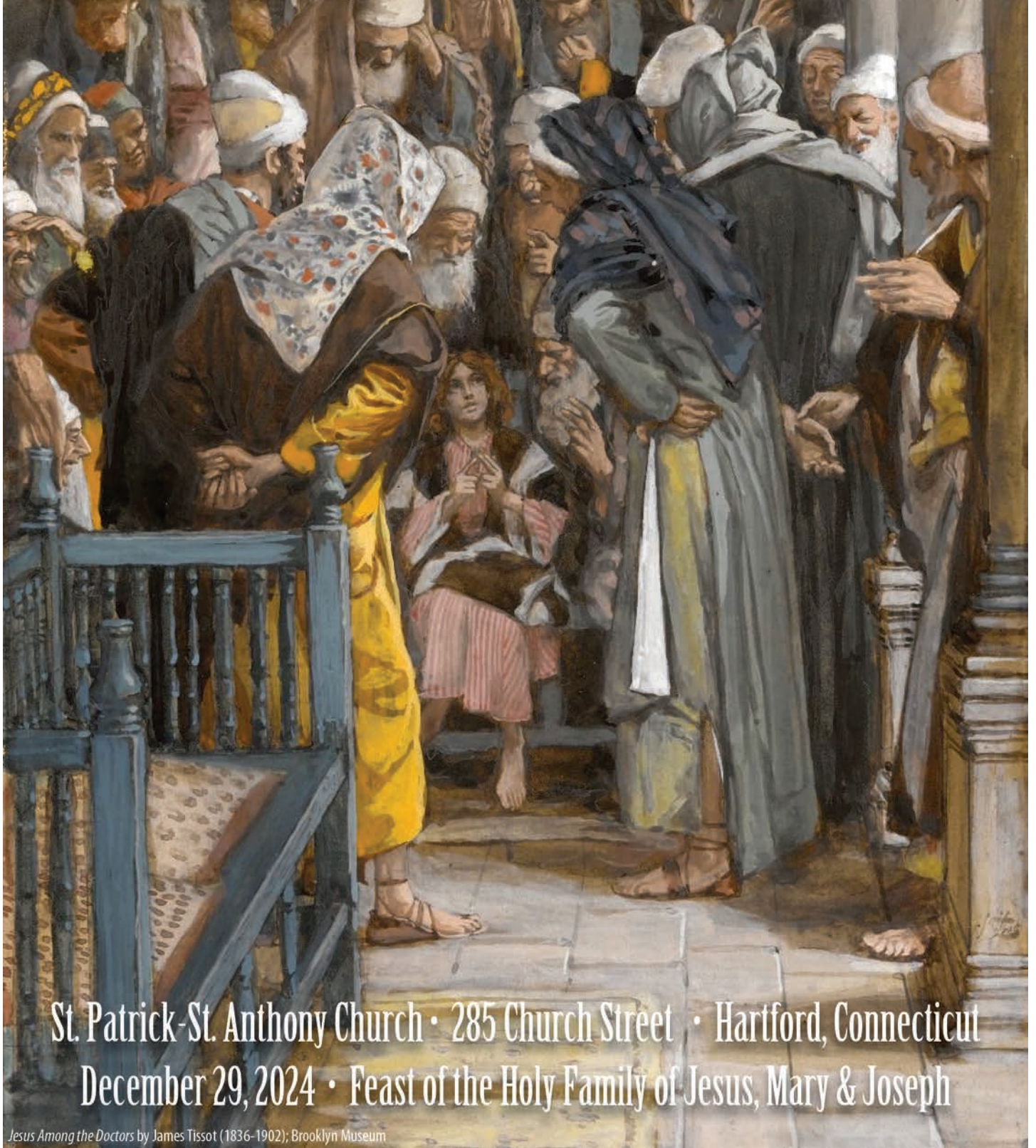


*After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers...
All who heard him were astounded
at his understanding.*



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
December 29, 2024 • Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Jesus Among the Doctors by James Tissot (1836-1902); Brooklyn Museum

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

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Open Doors*

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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

*Mass for the Solemnity of Blessed
Virgin Mary, Mother of God*
Tuesday, December 31
5:00 pm Mass
with reception following to see the fireworks!

Did you know? The Franciscan Center has
the perfect (& warm) view of the *Hartford
First Night Fireworks* at 6:00 pm.

Bring snacks and goodies
(finger foods) to share!

Baptism

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Quinn Margaret Kurker

child of Michael & Kellie Kurker

celebrated by Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Dec 30: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday, Dec 31: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday, Jan 1: Num 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Gal 4:4-7; Heb 1:1-2; Lk 2:16-21

Thursday, Jan 2: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Friday, Jan 3: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Sunday, Jan 5: Is 60:1-6; Psalm 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.

Parish Office New Years Week Hours
December 28: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
December 29: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
December 30 & 31: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
January 1, 2025: Office Closed
January 2, 2025: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm resume

The Pastor's Corner

December 29, 2024

Dear Parishioners and Friends,



I hope all of you experienced a joyful celebration of Christmas! Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I am reminded of how my family used to spend the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. One of the activities we enjoyed was the annual drive around the surrounding suburbs of Buffalo to see the homes decorated with lights and Christmas displays.

In that spirit, I'd like to share some memories and photos of my recent trip to Europe. It started with a few days in France and cities of Strasbourg and Colmar. Strasbourg has a reputation for being the "Capitale de Noël," and it certainly has a festive atmosphere throughout the city. Its cathedral is very tall, and it forms the centerpiece of a delightful Christmas market or "marché." Here is the cathedral illuminated at nighttime.



The second stop was a return to Cologne which I first visited in 2019. Cologne, too, has some of the best Christmas markets in Europe, about six in all. Unfortunately, they are also the most crowded markets in Europe! Nonetheless, we were able to visit most of them (sometimes twice) in just a few days'



time. Cologne's cathedral is one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world, and it towers over the center of the city along the Rhine River.

From Cologne we moved on to Brussels with day trips to Ghent and Bruges. Perhaps the most moving and memorable moment of the trip was to spend time in St. Bavo's Cathedral and take in the famous altarpiece by Jan van Eyck, "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb." This great work of art has been restored recently, and is housed in a large, dimly lit chapel at the far end of the vast cathedral. Here is how it looks now:



It takes quite a bit of time to examine the details of this masterpiece, but it is worth it! The Ghent altarpiece has a long and beleaguered history, but it is a feast for the eyes.



One final highlight of the trip was a day in Bruges and a visit to the Church of Our Lady where Michelangelo's lovely carving of the Blessed Mother and Child Jesus sits in a side chapel. It radiates peacefulness and calm.

My trips to Europe have always been filled with art and architecture that speak to me of the beauty and grandeur of God. May you find similar ways to experience the divine presence!

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

The Drumming Circle

Join us Monday, January 6, 2025 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the Franciscan Center for our Drumming Circle. No experience or drum necessary. Please contact Pat Curtis at pcurtis@spsact.org for more information or if you need to borrow a drum.



Centering Yoga

Come join Centering Yoga. This FREE one-hour yoga class is offered in the Franciscan Center at 9:00am on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. All ability levels are welcome; please bring your own mat. Email aholstgrubbe@spsact.org to register. Our January sessions: January 11 and January 25.

Offertory

12/09/2024 - 12/15/2024

Total Offering: \$17,028.52

Online Giving: \$10,299.23

Weekly Collection: \$6,729.29

Sister Parish Committee: In-person Meetings are Back

Starting this January 27, 2025 from 12:50 to 2:00 PM, our Sister Parish Committee will have their monthly meetings in-person at the Franciscan Center. Consider joining the dynamic group working to support the teachers and students at the St. Genevieve Parish school in Zoranje, Haiti. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-St-Genevieve>.

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, January 7, 2025 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-person Meetings at the Franciscan Center: Wednesday: January 8, 2025, at 12:40 PM.

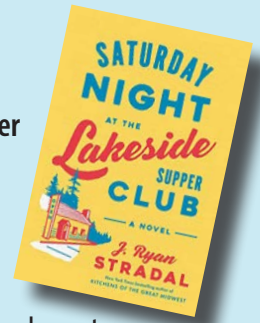
In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. Zoom link in Monday email.

People of Hope: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Join us: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-POH-Fall24>

Divine Reading: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in-person, in the Franciscan Center. Join us when you can!

A Novel Idea Book Club

The January 2025 book selection is **Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club**, by J. Ryan Stradal. Goodreads.com says, "In this colorful, vanishing world of relish trays and brandy Old Fashioneds, J. Ryan Stradal has once again given us a story full of his signature honest, lovable yet fallible Midwestern characters as they grapple with love, loss, and marriage; what we hold onto and what we leave behind; and what our legacy will be when we are gone." Join the discussion on January 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM. For more information please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-NBC-Books>.



Baptism

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Connor Mullan Price

child of William Price & Colleen Mullan
celebrated by Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.

Open Hearts Ministry

Monthly Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2025 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 19, 2025 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.



Prayer Squares for Peace

Our “Advent Hope for a Weary World” prayer service on December 17th, allowed us as a faith community to gather amidst circumstances globally and nationally which contribute to an atmosphere of uncertainty. Fr. Tim in his homily shared:

... we know just how weary our world is: weary from wars, weary from poverty and disease; weary from abuse of creation; weary of violence; weary of exploitation; weary of partisan politics, and so forth. The list seems to grow longer with each passing day. But as Christian disciples, we have been conditioned to see things from a different angle; that no matter how weary we might become of all these ills, there is always that new and glorious morn in the person of Jesus Christ. . . .

... we can't allow pessimism or cynicism, or any other ism's of the world reduce us to helplessness. That is not how people of hope live. What we must do is to continue to support and walk with each other. . .

Prayer Shawl Ministers often have one response to times of “uncertainty”: knit!

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 12th and February 9th Community Sundays, ministers will be available to teach how to start knitting these 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. There are two different prayer cards available with the prayer squares which we will share next week.

Religious Education . . . Registration is always on our website!

The religious education programs at St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church are designed to allow parents to choose not only the best schedule for their young children but also the best learning format for those children. We firmly believe that the parents (and families) are the original and primary educators of their children, and we are honored to support you in nurturing your child’s faith. Our classes begin at age three.

For this reason, religious education for children through sixth grade can occur at St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church within a traditional format, a hands-on (Montessori) format (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) or a family format (Whole Community Catechesis).

Our middle and high schoolers are very involved in social justice and community service. They host parish wide service projects (i.e. Advent Wreath Workshop and Easter Cookie Delivery), build connections with the homebound of our parish, and volunteer regularly helping set up and working in the hydroponic gardens with LEVO International. Service continues as students enter high school including regular service with House of Bread, No-Freeze Shelter, Franciscan Center Sandwich Ministry and other opportunities with our community partners, and an open invitation to participate in the life of our parish by joining any of our ministries such as the singing in the choir, lectoring, Altar Serving, etc.

All programs take place within the traditional school year (September through May). Check out the website www.spsact.org/faith-formation/youth-faith-formation for more information or contact Deborah Pelletier at dpelletier@spsact.org.



Clare Gallery: Upcoming Exhibit:

Spirited Franciscan Inspired Quotes: Jan 16 to March 9

Brother Mickey O’Neill McGrath’s, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is a writer, painter, and storyteller. His work will feature quotes from more modern “mystics” such as Richard Rohr, Dorothy Day, St. Therese, as well as others.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

At the start of the 25th Anniversary of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, co-founder Janet Bristow wrote:

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.

Published December 31, 2023 SPSA Bulletin

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets twice a month:

Evening meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM on Zoom: Winter/spring dates are January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9

Daytime meetings are the last Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM in the Franciscan Center: Winter/spring dates are January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 29, and June 26

Please consider joining us at any time this year to learn the art of making Prayer Shawls and to help us continue to reach out to others in our community through this ministry of love.

For more information, contact Janet Bristow at janetbristow@sbcglobal.net

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Friday, December 27, 2024

7:30 AM Mary J. McDermott

12:05 PM Jennie Bramante

Saturday, December 28, 2024

4:00 PM Rebecca Ziegler

Sunday, December 29, 2024

8:00 AM Maureen Dowd

10:00 AM Marzolino & Maria Pace

11:45 AM Carolyn Palomba

5:00 PM Prayer intentions for Arthur & Annette Corey on their 61st Wedding Anniversary

Monday, December 30, 2024

7:30 AM Ann Therese Tarala & Adeline Caruso, in celebration of their birthdays

12:05 PM William Pohl

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

7:30 AM Norman Mawson

12:05 PM Dionisio Perez & Monserrate Jimenez

5:00 PM Marion Guerrero

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00 AM Prayers of gratitude for Dr. Joseph Corning

Thursday, January 2, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM In thanksgiving to Padre Pio

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:30 AM Concetta Gianni

12:05 PM Prayer intentions for the people of St. Genevieve

Saturday, January 4, 2025

4:00 PM Marjorie Dunn

Sunday, January 5, 2025

8:00 AM Catherine O'Connor

10:00 AM Millie Intino

11:45 AM Prayer intentions for the people of Lebanon and Palestine

5:00 PM Prayer intentions for Maria & Anthony Rosal



St. Patrick - St. Anthony Staff

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Timothy J. Shreenan, O.F.M., Pastor, tshreenan@gmail.com

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wbeaudin@gmail.com

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aholstgrubbe@spsact.org

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Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, jleonard@spsact.org

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schristopher@spsact.org

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Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist

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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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Branches on the Vine

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



Due to space limitations, we are not able to add this week's Archdiocese Newsletter to the bulletin. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-aoht-news-dec28-29> to read about the beautiful Christmas Window displays at Holy Trinity School in Wallingford and various upcoming events happening around the Archdiocese of Hartford.

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.*

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