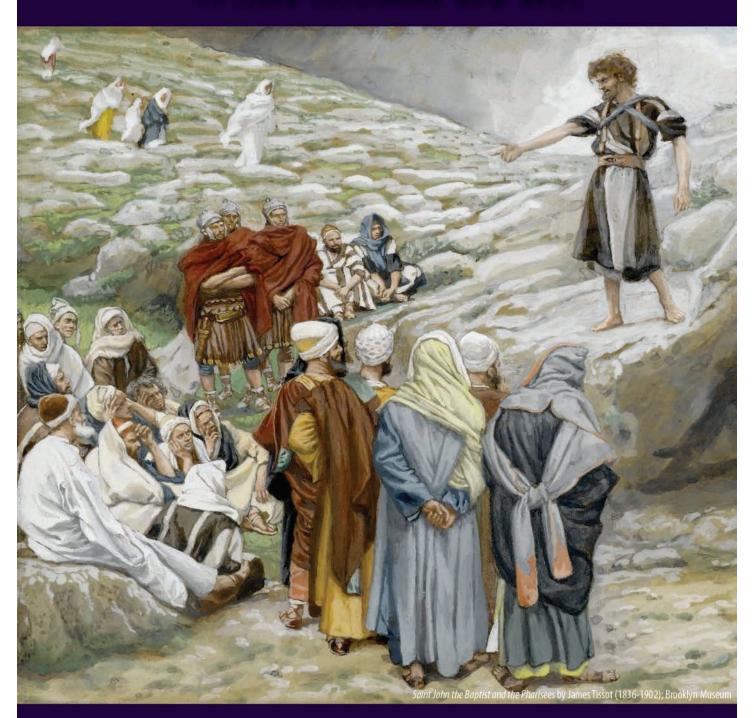
The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?"



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church · 285 Church Street · Hartford, Connecticut December 15, 2024 · Third 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



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

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: at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season Requested by: Offerior Company Spales and Christmas Season

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Dec 16: Gn 3:9-15, 20; PS 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, Dec 17: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14 Wednesday, Dec 18: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, Dec 19: ZEC 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,

10ab; LK 1:26-38

Friday, Dec 20: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19 Sunday, Dec 22: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;

Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

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 Paston's Corner

December 15, 2024

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Perhaps one of my favorite prayers in the Mass is the one which follows the Our Father. Technically, it's called the "embolism" — an insertion added to the Lord's Prayer. Here is the text the celebrant recites:

"Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

This prayer has a definite Advent ring to it: "as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." However, I have to admit that I prefer the older translation that said: "Protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

We live in a world full of anxiety and even fear, though most of us live peacefully and productively. Nonetheless, many people in other parts of the world struggle to survive against a background of war and violence. We pray for them every week: people in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti and Sudan.

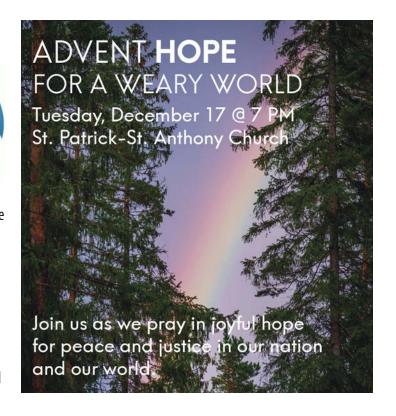
This coming Tuesday, December 17th, we will have the opportunity to come together in prayer and song, and join our hearts in union with those who are suffering, as well as those who simply need our prayerful support. "Advent Hope for a Weary World" will be our way of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior at Christmas. The service begins at 7:00 PM in the church, and everyone is invited.

The year 2025 has been designated by Pope Francis as a Jubilee Year of Hope, with the motto "Hope does not disappoint," taken from St. Paul's letter to the Romans (5:5). We will mark the start of the year by coming together in a spirit of hope that God will guide us, our nation, and the world into the future.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

Pastor







Advent Programs and Events

Join us to nurture your faith:

Connecting Psalms with the Book of Proverbs

Thursdays, December 19, 2024 from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on Zoom. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Psalms-Proverbs to register for the Zoom link. *Presenter: Fr. Francis*

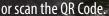
Advent Evening Prayer Service: Advent Hope for a Weary World

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Church Join us for an Advent Prayer Service for Hope. Join fellow parishioners for this moving service.

A Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM

For more information on all of our advent programs, please go to

https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Adv-2024





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, December 17, 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, December 18, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. Zoom link in Monday email.

People of Hope: Wednesday, December 18, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Join us: https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-POH-Fall24

Divine Reading: Wednesday, December 18, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in-person, Srs of St. Joseph, 27 Park Road, West Hartford. Join us when you can!

The Secular Franciscan Order Meeting

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 Parish Center at St. Patrick-St. Anthony on December 15th to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order. We will meet at 2:00 to celebrate our annual Christmas Crib devotion to celebrate the birth of Christ.

This weekend, after all Masses, the Secular Franciscans will be distributing small packets of birdseed to members of your parish because St. Francis wanted everyone to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One way was to feed the birds, especially at Christmas.

Please accept this gift from the Secular Franciscans and assist your children with this mission.



EMMAUS GRIEVING PARENT MINISTRY

Have you suffered the loss of a child? The next meeting date is December 15, 2024 at 3:15 PM in the Franciscan Center.

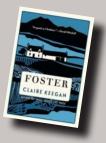
There is no need to register but if you'd like to chat before then, please call the church office (860-756-4034) and we'll get back to you. *Natalie Welsh, Jacky's Mom, facilitator*

Offertory 11/25/2024 - 12/01/2024

Total Offering: \$17,675.23
Online Giving: \$9,511.23
Weekly Collection: \$8,164.00

A Novel Idea Book Club

The December book selection is **Foster**, *by Claire Keegan*. Join the discussion on December 19, at 7:00 PM. For more information please go to https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-NBC-Books.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this wonderful and prayerful ministry. Our next meetings:



Thursday, December 19 from 10:30 AM TO 12:00 PM in person. Monday, January 13 at 7:30pm on Zoom.

Please check Monday's email for the Zoom Link.



Prayer Squares for Peace

In his November 12th Pastor's Column in the bulletin, Father Tim wrote:

"It seems that, for the past several years, Advent has begun under a strange set of circumstances. In 2020 we were still dealing with uncertainties of the pandemic . . . Last year Advent began under the cloud of war in the Middle East. This year, we begin Advent with the country preparing for a new Presidential administration. Each of these circumstances have instilled a certain amount of uncertainty in all of us."

Prayer Shawl Ministers often have one response to times of "uncertainty": knit or crochet!



At the height of the Covid pandemic, over 3,000 Prayer Squares were created by our ministers and offered to first-responders, those in hospitals, nursing homes, soup kitchens, etc. with a reassuring

prayer for God's accompaniment and support from our faith community.

Small knitted or crocheted colorful squares made with love, sent out with prayer, had quite an impact on both the makers and the receivers.

Now, at the beginning of 2025, the

Prayer Shawl Ministry will once again step forward. At the January and February Community Sundays, ministers will be available to teach how to knit or crochet simple squares. The ministry feels it is the right time to invite parishioners to take and/or to make Prayers Squares for Peace and distribute them throughout Lent.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Parish Goal: \$115,000.00 Total Donated: \$91,946.76



There is still time to donate to this year's Appeal. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/AOHCT-AAA or scan the qr code to make your donation.

Sandwich Ministry:

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Sandwich Ministry. Our numbers continue to be high.

In November 2024 we served 26% more sandwiches and 23% more hot meals than November 2023. Here are the numbers:

Numbers for November 2024:

Sandwiches: 2,686 Hot Meals: 687

Numbers for November 2023:

Sandwiches: 2,124 Hot Meals: 560

St. Francis Builds

Rebuilding homes, Restoring lives, Renewing hope

Founded in 2005, St. Francis Builds teams have gone on 48 trips building homes and schools in 11 different countries and rebuilding homes impacted by natural disaster and chronic poverty in 7 different states.

Join Us this winter!

Yabucoa, Puerto Rico — February 8 — 15, 2025

SFB trip to Yabucoa, Puerto Rico — February 8-15, 2025. This



group will work with Proyecto Marcos Sanchez Yabucoa, a non-profit grassroots organization. Residents have been tasked to establish a relief center to help its residents in the event of a disaster.

The SFB group will work with the community on renovatations to the school buildings they are using for this purpose.

The cost of this is approximately \$900 plus airfare.

Meals and lodging are included within trip fees set for both trips. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Questions or interested in learning more about these trips? Contact Sue O'Donnell at sodonnell38@gmail.com.



Branches on the Vine News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · December 14 - 20, 2024

Hamden Food Pantry Provides Assistance for Individuals, Families in Need

A homeless woman with a shopping cart was sitting in the back of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Hamden at morning Mass. When Father Christopher Tiano, pastor, spotted her, he asked Lorraine DeNicola, coordinator of a food pantry, to help.

"Her name was Mary, and she had a black eye," DeNicola recalled. "She got hurt defending herself at a place where she stayed, and she needed food, so I drove her to the pantry. She had lost her job and could no longer work. She took enough for herself and a few others."

People in need, who are suffering from food insecurity, come to the pantry on the campus of Blessed Sacrament Church at 322 Circular Ave., on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The ministry is part of St. Paul VI Parish, which includes Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Rita and Ascension churches.

Upcoming Events Around the Archdiocese:

Sunday, December 8 - Sunday, February 2 Cultural Nativities at Cathedral

Six international creches will be on display at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford from Dec. 8 to Feb. 2. The creches will be located in six small chapels behind the Cathedral sanctuary.

Providers of the creches include: St. Andrew DOng-Lc}C Vietnamese Quasi Parish, West Hartford; SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hartford; Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Hartford; St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Quasi Parish, East Hartford; and Sister Mariette Moan.

Visitors may view the creches after Mass or arrange for a group tour by calling 860.249.8431.

To read the rest of the story above, see other upcoming events and view the entire newsletter, please go to https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-aohct-news-dec14-15

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 14, 2024

4:00 PM Manuel Almagro

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:00 AM Rev. John Ashe, 2nd Anniversary 10:00 AM John V. Ramos, 32nd Anniversary

11:45 AM Elaine LePage 5:00 PM Denis Geary

Monday, December 16, 2024

7:30 AM Joanne Speziale 12:05 PM Robert J. Lemega

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:30 AM In Thanksgiving to the Immaculate Conception

12:05 PM Dan Buckanavage

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for the People of St. Genevieve

12:05 PM Prayer intentions for the people of Lebanon & Palestine

Thursday, December 19, 2024

7:30 AM Mary McManus Cormier 12:05 PM Maria Magdalena Galvan

Friday, December 20, 2024

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our Parishioners

12:05 PM Reginalda De Luca Saturday, December 21, 2024

4:00 PM Ronald Gina, 13th Anniversary

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:00 AM Jack & Diane Michaud, 9th Anniversary

10:00 AM Tony Intino

11:45 AM Donato & Maria Monaco

5:00 PM Anthony Labriola

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 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 Minstry: 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

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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

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

Stacie Mawson, Saturday Receptionist Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist

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Deborah Pelletier, Religious Ed Team Coordinator, dpelletier@spsact.org

Sarah Christopher, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Mary Gray, Family Program
Lauren Kasperowski, Traditional Program
Abigail Sheehan, Focus 4:12 Youth Ministry, 7th, 8th & 9th Grades
Faith VosWinkel, Focus 4:12 Youth Ministry, 10th Grade

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian



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