

*The winding roads  
shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways  
made smooth, and all  
flesh shall see the  
salvation of God.*

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut  
December 8, 2024 • Second 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



*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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Daily Mass Readings



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

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

Tuesday, Dec 10: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, Dec 11: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, Dec 12: ZEC 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; LK 1:26-38

Friday, Dec 13: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Sunday, Dec 15: 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

12/22/2024 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

December 8, 2024

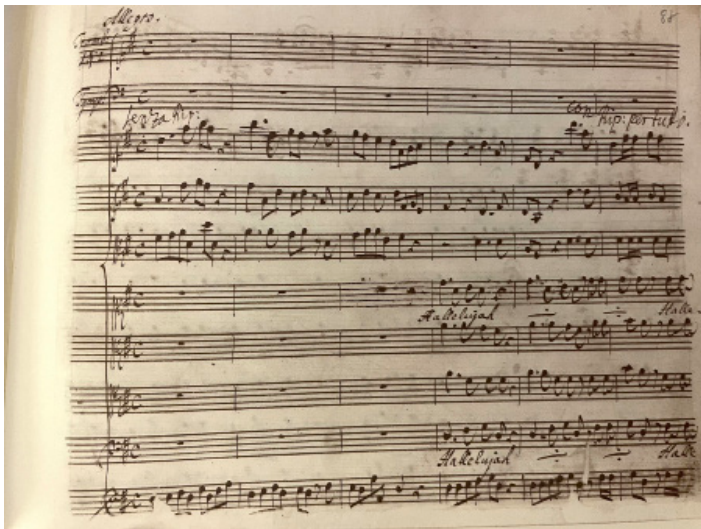
Dear Parishioners and Friends,



The second week of December seems to be the standard time of year when live performances of Handel's *Messiah* take place. Such was the case when I was a student at Siena College back in the 1970's and I sang with the Capitol Hill Choral Society in Albany. Several Siena students were part of the 75-voice community choir that performed four concerts a year; *Messiah* being the most popular, requiring two performances each December.

Since that time, I've attended only a few performances in person, but I try to listen to a recording each year. Streaming services have given me the choice of many different recordings by dozens of choirs and orchestras. Collegium Vocale Ghent has become one of my favorite "early music" ensembles ever since I heard them sing Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* at Lincoln Center several years ago.

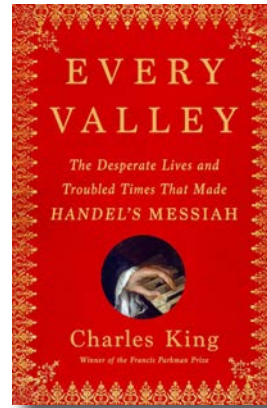
Lately I've become drawn to learn more about the genesis of Handel's venerable oratorio. Earlier this year I acquired a facsimile of Handel's conducting score of *Messiah*. This is different from his "autograph score" – the original score he wrote himself. My facsimile is the score used for the first performance of the oratorio in Dublin on April 13, 1742 which was written by copyists from Handel's original manuscript and was used for rehearsals and performances. Here is the first page of the Hallelujah chorus:



There is something uniquely special about seeing the pages that Handel himself followed as the singers and instrumentalists brought this majestic work to life, and it makes me wonder what it must have actually sounded like back then.

A brief history of the oratorio can be found in *The Making of Handel's Messiah* by Andrew Gant, published by the Bodleian Library of Oxford University, which I highly recommend.

Just recently I came across a new book titled *Every Valley: The Desperate Lives and Troubled Times That Made Handel's Messiah* by Charles King. Here is a brief excerpt:



"Wade into the words of the Messiah, and it isn't hard to find a kind of message in a bottle: a reflection on some of the largest questions of human life, written at a moment—warring, worried, and somehow just wrong—when people could feel the urgency of answering them. In an age supposedly governed by progress, why do the nations so furiously rage together?

Why do people concoct vain and bizarre versions of the truth? What do we do with the knowledge of our own brokenness—our listless wandering, astray like sheep—and the trail of blood that our actions, and our obliviousness, will leave in the historical record? Adrift in a maddening world, is there really a way to live the advice that Handel set to song from the book of Isaiah: 'Lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid... Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee?'"

The author looks at the world in which Handel was working back in the mid-1700's and draws parallels to the world in which we are living now in 21st century. I haven't gotten too far into the book, but I am fascinated by his approach, and I look forward to see the conclusions he draws. Is anyone else up to joining me? I would love to share your reactions.

If you don't see me this weekend it's because I am somewhere between Strasbourg, Cologne and Brussels, taking in the sights, sounds, and tastes of those cities' famed Christmas Markets which draw me in every five or six years. And if I could have managed to do so, I would be at Notre Dame Cathedral participating in its grand reopening following the devastating fire of April 2019.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

## Advent Programs and Events

Join us to nurture your faith:

### Advent Time: "Be Still and Know"

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 following the 12:05 PM Mass.  
No registration is required to join us in stepping away from the shopping and decorating to dwell in the "gifts" of this season of waiting. *Presenter: Pat Curtis*

### Connecting Psalms with the Book of Proverbs

Thursdays, December 12 & 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> or scan the QR Code.



## 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 10, 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 11, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. Zoom link in Monday email.

People of Hope: Wednesday, December 11, 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 at Srs of St. Joseph, 27 Park Rd, West Hartford. Join us when you can!

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24  
4:00 pm Mass  
with cantor and Liturgical Dancers  
5:45 pm Mass  
with Church Street Singers and Treble Clef Choir  
10:00 pm Prelude Music  
with our Combined Choirs  
10:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, December 25  
all Masses with vocal ensemble, organ, and instrumentalists  
8:00 am Mass  
10:00 am Mass  
11:45 am Mass



*All are welcome!*



## CHRISTMAS AT ST. PATRICK - ST. ANTHONY *Liturgical Dance*

with Griffith Academy of Dance  
Young dancers through High School Leaders  
Join us to dance for Christmas Eve Mass  
at 4:00 pm (arrive at 2:00 pm)

REHEARSALS ARE SUNDAYS AT 1:00 PM DECEMBER 8, 15

AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 10:00 AM

Check out [spsact.org/liturgical-dance-2024](https://spsact.org/liturgical-dance-2024)  
to sign up and for all the details



## 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>





## 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

No Family & Friends Ministry meeting in December. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season. See you on January 19, 2024 at 3:30 pm in the Franciscan Center.

## 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*

## 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.

After all the Masses the weekend of December 14th and 15th 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.

## Offertory

11/18/2024 - 11/24/2024

Total Offering: \$16,445.23

Online Giving: \$9,555.23

Weekly Collection: \$ \$6,890.00

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this wonderful and prayerful ministry. Our next meetings:



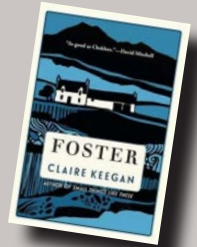
Monday, December 9 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Zoom.

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

Please check Monday's email for the Zoom Link.

## 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>.



## Second Collection December 7/8, 2024

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious.



Please give generously. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Retirement-Fund-REL> or scan the QR code to donate.

LAST DAY  
DECEMBER 8

FULFILL CHRISTMAS WISHES FOR  
LOCAL PEOPLE IN NEED

SHARE YOUR  
GIFTS WITH OTHERS

*Local Giving Tree*

Gift deadline is Sunday, December 8

VISIT THE  
VIRTUAL  
GIVING TREE



FULFILL A  
CHRISTMAS  
WISH

HELP OTHERS  
THIS SEASON

FULFILL A  
CHRISTMAS WISH

<https://spsagivingtree.org>

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, December 7, 2024

4:00 PM Antonio & Stella Pizzoferrato

### Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM Rose & Angelo Perrone

11:45 AM In thanksgiving to St. Lucy

5:00 PM Carl Tinti

### Monday, December 9, 2024

7:30 AM Elvia Lesomes

12:05 PM Joseph Kelliher

### Tuesday, December 10, 2024

7:30 AM Members of the Giadone Family

12:05 PM Ron Hronchek, 10th Anniversary

### Wednesday, December 11, 2024

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

12:05 PM Timothy, Kathy & Nicholas Coleman

### Thursday, December 12, 2024

7:30 AM Barbara Hebert

12:05 PM Emilia Lopez

### Friday, December 13, 2024

7:30 AM Denis Geary

12:05 PM Evelyn Sogaro

### 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



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## Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · December 7 - 13, 2024

### What Are You Grateful For?

story by Shelley Wolf

Toni Ann LaMattina, principal at St. Mary-St. Michael School in Derby, is most grateful for her new position, leading the educators and students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade at the Catholic school.



The paper pumpkins listing what students are grateful for were created by Tara Petrino's fourth-grade class at St. Mary-St. Michael School in Derby. Photo courtesy St. Mary-St. Michael School.

Founded in 1885, the school has a long and proud history of providing an exceptional education to all who enter through its doors. It prepares students for a lifetime of learning centered on Catholic Social Teaching.

And it all begins with gratitude to God, with students learning to thank their heavenly Father for all that they are, have been given, and may become. And what better time to reflect on their appreciation than during this time of Thanksgiving?

Recently, students in Tara Petrino's fourth-grade class answered the question "What are you grateful for?" They crafted paper pumpkins with key phrases such as "my life," "a loving family" and "a home to keep me safe."

To read the rest of the story above and view the entire newsletter, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AOHC-NEWS-7-8>

### 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 DiDominio, Business Manager, [kdidominio@spsact.org](mailto:kdidominio@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  
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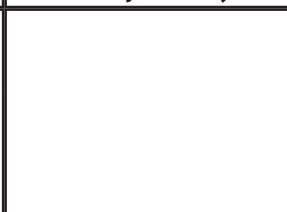


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**IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON**

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