


KICKOFF WEEKEND: MARCH 1-2, 2025


2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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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

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent



Even though Ash Wednesday falls a bit later this year – March 5 – the date still has a tendency to jump out and catch us off guard. Yes, the season of Lent begins this week, and we are called to enter into a time of personal and communal repentance and renewal.

The days of Lent are often compared to a journey, which means that at the end of Lent we hope to find ourselves somewhere different than where we started. That's a good image to keep in mind, especially as we try to cope with all that's going on in our country and around the world. So much has changed in just a short time, and it's hard to keep up with rapid change, especially as it affects us all.

Let us, then, come together as a community of faith, and prayerfully support each other by strengthening our hope that God is with us in the journey, the struggle, and the joy.

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Ashes distributed at all Masses

7:30 AM & 12:05 PM: Regular daily Masses

6:15 PM: Evening Mass for Ash Wednesday featuring the

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Gallery Choir



Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: March 7, 14, 21, 28,
April 4, & 11, 2025 at 12:35 PM.

Join us following the 12:05 Mass on Fridays during Lent in praying the Stations of the Cross.

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Mar 3: Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday, Mar 4: Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday, Mar 5: Jl 2:12-18; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday, Mar 6: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
Friday, Mar 7: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
Sunday, Mar 9: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13,
14-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

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

The Pastor's Corner

March 2, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This weekend marks the beginning of the 2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, and I would like to encourage everyone in our parish to seriously consider participating in it. In the last several years we have achieved very good results even though we haven't reached our goal of \$115,000. In 2024, St. Patrick-St. Anthony gave \$92,600.17. This is a remarkable achievement, and we can be very proud of that result, considering the fact that the number of donors, 270, represented just 21.62% of our parish membership.

When our Archbishop Coyne became our spiritual leader last May, a new chapter began for Catholics in Hartford. He has brought a new outlook on the Church and its governance, as well as a new openness to sensitive and divisive issues. If you have been hesitant in the past to donate to the Archdiocese, especially the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, I hope you will reconsider.

I know I have said it before, but it bears repeating: as Catholics we shouldn't think of ourselves in isolation from the wider Church. Yes, I know that some folks may have differences with the "official" Church, but we are all one body in Christ, and we have a responsibility to build up that body and support it by our stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.

I strongly encourage you to watch the video that has been prepared for this year's appeal which shows how the funds are used throughout the archdiocese. Even our own sandwich ministry benefits from the appeal. Archbishop Coyne has expressed his admiration and support for the ministries of our parish, particularly our outreach to the LGBTQ+ community and our ministries to the people of Hartford who experience food insecurity.



You can view the video on our website; this QR code will take you directly to it.

I invite you to join us this Sunday afternoon, March 2nd, for an Artist Talk and Reception with Brother Mickey McGrath, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Franciscan Center's Clare Gallery. Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is a writer, painter, and storyteller.



Come and celebrate his work and listen to his stories about process and spiritual reflection.



This talk coincides with his exhibition Colorful Silence, which runs until March 9, 2025.

This exhibition features quotes from modern "mystics" such as Richard Rohr, Dorothy Day, St. Therese, as well as others, and is connected to the Gallery's 2025 conceptual framework of "Mystery, Mystical, and Meaning."

Next week will be Gabe Löfvall's final weekend with us before he becomes Director of Music at St. Joseph Cathedral. Please join us at the 10:00 Mass for an official farewell.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

This weekend marks the start of the 2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal in our parish. If you haven't already, you will soon receive a letter from Archbishop Coyne seeking your support. As Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford we can have a profound impact on our local communities not only spiritually, but intimately connected to it, the realm of social services and many charities and outreach services performed by, or with help from, our Church.

We hope you can help us meet our parish goal of \$115,000. If you would like to make a gift, please mail in your pledge card. You may also visit the Archdiocesan website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org or call the Appeal Office at (800) 781-2550. Keep in mind that an early pledge will allow you to best use the monthly payment plan. Please go to <https://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org/donations/> or scan the QR Code.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



Adult Faith Formation

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

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesdays. Next meeting: March 4, 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: Every Wednesday. Next meeting: March 5, 2025, at 12:40 PM.

Facilitators: Mary Espinosa, Joan Osella & Elaine Wiatr

In Quiet Prayer:

Every Wednesday. Next meeting: March 5, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Thirty minutes of quiet prayer practice every Wednesday morning. Join us on Zoom. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-In-Quiet-Prayer> to register.

People of Hope: "The Flowing Grace of Now"

Every Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Zoom. Next meeting: March 5, 2025.

Attend when your schedule allows to receive the gifts of spiritual nourishment and growth. Join us: <https://tinyurl.com/SPS-ACT-POH-Fall24> to receive Zoom link.

Free Will Offering

Divine Reading: Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm at Srs. of St. Joseph, 27 Park Rd, West Hartford from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.
Join us!

Drumming Circle

Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Center. No experience or drum necessary. Please contact Elaine Wiatr at elaine.wiatr@yahoo.com for more information or if you need to borrow a drum.

Open Hearts Ministry

Monthly Open Hearts Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 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, March 16, 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.



Our Own Nazareth Time

Mondays, March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19, June 2 from 12:45-1:45 PM.

The City is My Monastery, A Contemporary Rule of Life, by Richard Carter is an unusual book; more like a guide to life that might become your life-time companion for prayer, peace and well-being. It gives us a practical "rule of life". You will need to purchase the book.

We will read one chapter (one spiritual practice) over a two-week period. After the 12:05 Mass we will meet in the Franciscan Center to experience the exercises proposed. Beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Naz-Time> to register.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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 Next Prayer Shawl Meeting: March 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Zoom

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

Lenten Twilight Retreat

A Journey Inward in Love so that We Move Outward in Greater Love.

Tuesday, March 11 from 5:30-8:00 PM.

Presenter: Fr. Kenneth P. Paulli, OFM, EdD
Suggested Offering: \$20.00; includes dinner
Presentation only at 6:30 p.m.: \$15.00

Registration Deadline: March 7

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-KP-Lent-25> to register for dinner and presentation.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-KP-Lent-25-PO> to register for JUST the presentation.

Offertory

02/10/2025 - 02/23/2025

Total Offering: \$39,170.53

Week Ending 02/16/2025: \$21,726.73

Week Ending 02/23/2025: \$17,443.80



St. Patrick-St. Anthony
Ladies Guild
Annual Spring Basket Bazaar

March 8/9 & March 15/16 after all Masses

Snack Pack Drop off, Sunday March 2, 2025

Drop off individually wrapped snacks such as granola bars, packs of nuts, chips, cookies, juice boxes or small water bottles from 8:30 to 11:15 AM on Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Thank you for your generosity!



Sister Parish Committee: In-person Meeting



Tuesday, March 11, 2024 from 12:50 to 2:00 PM. 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>.

Compassionate Care for Ourselves and Those We Love

The Parish Nurse Ministry team will be hosting a **Speaker Series** to educate, enlighten and empower ourselves while deciphering the many decisions as we age. Whether it be the medical, legal or spiritual realm, things are changing constantly which can be as confusing as it is difficult to keep up! *Do you have as many questions as we do?* If so, please join us!



We offer you Compassionate Care for Ourselves and Those We Love; a series of Speakers who will bring their own expertise, experience and personal journeys:

Wednesday, March 19, 6:30-8:00 PM - Church Funeral Planning with Deirdre Gilbert, Care Minister, and Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.

Monday, March 24, 6:30-8:00 PM – Consumer Preferences Regarding Funerals including Catholics' Interest in Cremations with Michael Klett and Janet D'Esopo Klett of D'Esopo Funeral Home.

Please join us for what will be an educational and informational session that we can apply to our lives and the lives of our loved ones. We encourage you to join us on Zoom each evening.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-PN-Series> to register and receive the Zoom link.



Free Will Offering can be made payable to "St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church" and mailed to 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103, go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AFF-Pay> Or Scan the QR Code.

Celebrate Gabriel Löfvall

After the 10am Mass and the 5pm Mass
on March 9, 2025

Join us as we celebrate our wonderful Music Director, Gabriel during his last weekend here at St. Patrick-St. Anthony.



Traditional Community Sunday will still happen after the 8am Mass

2nd Collection, March 8/9: Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Did you know that the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe helps the Church in more than 25 countries, many of which were formerly under communist rule? For more information please go to www.usccb.org/cee. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year on March 8/9. To make a donation please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACCEE505>.

Holy Week & Easter - A Time for Healing

Thursday, April 10 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Jesus was a remarkable healer. For much of his public ministry, he was surrounded by human need. Crowds followed him wherever he went, pressing in on him, asking for healing. We too seek out this healer from Nazareth and long to encounter him. Join us for an Evening of Reflection on the cusp of Holy Week as together we reflect on how Jesus is still very much with us, healing and transforming us through his compassionate life, his saving death, and his glorious resurrection.

Presenter: Amy Ekeh
Suggested Offering: \$15.00

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-HolyWk-Pgm-2025> to register.

Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Mass



This year marks the 53rd Anniversary of the Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade. All are warmly welcome to join the **Central CT Celtic Cultural Committee**, as we gather in gratitude and celebration, for this year's **Parade Mass at 6:00 pm on March 14, 2025 at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church.**

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 1, 2025

4:00 PM Amalio & Florence DiLorenzo

Sunday, March 2, 2025

8:00 AM Anthony Labriola

10:00 AM Rose & Angelo Perrone

11:45 AM Debra Darly

5:00 PM Florencia Rosal, 10th Anniversary

Monday, March 3, 2025

7:30 AM Rolando Romero, 3rd Anniversary

12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

7:30 AM Maeve Lutter

12:05 PM Ines Giansiracusa

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

7:30 AM Intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Robert Lindhardt

Thursday, March 6, 2025

7:30 AM Intentions for the parishioners of St. Genevieve

12:05 PM Deceased members of the Giadone Family

Friday, March 7, 2025

7:30 AM Jose dos Santos

12:05 PM Joseph Kelliher

Saturday, March 8, 2025

4:00 PM Angela Maria Fazio

Sunday, March 9, 2025

8:00 AM William Murray, 5th Anniversary & Robert Moriarty

10:00 AM Richard & Terrye Blackstone

11:45 AM Suzanne Peterson

5:00 PM Catherine O'Connor

**SPSA COMMUNITY DAY AT DUNKIN' PARK
SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025**

Tickets on sale March 22/23 and April 5/6 after each Mass in the Franciscan Center Lobby

For the first time we will have the opportunity to hold the Big Flag during the pre-game ceremony!

Sign up to hold the flag when you purchase your tickets

Please Beware!



As a reminder, neither the parish staff nor your fellow parishioners would ever ask for you to purchase anything via email or text. These emails and text messages are phishing attempts and not a valid request from any parishioner or staff member.

Please delete these emails or texts. Do not respond to the texts. You can report these as SPAM or delete them through your email provider, or block the number that sent it to you.

Baptism

Amelia Rose

Child of
Alessandro & Gabrielle D'Ambra-Violi
celebrated by
Fr. Bill Beaudin, O.F.M.

Please Pray for the Sick

Paula Molitar, Joseph Shertick, Greg Reed, Kathryn Eagers, Tommie Henry, Syl Ciraulo, Mary Ertel, Mary Joyce Castafero, Bobby Lombardo, Rosemarie Perkoski, Anna Ramirez, Susan Degennaro, and Deborah Godin.

Sister Parish Thank You and Update



The Sister Parish acknowledges the significant impact of out-going Chairperson Marc Sherer. For over 2 years, Marc has dedicated his time and talents to improving our covenant relationship with St. Genevieve; ensuring that our support and fraternity with Pastor Gaby and his parish flourish. In particular, Marc has established a trusting friendship with Fr. Gaby, enabling us to provide hope and strength to this Haitian community, in addition to our financial support for education. It has been a life-line for both parishes, especially since we cannot travel to Haiti.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our Covenant. Periodic updates and stories will be available each month, as well as on our webpage, as we continue to ask for protection for our brothers and sisters in Zorange.

Our meetings are open to all, and the next one is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, at 12:45 in the Center. Mesi.

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 for more info!

A Message from our Parish Nurses

The Parish Nurses welcome you to join us on Community Sundays for a blood pressure check. Please consider to get your flu shot, covid booster and make sure you are up to date on any or all of your vaccines.

Any parishioner who is a nurse and would like to help with blood pressures once a month, we would welcome you. Please call the office at 860-756-4034 if interested.

Watch 10:00 AM Mass Online:



<https://www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-St-Anthony-Church-109359789104825/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Vhk8-hhlyAJenBxueHySQ>

StreamSpot

<https://venue.streamspot.com/cdc76f52>

From the Franciscan Center



Tuesday Pasta Dinners: Helping to Feed Those in Need!

We serve warm meals on Tuesdays, and lately we have been serving about 75 meals. Consider



signing up to cook a baked ziti at home or to supply salad makings. Ziti trays and salad makings can be delivered prior to Tuesday but **MUST** be dropped off by 2pm each Tuesday. Trays can be dropped off frozen, freshly made, partially or fully baked just add a note with your reheating instructions. Thank you so much for partnering with us to feed the hungry! Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-t-th-mealsto> sign up.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

North Central Connecticut

Work with us at Habitat for Humanity!!

We will have teams working on Habitat for Humanity houses on March 8 and March 22 from 8 am - 3 pm. Save these dates if you can join us!

No skills necessary, just a willingness to learn.

Please scan the QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-HHVol-Link> for more information and to sign up.



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.*

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Guardian, wibeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDominzio, Business Manager, kdidominzio@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

Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist

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

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



ST. PATRICK-ST. ANTHONY CHURCH
Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

<p>Join</p>  <p>https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Join</p>	<p>Volunteer</p>  <p>https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Volunteer</p>	<p>Donate</p>  <p>https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Giving</p>
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FRANCISCAN FRIARS
Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Safeguarding God's people

Although we are unable to undo the past, the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe know of the profound suffering and harm that incidents of sexual abuse of minors and sexual misconduct by some members of religious orders have caused innocent people and the Church community at large.

The Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe does not tolerate or excuse the sexual abuse of a minor or sexual exploitation of a person receiving pastoral care by a friar of the province. Consistent with our Franciscan heritage, the province is committed to listening attentively to any allegation made by a person who believes that he or she has been harmed. The province is committed to full compliance with its policies regarding sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of an adult. Sexual abuse of a minor and sexual exploitation is contrary to our vowed life and our profession to live the Gospel. Reporting abuse is difficult and painful. Rest assured, this process is safe, confidential, and compassionate.

We encourage anyone who has been abused by a friar from this province to contact us through one of the ways provided below. Whatever means you choose to reach out, it is our genuine hope to help support you in your healing.

We are committed to listening openly to anyone making a complaint against a friar. The Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe proactively enforces its policies with an active Provincial Review Board composed of laypeople and friars. The board addresses complaints with the utmost respect and compassion.

How to report misconduct & view allegations:

If you have information about alleged sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult by a friar, employee, or volunteer of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, report it by calling National Survivor/Victim Assistance Coordinator Angelica Jochim, MFT, at 1-800-770-8013 or emailing angelica.jochim@gmail.com. She will return your message within one business day.

Allegations of sexual abuse will be reported to civil authorities regardless of whether the accused friar is living or dead, or whether he is a current or former member of the province.

Please go to <https://friars.us/protecting-gods-children> for more information.



Lenten Date Night
Thursday, March 13, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Parish Center at Saint Thomas
872 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

Join us for a **Lenten Date Night** where we will look at different ways to enrich your marriage. Lent is a time to grow closer to Christ and focus on the needs of others. During this date night, we will talk about how you can make small changes and sacrifices to deepen your relationship to Christ and love for your spouse.

Presentation by Valerie St. Jean, Associate Director for Adult and Family Life Ministries at the Archdiocese of Hartford and her husband Rob.



A light Lenten supper will be served and childcare will be available. Let us know you are attending by using the QR code.

For additional information email Deacon Paul Travers: DeaconPaul@stastm.org

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.



MERCY BY THE SEA
RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

March 27 -30, 2025

Living in Simplicity: Discovering the Deep Wisdom of Meister Eckhart

with The Rev. Mark S. Burrows, Ph.D.

Part 1: Free Dinner and Conversation: Thursday, March 27, 2025 from 5:30 to 6:45 pm, at Albertus Magnus College, Hubert Campus Center 831 Winchester Ave., New Haven, CT. RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/MSB-EK-PT1-Form>

Part 2: Weekend Retreat: Friday, March 28 to Sunday, March 30, 2025 at Mercy by the Sea, 167 Neck Road, Madison, CT

\$475 Single, \$430 Double (includes an ensuite bathroom and all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast)
\$275 Commuter (includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner)
Inquire about partial scholarships.

For more information and to register, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/MSB-PT2-Ek-Reg>



Branches on the Vine

MARCH 1 - 7, 2025

LENTEN MISSION TO HIGHLIGHT BELOVED SAINT FOR LOST CAUSES

- Story by Karen A. Avitabile



A relic, an arm bone of St. Jude's right hand, can be venerated during a special mission from March 10 to 12 at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish in Derby. Credit: Submitted by the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude

A special mission at a Derby parish will include veneration of a first-class relic of St. Jude Thaddeus, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ.

The relic, an arm bone of St. Jude's right hand, can be venerated during the "St. Jude Mission, Mass and Veneration" from March 10 to 12 at St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Church, part of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish.

Born around the year 5 A.D., St. Jude is venerated as the patron saint of lost causes and desperate situations. His intercessions have inspired devotions for centuries. If people pray to St. Jude in times of distress, it is said he will intercede and help them find the strength to continue.

The mission will mark the beginning of Lent and celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 designated by Pope Francis. The event will also honor the patron saint of the former St. Jude Church, now part of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish.

"I feel like the Holy Spirit brought this together for us in the Jubilee Year and for people to come together and deepen their friendship with Christ and with the Holy Spirit, who is the well-spring of hope and is fueled by the work of the apostles, like St. Jude," says Father Jeffrey Gubbiotti, pastor.

The St. Jude mission will be conducted by Father Michail P. Ford, O.P., director of the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus in Chicago. He travels throughout the United States, teaching on a myriad of topics including Catholic devotions.

As the universal Church embraces the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Shrine of St. Jude continues to serve as a powerful symbol of faith and perseverance. "It reminds the faithful that even in the most desperate situations, hope prevails," Father Ford says. "St. Jude is the apostle of seemingly impossible situations."

After his martyrdom, St. Jude's body was buried in Iraq, formerly known as Mesopotamia. It was later moved to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome where it rests with other apostles.

Centuries ago, a small relic from St. Jude's forearm was encased into a silver reliquary and preserved for many years in three different locations: Armenia, Turkey and Turin, Italy. In 1949, the Dominicans in Turin presented the relic to the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude on its 20th anniversary dedication.

Mission preaching, oil blessings, confessions, a prayer service with music and veneration of the relic will begin at 7 p.m. on March 10 and 11 at St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Church, 212 Elizabeth St., Derby. The mission will conclude with a St. Jude Mass and veneration at 7 p.m. on March 12, at the Church. Father Ford will also speak at all Masses in the parish during the weekend of March 8 and 9.

For more information about the St. Jude mission, visit Our Lady, Queen of the Angels Parish at olqaderby.org or call 203.735.3341. All are welcome to attend.

"The true impact of these missions lies in the powerful faith-filled stories we hear," Father Ford says. "At a recent mission, a young woman tearfully shared how her faith in St. Jude's intercession never wavered when her husband was on the brink of death. Now, though not yet fully recovered, he stood beside her, a living testament to faith and hope."

Prayer request can be placed on the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude website, the-shrine.org, or by calling the prayer line, 385.330.9005. A friar at the shrine regularly listens to these requests and prays for the requestor's intentions.



Upcoming Events



03/4 WEDNESDAY 10AM - 2PM
PRAYER: ABIDING WITH GOD, WITH FR. DAVID CINQUEGRANI, C.P.
 Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

When you pray, go to your room and pray in secret, then God, who sees in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6) We hear these words from Matthew's Gospel each year on Ash Wednesday, but what is Jesus asking of us during this season of prayer?

The day program includes a conference, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and the distribution of ashes. \$50, includes lunch or dinner. 860-760-9705. (Option of 10AM-2PM in person or 6-9PM in person or online)



03/7 - 03/9 FRI - SUN
MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: "IN MY LOVE, ABIDE"
 Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

Come quiet your mind and nourish your spirit as you learn ways to maintain the sacred connection to God through Christ. Dynamic teaching, home-cooked meals, and uplifting music. \$350. For more information, please call: 860-760-9705.



03/8 SATURDAY 1 - 3:30PM
SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS AND LOVERS OF THE EUCHARIST
 St. Teresa of Avila Church, Woodbury

Begin your Lenten journey with a beautiful afternoon of adoration, prayer, and fellowship with scripture-based learning about the Eucharist and the sacred ministry of distributing Holy Communion to the faithful.

*Registration Required - Limited Space
 Suggested Free Will Offering \$10
 Call 203-263-2008 to Register*



03/14 - 03/16 FRIDAY 1PM
NATIONAL VOCATION SUMMIT
 Legionaries of Christ Novitiate and College of Humanities, 475 Oak Ave, Cheshire

Join religious, diocesan and lay vocation leaders for the 2025 National Vocation Summit. The annual summit provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with leaders from every state of life with speakers, testimonies and workshops focused on formation, strategic planning and team building. Topics include Discernment, Building your Vocation Team, and becoming a Vocation Apostle.

A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Corinne Murphy at Coordinator@NationalVocationSummit.org, or visit NationalVocationSummit.org

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LENTEN SMALL GROUP
For Miscarriage, Infant Loss, and Infertility

A mix of in-person and Zoom gatherings, using the "Grief" devotional on the Hallow app by Laura Kelly Fanucci. For more information and registration, scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/grieflentsmallgroup. With questions, email Emily Naylor at info@newhavencatholic.org.
 Hosted by Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, New Haven, CT

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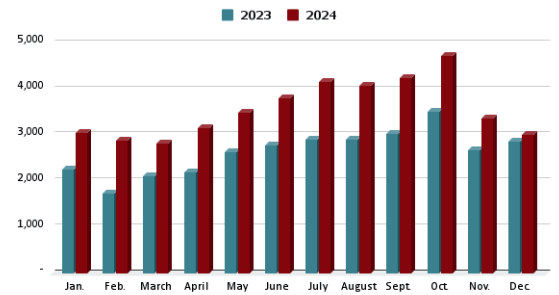

Growth, Transformation, and Hope

Dear Friends and Supporters,

*This past year has been one of growth, transformation, and hope for the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. **In 2024, we served 42,920 meals, a 35% increase over 2023.***

Despite this rising demand, we finished the year \$600 in the black thanks to sound stewardship, your contributions, and the tireless efforts of our volunteers. This is a true testimony to the commitment and generosity of our community.

Meals Served in 2023 & 2024



Meals served by month in 2023 vs. 2024: a 35% increase!



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

IN 2025, WE WILL CELEBRATE 25 YEARS SINCE THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS. FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, THIS CENTER HAS BEEN A PLACE OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO REFLECTING ON OUR SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR.

Levo International: Fighting Food Insecurity with Hydroponics

This year, we continued our partnership with Levo International, supporting their urban farm expansion. Volunteers worked across three sites, playing a vital role in relocating the farm from Bloomfield to Homestead Avenue and beginning the transformation of a blighted plot of land into a thriving urban farm. In this new year, we will continue this work, turning what was once an eyesore in Hartford into a space of growth, renewal, and nourishment for the community.

Volunteers of all ages work together to fight food insecurity in the Hartford area. To the right, members of our Family and Teen Focus 4:12 Faith Formation programs work with Levo, and adult volunteers built the first greenhouse on the new site.



Increasing Sustainability at our Doorstep: Access to Clean Water

We also deepened our focus on sustainability and care for creation. After eliminating single-use plastic water bottles, we began distributing stainless steel reusable water bottles to our guests. We are also exploring the installation of a permanent water bottle filling station to ensure permanent access to clean water, especially during the summer heat.

Wellness Center: Wellness, Education, and Serving Community Needs

Additionally, our 20-year partnership with the University of Saint Joseph now includes physician assistant students who, alongside nursing students, provide care and wellness checks for our guests, broadening the health services available. This collaboration demonstrates the powerful intersection of education and service in meeting community needs.



Food Security: Sandwiches, Hot Meals, House of Bread

We are proud to share that our efforts in food security were recognized at a national level. See the video from our national province that highlights this vital work by scanning the QR code.

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance: Advocating for Change, Together

In 2024, we welcomed hundreds of our neighbors from other faith communities as we hosted a Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance multi-faith community meeting in March, as well as GHIAA's delegates assembly in June. These events helped determine the coalition's agenda for 2025, which includes affordable housing and equitable fiscal policy in our state.



Father Mike at the State Capitol with clergy members of GHIAA member interfaith congregations.



Housing Insecurity: Partnering with Local Organizations

We sent teams to work with Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, and St. Francis Builds to help alleviate housing insecurity both near and far. Here in Hartford, our people worked to create five affordable homes. In Oaxaca Mexico, we built three schools, for a total of seven in the last 18 months.

Our team at a Habitat for Humanity Build in Hartford, March 2024.

Clare Gallery

The Clare Gallery, celebrating its 21st year, sponsored four exhibitions that consider the Franciscan value of Care for Creation by focusing on artists' work that has environmental and sustainable connections. The fall exhibition inspired a collaboration with Faith Formation. (See more at spsact.org/clare2)



Clare Gallery hosted a workshop with our youth who created their own art that was displayed in the gallery.

Open Hearts and Family & Friends of LGBTQ+

Our LGBTQ+ ministry, Open Hearts and the Family & Friends of LGBTQ+, offer opportunities for building community, for nurturing faith, and for mutual support for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

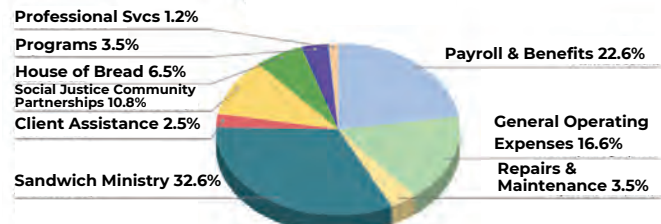


Supporting our Mission

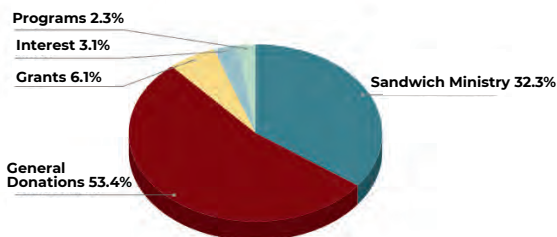
2024 Actual Expenses



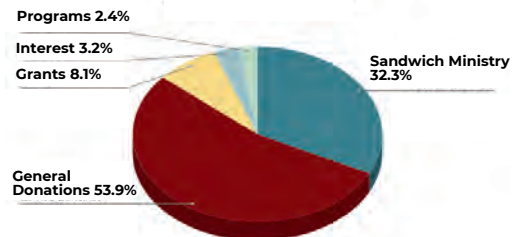
2025 Budgeted Expenses



2024 Actual Income



2025 Budgeted Income



Over 85% of our income is from donations to the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, and targeted donations to the Sandwich Ministry, to meet the needs of those who come to our door, and to aid our community partners in their similar work. We thank you for generously supporting these needs in 2024. **The increasing need, and the ever-increasing prices for food and other necessities is a challenge that we are called to meet, together. Let us continue our mission in 2025 to help those in need and the marginalized in Hartford and the surrounding communities.**

In Gratitude

None of this would be possible without you. The volunteers, donors, and supporters who share their time, talents, and resources are the hands and Franciscan hearts of our center. Thank you for walking with us as we serve, grow, and bring hope to those in need.

Peace and all good,
Mike ofm

To support our mission, scan the code or go to bit.ly/give-to-franciscan-center to donate

