our Memorial Service to remember deceased friends, relatives and members of our fraternity. All are welcome.



### Ongoing Adult Faith Formation Programs

For full program descriptions, Zoom links, and more information on other programs, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AFF>.

Group Spiritual Reflection Zoom Meetings: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. All are welcome! Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Tues-Spirit-Grp> to register and receive the Zoom Link.

In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday November 27, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. Please check the Monday email for Zoom link.

People of Hope: Wednesday, November 27, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Join us! <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-POH-Fall24> to register.

Divine Reading: December Meetings: 12/4 & 12/18 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in-person at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. Sharing is optional, and there is no need to attend every meeting; join us when you can!

### Drumming Circle

Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Center. No experience or drum necessary. Please contact Elaine Wiatr at [elaine.wiatr@yahoo.com](mailto:elaine.wiatr@yahoo.com) for more information or if you need to borrow a drum.



ST. PATRICK - ST. ANTHONY'S  
**CHURCH STREET Singers**  
 Reading age youth through High School Leaders  
 Join us to sing for Christmas Eve Mass  
 at 5:30 pm (arrive at 5:00 pm)  
 REHEARSALS ARE SATURDAYS AT 9:00 AM  
 DECEMBER 7, 14 AND 21  
 Sign up by scanning the code or go to  
<https://spsact.org/css-christmas-2024>



**Offertory**  
**11/11/2024 - 11/17/2024**  
Total Offering: \$31,112.23  
 Online Giving: \$9,480.23  
 Weekly Collection: \$21,632.00


## 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. The names of your loved ones will be published in the Christmas Weekend Bulletin which will be available on line and in the Church. The deadline for memorial submissions to be included in the Christmas bulletin is December 20, 2024.

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:



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at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season

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

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

## Ladies Guild Annual Christmas Party

A heartfelt Thank You to all who have participated in our Christmas Corner and Craft event. Did you know tickets are still available? You can purchase them in the church office through December 6th.

The Christmas Corner Drawing will be held at the beginning of our Annual Christmas Party, on Sunday, December 8th, from 12:00 to 2:30 PM. Tea Cup Auction tickets will be available there for your last-minute chances. You do not need to be present to win, **BUT...**



**YOU ARE cordially invited to join us for this year's party. We will gather at Salute on Rt. 3 in Rocky Hill.** The price per person is \$25.00 and will include dinner, desserts, coffee and tea. Our selections will include salad, pasta, chicken, cod, and roasted vegetable.

Please call the church office to RSVP by December 2nd. Checks should be made payable to SPSA Ladies Guild.

## Open Hearts Ministry



**Monthly Meeting: Join us Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM.**


Please go to <https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-open-hearts-ministry/> for more information and a ministry member will connect with you.

## Family & Friends Ministry

Our next meeting will take place on **Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 3:30 PM** in the Franciscan Center. Go to <https://spsact.org/ministries/open-hearts-lgbtq-ministry/#family-friends> for more information and either Tim Curran or Rich Brogini will connect with you.

**St. Patrick-St. Anthony**  
**Lessons**  
**and**  
**Carols**

Save the Date  
**December 22, 2024**  
 at  
**7:00 pm**



## Vibrant Voices for Peace



Our Women of Hope Ministry invites you to join them for prayer to focus on many dimensions of peace ~ building a culture of peace, cultural diversity in friendship and the theme of justice, for example.

*We launch this important time to 'be' together.*

Please join with other parishioners to hear the voices of women lead our communal prayers and reflect upon the peace sought after and celebrated at this moment in history.

**Tuesday, December 3 after the 12:05 Mass,**  
with Sr. Eileen Dooling, RSM

*\* All services will be held in the church and available on live stream \**

## Connecting Psalms with the Book of Proverbs

Thursdays, December 5,  
12 & 19 from 10:30 to  
11:30 AM on Zoom



In our study of the psalms we have noted the relationship of themes that pop up in other books of the Bible. Proverbs and psalms are often related in their content. In addition to praise and thanksgiving, the psalms carry practical advice that is similar in purpose to Proverbs, a book that is designed in many ways to help readers live practical lives by following certain guides. We will look at this relationship more prominent in some psalms than in others.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SP-SA-Psalms-Proverbs> or scan the QR code to register and receive the Zoom link.

*Presenter: Fr. Francis Soucy, OFM*



## News From the Business Office

To view the 7/23 - 6/24 year end report please go to

<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Financials>  
or scan the QR Code to view.



## Volunteer Today:

Feeling the need to give back? Consider volunteering for **The Ministry of the Door**. Shifts in need are during the evenings and Sunday mornings. Duties include answering the door and phone and light office work when needed.

Please go to <https://spsact.org/current-volunteer-opportunities/> to view current offerings.

Have questions? Please contact our Director of Community Engagement, Allison Holst-Grubbe at [aholstgrubbe@spsact.org](mailto:aholstgrubbe@spsact.org) for more info!

## Advent Hope for a Weary World



Be sure to save Tuesday, December 17, 2024 for an Advent Prayer Service for Hope. Join fellow parishioners for this moving service starting at 7:00 pm in the Church.

More information will follow in upcoming e-mails and bulletins.

## Sanctuary Lamps Week of 11/24/2024

*In Loving Memory of  
Concetta Romano by Jo-Ann Formica  
Jeanie Grasso Gagnon by Natalie Campbell*

## Advent Time: "Be Still and Know"

Tuesday, December 10 following the 12:05 Mass

We invite you to take some time to "be" in this busy season of "doing". Step away from the shopping and decorating to dwell in the "gifts" of this season of waiting. Are you longing for those few moments of reflection to connect with the inspiring Advent messages? Join us for an opportunity in Church to be still and come to know once again the true spirit of Advent.

*Presenter: Patricia Curtis*



## Archbishop's Annual Appeal Donations as of 11/15/2024

Parish Goal: \$115,000.00  
Total Donated: \$89,811.76



Did you know that our own Sandwich Ministry, St. Anthony's Bread for the Poor and the House of Bread are among the 72 Hartford County non-profit organizations that benefit from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal? You can find the entire list by going to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AAA-NP-List>.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/AOHCT-AAA> or scan the qr code to make your donation.

Appeal literature can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



Enders Island in Mystic, CT is home to The Sacred Art Institute and St. Edmund's Retreat. The ministry of Enders Island is dedicated to the work of spiritual care, recovery from addiction and education in Sacred Art. For more information on their many programs, go to <https://endersisland.org>.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, November 23, 2024

4:00 PM Madeline Capodanno

### Sunday, November 24, 2024

8:00 AM Prayer intentions for the people of Lebanon & Palestine

10:00 AM August West Linder, 21st Anniversary

11:45 AM Anna Ellis

5:00 PM Jeanie Grasso Gagnon

### Monday, November 25, 2024

7:30 AM Florence Chelstowski

12:05 PM Lisa Legendre

### Tuesday, November 26, 2024

7:30 AM Beverly Sidway

12:05 PM Mary Ann Citino

### Wednesday, November 27, 2024

7:30 AM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Michael J. Abbruzzese

### Thursday, November 28, 2024 (Thanksgiving)

10:00 AM Mary, Joseph, John & Rose Stefano

### Friday, November 29, 2024

9:00 AM Christopher O'Toole

### Saturday, November 30, 2024

4:00 PM Peter Mittica

### Sunday, December 1, 2024

8:00 AM James Howard, 2nd Anniversary

10:00 AM Josephine Tanasi

11:45 AM Frank & Rose Sullivan

5:00 PM Maureen Dowd

## 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, Anna Ramirez, 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 DiDominizio, Business Manager, [kdidominizio@spsact.org](mailto:kdidominizio@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

Keep Up with News from St. Patrick - St. Anthony  
and The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry  
Go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-news>  
or scan the QR code





Archdiocese of Hartford  
Office of Safe Environment  
467 Bloomfield Ave.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002



## **HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF SEXUAL ABUSE TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD**

If you have knowledge or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult (an adult with an intellectual disability) has been sexually abused, in any manner, by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford, you are urged to report this information to:

Faith Vos Winkel, MSW  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
860-541-6475  
[faith.voswinkel@aohct.org](mailto:faith.voswinkel@aohct.org)

In addition, you will be asked to follow up in writing with a detailed description of the facts involved in the incident. Specifics of this written report can be found in the [Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Hartford Relating to Allegations of Sexual Misconduct Involving Minors and Vulnerable Adults](#). This document is also available online at [www.archdioceseofhartford.org](http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org). The Archdiocese of Hartford will report any and all incidents to the proper civil authorities.

Mandated reporters in the State of Connecticut are required by law to report any incident of sexual abuse involving a minor or vulnerable adult. We encourage any Non-Mandated persons to report such incidents to the proper authorities as well. We support your right to do so.

Incidents involving sexual abuse of minors (persons under the age of 18) should be reported to:  
State Department of Children and Families Care-line  
1-800-842-2288

Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 18 – 59 should be reported to the:  
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services – AID Division  
for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities  
1-844-878-8923

Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 60 and over should be reported to:  
Department of Social Services for the Elderly  
1-888-385-4225

Once a written report of an incident of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult has been received, an investigation will be undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Archdiocese of Hartford.

# Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · November 23 - 29, 2024



## 'SAINTS RETREAT' SPARKS CURIOSITY AND IMAGINATION IN FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS



*Jaxon Krzynowek, dressed as St. Francis of Assisi, joins his mother, Wieslawa Krzynowek, for the "Saints Retreat" at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Plainville.*

Jaxon Krzynowek came dressed in a brown hooded habit with a rope belt, noting he wanted to be like St. Francis of Assisi, the saint who some said could speak to the animals. "He loves animals," his mother, Wieslawa Krzynowek, said of her son. That's why he picked St. Francis.

Madelyn Sweeney and her mother found their inspiration online. They read about St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who, through a miracle, turned bread into roses. Madelyn came dressed in a long, flowing blue gown with a yellow basket full of colorful flowers and a half loaf of bread. "We had the props," her mom, Melissa Sweeney, explained.

These creative costumes were a highlight of the "Saints Retreat," a family-friendly event held earlier this month at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Plainville.

Designed as a fun, educational kickoff for the start of faith formation classes, the event attracted 85 children in grades one through 10, along with some of their parents.

"I'm trying to bring the kids together with their parents to learn about the saints because the saints were amazing and they could really spark fire," Joseph Savidge, the religious education coordinator for Our Lady of Mercy Parish, said prior to the event.

As a child, he was captivated by the courage of St. Joan of Arc. "It's just amazing that a 15-year-old girl would lead the French army and the 100 Years' War," he said. "How did she ever talk that king into letting her lead an army – a young girl who was illiterate and who couldn't ride a horse?"

Savidge hoped that during the Saints Retreat, each child would find one saint that spoke to his or her heart.

"I think they are wonderful role models," he said, "because we don't have a lot of good role models today."

At the Saints Retreat, David Plaue, a long-time catechist, author and publisher of the Saints Sticker Book by Sticker Book Publishing in Newtown, asked the children, "Who do you look up to? Who is someone you respect in your life?"

Hands immediately shot up. The children's answers? "My dad and little brother," "Taylor Swift because she's kind," and "Simone Biles."

In response, Plaue passed out copies of his workbook to every child and guided them through an interactive discussion about the saints.

"We are all called to be saints," he told the students and parents. "Everybody in this room could be a saint. It's not impossible. We can all work toward being a saint in our everyday lives."

Plaue shared his loved for his personal favorite, St. Rose of Lima, noting she is "the patron saint of those with family problems and those ridiculed because of their faith." The youths then found her color-coded image and stuck it on the page next to her color-coded biography.

Plaue quizzed the youths about many other saints, sharing brief tidbits from their bios and asking, "Who am I?" The students had many correct answers, identifying the various saints, as they shuffled through pages of stickers.

Plaue touched on familiar saints from the time of Christ to lesser-known saints in history and up to the present day. More than a dozen saints, ranging from St. Peter the "rock" to the Blessed Mother to St. Mary Magdalene, were presented before the break.

"St. Mary Magdalene, she's the one who tells us we don't have to be perfect," Plaue reminded the students. "We just have to keep trying to get closer to God."

For more information on the Saints Sticker Book, visit [stickerbookpublishing.com/products/saints](http://stickerbookpublishing.com/products/saints).

*Story and photos by Shelley Wolf*



**ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD**

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[instagram.com/archdioceseofhartford](https://instagram.com/archdioceseofhartford)  
[youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct](https://youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, December 3 - Wednesday, December 4  
at 6:30 PM**

*Two-night Parish Mission · Corpus Christi Church,  
Wethersfield*

Join Christ the King Parish in Wethersfield for a two-night Parish Mission on Dec. 3 and 4, 6:30 p.m., at Corpus Christi Church. Father Nick Melo will present an introduction to the Jubilee Year of Hope, reflecting on Pope Francis' Papal Bull for the Holy Year.

**Saturday, December 7 at 7 PM**

*Holiday Showcase to Benefit Schools in Bristol ·  
St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol*

The 19th annual Holiday Showcase of Stars will take place on Dec. 7, 7 p.m., at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. Everyone is welcome to be part of this wonderful community tradition so bring your friends. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph and St. Matthew schools in Bristol. For more information, call 860.585.6039 or 860.329.5144 or [debbiedoll24@gmail.com](mailto:debbiedoll24@gmail.com).

**Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 PM**

*Lessons and Carols · St. Anthony Church,  
Prospect*

The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Dec. 15, 7 p.m., at St. Anthony's Church in Prospect. The public is invited to attend.

For more events, please visit:  
[archdioceseofhartford.org/events](http://archdioceseofhartford.org/events)

To submit an event for consideration, please  
email: [communications@aohct.org](mailto:communications@aohct.org)



# Coffee with

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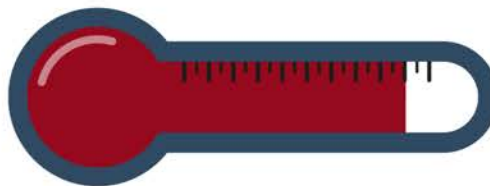
*New episodes every  
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### Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Rome

Join Father Emmanuel Ihemedu, pastor of St. John Paul the Great Parish of Torrington, in autumn of 2025 for a 13-day Shrine Tour to Rome and other locations in Italy, including Venice, Padua, Florence, Siena, Pisa, Assisi, Loreto, Macerata, San Giovanni, and Rotondo. Cost is only \$4,490 per person from New York. Early registration is highly encouraged and is first come, first served basis.



## 2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal



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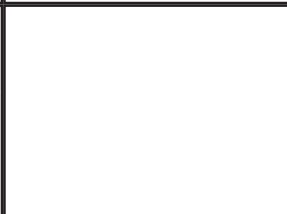


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