

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us
and persevere in running the race that lies before us...

Hebrews 12:1



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
August 17, 2025 • Twentieth 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



Lamentations

A Prayer/Advocacy Service

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 - 7:00 pm, in church.

We will gather as a Franciscan family to pray for our war-torn and famine-ridden world, particularly for Gaza in this moment — prayer inspired by the Book of Lamentations which expresses grief that is also filled with longing for God's mercy and the hope of restoration. Following the service there will be an opportunity to share thoughts over refreshments in the Franciscan Center.

Please join in this prayer service on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the church or via livestream.

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Aug 18	Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday, Aug 19	Jgs 6:11-24a; Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday, Aug 20	Jgs 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16
Thursday, Aug 21	Jgs 11:29-39a; Mt 22:1-14
Friday, Aug 22	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Mt 22:34-40
Sunday, Aug 24	Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

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

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>

The Pastor's Corner

August 17, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Mass of Christian Burial which was celebrated for Pam Johnson on Saturday, August 9th, will remain in our parish's collective memory for a long time to come. Everything about the liturgy resonated with Pam's vibrant and over-the-top personality. It also reflected the joy with which she live and celebrated our Christian faith and our manner of worship.

Archbishop Christopher Coyne was joined by former Archbishop Leonard Blair, Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, and retired Auxiliary Bishop Peter Rosazza, together with numerous priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford and several Franciscan friars. Pam's loyal service to both St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish as well as the Archdiocese in her capacity as Executive Assistant to the Archbishop were highlighted by Archbishop Coyne in his moving and, at times, humorous homily.

The music for the liturgy was performed by an enormous group of musicians, a number of whom could not be accommodated in the overflowing gallery and had to sing from the side aisles of the nave. They were joined by a large brass and percussion ensemble, all under the leadership of our former Director of Music, Dr. Gabriel Löfvall. The music had been selected by Pam personally, and it included some of her favorite hymns and choral anthems.

I wish to thank everyone who took part in the planning of the liturgy as well as the lunch reception that was held in the Franciscan Center afterwards. Although we are very saddened by Pam's untimely death, we are grateful for all that she meant to us over the years that she was with us, and we

continue to pray for her family, especially Matt and her sons Glenn and Robert as they mourn her death.



On a more upbeat note, I am looking forward to our second (annual?) "Music Under the Stars" evening on Saturday, September 6th. This year's event will feature live music by the Leslie Alexander Quartet with dinner provided by Casa Mia on the Green. It all begins in the Friary Gardens at 5:30 PM with a social hour. The cost is \$35 per person, and you can register on our website. Last year's event was a big success, and everyone who attended enjoyed a beautiful late-summer evening under the stars, visiting with friends, both new and old, while enjoying good music and good food. So don't delay – register soon!

Our parish's participation in the Archbishop's Annual Appeal has been very encouraging. So far, we have given or pledged over \$4,800 more than we did last year at this time. Currently our parish has pledged \$91,916.40 towards our goal of \$115,000. If you haven't yet made a gift to the Appeal, please consider doing so. As I highlighted in last week's bulletin, Archbishop Coyne personally visited our Sandwich and Meal Ministry a few weeks ago to express his support and gratitude for our care of the people of Hartford who come to us for assistance. Part of the funds for our outreach ministries come from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, so your participation helps us, too!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and lovely weather with which we've been blessed. Blessings on your week ahead!

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

Baptisms This Weekend

Darragh Shea
child of
Padraic Clemens & Elizabeth Christ
Celebrated by Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.

Sequoia Bernadette
child of
Tia Slivinsky
Celebrated by Fr. Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M.

Peace Sign Pick-Up

Did you order a "May Peace Prevail" yard sign?
Pick up dates are August 16 & 17 after each Mass.

Join Us This Week

Group Spiritual Reflection: Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: August 19, 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.

The Drumming Circle Is Back

Join us Monday, September 8, 2025 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the **Franciscan Center** for our Drumming Circle. No experience or drum necessary. Please contact Pat Curtis at pcurtis@spsact.org for more information or if you need to borrow a drum.



Attention: ALL PARENTS, Grandparents, and Godparents of Pre-Schoolers

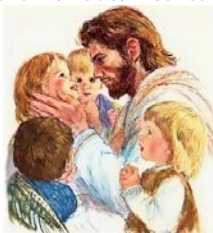
YOU and YOUR CHILD are invited to attend a special program on fostering the spiritual development of children.

On Sunday, September 7, from 11:15-12:15 in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, Deb Pelletier from our Religious Education Team will suggest simple, creative ways to encourage your child's unique and intimate relationship with God.

Deb is trained in the spirituality of very young children. She will also offer ideas and resources to help you guide your child's awakening curiosity about Jesus, the Church, and the Mass.

We will be having toddler friendly activities close by and snacks will be provided. Your child will be free to sit with you during the program or they can play while staying safely within sight.

We hope you will be able to join us for this special program. To help us plan for snacks and set-up, please call Pat Curtis at the parish office at 756-4034, x.113, or e-mail at pcurtis@spsact.org. Please go to to register.



People of Hope

Every Wednesday at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Zoom, starting September 3, 2025.

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

To spark our conversation and reflection, we will use author Amy Ekeh's latest book *Stretch Out Your Hand: Reflections on the Healing Ministry of Jesus*.

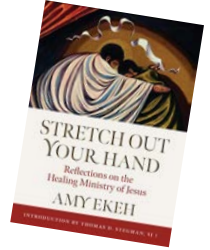
Please join our facilitator, Pat Curtis, each Wednesday, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom, to gather with others for weekly inspiration using experiences from our daily lives. Our goal is to keep hope alive and steadfast even as difficult personal and world events press upon us.

This "People of Hope" gathering is available to you every Wednesday morning ~ attend when your schedule allows to receive the gifts of spiritual nourishment and growth.

Join us!

To register go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-PPL-HP-2025>

Free Will Offering can be made payable to "St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church" and mailed to 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103, Attn. Pat Curtis OR go to <https://osvhub.com/spsact/giving/funds/adult-faith-formation> to give offering conveniently ONLINE and note the program name in the Memo.



You are invited to an evening with

CARL SICILIANO

author of

"MAKING ROOM"

Thursday, Sept. 25
from 6:30-8 pm
at the Franciscan Center
for Urban Ministry

CLICK TO REGISTER

Sponsored by The Friends and Family,
Open Hearts and Social Justice Ministries

ST. PATRICK ST. ANTHONY
The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry
open hearts open minds open doors



Making Room

Carl Siciliano
Founder of The All-Party Center

Three Decades of
Fighting for Beds,
Belonging,
and a Safe Place for
LGBTQ Youth

Creation Care Corner August 2025

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

Numerous disasters around the world should alert us to the fact that there are serious problems. An example is the devastating flooding in the Guadalupe River in Texas on July 4 which washed away people, homes, trees and cars in a very short amount of time. Another is the smoke from Canada's wildfires which enveloped the country. We have seen on the evening news numerous mudslides, massive hurricanes, and crippling droughts that affect our crops. Even here in Connecticut, we have recently seen weather events which are not normal for this area.

To read more, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Track-Rain>.

To read the entire Creation Care Corner for August, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-CCC-Aug-2025>.

Adult Faith Formation Programs Return

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

In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday, September 3, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Thirty minutes of quiet prayer practice every Wednesday morning. We begin with a brief ritual of offering compassion for the needs of our world and ourselves. A prayer or reading is offered, and is followed by 20 minutes of silence for personal intentions, through prayer, reflection, meditation or contemplation. Join us on Zoom. Zoom link in Monday email.

Divine Reading: Wednesdays, September 3 & 17, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in-person, in the Franciscan Center. Join us when you can!

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.



September Prayer Shawl Meetings:

September 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

September 25, 2025 at 10:30 AM in-person.

Come join our group. No experience necessary.

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

Open Hearts Ministry

Welcome Back Picnic/BBQ: Join us Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry for our welcome back picnic and bbq. Go to <https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-open-hearts-ministry/> for more info.



Friends and Family Ministry

Welcome Back! Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.



Day of Reflection for Women

St. Edmund's Retreat, Saturday

October 11, 2025, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

"Bothered by God?"

During this day of retreat, we will consider the invitation to deeper listening to the quiet voice of God in our hearts. How were the women of the Bible "bothered by God" and how did they respond?

Can we hear God's voice in our lives? How are we listening?

The day will provide time for input, quiet listening, sharing, and of course, lunch.

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.

Download the flyer at <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-WRetOct25> OR to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-DOR-W2025>.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS
evening out for adults
Saturday, September 6
5:30 pm
\$35 per person



Scan the code or register at:
spsact.org/music-under-stars-2025

Meet us in the Friary Garden for Social "Hour". Wine, beer, soft drinks provided. Dinner to follow by Casa Mia on the Green and music by The Leslie Alexandra Quartet.

Please purchase tickets here:
<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Sept6-2025>.

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.



Volunteer Today:

Feeling the need to give back? Consider volunteering for our **Friday Shoppers Ministry**. Every Friday we place two orders at BJ's Wholesale for the House of Bread Weekend Meal Program and the Franciscan Center. Please consider this vital ministry.

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!

2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Our Goal: \$115,000.00 Total Gifts as of 8/08/2025: \$91,916.40

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/ap-appeal/> No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



Join us on September 27 or November 1 to help build houses for Habitat for Humanity in the Hartford area with an SPSA team.

Sign up by clicking the link below, you will have to create an account to be able to sign up.

Questions or interested in learning more? Contact Sue O'Donnell at sodonnell38@gmail.com.



Founded in 2005 by Fr. Mike Johnson while working in Maryland at St. Camillus parish, SFB brings teams on mission

trips to work with underserved communities in the United States and in other countries. Read more about Saint Francis Builds here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-SFB-ART>, and consider one of our 2026 Mission Trips.

St. Francis Builds Mission Trips for 2026 Announced

Oaxaca, Mexico: January 1-15, 2026

Dominican Republic: January 17-24, 2026

Puerto Rico: March 1-8, 2026

Burnsville/Asheville, NC: June 14-22, 2026

Oaxaca, Mexico: tentative: August 8-15, 2026

Questions or interested in learning more about these trips? Contact Sue O'Donnell at sodonnell38@gmail.com.



Weekly Offering Update

08/03/2025: \$19,675.77

CORRECTED Mass Intentions for the Week

(These supersede those printed within this week's bulletin. My apologies.)

Saturday, Aug 16, 2025

4:00 PM Mary Marut

Sunday, Aug 17, 2025

8:00 AM Diane Ashe, 10th Anniversary

10:00 AM Millie Intino

11:45 AM Hilda Megaw, 17th Anniversary

5:00 PM Richard Birge, Jr

Monday, Aug 18, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Eleanor Laffin

Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for the people of St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Tricia Anne Dewey

Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Lillian Carroll

Thursday, Aug 21, 2025

7:30 AM Margaret Donnellan

12:05 PM Robert Laffin

Friday, Aug 22, 2025

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Encarnacion Nieves & Florencia Rosal

Saturday, Aug 23, 2025

4:00 PM Donald Deasy

Sunday, Aug 24, 2025

8:00 AM Brendan & Lawreen McCann

10:00 AM Mary V. Ramos, 18th Anniversary

11:45 AM Doris Curtis

5:00 PM Teresa Kusatz

Please Pray for the Sick

Paula Molitar, Joseph Shertick, Greg Reed, Kathryn Eagers, Tommie Henry, Syl Ciraulo, Mary Ertel, Mary Joyce Castafero, Rosemarie Perkoski, Fran Rago, Patricia Dressler, Susan Degennaro, and Deborah Godin.

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 DiDominzio, Business Manager, kdidominzio@spsact.org

Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement, aholstgrubbe@spsact.org

Fr. Michael Johnson, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, mikeinbolivia@gmail.com

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, jleonard@spsact.org

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  Volunteer  Donate 

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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!



Through the grace of God and many generous donors, \$18,740.90 was raised from Connecticut Foodshare's 2025 Walk Against Hunger to support the House of Bread. This is due in large part to the many dedicated team members from St. Patrick - St. Anthony under the incredible leadership of Mary Ann Langton. We are grateful for your participation and fundraising efforts, for your enthusiasm on the day of the walk, and for your ongoing support! We hope you know how much we appreciate all that you do to sustain our mission at HOB!

With gratitude, Beth, Tom, & the HOB community



The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community.

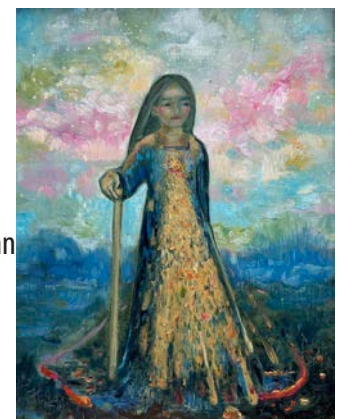
The Clare Gallery's hours are from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 – 11:30 a.m. The Gallery is open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is accessible to all. More information may be found at spsact.org/clare2.

New Exhibit: Inner Visions, September 4 – November 9, 2025

The Clare Gallery's 2025 season continues with exhibitions based on themes of Mystery, Mysticism, and Meaning. Inner Visions highlights the work of Connecticut artist, Shannon McCarthy.

The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, and a large-scale visual timeline that includes notations, collage and sketches to explore the mystery of meaning in "seeing and knowing" by Leonardo da Vinci, Joan of Arc and the Christian Saints.

A free artist's talk and reception is on Saturday, September 20, 5–7:30 PM. Additionally, the Gallery hosts a virtual panel discussion on Monday, September 29, 7–8:30 PM. Panelists include the artist; a New Zealand poet and editor of *Kokako*, Graham Bates; and moderator, Nancy Wynn.



The virtual panel discussion is free, but registration is required. Visit <https://spsact.org/clare2> for registration.

Shannon McCarthy has a B.S. in Linguistics and Classical Studies from the University of Florida. She was taught to paint as a child by her grandmother, a student of Allan Freelon. She studied Visionary Art with Alex Grey; Classical Realism at the Wakeen Atelier in Somers, CT; and atmosphere study in Florence, Italy. McCarthy is an oil painter; the illustrator for a children's book, *Zoa and the Fawn*, by Jane Ashworth; and her work was published in *Kokako*, a New Zealand Japanese poetry magazine.

She has exhibited in various galleries in Connecticut, her work was exhibited in "Out of the Blue" in Newcastle, England, and her *Roses Collection* is permanently installed at the Domestic Monastery in Avon, CT. Visit shannonmccarthy.com for more information.

The Office of Missionary Discipleship Presents:

The Housing and Homeless Crisis; Breaking the Cycle

September 22, 6:30-8:30 PM St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, 175 Main St. Cheshire, CT

Come to learn the latest information surrounding the housing and homeless crisis and what the church and lay ministry can do to restore dignity and break the cycle in your community. The evening will conclude with a panel of experts discussing your questions.

Reserve your seat today! Email: Ana.plaza@aohct.org

About the presenter: Jered Bruzas

For more than a decade, Jered has been a driving force for positive change across both Plainville and the Greater Waterbury region.

In 2022, Jered was appointed Chief Impact Officer at United Way of Greater Waterbury. Recognizing his integrity, leadership, and record of meaningful community work, Jered was entrusted with overseeing one of the region's most influential portfolios. In this role, Jered leads the design and execution of United Way's strategies across Basic Needs, Education, and Financial Stability, aligning investments, partnerships, and performance metrics to improve lives at scale.

Prior to joining United Way, Jered spent a decade at Connecticut's largest homeless shelter, Saint Vincent DePaul Mission Shelter, Inc. Starting as a case manager and rising to Director of Operations, he worked directly with individuals and families experiencing homelessness—supporting them with housing stabilization, financial coaching, treatment planning, job placement, and access to vital services. He also spearheaded the organization's data and outcome systems, turning insights into action and driving continuous improvement. He established the Merriman Culinary Job Training program, a flagship program for the Mission.



SAVE THE DATE

2025 INAUGURAL
**DENIS P. GEARY
MEMORIAL JCL GOLF**
TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025
@ TUMBLEBROOK CC

EAT - DRINK - SWING - SWEAR - QUIT - DRINK AGAIN

ALL NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT JCL!

Register Now!
DenisGearyMemorialGolf.com

860-841-7598 conor@gamedayct.com @DPGMemorial



Branches on the Vine

AUGUST 16 - 22, 2025



For the second year in a row, Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Plainville will have a booth for evangelization during the upcoming Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival.
PHOTO BY KAREN AVITABILE

CATHOLIC PARISH TAKES FLIGHT AT ANNUAL BALLOON FESTIVAL

Father Dawson learned about the balloon festival, one of Plainville's signature events, soon after his appointment as pastor in 2023. He suggested last year that the parish set up a booth to reach out to the community and evangelize at the same time.

"Our faith should not stay within the four walls of the church," he says. "Everyone needs Christ."

Similar to last year, a committee will work in shifts at the parish booth to greet people, engage in friendly conversation and pray with anyone who wishes to do so. Volunteers will also hand out religious medals, prayer cards, rosaries, trinkets for children, and flyers with information about the church, Mass times and confession schedule.

"We want to have a real presence and an impact on people in our town," Father Dawson says. "This is a chance to make our presence felt among our community. We are part of Plainville, and we want people to come home."

During the balloon festival, Father Dawson, donned in a cassock, spends most of his time walking around the park "to give people a little nudge," he says, "to remind them that the Catholic Church is here for them."

Homebound parishioners who are unable to participate in the balloon festival are asked to pray for the volunteers and the people they will encounter. "Pray that the Lord will work through the volunteers and his words and attitude will come through their mouths and actions," Father Dawson says.

"Pray that people who have never been Mass-goers start coming, and pray that those who have wandered will allow the Lord to open their hearts to his spirit."

All festival-goers are encouraged to stop by the booth for Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Weather permitting, the balloon festival runs 3 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 22, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Aug. 23 at Norton Park on South Washington Street. Crafters, vendors, food trucks, carnival rides and entertainment will be offered on both days.

At dusk on Friday, a balloon glow – when tethered balloons are illuminated from within the park at the same time – and a fireworks display will light up the sky.

On Saturday, balloons are scheduled to take flight from the park at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The balloons are a spectacle that captivate several neighboring communities too.

Also on the second day of the festival, a classic and muscle car exhibit will be underway. To mark the 140th anniversary of the Plainville Fire Company, a professional drone show in the evening is expected to draw a large crowd.

Father Dawson says he is hoping the parish booth will "plant a seed" with those who are unfamiliar with the faith. "Pray that our efforts will bear eternal fruit," he adds. "Pray that those who have wandered will allow the Lord to open their hearts to his spirit."

- Story by Karen A. Avitabile



Upcoming Events



09/9 TUESDAY 10AM - 3PM
ART AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT
 Sacred Heart on the Lake
 Retreat Center, 194 Candlewood Hill
 Rd, Higganum

Well-known local artist, Ed Rosado will team with Sr. Lany Jo to teach and demonstrate how art can be a segue into prayerful meditation and contemplation. Both of these Art/Retreats are for those that already have some background in art and in the medium they most often use to create art, especially landscapes, which will be the focus at the scenic lake and grounds of the SHOTL Retreat Center.

Mr. Rosado will offer artistic critiques and pointers and Sr. Lany Jo will offer guidance at prayerfully focusing on our Creator God dwelling within us, allowing us to create with Him. Please bring your lunch and art supplies. Coffee, tea and other hot and cold drinks will be provided. A donation of \$20 is asked for this Retreat Day. Space will be limited, so register ASAP on our website sacredheartonthelake.org or call Sr. Lany Jo at 203-606-9102.



The **New England Catholic Biblical School** is currently enrolling adult students for the certificate program in **Advanced Biblical Studies**. Classes begin September 6, 2025 and meet at multiple locations, at various times, for both on-line and in-person class options. Spanish language classes are available. Those interested should go to the **NECBS** website at: www.catholicedaohct.org.

La Escuela Bíblica Católica de Nueva Inglaterra (NECBS) está inscribiendo a estudiantes adultos para el programa de certificado en Estudios Bíblicos Avanzados. Las clases comienzan el 6 de septiembre de 2025 y se imparten en diferentes sedes y horarios, tanto en línea como presenciales. Se ofrecen clases de español. Los interesados deben visitar el sitio web de **NECBS**: www.catholicedaohct.org.



FRASSATI
 NEW HAVEN

invites you to celebrate the

Canonization

of our patron,

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati!



Sunday, September 7

11:00am - Mass at St. Mary Church
 5 Hillhouse Avenue | New Haven

1:00pm - Hike at East Rock Park
 Park at St. Joseph's Church
 129 Edwards Street | New Haven

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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



SCAN ME



Total Goal: \$10M

90.55% as of 8/5/25
 \$9,055,412.24 pledges from
 27,175 generous donors

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

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Archdiocese of Hartford
 467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002
 860-541-6491





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.



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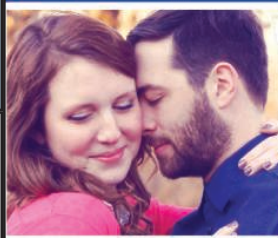
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