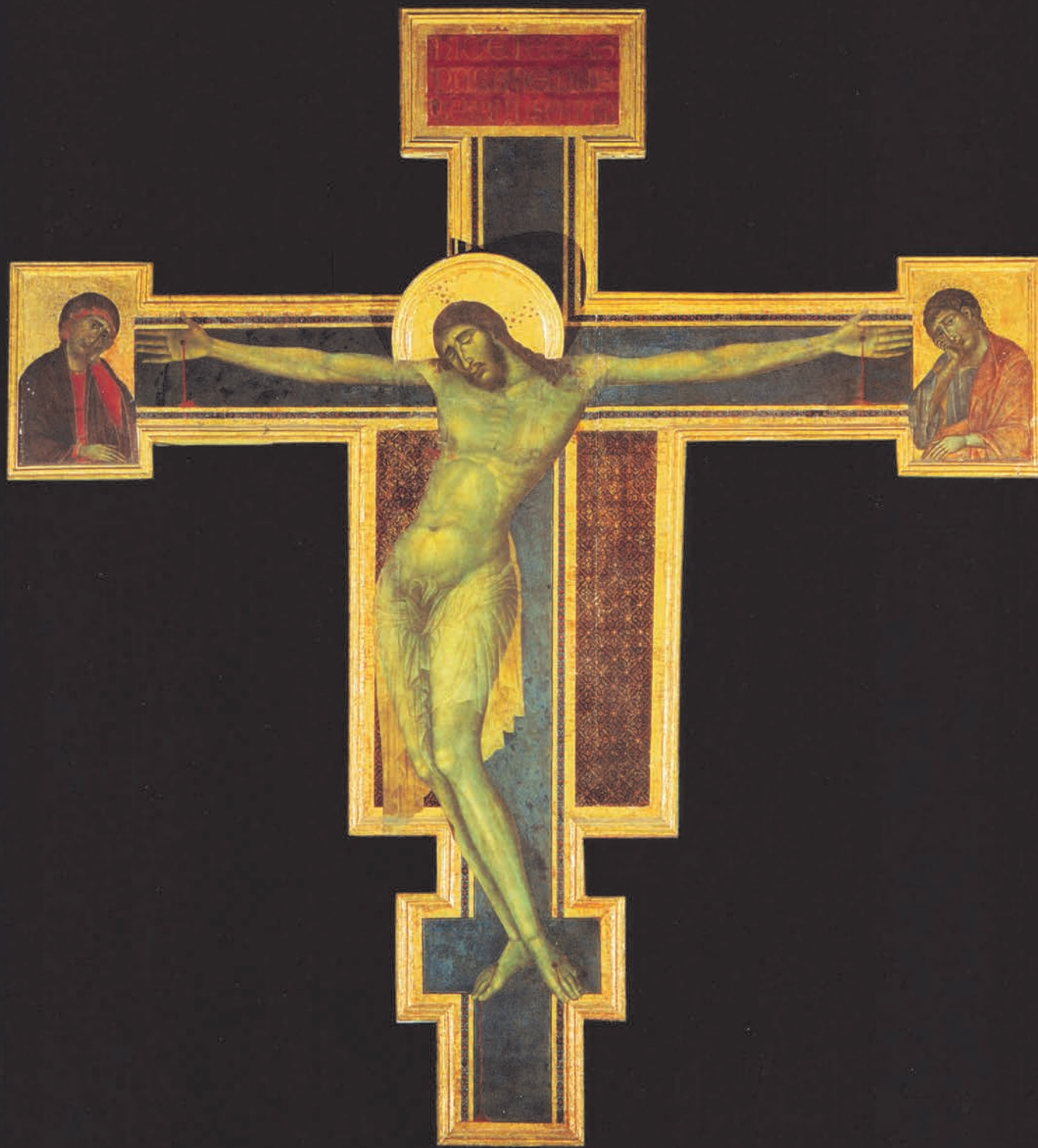


We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation,
life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

Entrance Antiphon



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
September 14, 2025 • Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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, Sept 15 1 Tm 2:1-8; Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday, Sept 16 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday, Sept 17 1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday, Sept 18 1 Tm 4:12-16; 10 Lk 7:36-50

Friday, Sept 19 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3

Sunday, Sept 21 Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 1;
Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13 or Lk 16:10-13

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

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.



THE LADIES GUILD

founded 1938

23rd Annual Reverend Dawson D. Trenchard Scholarship Application Now Available

The Ladies Guild has given \$87,325 of scholarships to children in the parish since 2003. Do you have a child in K-12 entering or attending a Catholic School this year?

Apply now for the 23rd Annual Rev. Dawson D. Trenchard Scholarship sponsored by the St. Patrick - St. Anthony Ladies Guild.

Application Deadline: September 19, 2025.

For more information and apply, please go to: <https://spsact.org/scholarship-for-k-12-2025/>

SEEKING MAGICIANS OR BALLOON ARTISTS

Would you be willing to share your gifts with our parish community on Sunday, October 5th?

Please contact Mary-Ann at birdmal@att.net to join our team of Parish Picnic volunteers.

The Pastor's Corner

September 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Although a forecast of heavy rain forced us indoors, this year's edition of "Music Under the Stars" last Saturday, September 6th, was a resounding success. Over eighty parishioners, including friars, gathered in the Franciscan Center for a delicious dinner provided by Casa Mia on the Green, while enjoying the music of the Leslie Alexandra Quartet. Many thanks to Jim Moriarty and his crew of volunteers, as well as Alan Duverger, our maintenance manager, for taking care of all the arrangements. We hope you will plan to join us next year near the end of August for "Music Under the Stars 3!"



Above from top: Patricia Curtis, Richard Kisiel, Paige Corral, Lucianne and Joe Patoka, Chris Kehoe, and Rod and Deb Pelletier.

Left: Members of the Leslie Alexander Quartet and two aging rockstars?

This weekend the church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The feast commemorates the dedication in the year 335 of churches in Jerusalem that were built on the sites of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

As Christians, the cross is the preeminent symbol of our faith. We make the sign of the cross often: when we eat our meals, or when we enter or leave a church. We begin and end every Mass with the

sign of the cross. You could say that we live our lives under the shadow of the cross of Jesus Christ.



The image of the cross on the cover of this bulletin is the so-called Cimabue crucifix. It is attributed to the Florentine painter Cimabue, who lived c. 1240 to 1302. The work was commissioned by the Franciscan friars of the church of Santa Croce in 1265. It is one of the first Italian artworks to break from the late medieval Byzantine style and is renowned for its technical innovations and humanistic iconography.

Standing over 14 feet tall, the crucifix features a painted image of Jesus after his death flanked by portraits of his mother Mary, the Sorrowful Mother, and John the beloved disciple.

In 1966, the crucifix was heavily damaged when the Arno River burst its banks and flooded the city of Florence. Thousands of art works were damaged or destroyed, and the crucifix lost 60% of its paint. The photo shows workmen carrying the damaged cross out of Santa Croce.



The cross of San Damiano which supposedly spoke to Francis and told him to rebuild the church (the cross which hangs above our altar) is often referred to as "the Franciscan cross" because of its connections with Francis and his vocation to serve the church in a unique manner as "the little poor one." However, I feel that the Cimabue crucifix, commissioned by Franciscans, is more aptly a Franciscan cross. The body of Jesus, slumped in death while blood trickles from his hands and feet, emphasizes the humanity of our Savior in a realistic manner, in contrast to the more rigid or static image of Christ found on the San Damiano cross. A 13th century Franciscan meditation on Christ, which emphasized pathos and human interest in the suffering of the Passion, said: "Turn your eyes away from His divinity for a little while and consider Him purely as a man."

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

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



Join Us This Week

Group Spiritual Reflection: Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday.
Next meeting: September 16, 2025 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. All are welcome! Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-GSP-2025> to register and receive the Zoom Link.

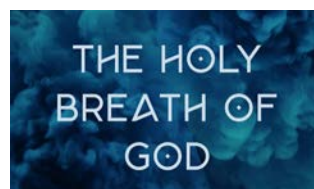
In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-IQP-2025>

People of Hope: Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 17 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Zoom. We will use author Amy Ekeh's latest book *Stretch Out Your Hand: Reflections on the Healing Ministry of Jesus*. To register go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-PPL-HP-2025>.

Divine Reading: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in-person, in the Franciscan Center. Please consider joining us for "lectio divina" (divine reading.) It is a prayerful reading of a bible passage in order to discern its message for each of us today. We have found that meeting in person gives the experience greater intimacy and impact. If you haven't tried it yet, please do! The process is simple and will be explained each time, and sharing is welcomed, but optional. Join us when you can!

Co-facilitators: Sheila Denion and John Lemega

Development of the Holy Spirit in the Bible Tuesdays, September 30 and October 7; 6:30-7:45 pm.



The Holy Spirit – the third person of the Trinity – is vital to Christian faith, but did you know that our understanding of the Holy Spirit is heavily rooted in the Hebrew

Scriptures? In this two-part Bible Study, we will read and discuss passages of the Old Testament that provide the foundation for our idea of the Holy Spirit. We will then turn our attention to key passages in the New Testament, to see how its authors fleshed out the portrait of the Holy Spirit and the ways in which it has acted, and continues to act, in our world.

Active participation by attendees is encouraged; no question is off-limits, and lively discussion is welcome. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-DHSB-2025> to let us know you are attending.

Free Will Offering

Facilitator: Dan Kueper

A Novel Idea Book Club

Our September book selection is *James* by Percival Everett. Maureen Corrigan from npr.org says, "Percival Everett's retelling of Mark Twain's 1885 classic focuses on Huck's enslaved companion. *James* is a tale so inspired, you won't be able to imagine reading the original without it."

Consider joining the discussion on **September 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Franciscan Center.** For more information and a list of upcoming books, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-NBC-Books>. Contact the office at 860-756-4034 or email info@spsact.org if you need more information.

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.

Upcoming Prayer Shawl Meetings:

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

October 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Come join our group. No experience necessary.

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

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>.



Bereavement Support Program



When you have experienced a loss and are dealing with your grief, you find yourself in a very personal and individual journey that has many challenges. A Bereavement Support Program can provide you with compassion, support,

and courage as you navigate your way through your journey with others. We would encourage you to be thoughtful and prayerful as you consider this possibility of participating in this Bereavement Support Program.

We will follow the New Day Program which is 10 consecutive weeks in length, beginning on Sunday October 12 and our final meeting will be on Sunday December 14. We plan to meet on Sundays from 1-2:30pm in the Franciscan Center, and there is no cost to participants. We would appreciate it if you would call the Parish Office (860 756-4034) to preregister since we do need to know the number of participants. We will need to have a minimum of 5 participants in order to hold this Bereavement Support Program. You will be asked to provide us with your phone number or email address should we need to reach out to you.

We look forward to walking with you on this journey.

Nancy Hoey, facilitator

Welcome David!!!



We are so happy to welcome our new **Director of Music Ministry, David (Dah-VEED) Garrido Cid.**

You will see David at some of our weekend Masses this month and regularly starting in October.

Our choirs will kick off the season on Sunday, September 28 at the 10:00 AM Mass.

Everyone is invited to get a "taste" of what it feels like to be in a choir. Anyone curious about joining any of our choral groups is welcome to attend rehearsal on Wednesday, September 24, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Franciscan Center, and/or Sunday, September 28 at 9:15 AM in the church, to prepare and sing at the 10:00 AM Mass. If you are unable to make it Wednesday evening, still feel free to join on Sunday at 9:15, for the "All Are Welcome" choir.

Rehearsals for Treble and Bass Clef Choirs will begin in October, more information to come.

The Emmaus Grieving Parent Ministry



We meet at the Franciscan Center at 3:30 on the third Sunday of the month. Next meeting is September 21, 2025. Please call the church office for more information at 860-756-4034.

Wisdom in the Psalms

Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6; 10:30-11:30 AM.

A subcategory in the Book of Psalms is often referred to as "wisdom psalms." These psalms represent influences of a certain way of conceptualizing life and faith. This way of theologizing is best represented in the biblical books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. This program will concentrate on some of these "wisdom psalms" and discuss what does "wisdom" mean as it appears in these psalms.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-PSW-2025> to receive the Zoom link.

Free Will Offering

Facilitator: Fr. A. Francis Soucy, OFM



September, 2025

Did You Know, that you can follow an eco-friendly diet and still eat meat? Just eat less of it!

We can consider “eating lower on the food chain” as part of answering Pope Francis’ call to care for creation. Are meatless Fridays a possibility in your home year round, instead of just during Lent? Go to <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/blogs/going-meatless-for-lent-is-good-for-the-body-soul-and-our-common-home/> for more info on Meatless Friday.



Come and See

Sunday, September 21, 11:00AM-12:00PM

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Have you been visiting our parish, perhaps asking yourself the following questions?



- How is the Catholic faith different from other Christian religions?
- Would becoming a member of the Catholic Church make a difference in my life?
- Would being a Catholic help me develop and strengthen my relationship with God?
- Will my participation in the Mass and the Sacraments enhance the fullness of my spiritual life?

The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) process will help you explore these and other questions. Life is a journey on which a person is constantly learning, growing, and changing. This process is a step in that journey and lays the groundwork, through information and experiences, in helping you decide if you want to become a member of the Catholic faith. The OCIA process will provide the opportunity for you to ask questions, pray, and experience what is meant by being a Catholic Christian, and deepening your relationship with God and the Catholic community. We enthusiastically welcome you to join us on the spiritual journey! If you have an interest, or know of someone who may be interested, please give us a call at (860) 756-4034.



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.

Transitus of St. Francis
OCTOBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM



On October 3, the Franciscan family throughout the world pauses to celebrate the solemnity of our Holy Father Francis's Transitus, passing over from this life to the next.

JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE FOR A RECEPTION IN THE FRANCISCAN CENTER.



Blessing of the Animals
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 9:00 AM



Meet us in the garden between the church and the Franciscan Center, or in the back garage for rain.



Celebrate St. Francis!

COME TO OUR PARISH BRUNCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Brunch fare

Bring a dessert of your choice

Kids' activities

Relax outside in the gardens with friends



RSVP at spsact.org/parish-brunch-2025

Men's Socks & Undergarment Drive

OCTOBER 4-5, 2025

Items needed:

Men's t-shirts: L&XL

Men's boxers: L&XL

Socks

Drop off donations in the Franciscan Center after all masses



Dear SPSA Community,

This October, in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis, we invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of those most in need in our community.

Our parish has a long tradition of serving with dignity and compassion, offering food and shelter through the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry and the House of Bread. While food is served daily, clothing is not collected year-round, which is why we've started this annual effort.

On October 4-5, 2025, we will hold a drive for men's items to benefit both ministries. Please consider donating:

- New men's t-shirts: Large and X-Large
- New men's boxers: Large and X-Large
- New socks: all sizes

Donations will be collected before and after all Masses at the Franciscan Center or curbside. If you prefer, cash or checks (payable to the Franciscan Center) are also welcome.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping bring hope and care to those who need it most.

Peace,
Mike O F M

For more information, please go to <https://spsact.org/mens-drive-october-2025/>.





Weekly Offering Update

08/31/2025: \$17,609.90

HOPES

Help Our Parish Elementary Schools Second Collection - September 20-21, 2022

Our most vital resource in every Catholic school is our dedicated teachers. Their profession is a vocation. This collection will provide new revenue sources to offer our teachers a just wage, ensuring quality education, enthusiasm and stability. We ask you to join us in supporting our children by supporting their teachers. It is a true search for our children's excellence. HOPES means brighter futures for all our children by enabling us to keep tuition affordable for families. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/AOHCT-Cath-Ed> for more information.

Volunteer Today:

Feeling the need to give back? Consider volunteering!

We are looking for **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.

Ministers of the Door help in the office early evenings and on Sundays by answering the door and doing 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!



Congratulations

Jonathan Soucy

&

Samantha Laferriere

married

Saturday, September 13, 2025

celebrated by

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.

Tuesday Pasta Dinners: Helping to Feed Those in Need!

We serve warm meals on Tuesdays, and lately we have been serving about 100 to 125 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.



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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 13, 2025

4:00 PM Deceased members of Cronin Family

Sunday, September 14, 2025

8:00 AM Marcia Halleran Reidy

10:00 AM Sebastiana Bazzano

11:45 AM Mary Driscoll

5:00 PM Prayer intentions for Maria & Anthony Rosal

Monday, September 15, 2025

7:30 AM Joe Hanlon

12:05 Doris Curtis

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer Intentions for the people of Palestine

12:05 PM Raymond Fusco

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

7:30 AM Jackie Lilly

12:05 PM Deceased members of the Giadone family

Thursday, September 18, 2025

7:30 AM Sharon Wray

12:05 PM Ronald Biederman

Friday, September 19, 2025

7:30 AM Maria Matilde Gutierrez & Emilio Antonio Gutierrez

12:05 PM John Zysk

Saturday, September 20, 2025

4:00 PM Melissa Corning

Sunday, September 21, 2025

8:00 AM Daniel Laffin, Sr.

10:00 AM Mary K. Lemega, 21st Anniversary

11:45 AM Deceased members of the Jordan family

5:00 PM Dan Moynihan

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 DiDominizio, Business Manager, kdidominizio@spsact.org

David Garrido Cid, Director of Music Ministry, dgarridocid@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



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>

Sanctuary Lamps

Weeks of September 7 & 14, 2025

In memory of

Pamela Johnson

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.



Branches on the Vine

SEPTEMBER 13 - 19, 2025



A case of canned food is carried in by volunteers of Mother Teresa Food Pantry which operates from St. Ann Church in Bristol.
PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

GUIDED BY ST. TERESA'S EXAMPLE, FOOD PANTRY NOURISHES BRISTOL COMMUNITY

For more than 25 years, parishioners of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Bristol have been honoring St. Teresa of Calcutta by helping to combat food insecurity in their town.

The parish has been running its own Mother Teresa Food Pantry for the saint who dedicated her life to providing food, shelter and medical care to people who needed it the most around the world.

Canonized in 2016 by Pope Francis, St. Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her perseverance to alleviating poverty and hardship. The anniversary of her death, on Sept. 5, is observed as her feast day.

Food pantry volunteers from St. Francis de Sales parish churches of St. Ann and St. Anthony of Padua organize collections of non-perishable food items and then fill grocery bags with them.

Spearheaded by Jacqueline Taber, Mother Teresa Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings at St. Ann Church for collection pickups.

"I enjoy helping people," says Taber, who has been involved with the food pantry for close to 20 years with her husband, Philip. "You see the smiles on people's faces when you give them the food."



Volunteers of Mother Teresa Food Pantry look for the dates of canned food donations.
PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

Once a month, Bristol residents who need assistance are able to pick up a grocery bag – or two bags for a family – at St. Ann Church. No questions are asked. Clients range from young individuals to older adults, along with numerous families. During the holiday seasons, the food pantry volunteers see an increase in need; so, they also collect and distribute turkeys and hams donated by the parish.

Canned food items can be dropped off at the entrances of St. Ann and St. Anthony of Padua churches before weekend Masses. During bingo fundraisers on Thursday evenings in St. Ann Church Hall, donations are also accepted.

Parishioners of nearby St. Matthew & St. Gregory the Great Parish, with churches in Bristol and Forestville, also collect canned goods in their churches and drop them off at St. Ann Church.

"I feel this is beneficial for those people who need a little support," says Jackie Samele, a food pantry volunteer for 10 years. "Back then, the food pantry needed volunteers and I stepped up."

The Mother Terese Food Pantry team is made up of about a dozen volunteers. Like Taber, who retired and was looking for something extra to keep her busy, most of the volunteers are retirees who want to remain active, stay socially connected and make a difference in their own community. They say working with the clients enhances their own lives.

"It brings me happiness to see their joy," says five-year volunteer Marthe Trudel. "I try to make someone else happy."

For Sylvia Caron, giving to others has made her more thankful. "It gives you such a warm feeling to see their eyes light up and listen to them," she says. "It's a great feeling to do something for them. I love it."

Long-time volunteer Claudine Tanguay describes her volunteer work as "helping others while having fun at the same time."

- Story by Karen A. Avitabile



Upcoming Events



Seen
A Mass of Remembrance and Healing
Friday, October 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Saint Francis Church
1755 Stanley Street, New Britain

All are welcome to attend this Mass of Remembrance and experience the profound peace, love and mercy of Jesus Christ. A special invitation is extended to parents, grandparents and siblings who grieve the death of a child as a result of a miscarriage, still birth or infant loss. These losses may be recent or extend over many years.

A reception to follow the Mass. [Please use this link to register.](#)




If you have any questions, contact:
 Valerie St. Jean, Associate Director of Adult Faith Formation & Parish Life
Valerie.StJean@aohct.org - 860-541-6491 ext. 2678

Please Join Us at the
Catholic Academy
 of
Waterbury
4th Annual Awards Dinner & Fundraiser
Thursday, October 9, 2025
6:00 p.m.

All dinner tickets must be purchased no later than October 7. There are no tickets at the door.

To inquire about tickets, please call
 La Bella Vista 380 Farmwood Road Waterbury
 Waleska in the school office at 203.756.5313



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09/28 SUNDAY 3PM

A CLASSICAL CONCERT WITH CORBIN BEISNER

Our Lady of Knock Parish -
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 145 Main St, Unionville

Come enjoy classical music performed by award-winning, renowned concert pianist Corbin Beisner! For over two decades, Corbin has performed in numerous venues throughout the United States and Europe, and has received several accolades and awards. He holds degrees in piano performance from the Hartt School of Music and the prestigious Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary.

There is no charge for this concert and all are invited. Attendees will have the opportunity to make a free-will offering with proceeds benefiting the Our Lady of Knock Parish & St. Patrick Church Collinsville Haiti Ministry's programs at St. Thérèse School in Lilavois, Haiti.

Refreshments will be served after the concert! For more information about the Haiti Ministry and this event, visit ourladyofknock.org/haiti.

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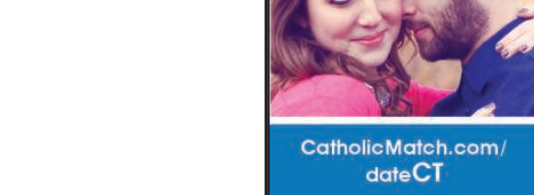
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