



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
July 27, 2025 • Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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

**Daily Mass
Readings**



Monday, July 28 Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday, July 29 Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Jn 11:19-27
or Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday, July 30 Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday, July 31 Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53
Friday, Aug 1 Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37;
Mt 13:54-58
Sunday, July 3 Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6,
12-13, 14 and 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11;
Lk 12:13-21

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

Christmas in July 2025

The Christmas in July campaign will conclude at the end of this month. Your support of education and food security demonstrates your willingness to serve as a pilgrim or ambassador of hope by bringing stability and safety to the vulnerable children largely through the school in Zorange, Haiti. The campaign began with a letter of appreciation from Father Gaby who expressed his deepest appreciation for your support, the Christmas in July funding campaign will end with a letter from a committed teacher for the last 22 years and one of his students.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the aid and support of the St. Genevieve parish and school in Zorange. Your support is essential to maintain hope in our community. Teachers have no other source of income except what we receive from you. Life in our community is difficult but your financial support allows children to attend school without cost to their families. The situation in Haiti is not great. The insecurity with gangs does not make it easy. However, it is our duty to educate the younger generation because they are our future. On behalf of all the teachers, we say thank you and wish you well.

*In the name of Jesus Christ,
Master Bennet*

My dear friends, I am happy to write this letter to tell you how much we appreciate the aid for students, parents, and entire community. We ask God to protect our friends at St. Patrick St. Anthony and thank everyone for their endless support. With your help, we can attend school.



*We love you very much,
Jean Guvencia*

Your response to this year's campaign is already very encouraging and confirms your commitment as an ambassador of hope for the children, families and community of Zorange, Haiti. Thank you for your ongoing support. Donation accepted through the month of August. <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Donate-xmas-in-july-2025>.

The Pastor's Corner

July 27, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I just finished reading an article in the National Catholic Reporter about Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence of the pope. The hill-top palace in the hills south of Rome has been a papal residence for some 400 years. It was a favorite spot for Popes Paul VI, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI, all of whom spent about two months each year there to escape the torrid heat of a Roman summer. Apparently, Pope Leo XIV has discovered its attractive lure, and is now spending several weeks there himself.

We friars have also felt the enticement of the Eastern seashore over the course of years. As you may know, New Jerseyans like to describe their location in the Garden State by referring to the closest exit of their eponymous Parkway. Our parish of St. Francis of Assisi on Long Beach Island is located off exit 63, and it consists of four churches. Believe me, it is a *long* beach, stretching some 18 miles in length! I remember helping out there one summer many years ago, and how long a drive it was to get from the friary to the northern-most church.

A bit further down the Garden State Parkway, off exit 36, is our vacation house in Margate, home of Lucy the Elephant. She just celebrated her 144th birthday last weekend, and she looks mighty good for her age. Lucy stands six stories tall and is constructed of a wood frame and tin cladding. I guess you could say that she is "tin-skinned." Lucy's *howdah*, or canopy on her back, gives visitors



360-degree views of Margate and the Atlantic ocean.



Just a few blocks away sits the vacation house of the friars. We aren't the only religious order to own property at the beach. For example, down in Stone Harbor, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary once had a huge convent call Villa Maria which has since been replaced by a smaller residence. I remember, during my family's visits to our relatives in Avalon, seeing dozens of sisters walking around Stone Harbor in their habits, enjoying ice cream cones (and probably dreading the thought of returning to their classrooms come September).

Spending a few weeks during the summer, whether in the mountains (like Castel Gandolfo in central Italy) or the seaside (like the

Jersey shore), is a precious time to unwind and just be thankful for the beauties of nature and renewal it offers.

I'm using my time away to read, take morning walks along the beach and be thankful for the gift of sun and sand. I'm also doing a bit of composing and trying my hand at some hymn tunes. Hopefully, you will be hearing (or singing) some of the fruit of my labors in the

future. In the meantime, I wish you all a restful remainder of the summer season!

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

Join Us This Week

Group Spiritual Reflection: Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesdays. Next meeting: July, 29 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.

Servant Leadership: "Come & See" Workshop

Please Join Us on Wednesday, July 30 at 12:45-2:15 p.m.

So, what's all the buzz about Servant Leadership? Don't those two words seem contradictory? How can someone be a servant and a leader at the same time? We are all set to provide the answers to your burning questions. Come & See!



Facilitator: Elaine Wiatr

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-SL-Wk-Shp-2025>

2025-26 **YOUTH FAITH FORMATION AT ST. PATRICK - ST. ANTHONY** **REGISTER NOW**
Children ages 3 through Confirmation
 Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/SPSA-FF-registration-2025-26>

Thank You

Weekly Offering Update

07/20/2025: \$16,828.73

2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Our Goal: \$115,000.00 Total Gifts as of 7/21/2025: \$90,446.40

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.



Creation Care Corner July 2025

Welcome to the Creation Care Corner! Did You Know...



That there has been a 75% drop in insect population in the last thirty years? You might have heard about a decline in bees and butterflies. This is because they are the most popular insects and receive the bulk of the research money. This is also a problem that affects many different insects in our world. There is no single factor that is causing the decline. The increase in agriculture comes to mind as well as weather changes. But there is more to the story. **Insects are disappearing:** <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Insects>.

This is the time of the year to be outside. Unfortunately, we see too many insects and our first thoughts are not about caring for them. But insects take care of pollinating our food. They also are a huge food source for fish, birds and other wildlife. Why do we need bugs? Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-WHY>.

Insects have been around for over 400 million years and humans have been around only 0.3 million years! We need to respect the insects! Let's find ways that we can live together with the insects whether it is using physical barriers to keep them out, or using pesticides as the last resort. Invite the helpful insects to our spaces. Get more ideas on how to Support good insects here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-WHY>.

Insects can look scary even if they are harmless. Take a look of some of these pictures: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-bugs>.

Thank You from the Little Sisters

The Little Sisters of the Poor would like to thank you for inviting us to join you for Masses this past weekend.

Your generosity is boundless and you are a blessing to both the Little Sisters and those we support.

During our visit, we collected an amazing donation of \$5,256.35.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Women of Hope Ministry

Are you in need of inspiration and HOPE?

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is an association of the leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the United States. The conference has nearly 1270 members, who represent approximately 66 percent of the 35,000 women religious in the United States. Founded in 1956, the conference assists its members to collaboratively carry out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today's world.

The statement which LCWR published in January responds to the difficult and challenging realities of today. The statement witnesses to the convictions of faith and the advocacy to which Sisters have committed themselves. Here is the final section from the LCWR's Statement for your own reflection.

We are now facing a time that differs in many significant ways from any previous period in which most of us have lived. Lives all around us are at stake. All evidence shows that we will be seeing an increase in moral violations.

In the time ahead, we will need to be women who stay informed, listen carefully to all voices and perspectives, and engage in serious and deep discernment to make wise choices so that we do not contribute hatred, fear, division, or violence to the world. Our decisions should lead us to become even more fully who we are called to be – bearers of love who refuse to relinquish our moral authority nor languish in despair. May we wholeheartedly embrace the call of the church to be people of hope and live this call with all our being for the sake of the world and its future.

Truly WOMEN of HOPE!

THE DIGNITY INDEX

****New Date*****

Building a Culture of Dignity

Thursday, July 31 at 12:45-1:45 PM and 6:30-7:30 PM.

Have you experienced first-hand or witnessed within your school, workplace, family or community, the use of language which divides us one from another? Perhaps you've seen up close the divisions created when people are treated harshly, sometimes with contempt. One attempt to reverse this negative impact upon our lives involves adopting "The Dignity Index." Placing DIGNITY at the heart of our conversations, in-person or on social media, can be a choice to build back our humanity.

JOIN US on Thursday, July 31 to learn about this tool and hear observations from folks using this Index in their lives.

Participation in the first session is not a pre-requisite to attend this July gathering – Come & Learn!

Together let's make this CHOICE away from judgment and dehumanizing language.

Let us **respond to the CALL** to a different way... one which affirms the humanity of all.

Visit the website www.dignity.us to discover informative resources – check it out!

Co-facilitators: Elaine Wiatr and Pat Curtis

Please register here <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Dignity-Reg> and then email Pat to let her know which session you plan to attend at pcurtis@spsact.org.

Order Your Peace Yard Sign

The message of PEACE is relevant now more than ever. Do you want to help promote peace in our region? Remember our Peace Yard Signs from 2022 and 2023? IF you are a parishioner whose sign has been weather-damaged and now needs a replacement OR someone who missed the opportunity to secure a yard sign because we sold out of them, then ~ ~ You are in LUCK! We will place a bulk order for however many signs we need to meet the demand!

The price remains the same as last time: 1 sign for \$15 or 2 signs for \$20.

Please go to <https://spsact.org/peace-yard-sign-order/> to reserve your sign.

All Reservations are due by July 31.



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!

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.



Snacks Needed

Our Sandwich Ministry hands out snacks with sandwiches every day of the week. We are seeing the need at our doorstep increase in recent months, and we are once again in need of snacks for our friends. Pre-packaged snacks and home-baked goods can be dropped off anytime the office is open. (Mon-Sat 9-4, Sunday 9-11).



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 26, 2025

4:00 PM Joyce Wentworth

Sunday, July 27, 2025

8:00 AM Jeannine & Albert Remillard

10:00 AM Fr. Jim Hynes, O.F.M.

11:45 AM Francis Marquis

Monday, July 28, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Daniel Rodriguez

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

7:30 AM Wilson & Arlene da Silva

12:05 PM Marta Fonseca Flores

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

7:30 AM Jose da Costa & Assuncao da Costa Roxo

12:05 PM Fr. Andrew Giardino, O.F.M.

Thursday, July 31, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Doris Curtis

Friday, Aug 1, 2025

7:30 AM Doris Curtis

12:05 PM Norman Mawson, 32nd Anniversary

Saturday, Aug 2, 2025

4:00 PM Kathleen Gorman

Sunday, Aug 3, 2025

8:00 AM Concetta Giani

10:00 AM John Lemega, 56th Anniversary

11:45 AM Mary Berning

5:00 PM Pamela Schmeelk

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, Fran Rago, Pamela Johnson, Patricia Dressler, Susan Degennaro, and Deborah Godin.





Day of Reflection for Women St. Edmund's Retreat



**Saturday,
October 11, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**



Do you know someone who needs to “get away from it all” for *one day*?

*Why not gift that person with this special retreat?
Or maybe it is YOU who needs this time away...*

Enjoy a day of reflection on beautiful Enders Island, a 12-acre island in
Fisher's Island Sound, Mystic, CT.

St. Edmund's is a place for restoration, renewal and reflection.

This is a day to sit back in your soul, breathe deeply, and gaze upon the wonder & beauty
both inside yourself and outside on the seascape-horizon.

Be free...to move away from all that usually captures your attention and energy.

Our day will include two conferences, prayer,
sharing, celebrating, lunch, and the opportunity for quiet reflection.

Registration at St. Edmund's will begin at 9:00 a.m.
Carpooling from St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church is available.

Save a spot on this day trip for you and a friend by registering by Sept. 1st.

All are welcome!

Retreat Leader: Eileen Dooling, RSM

Suggested Offering: \$60.00 (includes lunch)

Register: R.S.V.P. to Pat Curtis at 860-756-4034, x.113



*Hydrangea,
A peaceful spot,*

*A pleasant path,
A view of Chapel
from the rocks.*



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



ST. PATRICK-ST. ANTHONY CHURCH

Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

Join  https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Join	Volunteer  https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Volunteer	Donate  https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Giving
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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



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.



Enrollment is Now Open!

Enroll in the **New England Catholic Biblical School** to study all 73 books of the Bible! Unlock the meaning and purpose of your life!

In-person and online classes begin September 6, 2025. For more information visit www.NewEnglandCatholicBiblicalSchool.com.

Tentative locations for Fall classes:

New Class!
Online (Virtual), Spanish, Monday 6:30-8:30pm



1. St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, Monday 10-12 PM
2. Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm
3. St. Aloysius, Plantsville, Monday 10-12 PM
4. Prince of Peace, (Hybrid) Woodbury Monday 10-12
5. O.L. of Fatima, Wallingford Tuesday 10-12
6. Online (Virtual), Thursday 6:30-8:30pm

Visit: www.NewEnglandCatholicBiblicalSchool.com

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

Branches on the Vine

JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2025

Upcoming Events



08/1 FRIDAY 6PM

MASS OF HEALING

St. Peter Church, 99 East Main St, Torrington

Experience the Power of Healing — In these challenging times, many of us carry burdens – be it physical ailments like cancer and kidney disease, emotional struggles like depression, anxiety, PTSD and grief, or spiritual battles.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. Reconnect, find solace, and embrace the healing powers of our divine physician, Jesus Christ. A special Healing Mass with anointing of the sick will be celebrated by Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, pastor of St. John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington. The evening begins with the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Mass. Let's come together, share our stories, and experience the transformative power of faith. Remember, Jesus is still in the business of healing.



08/5-9 TUES - SAT 5:30PM

ANNUAL SAINT GEORGE CHURCH CARNIVAL | SPONSORED BY KOFC COUNCIL 3928

St. George Church, 33 Whitfield St, Guilford

Great Food and Fun for the Whole Family.
Opens at 5:30 each night; Rides open at 6pm.

Visit our famous White Elephant Sale – You heard about it, now come visit...People come from near and far to line up before the doors open for the White Elephant Sale & Silent Auction, Aug 5th - 9th (10am-1pm AND 5pm-9pm) Located in the Church Hall.



08/19 TUESDAY 6:30PM-8:00PM

MY WAY WITH FR. RAY KELLY A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR IMMACARE PRESENTED BY DR. BARBARA A. CLARK Northwest Catholic High School, 29 Wampanoag Dr, West Hartford

Fr. Ray Kelly, the world-renowned YouTube sensation and beloved Singing Priest from Ireland, will perform live on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, CT in his only Connecticut appearance!

This special nondenominational concert is part of his sixth North American music ministry tour and coincides with the release of his sixth CD, MY WAY. The album features three original songs—Through the Storm, Drift Away and Tears—written and produced by Cross-Light Records, along with the iconic song My Way, performed in English, German, Spanish and Italian. Vocal and instrumental versions will be included.

Fr. Ray's 2025 tour includes stops in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Connecticut, Cape Cod and New York, and concludes in New Brunswick, Canada. Despite his busy tour schedule, he continues to serve as an active parish priest in Ireland and a member of Saint Patrick's Society for the Foreign Missions, sharing his music ministry across the globe.

100 percent of the proceeds from the West Hartford performance will benefit ImmaCare supporting our mission to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in the Hartford region.

For Ticket Information, scan the QR code:



2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!



88.33% as of 7/15/25
\$8,833,340.47 pledges from
26,378 generous donors



Branches on the Vine

JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2025



Father Michael Ruminski highlights the reclaimed copper baptismal font now in use at Bloomfield's Sacred Heart Church, following a recent church remodel. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



The renovated sanctuary is now smaller, with an elevated altar and tabernacle, plus new fabric tapestries. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

BLOOMFIELD CHURCH REMODEL BLENDS BEAUTY AND PURPOSE

Elevated on plywood, the sanctuary floor was sagging. The vinyl flooring in the nave had cracked. Over time, a church's structure and beauty show evidence of decades of service and wear.

But after undergoing an interior renovation last fall, Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield has a new look. Dedicated in 1963, the contemporary-style church has been refreshed with new flooring, an elevated altar, a cleaned-up choir loft and the introduction of old and new artwork.

"It looks beautiful, it's theologically ordered, and it sounds great," says Father Ruminski, who commissioned the work on behalf of the parish. "It's beauty and purpose coming together. I think we accomplished a lot in the renovation to communicate all those things."

As the former pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Father Ruminski is happy to reflect on last fall's remodel of Sacred Heart Church. However, just this month, he was reassigned to St. Thomas and St. Timothy Parish in West Hartford.

In the meantime, Father Stuart Pinette, the new pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, can look forward to celebrating Mass in a refurbished worship space.

According to Father Ruminski, the Sacred Heart renovation, which took several months to complete, tackled vinyl floors with asbestos, tightly spaced pews, a crowded and cluttered sanctuary, and a dimly lit interior.

The solution? "It became clear the floor was the obstacle to everything," Father Ruminski says. After talking to his contractors, the Sullivan Brothers, the solution was to "pull everything out and rethink the floor plan."

The contractors removed the old vinyl tiles, remediated the asbestos and added brighter gray and cream ceramic tiles throughout the church. They also built a smaller sanctuary floor to better fit the space, then elevated the altar and centered the tabernacle.

With a smaller sanctuary, the original pews could then be respaced with an extra seven inches per row to give parishioners room to maneuver. "It feels more open with the same amount of seating," Father Ruminski notes. New seat cushions added comfort and improved the acoustics.

In the choir loft, organ pipes were repositioned on either side of a window, allowing the light in. This change also created more room in the loft, enabling the choir to relocate from the sanctuary to the loft.

On the main floor, a vintage copper baptismal font replaced the old leaky one. Originally used in Bloomfield's Christ the King Church, which closed in 1996,

the copper baptismal font was found dented and patinaed in Sacred Heart's basement. Refurbished, the font is now positioned at the head of the main aisle of Sacred Heart.

To add more beauty, the priest commissioned New Hampshire artist Eileen Cunis to create fabric tapestries for the sanctuary walls. They include four angels and two saints, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, who is on his way to sainthood, and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, promoter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose relic is embedded in the altar at Sacred Heart Church.

The altar and tabernacle are now the focus. Statues of Mary and Jesus, once hidden in the back of the church, are now visible in side alcoves.

"The overall effect of the renovation is to give the church a much stronger sense of direction," Father Ruminski says, "that we're oriented, that we have somewhere to go. And that is in union with God, and in communion with Christ."

- Story by Shelley Wolf





1096 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111
(860) 665-0478
OPEN: WED-SUN
11:00 AM – 9:00 PM
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
SELECT
MECHANICAL SERVICES INC.
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