

"We must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."



The Return of the Prodigal Son by Bartolomé Estéban Murillo, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
March 30, 2025 • Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

HOLY WEEK / EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday of the Passion (April 12/13)

Saturday Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday Masses at 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
11:45 am and 5:00 pm

April 14, 15, 16

Masses at 7:30 am & 12:05 pm

Confessions (April 14 & 16)

11:15 to 11:45 am

Holy Thursday, April 17

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 18

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday, April 19

Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20

Masses at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:45 am and 5:00 pm

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



We invite you to celebrate the joy in the Resurrection of Christ by remembering or honoring family members and friends with

an Easter flower donation. Deadline: Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Give online by going to <https://bit.ly/3TD18tM> or mail a check to the office.

Please indicate loved one's name(s) below, online in the notes or on a separate piece of paper with your check.

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Mar 31: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, Apr 1: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, Apr 2: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday, Apr 3: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday, Apr 4: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Sunday, Apr 6: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6;
Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11

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

The Pastor's Corner

March 30, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,



Okay, I'll admit it – I'm addicted. My name is Tim and I have an addiction to books. And as much as I enjoy reading e-books on my iPad, I still can't resist those beautiful art books that weigh ten pounds and take up a lot of space on the bookshelf. Having said that, I've been thinking about how the printed book came to be. I'm in the midst of reading two books about the inventor of moveable type, Johann Gutenberg (*Gutenberg's Apprentice* by Alix Christie and *The Lost Gutenberg* by Margaret Leslie Davis).

Gutenberg's invention of casting individual metal letters that could be arranged into words, sentences, paragraphs and pages, and then re-used to create numerous other pages, revolutionized the art of printing. Until the mid-1400s, books were either written by hand (manuscripts) or entire pages had to be carved into a block of wood, and then printed onto paper. No wonder that, in 1997, Time Life picked Gutenberg's invention as the most important of the second millennium. Oddly enough, as I read those books about Gutenberg's revolutionary invention on an iPad, I suppose the most important stride of this millennium is the digital age which includes hand-held computers, smart phones and the internet. While it took Gutenberg and his team about three years to print just 180 copies of the Latin Bible, I can pull up any chapter of the Bible on my iPhone in just seconds. But we can be forever grateful that every printed book owes its existence to a guy named Gutenberg.

Think of how the word of God has been passed from one era to the next, first in oral form then, in the written form, followed by the printed form, and now the digital form. You and I are the fortunate recipients of each era's genius in preserving the word of God and transmitting it to the next generation. There was a time when the printing press was considered the work of the devil, and some might even say the same about the internet. But the power of God's word is more than a match for human ambitions or pride.

Blessings on your week ahead!

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

Pastor

Job Opening:

Director of Music Ministry, St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church
285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103 (spsact.org)



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish is a dynamic and growing community in the Archdiocese of Hartford, served by the Franciscan Friars (O.F.M.), and is known for its outstanding music program. Candidates must be able to incorporate a broad range of choral repertoire, directing three choirs, overseeing cantors, section leaders, an organ scholar, and the maintenance of the church's two pipe organs. This is a full-time position with health benefits and includes five weekend Masses, three choir rehearsals, and weekly staff meetings. Funerals and weddings provide additional compensation.

Desired background includes a Master's degree in music and/or equivalent experience, strong organ/piano skills, choral conducting expertise, and experience with Roman Catholic liturgy. The salary is negotiable - depending on skills and experience.

Application deadline: April 30, 2025; starting date is August 2025 or earlier.

For a full job description and application instructions, visit <https://bit.ly/spsa-dmm-job>.



Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: 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.



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: April 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. For more information, contact Janet Bristow at janetbristow@sbcglobal.net

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: April 1, 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: April 2, 2025, at 12:40 PM.

In Quiet Prayer:

Every Wednesday. Next meeting: April 2, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. 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: April 2, 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, April 2 at 7:00 pm at the Franciscan Center. Join us!

Our Own Nazareth Time

Mondays, 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". Please purchase a book if needed.

Please attend as your schedule allows! Follow along and then join us for an in-person experience of spiritual practices which will inspire far beyond the end of the Easter Season.

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

Holy Week & Easter – A Time for Healing

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

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.

Please scan the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-HolyWeek2025> to register.

Presenters: Amy Ekeli,
Suggested Offering: \$15.00



Letters from Prison: Continuing the Conversation

Community in Action Partners is one of the nation's oldest criminal justice organizations and provides restorative justice services to young people and adults, so they can reenter the community and thrive. Prison Arts was established in 1978 and is the longest running program of its kind in the U.S. Prison Arts advocates for art, artists, and art-making in CT prisons. CPA Prison Arts artists are challenged to engage with their own creative journeys. The program has had a positive impact on the lives of both the incarcerated and the people they touch with their artwork: families, the general population, and targeted audiences. The goal is to encourage a greater understanding of the incarcerated to build more empathy and love in the world.

This Clare Gallery exhibit includes new letters from this year's call for entries — highlighting "Mystery, Mysticism, and Meaning" — along with curated letters from the two prior exhibits in 1995 and 2005.

The combination of letters will continue the conversation of self-examination and self-esteem, once again bringing the talent and creativity of the prison population to the community at large.

Virtual Panel discussion, Monday, April 28, 7:00 to 8:30 PM : Jeffrey Greene, CPA Prison Arts Program Manager, will share insight into his 34+ years working with Prison Arts in various capacities. Panelist and alumni artist, Danny Killion, will share his creative journey — from prison to owner and operator of Weather Wood, a Troy, NY furniture and art store that has specialized in reclaimed wood pieces since 2013. The discussion will be moderated by Nancy Wynn.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Clare-Ltrs-2025> or scan the QR Code.



Artist's Reception will be held on Sunday, Sunday, May 4, 3-5 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

Open Hearts Ministry

Monthly Meeting: Join us Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. Go to <https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-open-hearts-ministry/> for more info.



Family & Friends Ministry

Next meeting: April meeting is TBD.

Go to <https://spsact.org/ministries/open-hearts-lgbtq-ministry/#family-friends> for more info.



Offertory 03/16/2025

Total Offertory: \$23,732.70

Weekly Online: \$9,780.73

Weekly Offering: \$13,951.97

2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

The 2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Your support of this year's Appeal ensures that essential charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford will be carried forward.

- Since 1997, Archbishop's Annual Appeal Vicariate Outreach Program has been able to provide over **\$22 million in funding to community-based local charities throughout Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield Counties** to assist them in their important work of serving the needs of God's people. In 2024, we were able to provide over \$1,000,000 to over 160 various organizations, nominated by pastors, across the Archdiocese.
- Organizations such as The House of Bread and our St. Anthony Bread for the Poor received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in serving our neighbors.

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.

To donate please go to <https://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org/donations/> or scan the QR Code.



2025 Palm Sunday Food Drive

Dear St. Patrick-St. Anthony Family,

Peace be with you as we near the end of our Lenten journey and prepare to step once more into the sacred rhythm of Holy Week. In these days of remembrance and renewal, we are invited not only to reflect on Christ's self-giving love but to embody it; to let our faith take shape in the generosity of our hands and hearts.



Five years ago, Anna Eddy saw a need and responded with a vision. Out of her inspiration and initiative, our Palm Sunday Food Drive was born—a simple yet profound way for our parish to live out the Gospel call to care for those who hunger.

Our first drive in 2021 came at a time when the pandemic had frayed the bonds of community and left many of us feeling powerless. And yet, in the face of uncertainty, our parish came together in extraordinary generosity, exceeding all expectations. That response spoke to something deeper: the understanding that, even in times of struggle, we are not helpless. We are called to care for one another, just as Christ showed us.

Now, as we approach our fifth year, the need is greater than ever. The work of House of Bread and Hands on Hartford continues, and so too must our commitment to stand with them in feeding those who rely on their care.

Much has remained unchanged. The list of needed food items is the same. The invitation to tuck in something "Easterly" for children is the same. The option to give financially if you cannot shop is the same. The ease of curbside drop-off is the same. But what has remained unchanged most of all is why we do this—to meet an unmet need, to stand in solidarity, to follow Christ's example.

When Jesus took the loaves and fishes, he blessed them and turned scarcity into abundance. When he praised the widow for her two small coins, he showed us that true generosity is measured not by the amount given, but by the love behind it. These stories are not just lessons; they are invitations. Even the smallest offering, when given in love, is transformed.

The greatness of this parish is built on initiative and leadership like Anna's—seeing a need, stepping forward, and inviting others to do the same. Each of us, in our own way, is invited to take part—offering what we can, trusting that even the smallest gift, when given with a generous heart, is enough. May our giving be a reflection of the abundance of grace God has poured into our lives.

With gratitude and blessings,
Mike, O.F.M

Update from St. Genevieve in Z'Orange, Haiti

Our prayers and support continue to work miracles in our Sister Parish. Even during the continuing violence and economic upheaval, the parish school remains open. The school provides not only education and a hot meal, but safety. While in school, they are less at risk of encountering gang members or violent occurrences. Fr. Gaby Noel, the pastor has confirmed that our financial support continues to be transmitted and distributed safely.



Student enrollment is over 200, from preschoolers to ninth graders. There has been an increase in the number of teachers in the past year, due to increased attendance, grades and an increase in the number of required courses that must be taught. The new subjects are now included in the 9th grade mandatory National Exam. We receive an annual report of the results, and usually all St. Genevieve students pass this exam.

Our next Sister Parish committee meeting is April 8, at 12:45 PM in the Franciscan Center. All are welcome to attend and find out more. We welcome new members. Please contact Patti, at patti-wawzy20@gmail.com, for more information.



Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

Palm Sunday Bulletin Deadline

Friday, April 4 at noon

EASTER BULLETIN DEADLINE

Wednesday, March 20 at noon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 29, 2025

4:00 PM Edward Alexis, 11th Anniversary

Sunday, March 30, 2025

8:00 AM Marie Sullivan

10:00 AM Jack O'Neil

11:45 AM Mary & Joseph Lamesa

5:00 PM For the people of Lebanon & Palestine

Monday, March 31, 2025

7:30 AM Intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Elizabeth Burns

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Jean & James Buggle

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Katherine "Kay" A. Gates

Thursday, April 3, 2025

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

12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

Friday, April 4, 2025

7:30 AM John Zyskowski

12:05 PM Stephen Krajewski

Saturday, April 5, 2025

4:00 PM Joe Melzen

Sunday, April 6, 2025

8:00 AM Jeannine & Albert Remillard

10:00 AM Teresa Giansanti

11:45 AM Donald Roberts

5:00 PM Claire Dias

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, Patricia Dressler, Susan Degennaro, and Deborah Godin.



Please Support Our Team: Scan the QR Code or go to
<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Walk-2025>
Please make checks out to CT Foodshare

Walk Against Hunger
April 26, 2025

Join our team to support the House of Bread

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, wbeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDomenzio, Business Manager, kdidomenzio@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

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



Join



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Join>

Volunteer



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Volunteer>

Donate



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Giving>

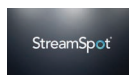
Watch 10:00 AM Mass Online:



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



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



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

Fr. Mike Podcast Links: *From Ashes to Alleluia: A Franciscan Lenten Journey*

On Apple: <https://tinyurl.com/MJ-Lent-PC-Apple>



On Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/MJ-Lent-PC-Spot>



On Iheart: <https://tinyurl.com/MJ-Lent-PC-Iheart>



Our Lady of Calvary RETREAT CENTER



Join us on April 25-27, 2025 for a weekend of spiritual revitalization at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat House in Farmington. Come away and be refreshed and renewed in God's unconditional love and friendship. Experience more deeply that you are God's beloved one in whom God delights and rejoices. (Isaiah 62: 4). You will have the opportunity to participate in the sacraments, to hear conference talks, to share with other women, and to reflect on this year's theme, "I Have Called You Friends." Can't join us for a whole weekend? Join us for our Commuter Saturday! For more information, or to register call 860-677-8519 or visit our website at <https://www.ourladyof-calvary.net/event/>



LEVO PRESENTS FIESTA FOR A CAUSE

MAY 2ND, 2025 | 5:30 - 8:00

Warehouse 635

635 New Park Ave, West Hartford, CT 06110

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$45

TACO BAR, SIDES AND DRINKS!
FUN RAFFLES AND A SILENT AUCTION

CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO, SUPPORT LEVO'S MISSION

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT:
SALES@LEVOINTERNATIONAL.ORG



Corpus Christi School of Wethersfield, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, will host a Spring Open House on Tuesday, April 8 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Are you wondering if your child is on track academically? You are not alone. Perhaps you'd like to consider some other educational options. Join us for our open house at Corpus Christi School, 581 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield for our Spring Open House on Tuesday, April 8, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Corpus Christi School students benefit from smaller class sizes and personalized instruction. A structured curriculum combined with a nurturing environment result in student success - imagine how your child could soar!! Tours will be available; teachers, students, and parents will be on hand to answer questions. Tuition assistance is available. The school encompasses PreK - 8th grade.

To register, please visit our website <https://corpuschristischoolct.org/> or call 860-529-5487.



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Safeguarding God's people

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.



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



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

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

Faith Vos Winkel, MSW
Victim Assistance Coordinator
860-541-6475
faith.voswinkel@aohct.org

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

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

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

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

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

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



Branches on the Vine

MARCH 29 - APRIL 4, 2025



From left, Barbara Gentry, a Jesus House St. Margaret, Clarendon, volunteer; St. George Church of the Holy Spirit volunteer; and St. Raphael's Protestant Episcopal Church volunteer.

PUTTING A SMILE ON THE FACES OF CHILDREN

LITTLE MIRACLES MINISTRY PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES.

—Story by Joe Pickett

At Christmas time, Barbara Gentry, a 70-year-old woman who is a member of the Holy Spirit Church of the Holy Spirit in Clarendon, has a lot of help from the volunteers from the Little Miracles ministry of St. Margaret Church in Madison and St. George Church in Guilford performed a little miracle of their own.

They sorted their warehouse, taking tags and stuffing meals off the shelves, and delivered the items to the families in time for the holiday.

"I've made it so that they probably won't be looking up to the least of Christmas," says Gentry, coordinator of the recent Little Miracles, which for almost 40 years has helped needy families and single parents with young children by providing diapers, clothing, car seats, strollers, toys and other baby items donated by parishioners and community members.

"We distribute them to people in about seven towns from West Haven to Westbrook," she says at their Brantford storage facility, where volunteers inspect donations and prepare them for delivery. "We take in donations and give out donations to anyone who needs them, and it's very good."

People drop off things at the parish center or come to the warehouse. Some service agencies offer to deliver the items to the clients in the area.

At Christmas, there is a lot of help. We're going to do it at Thanksgiving, St. George's Church supplies markers and at Easter, holiday baskets are passed out to families.

Little Miracles assists some 100 families a year with children mostly up to 6 years old.

"I recently got a call from a lady at a service agency about a woman who has five children, and were probably living in a shelter," Gentry says. "They also needed something. We try to make it better so she kids can smile."

She is a woman, Little Miracles has no men. From the time she had her first child, now she has four children, this is where she got up medical issues, and no husband. She also has her back up.

"There is a wonderful person and a great team who has helped me," Gentry says. "I'm so glad to have many children and families who are happy and healthy."

Little Miracles was started in 1986 by a group of women led by the late Rev. Mother Gentry. She volunteered for 15 years and was a member for 15.

"We have a lot of these items in a small warehouse space that has been donated to us," Gentry says. "But we need to move again and are looking for a space approximately 1,000 to 1,500 square feet in the Guilford-Branford area that can be our new home."

The volunteers are kind-hearted people who want to do their part. Good deeds, but more are needed. Also, a new coordinator is needed for our way of work.

St. George, who began volunteering at Thanksgiving, says, "I'm a grandmother who has a well spot in my heart for babies, and I wanted to give back."

Her colleagues, Indira Reddy, have been with the ministry a year and describe the work as "pure joy." Volunteers also include Fran Aguirre, Judy Smith, Margaret, Emily and David Thompson.

Little Miracles volunteers meet on Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at a storage area in Branford to organize donations and package them for distribution. For information about making donations or volunteering, contact Barbara Gentry at 203-686-7864.



Upcoming Events



03/29 SATURDAY 1PM
FACES OF HOMELESSNESS
*St. Augustine Church, 55 Hopewell Rd.,
 South Glastonbury*

You are invited to a FREE program called Faces of Homelessness, sponsored by SS. Aidone and Maria Parish and Hands On Hartford. We'll hear from two individuals who have experienced homelessness, sharing their journeys, struggles, and triumphs. Visit www.aidoneandmaria.org/faceshomelessness to register.



04/4 FRIDAY 8-30PM
HEALING MASS AT
ST. ANTHONY CHURCH OF PROSPECT
*St. Anthony Church, 4 Union City Rd,
 Prospect*

This Mass is for everyone who would like to experience spiritual, physical or emotion healing. God is doing the healing; we are the instruments used to make a prayerful environment. In addition to the beautiful Celebration of the Eucharist, the powerful rites of the Anointing of the Sick and the Laying on of Hands will also be offered. All are welcome!

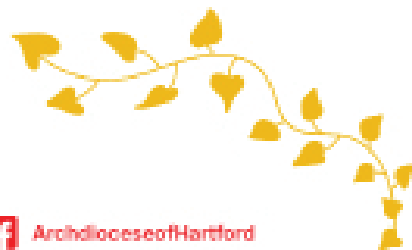


04/4 - 04/6 WEEKEND
SAINT BRIDGET DRAMA CLUB
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*Saint Bridget School, 74 Main Street
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Tickets are \$8. Scan the QR code to purchase or send payment to the school office with a note of how many tickets you would like for which show.

*04/4 Friday 7PM
 04/5 Saturday 7PM
 04/6 Sunday 2PM*



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04/6 SUNDAY 3PM
LENTEN REFLECTIONS CONCERT
*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 785
 Highland Avenue, Waterbury
 Handicap accessible elevator
 (America Street entrance)*

*6th Street Brass (Yale University students)
 The concert will feature music written by Palestrina, Tallis,
 Victoria, Allegri, Bruckner, Brahms, Pergolesi, Dubois, and
 more. Free-will donation*

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