

*Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit
into the desert for forty days,
to be tempted by the devil.*



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
March 9, 2025 • First 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

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.**



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

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

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/ccee. 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>.

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Mar 10: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday, Mar 11: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday, Mar 12: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday, Mar 13: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday, Mar 14: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Sunday, Mar 15: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 or Phil 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

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

All Level Restorative Yoga (At Night)

Come join us on **Thursday, March 27, 2025 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM** in the Franciscan Center Join us for a special candlelit evening of gentle movement and introspection where we will interweave yoga poses with prayer and meditation. Email aholst-grubbe@spsact.org to register.

The Pastor's Corner

March 9, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all our Confirmation students who took part in our annual Pancake Breakfast last Sunday following the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses. Many parishioners commented on how friendly and helpful the students were, and I was impressed at the mature and outgoing way our young people interacted with us "older" folks. Congratulations and thanks to everyone for making our "Fat Sunday" the enjoyable event it was.

During the pancake breakfast, as well as at other times, and even through some notes and emails I've received recently, several parishioners have expressed very strong feelings regarding the way things have been unfolding under our new presidential administration. I won't go into detail about specific actions or directives, mainly because there have been so many of them. However, I am keenly aware that people are experiencing severe emotions of worry and anxiety over a situation they don't understand or can't control.

At the same time, I realize that I, as a preacher, must walk a delicate line. People don't necessarily want to hear about politics from the pulpit, although there are times when a prophetic word or two must be uttered. Jesus certainly wasn't shy about speaking truth to power, nor should we. Perhaps, during this particular time, we ought to be listeners.

In that sense, I realized that I was simply a listener to those who were feeling helpless, overwhelmed, and afraid of what the future holds. Maybe that's what we all need to be: listeners. Because there has been too much angry shouting, too many damaged relationships, too little patience to hear what anyone else is saying.

If you need to talk, we are here for you. In the meantime, let us take care of each other and do whatever is within our means to build up hope and goodness wherever it is needed.

Blessings on your week ahead!


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



A Letter from Gabe

Dear St. Patrick-St. Anthony Community,

As I prepare to step into a new chapter as Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey that has led me here. Without these 16 years of growth, learning, and unwavering support from this community, this next step would not have been possible. You have shaped me—not only as a musician but as a person—in ways I will always carry with me, and for that, I am profoundly grateful.



To the wonderful friars with whom I have had the honor of working—Fr. John, Fr. Francis, Fr. Bill, Fr. Mike, Fr. Andrew (+), Fr. Jim, and Fr. Cid—thank you for your guidance, kindness, and for creating a place where music and ministry are deeply intertwined. Your presence has been a true gift.

A special word of thanks to my two wonderful bosses during my tenure here, Fr. Tom Gallagher and Fr. Tim Shreenan—thank you for allowing me to be freely myself, for your gentle and beautiful leadership, and for the creativity and vision you brought to our shared work. Your trust has meant the world to me.

To each and every singer who has lifted their voice in song within these walls: your stories, your laughter, your commitment, and your passion have become a part of my life. I carry with me the joy of our music-making, the moments of transcendence, the challenges overcome, and the friendships formed.

And let me be clear—I am not truly leaving. I am simply a couple of blocks west of this sacred place, and I know our paths will continue to cross. It has been an incredible privilege to serve you, and I will always cherish the time we have shared.

Pace e bene,
Gabriel Löfvall



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 11, 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 12, 2025, at 12:40 PM.

In Quiet Prayer:

Every Wednesday. Next meeting: March 12, 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 12, 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 19 at 7:00 pm at the Franciscan Center. Join us!

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". Please purchase a book if needed.

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



Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: March 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.

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
Presentation only at 6:30 p.m.: \$15.00

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

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.



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>.

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



Lent isn't about giving up coffee or skipping dessert. It's about waking up. It's about shaking off fear, stepping out of hesitation, and letting God's grace break through the walls we didn't even realize we built.

Join Mike Johnson, OFM, for *From Ashes to Alleluia*, a daily Lenten podcast that meets us in the raw, messy, beautiful reality of life. Through Scripture, the wisdom of St. Francis and St. Clare, and the honest struggles we all face, this journey isn't about surviving Lent—it's about letting it transform us. It's about moving from ashes to alleluia, from holding back to stepping fully into the life God dreams for us.

Are we ready to take that step? Listen daily:

On Apple:

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



On Spotify:

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



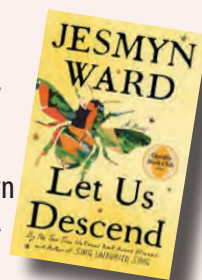
A Novel Idea Book Club

Our March book selection is *Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward.

Goodreads.com says, "*Let Us Descend* is Jesmyn Ward's most magnificent novel yet, a masterpiece for the ages."

Consider joining the discussion on **March 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.**

For more information and a list of upcoming books, please [CLICK Here](#). Contact the office at 860-756-4034 or email info@spsact.org if you need the Zoom Link.



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.



2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

The 2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Our goal is to engage our entire parish family in this year's Appeal and to pray for the success of the Appeal, both here in our parish and across the three counties of the Archdiocese.

Please respond as generously as your means allow.

To donate 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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, March 10, 2025

7:30 AM Elinor Frances Behan

12:05 PM In memory of Paul Cousineau and
prayer intentions for Gail Gousineau

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:30 AM Patrick Wall

12:05 PM Maureen Rizza Brown

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

7:30 AM Intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Maria C. Vecchiarino

Thursday, March 13, 2025

7:30 AM Tarciscius Marhadi

12:05 PM Hernando Santos

Friday, March 14, 2025

7:30 AM Frank & Maria Pizzonia

12:05 PM Fidel Francechi

Saturday, March 15, 2025

4:00 PM Katherine & Rose Ann Murphy

Sunday, March 16, 2025

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM Frank Perrone

11:45 AM Dora & Harold Adams

5:00 PM Angela Padilla

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.

Offertory 03/02/2025

Total Offertory: \$23,408.73

Weekly Online: \$11,116.73

Weekly Offering: \$12,292.00



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, wbeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDominio, Business Manager, kdidominio@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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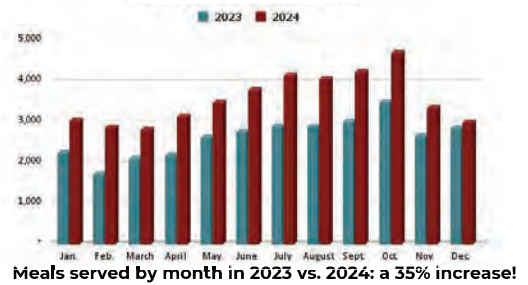
Growth, Transformation, and Hope

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



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.

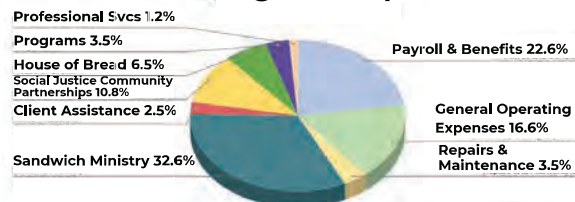


Supporting our Mission

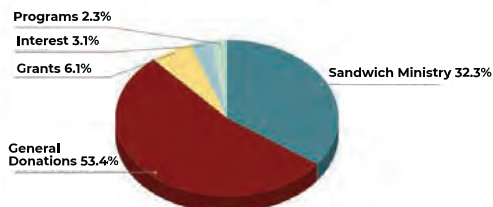
2024 Actual Expenses



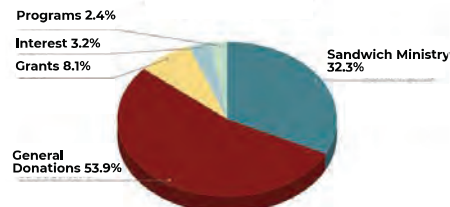
2025 Budgeted Expenses



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





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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