

"Strive to enter through the narrow door,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."
Luke 13:24

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
August 24, 2025 • Twenty-First 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, Aug 25	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday, Aug 26	1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday, Aug 27	1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday, Aug 28	1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
Friday, Aug 29	1 Thes 4:1-8; Mk 6:17-29
Sunday, Aug 31	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11 Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

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

2025-26
REGISTER NOW

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION AT
ST. PATRICK - ST. ANTHONY

Children ages 3 through Confirmation

Scan the QR code or go to
<https://bit.ly/SPSA-FF-registration-2025-26>

Mission Co-Op 2025: Second Collection on August 30-31, 2025



On the weekend of August 30-31, 2025, a Capuchin Franciscan from the Province of St. Joseph in India will be here to preach about their ministry in India. Thanks to the generosity of supporters in the past, we have been able to build a school in their mission in Telangana, India. This initiative has significantly contributed to sustainable development for the village and has provided much-needed educational opportunities for children in need.

The second collection at all our Masses next weekend, August 30-31, 2025 will be taken to support the Capuchin missions in India. For online donations please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPST-MCO-2025> or scan the code.



The Pastor's Corner

August 24, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I am delighted to announce that we have a new Director of Music Ministries! David (pronounced Dah-veed) Garrido-Cid will join our community at the start of September and will begin playing for weekend Masses on September 6th. Our choir season will start a bit later this year than usual, and the Gallery Choir will resume on Sunday, September 28th, with the Treble and Bass Clef Choirs starting in early October.

It has been a long process to bring our search for a suitable replacement of Gabriel Löfvall to a successful conclusion. However, we are very happy that such a worthy successor has been found: someone who understands the emphasis we place on excellent liturgical and choral music in our parish. In fact, David and his wife, Alice Mattison, were married here on September 13, 2013.

David comes to us from Saints Isidore and Maria Parish in Glastonbury where he has served as Director of Music Ministries since 2021. Prior to that, he served at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Hartford, from 2015 to 2021. He has also worked at Catholic communities in East Hartford, at Northwest Catholic High School, and St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Simsbury. From 2006 to 2013 he was the co-founder and co-artistic director of Vallis Musicae, an ecumenical community choir.



David Garrido-Cid and Fr. Tim discussing his new position as Director of Music Ministries.



David studied piano and chamber music at the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid in his native Spain, as well as at the Hartt School here in Hartford and at Yale University in New Haven. Since age seven, David has performed piano, both solo and collaboratively, in Venezuela, Brazil, Spain, Italy and the United States. He began organ studies when he was 21, and has performed on organs spanning the Baroque period to modern "romantic" American instruments in several countries. He is a member of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Musical Club of Hartford.

David first came into contact with our parish back in 2000 when he played piano for rehearsals and concerts for the Church Street Singers, under the direction of Br. Kevin McGoff, O.F.M. He has admired our parish's fine music ministry as well as our commitment to social justice. "The work of the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, and its collaboration with neighboring social work entities, is one that speaks to my heart," he said. "The parish's motto perhaps epitomizes what I would like to create with music: to *open the doors* with uplifting music, to encourage people to approach music with an *open mind*, and for music to *open the hearts* of all believers," he added.

I wish to express my deepest thanks to the members of our search committee who spent many hours over the past six months reviewing applications and résumés, arranging interviews and auditions, and helping to keep the music program going with interim and substitute directors and organists. Please join me in thanking Joanne Huelsman, Beverly Boyle, Zachary Gilbert, Allison Holst Grubbe and Marc Sherer for their dedication and commitment to ensuring our parish's musical future. I want to offer particular thanks to Zach Gilbert for serving as interim music administrative assistant, as he faithfully produced weekend songsheets, engaged substitute organists, and carried out a myriad of tasks.

Losing Gabe to the cathedral was a tough loss for all of us, as well as for me personally. But I am confident that we have entered a new phase of joyful and excellent music-making for the years to come.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

Peace Sign Pick-Up

Did you order a "May Peace Prevail" yard sign? We have added pick up dates. You can still pick up your signs this weekend, August 23/24, 2025 after each Mass.

Join Us This Week

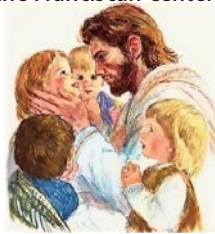
Group Spiritual Reflection: Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: August 26, 2025 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. All are welcome! Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Tues-Spirit-Grp> to register and receive the Zoom Link.

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 <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-SPCH-2025> to register.

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.



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.

An advertisement for an evening with Carl Siciliano, author of "Making Room". The ad features a portrait of Carl Siciliano on the right. The text on the left reads: "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". Below this is a green button that says "CLICK TO REGISTER". At the bottom, it says "Sponsored by The Friends and Family, Open Hearts and Social Justice Ministries" and "ST. PATRICK ST. ANTHONY The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry". On the right side, below the portrait, it says "Making Room" in large, colorful letters, followed by "Carl Siciliano" and "Three Decades of Fighting for Beds, Belonging, and a Safe Place for LGBTQ Youth".

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>.

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

Creation Care Corner August 2025

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

Since 2016, Dr. Katherine Hayhoe, a climate scientist, has used the term "Global Weirding" to describe what is happening around the world. She feels this is a more accurate description as weather patterns become more unpredictable. Take a look at her explanation about "Global Weirding":

To learn more, please go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cRCbgTA_78

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.

Participant reflection: "There's something elevating about beginning the day, mid-week, in silent prayerful community with others. I find it deeply personal and communal, reflective and supportive, subtle and powerful in ways that enhance my overall spiritual practice. Thank you for offering this unique opportunity."

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!

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.

A Reminder from the Parish Nurse Ministry!



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church now has two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) installed on-site! These life-saving devices were generously provided through a grant from the **Michael Vincent Sage Dragonheart Foundation**. AEDs are located inside the Church and in the Franciscan Center.

2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Our Goal: \$115,000.00 Total Gifts as of 8/14/2025: \$93,543.47

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



Weekly Offering Update

08/10/2025: \$14,824.73

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>.

Sanctuary Lamps

Week of August 24, 2025

In memory of

Pamela Johnson

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!

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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, Aug 25, 2025

7:30 AM Philip M. Sinisgalli

12:05 PM Madeline Capodanno

Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for the Christians of the Middle East

12:05 PM Encarnacion Nieves

Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Carmen Carmona

Thursday, Aug 28, 2025

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

12:05 PM James Burke, in memory of his birthday

Friday, Aug 29, 2025

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Anthony & Henrieta DiLorenzo

Saturday, Aug 30, 2025

4:00 PM Mary Marut, 38th Anniversary

Sunday, Aug 31, 2025

8:00 AM Lynn Drummey

10:00 AM Silvia Ann Digby, 2nd Anniversary

11:45 AM Kathryn Ostrosky

5:00 PM Prayer intentions for the people of Lebanon & Syria

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

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

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

Watch 10:00 AM Mass Online:



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



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



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

Baptisms This Weekend

Celebrated by Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.

Graham Nathan

child of

John & Jennifer Rosito

and

Jameson Patrick Asher

child of

Matthew & Sabrina Leonard

Congratulations

Stephen Mondak

&

Diah Mulyasari

married

Thursday, August 28, 2025

celebrated by

Fr. Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M.

CLARE
GALLERY
at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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.



A Christmas in July Thank You

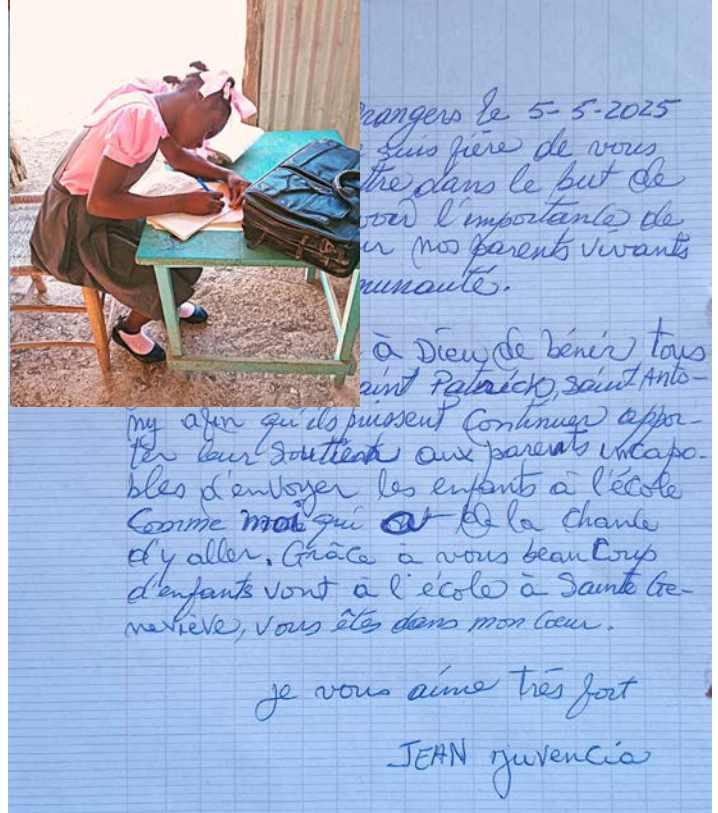
THANK YOU - MESI - For Support for St. Genevieve

Our parish commitment for our 20-year-old Covenant remains solid, as evidenced by the financial gifts sent in during our 2025 "Christmas in July" campaign. THANK YOU! The campaign has "ended," but donations and support are accepted year-round! These contributions are vital so we can keep our promise to provide education to 9 grade-levels of children, hot lunches, teacher and staff salaries year-round, and help for elderly parishioners without other means of support.

A St. Genevieve student, Jean, has expressed it best in her letter to us:

My dear friends I am thrilled to write this letter to let you know how important we appreciate your aid so are our parents and the entire community. We ask God to protect all our friends at St Patrick-St Anthony for their endless support to us and our parents so we can continue to go to school. Because of your help, we are able to go to school at St. Genevieve. You will always be in our hearts. We love you very much.

Jean Guvencia



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

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Branches on the Vine

AUGUST 23 - 29, 2025



Blessed Michael J. McGivney set out to improve the plight of people he ministered to during the 19th century and bring people closer to the faith. Painting by Antonella Cappuccio/Photo COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



People can invoke the intercession of Blessed McGivney at his tomb in St. Mary Church in New Haven, part of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish. His remains are placed in a sealed, double bronze coffin within a polished granite sarcophagus at the rear of the church. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt recounts the life of Waterbury native son and priest Blessed Michael J. McGivney, whose patronal feast in the Archdiocese of Hartford was marked on Aug. 13. Blessed McGivney, who founded the Knights of Columbus, demonstrated how to live a life of service and faith. Pray for his intercession and for a second miracle that will lead to his canonization as a saint. Read more about Blessed McGivney in the upcoming issue of the Catholic Transcript.

These days, I am re-reading the biography of Blessed Michael McGivney. I am sure you agree that he shines as a champion of the Gospel's works of mercy. In Matthew 25:31–46, Jesus presents a powerful image of the final judgment, separating the righteous from the unrighteous based on acts of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me," he says. This Gospel passage is not merely a list of good deeds, but a roadmap to holiness, a path that Blessed Michael McGivney, as an example to all, walked among us with quiet courage and deep conviction.

As many of us know, Father McGivney, born in 1852 in Waterbury to Irish immigrant parents, was a highly skilled yet humble parish priest

BLESSED MCGIVNEY: AN OUTSTANDING WITNESS

whose ministry reflected the corporal works of mercy through everyday acts. During a time when many Catholic families especially widows and orphans—faced social prejudice, economic hardship, and spiritual marginalization, he shared their pain, recognizing in them the suffering face of Christ. A bright man, rather than furthering his priestly career due to his many talents, Father McGivney dedicated his priesthood to being present, compassionate, and proactive in caring for his flock.

Founding the Knights of Columbus in 1882 serves as a concrete expression of this mercy that he had already demonstrated in his pastoral assignments in New Haven and Thomaston. He recognized the vulnerable position of Catholic men, many of whom died young due to harsh labor conditions, leaving their families destitute. The Knights began as a mutual aid society, providing financial and spiritual support to widows and orphans. In this initiative, Father McGivney reflected the very heart of Matthew 25: loving Christ in the "least" among us.

Moreover, his mercy extended beyond material assistance.

As a parish priest, he acted as a shepherd, offering counsel, encouragement, and sacramental grace to those who suffered.

He made himself available to his parishioners, as well as to the poor, the unemployed, and the young men tempted by crime or despair. His compassion was not sentimental; it was active, personal, and rooted in the Eucharistic love of Christ.

Today, the witness of Blessed Michael McGivney speaks urgently to our times. In a society marred by division, indifference, and isolation, he calls us to rediscover mercy as the defining characteristic of Christian life. His legacy is not confined to statues, museums, or badges; it lives on in every act of compassion inspired by faith.

To honor this local saint means to take seriously the words of Christ in Matthew 25, not only as a future judgment, but also as a daily calling. Blessed Michael McGivney shows us that holiness is possible in ordinary life and that mercy is the most reliable path to Christ.



Upcoming Events



09/5-7 WEEKEND
RETROUVILLE MARRIED COUPLES WEEKEND

Hotel in CT (address given at registration confirmation)

Does your marriage get the attention it deserves in the busy world we live in? Could you use tools and support to make it a priority? Would you like that "loving feeling" back? Sign up for our upcoming weekend in September 5-7, 2025. www.tinyurl.com/mrypks8k or email us Connecticut-WMass@helpourmarriage.org We are happy to answer questions and provide further details.

Retrouville is a marriage help program that gives couples the opportunity to get away and examine their lives together. It provides couples with tools to improve their communication skills and rekindle their love. It also provides monthly opportunities for couples enrichment. It's never too late to build a fulfilling marriage.

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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



91.17% as of 8/12/25
 \$9,117,486.38 pledges from
 27,425 generous donors

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

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Archdiocese of Hartford
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