



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut  
September 28, 2025 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The Rich Man in Hell and the Poor Lazarus in Abraham's Lap, from Das Plenarium, Hans Leonhard Schäufler (1480-1540) Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*

**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

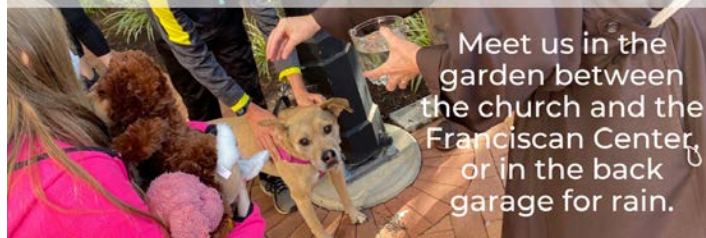
*Transitus of St. Francis*  
**OCTOBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**



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.

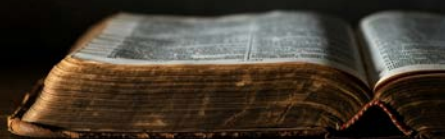
**JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE FOR A RECEPTION IN THE FRANCISCAN CENTER.**

*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.

**Daily Mass Readings**



Monday, Sept 29	Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday, Sept 30	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday, Oct 1	Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday, Oct 2	Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
Friday, Oct 3	Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22
Sunday, Oct 4	Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 1; Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

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

*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](http://spsact.org/parish-brunch-2025)**

# The Pastor's Corner

September 28, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Our "May Peace Prevail" yard signs have proven to be very popular among our parishioners and others within the Archdiocese.

When I attended a meeting of the Presbyteral Council with Archbishop Coyne a few weeks ago, I brought a sign with me and invited him to use it at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield. Here is the photo he sent me, with the sign outside Nilan Hall, his residence at St. Thomas Seminary.



With so many conflicts happening throughout the world, as well as political and ideological clashes tearing our nation apart, these signs are simple reminders to us that we must strive to be peacemakers in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

## The Dignity Index 101

Thursdays, October 23, 30 & November 6, attend either 12:45 - 2:15 PM OR 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Dignity Index 101 is a 3-session program which will provide a forum where participants take an in-depth look at how to be part of building a culture of dignity in our lives, our community, and the political arena.

Over the summer, we offered an introductory program on the Dignity Index. Parishioners who attended were very enthusiastic not only to put the concept into practice but also to learn even more ways to move from contempt to dignity in all of our communications. Have YOU experienced first-hand or witnessed within our culture, the use of language which divides us one from another? Perhaps within your school, workplace, community, or even our own country, you've seen up close the divisions created when people are treated harshly, sometimes with contempt.

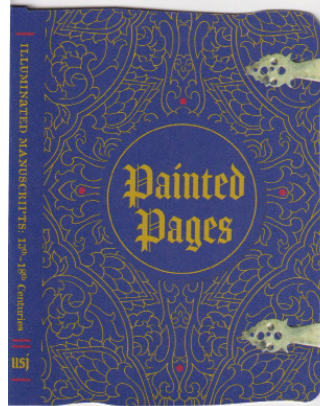
One attempt to reverse this negative impact upon our lives involves adopting "The Dignity Index." Placing DIGNITY at the heart of our conversations, in-person or on social media, can be a choice to build back our humanity. Together let's make this CHOICE away from judgment and dehumanizing language. Let us respond to the CALL to a different way... one which affirms the humanity of all.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Dignity-Fall-2025> to let us know you plan to attend. **Facilitator: Elaine Wiatr**

Offering for this series is \$30.00 which includes three in-person sessions as well as a professionally produced hard copy booklet of course materials.



I had the opportunity recently to attend the opening reception of a new exhibition at the Art Museum of the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford.



The exhibition is titled "Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts, 13th-18th Centuries." It is a marvelous collection of manuscripts, including psalters, books of hours, choir books, and other Christian, Islamic and Jewish texts. I had the opportunity to share my interest in illuminated manuscripts with the director of the museum, Ann

Sievers, and the president of the University, Dr. Rhona Free, and to thank them for presenting these wonderful pieces to the public. If you have the opportunity, treat yourself to this fascinating glimpse into a world of art on a miniature scale. The exhibition runs until December 13.

Fr. Francis Soucy has asked me to let you know that he is currently receiving inpatient physical therapy to address some mobility issues he's been experiencing, so please keep him in your prayers.

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

Pastor

**THE DIGNITY INDEX**

## Come Help with the Parish Picnic

We are still looking for a few good volunteers to help with the Parish Picnic. Would you be willing to share your gifts with our parish community on Sunday, October 5th?



Opportunities are available for those who excel in the art of Face Painting and/or Balloon Art.

We also need help with set up and/or cleanup.

Please contact our team leader, Mary-Ann at [birdmal@att.net](mailto:birdmal@att.net) to join our team of Parish Picnic volunteers.

## Volunteer Today:

Feeling the need to give back? Consider volunteering!



**Our Care Ministry Team helps to guide those families through the planning process of their loved one's funeral. Our team is looking for a few new members to help round out our team. Please consider joining the vital ministry.**

We are also looking for new members to join 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.

**AND, consider becoming a Minister of the Door** and 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](mailto:aholstgrubbe@spsact.org) for more info!

## A Message from our Parish Nurses



Your Parish Nurses are highly recommend that those who are able, receive Influenza vaccines. Influenza or flu for short, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus.

You can not get the flu from the vaccine. They do not use a live virus to make the vaccine. If you had an exposure to the flu several days before the shot and become sick after the shot, you may equate the shot with "giving you" the flu, which is not possible.

The flu is mainly spread via tiny droplets through coughing, sneezing, or talking. These droplets can travel approximately 6 feet, infecting others.

Everyone is at risk of catching the flu, but those with a higher risk of developing severe flu-related complications are infants, young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system.

Flu can cause mild to severe illness, sometimes leading to pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infections, and even death. It takes approximately two weeks for the vaccine to give you the best protection and wanes over 3 months. November begins the highest transmission with travel far & wide for the Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays and continues through February at its highest levels. Please be your self advocate in remaining healthy. We are here for you, The Parish Nurses

## Interested in the Catholic Faith?

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.

## Join Us

### *Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:*

#### **Group Spiritual Reflection:**

**Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: September 30, 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-person: Every Wednesday. Next meeting: October 1, 2025 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM** in the Franciscan Center. All are welcome!

**In Quiet Prayer: Wednesday, October 1, 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 24 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, October 1, 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**

### *The Clare Gallery*

**Monday, September 29, 7–8:30 PM, Virtual Panel Discussion.** 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.

#### **Current Exhibit: Inner Visions**

**Now through November 9, 2025** 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.

## *Starting this week:*

### **Development of the Holy Spirit in the Bible**

**Tuesdays, September 30 & October 7; 6:30-7:45 PM.**

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**



Adult Faith  
Formation Offerings

FALL THROUGH ADVENT 2025

[spsact.org/aff-programs-fall-2025](https://spsact.org/aff-programs-fall-2025)



**Congratulations**  
**Trung Nguyen**  
**&**  
**Van Nguyen**  
**married**  
**Friday, September 26, 2025**  
**celebrated by**  
**Fr. Bill Beaudin, O.F.M.**

## Upcomming Events and Programs

### The Drumming Circle Is Back

Join us Monday, October 6, 2025 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM Did you know that drumming is good for the spirit as well as the heart and mind! Anyone can learn to drum - no musical experience is needed. If you have a drum, please bring it with you. Let us know if you need a drum by calling the parish office, 860-756-4034. First-time participants, please arrive by 6:15 PM.



**Facilitator: Elaine Wiatr, Sponsored by the Women of Hope Ministry**

### Bereavement Support Program: First session is Sunday, October 12 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.

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**

**Open Hearts Ministry: Monthly Meeting: October 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM.** After the 5:00 PM Mass. Please join us.

### Friends and Family Ministry:

**Monthly Meeting: Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.**



Please go to <https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-open-hearts-ministry/> for more information on both ministries and a ministry member will connect with you.



### 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>.

### 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:**

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

**October 30, 2025 at 10:30 AM in-person.**

Come join our group. No experience necessary. For more information, contact Janet Bristow at [janetbristow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janetbristow@sbcglobal.net)

### A Novel Idea Book Club

Our next meeting is **October 16, 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](mailto:info@spsact.org) if you need more information.

## Dialogue with Women Religious: Witnesses to HOPE Sunday, October 19, 1:00-2:30 PM

In January of this year, a statement was published by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in response 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. Their words are filled with courage, determination, and wisdom.

We are delighted to host an engaging gathering where Women Religious from four local congregations will witness to how they embrace and embody the priorities of the Gospel in troubled times. These women who have dedicated their lives to service of the Church in the world remain steadfast. They will share how collaboration is essential to their mission. And, we are invited to recall and reflect upon our own Baptismal promises while the Sisters invite us into participation and commitment.

Won't you join us for this afternoon of celebration and dialogue?

Presenters: Members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and Daughters of the Holy Spirit Please Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Dialogue-2025> to let us know you plan to attend. Bring along a family member or friend.

*Sponsored by Women of Hope Ministry*



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](mailto:sodonnell38@gmail.com).



## September, 2025

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

The Sisters of Mercy have provided a tasty list of recipes that might give us an easy way to start rethinking our meat dependency. Give them a try! Meatless recipes can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Recipes>.

## Tuesday Pasta Dinners: We Have an Increased Need!

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



Our need has grown but our supply has fallen. Please, 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-meals> to sign up.

## 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

<https://spsact.org/mens-drive-october-2025/>

## *Snack Drive*

**Help us replenish our snack pantry**



**Drop off individually wrapped snacks to be handed out daily with sandwiches.**

Monthly Drop off Date: October 5, after Morning Masses



**Weekly Offering Update**

09/14/2025:	\$15,349.92
09/21/2025:	\$18,022.11

### Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, September 27, 2025**  
 4:00 PM Steve Rzewnicki

**Sunday, September 28, 2025**  
 8:00 AM Fred D'Amico  
 10:00 AM John N. Ramos, 19th Anniversary  
 11:45 AM In Thanksgiving to our Lady of Fatima  
 5:00 PM Don Marzano

**Monday, September 29, 2025**  
 7:30 AM Kathy Capolbo  
 12:05 Michael O'Donnell

**Tuesday, September 30, 2025**  
 7:30 AM Giancarlo Mei  
 12:05 PM Pamela Johnson

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**  
 7:30 AM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners  
 12:05 PM Tom Picone

**Thursday, October 2, 2025**  
 7:30 AM For the People of St. Genevieve Parish  
 12:05 PM Scott Brady

**Friday, October 3, 2025**  
 7:30 AM Florence Mulcahy  
 12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

**Saturday, October 4, 2025**  
 4:00 PM Eleanor Laffin

**Sunday, October 5, 2025**  
 8:00 AM Mark Remillard  
 10:00 AM Timothy McCabe  
 11:45 AM Robert & Nancy Lord  
 5:00 PM Chelsea Clyburn-Morehouse



Please join Levo for

# DINNER

# AT THE FARM





- Menu by local chef Tony Camilleri
- Live music by Jay Bernard
- Pre-registration only
- Dress farm appropriate
- Alternate location in case of inclement weather

Buy Tickets



See Menu





**October 4th** • 4 pm – sundown



441 Homestead Ave, Hartford CT • Parking on and off site

<http://bit.ly/3K7iHBs>



## Sanctuary Lamps

Week of September 28, 2025

In memory of

### Teresa Massaro & Ted and Camille Tyskiewicz

### 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, Susan Degennaro, and Deborah Godin.

## 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](http://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 seasons of Lent and Advent.

*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](mailto:aholstgrubbe@spsact.org); 860-756-4034, EXT. 110.*

## PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Timothy J. Shreenan, O.F.M., Pastor, [tshreenan@gmail.com](mailto:tshreenan@gmail.com)

Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Guardian, [wbeaudin@gmail.com](mailto:wbeaudin@gmail.com)

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, [pcurtis@spsact.org](mailto:pcurtis@spsact.org)

Kristina DiDominizio, Business Manager, [kdidominzio@spsact.org](mailto:kdidominzio@spsact.org)

David Garrido Cid, Director of Music Ministry, [dgarridocid@spsact.org](mailto:dgarridocid@spsact.org)

Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement, [aholstgrubbe@spsact.org](mailto:aholstgrubbe@spsact.org)

Fr. Michael Johnson, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, [mikeinbolivia@gmail.com](mailto:mikeinbolivia@gmail.com)

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, [jleonard@spsact.org](mailto:jleonard@spsact.org)

Fr. A. Francis Soucy, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Senior Associate Friar, [afsofm@gmail.com](mailto:afsofm@gmail.com)

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Abramo, Parish & Center Administrative Assistant [cabramo@spsact.org](mailto:cabramo@spsact.org)

Sarah Christopher, Parish Communications Director, [schristopher@spsact.org](mailto:schristopher@spsact.org)

Stacie Mawson, Saturday Receptionist

Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Deborah Pelletier, Religious Ed Team Coordinator, [dpelletier@spsact.org](mailto: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  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Join">https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Join</a>	Volunteer  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Volunteer">https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Volunteer</a>	Donate  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Giving">https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Giving</a>
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### Watch 10:00 AM Mass Online:

	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-St-Anthony-Church-109359789104825/">https://www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-St-Anthony-Church-109359789104825/</a>
	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Vhk8-hhlyAJenBxueHySQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Vhk8-hhlyAJenBxueHySQ</a>
	<a href="https://venue.streamspot.com/cdc76f52">https://venue.streamspot.com/cdc76f52</a>



# Branches on the Vine

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3, 2025



Father Edward Ziemnicki serves golabki at the annual Polish Day celebrated at St. Faustina Parish. This year's event will be held on Sept. 28. Credit: SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ada Mierzejewski went to her first Polish Day as a teenager back in the 1970s at St. Stanislaus Church in Meriden, and years later, she still enjoys the celebration of fine food, music and culture.

That food, which an expected 300 people will be enjoying on Sept. 28, is homemade by Mierzejewski, Amanda Edwards and Father Edward Ziemnicki, pastor of St. Faustina Parish, made up of St. Stanislaus Church and SS. Peter & Paul Church in Wallingford.

For weeks, the trio have been preparing, shopping and cooking everything from pierogi (stuffed dumplings)

## A TASTE OF POLAND

*A parish is preparing to dish out pierogi, golabki and more favorites.*

to golabki (stuffed cabbage), using the treasured old world recipes of Father Ziemnicki's mother Genowefa.

Pastor for 20 years, Father Ziemnicki says St. Stanislaus is the oldest Polish parish in Connecticut, and this year marks its 134th anniversary.

The original Polish celebration, known as June Fest, was three days long. But since the formation of St. Faustina Parish, it evolved into Polish Day.

"Polish Day is about bringing the parish together as a community," Father Ziemnicki says. "We start with noon Mass in Polish, then we have music and delicious food that is all homemade from the recipes of my mom. You cannot buy this kind of food in the store."

A proud native of Poland, he says the country's culture has historically been inextricably linked to the Catholic faith.

"We were always successful because we built our society on Catholic values, so you cannot talk about Poland without talking about the Catholic faith," Father Ziemnicki adds. "The motto of Poland is God, Honor, Country."

This year's Polish Day will also observe the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Solidarity movement

in Poland, a non-violent social movement aligned with the Church, which led to the collapse of Communism.

Amanda Edwards, who has worked at the parish for eight years, is also proud of her Polish heritage. She attended St. Stanislaus School, as did her children before it closed.

"I enjoy the festival because it brings me a lot of joy, and I'm so excited to see people enjoying the food we prepared for them. We put a lot of love into making the food, and it's a real homemade Polish meal," she says. "Everybody loves Polish Day, because it lets the whole parish get together to celebrate with music, dancing and good food."

For Mierzejewski, whose daughters, sons-in-law and even grandchildren volunteer at the event, Polish Day is a family affair. A lifelong parishioner, she was brought up immersed in Polish culture and observing its traditions.

"I went to St. Stanislaus School and the church, and I married a Polish man, who worked at the church cemetery for 41 years," she adds. "Our parish family of St. Stanislaus and SS. Peter & Paul is everything to us, so I'm here celebrating my Polish heritage — even though I'm 100 percent Italian."

- Story by Joe Pisani



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