

Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.
Matthew 24:42



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
November 30, 2025 • First Sunday of Advent

**St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and
The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry**

285 Church Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103
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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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 29, 2025

4:00 PM Jim Howard

Sunday, November 30, 2025

8:00 AM Philomena & Valentino Raimondi

10:00 AM Josephine Tanasi

11:45 AM Luis Gutierrez

5:00 PM Peter Mittica

Monday, December 1, 2025

7:30 AM Charlie Kirk

12:05 PM Deceased members of the McCarthy Family

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

7:30 AM Charlie Kirk

12:05 PM Donald Maynard

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

7:30 AM Communion Service

12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

Thursday, December 4, 2025

7:30 AM Charlie Kirk

12:05 PM Rosemary Marquis, 1st Anniversary

Friday, December 5, 2025

7:30 AM Frank & Maria Pizzonia

12:05 PM Michael Driscoll

Saturday, December 6, 2025

4:00 PM Antonio & Stella Pizzoferrato

Sunday, December 7, 2025

8:00 AM Querino Genca

10:00 AM Rose & Angelo Perrone

11:45 AM Elaine LePage

5:00 PM Carl Tinti

REMINDER: If you have scheduled Mass and you would like to bring up the gifts, please make yourself known to one of the sacristans prior to the start of the Mass.

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Dec 1 Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday, Dec 2 Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday, Dec 3 Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday, Dec 4 Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday, Dec 5 Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
 Sunday, Dec 7 Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 18;
 Rom 15:4-10 Mt 3:1-13

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

The Pastor's Corner

November 30, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy Advent one and all! I look forward to this blessed season every year, but it seems to come around faster and faster! I think my favorite aspect of Advent are the Scripture readings the liturgy offers us, along with the invitation to enter into them more deeply.

This week we are asked to reflect on the Lord's second coming at the end of time, or as we pray at Mass: "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of you mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, *as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*"

You might be wondering about the cover of today's bulletin. I realize that it doesn't look very "Adventy" but there is a story behind it. The photo is of the interior of the Moritzkirche in Augsburg, Germany, which I visited back in December 2013. From the outside it looks like any other Bavarian church. But the interior will stop you dead in your tracks. As you can see in the photo, the walls are completely white and the windows are translucent white as well. The only color comes from the dark wood of the pews.

It is an arresting experience to walk around the church, or to sit quietly in the pews.



The origins of the Moritzkirche can be traced back to the 11th century. By the 1700's it was a typical Baroque-style Bavarian church, but all that changed on the night of February 25, 1944 when bombing raids left only the walls standing. It was eventually rebuilt after the war, and underwent several more renovations until the most recent one in 2013.

In a book about the designer of the renovation, John Pawson, we are told that "Pawson first became aware of the church via a letter sent to him by St Moritz parishioners in 2007. The letter described how the congregation had been exploring the possibilities of worshiping in a simpler, sparer space and had reached the point where they were ready to pursue a more radical and permanent architectural solution." Pawson, a British architectural designer, is known for his minimalist aesthetic.

I felt myself being drawn by the lightness of the space, in a way that left feeling almost weightless. It seemed to me that there was nothing standing between me and presence of Jesus, exemplified by the distant wood carved statue of him beckoning me forward. The figure of Christ, dating from the 17th century by the German sculptor Georg Petel, had been lying neglected, in a room in the church's tower.



Although today's Gospel speaks about the suddenness of Jesus' return, my spirituality tends to focus more on his gentle accompaniment in my daily life, offering encouragement and a friendly poke now and then to keep me moving and on the right track. In other words, Advent for me isn't just a season; it's a daily reality.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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

A Great Christmas Gift Idea from The Clare Gallery:

There are only a few copies left of Clare Gallery's *Graceful Partners, Art and Spirituality* book. It documents the twenty-year history of the Clare Gallery ministry at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry by sharing essays, exhibition content, and community impact statements. The exhibitions are within the categories of spirituality, world religions and interfaith themes, and social justice themes.

Parishioner author Nancy Wynn is an award-winning designer, artist, writer, and educator with over 30 years of experience as a professional creative practitioner. She is an Associate Professor of Graphic Design and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Merrimack College in Massachusetts.

To secure your copy, email Catherine Wynn at chatcat141@gmail.com.



Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: December 2, 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, December 3, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. 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. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-IQP-2025>.

People of Hope: Next Meeting, Wednesday, December 3, 2025 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: Wednesdays, December 3, 2025, 7:00 to 8:00 PM at 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. The process is simple and will be explained each time, and sharing is welcomed, but optional. Join us when you can!

Adult Faith Formation Offerings
FALL THROUGH ADVENT 2025
spsact.org/aff-programs-fall-2025

Advent Evenings of Reflections on Zoom

Tuesdays, December 9, 16 ; 7:00 - 8:00 PM.



Engaging with the scripture scholarship of Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, we will explore and contemplate the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth,

Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-Advent-Even-Zoom> to receive the Zoom link.

Presenter: Pat Curtis
Free Will Offering



Send us your photo!

Once again we will decorate our parish Christmas tree with photos of you and your family. If you've participated in previous years but would like to send a new photo, you can. Just make sure the resolution is high enough to print clearly. Email the photo to tshreenan@gmail.com.

The Drumming Circle Is Back

Join us Monday, December 1, 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

Sister Parish Committee:

School Opens

The 20th anniversary of our covenant this year continues to bring blessings. St. Genevieve School opened for the new year on Oct. 6th! This is wonderful news since the Zorange area is still under the control of gangs. Fr. Gaby reports there are approx. 325 students now enrolled, with more expected as October progresses. Hot lunches are being served each school day.

And a new grade level has been added, which is equivalent to our 10th grade. Parents welcome this since high school students can remain local and supported, and not have to travel further distances or move away from home.



Kindergarten is very popular with over 100 students in 3 classes! Thank you to everyone who supports our Sister Parish relationship with prayers and donations. We continue to bring HOPE to the families of St. Genevieve.

Would you like more information? Please join us at the next Sister Parish Committee Meeting, **December 9, 2025** from 12:50 to 2:00 PM. Consider joining the dynamic group working to support the teachers and students at the St. Genevieve Parish school in Zorange, Haiti. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-St-Genevieve>.



Our Virtual Local Giving Tree is now open!!

Gift Deadline is December 14, 2025

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A45AFAB28ABFCE9-60123601-giving#/>



Help our neighbors in need this season by fulfilling a Christmas wish. Visit our virtual Christmas tree by using the QR code or by visiting the website above

Please Beware!



Word on the interweb is that the scammers are impersonating St. Patrick-St. Anthony staff yet again. As a reminder, neither the parish staff nor your fellow parishioners would ever ask for you to purchase anything via email or text. These emails and text messages are phishing attempts and not a valid request from any parishioner or staff member.

Please delete these emails or texts. Do not respond to the texts. You can report these as SPAM and delete them through your email provider, or block the number that sent it to you.

Volunteer Today:

Feeling the need to give back? Consider volunteering!

Become A Volunteer

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.

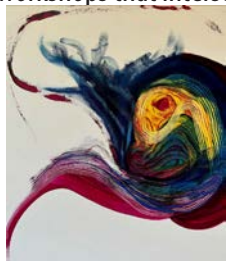
Have questions? Please contact our Director of Community Engagement, Allison Holst-Grubbe at aholstgrubbe@spsact.org for more info!

Clare Gallery New Exhibit

Our season of exhibits at the Clare Gallery focused on mystery, mysticism and meaning concludes with **Portals and Paintings** by Connecticut artist, Catherine Nogas-Steinberg.



Portals and Paintings is a series of acrylic and oil works in which the color and light reflected is believed to be transformative and healing. When creating, Steinberg starts with color, or shapes, from her dreams and visions. She then engages the creative process by working intuitively. The result is an image manifested with the energy gathered and layered with the formal elements and principles of design. Works are nonobjective, abstract paintings full of dynamic motion and feeling. Steinberg leads retreats and expressive arts workshops that intersect with her shamanic practice.



There will be a Virtual Artist Talk on **Monday, December 1st from 7-8:00PM**. Registration is required for the Mandala Workshop and The Virtual Artist Talk. See the Gallery website for registration – <https://spsact.org/clare2/>.



Advent Nourishment

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16; 12:30 - 12:55 PM.

immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Franciscan Center

Join us this Advent at noon-time for spiritual and physical nourishment. Gather for the Celebration of the Eucharist at 12:05 PM. Immediately following Mass, a light lunch is provided while we listen to spiritual talks reflecting upon the faith-filled people we hear about in our sacred Advent texts and from our Franciscan tradition. Join us!

Please let us know if you plan to attending at the following link; <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-advn-2025>

Presenters: Sarah Christopher, Allison Holst-Grubbe, Deb Pelletier
Offering: \$5.00 per each luncheon.



Weekly Offering Update

11/16/2025: \$23,256.75

Looking for a Few Good Nurses!



The Parish Nurse Ministry is inviting nurses to join our team! Our ministry includes both active and retired nurses from a variety of professional backgrounds. Together, we serve our parish community by offering monthly blood pressure screenings and health consultations, as well as sharing in-

formation and resources to support wellness throughout the parish.

We're a friendly, supportive group, and we'd love to welcome new members! Our next screening will be held on December 14 following the 8:00 AM and 10:00 am Masses in the Conference Room at the Franciscan Center—a great opportunity to stop by, meet the team, and see what we do.

If you have questions or ideas, feel free to reach out to co-coordinators, Maureen at Maureen.pepin@gmail.com or Donna, at dmd27@sbcglobal.net

Healthfully yours,
The Parish Nurse Ministry Team



ADVENT
SEASON OF HOPE

Advent Twilight Retreat

Thursday, December 11; 5:30 - 8:00 PM.

Join us for a community evening of presentation, inspiration, and reflection in this Advent season.

Presenter: Fr. Bill Beaudin, OFM



Suggested Offering: \$15.00; includes dinner; Scan qr code to left to register for dinner and presentation.

Presentation only at 6:30 p.m.: \$10.00; scan qr code to right to register for just the presentation.



Registration Deadline: December 8

We are here to serve you...

We are here to serve you. The programs and ministries listed below are just a sampling of our many offerings. Please go to www.spsact.org or call the Parish Office at 860-756-4034 for more information.

Baptism: Baptism of infants and young children may be celebrated during Sunday Mass and Group Baptisms on the 1st Saturday of each month outside of the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate; 860-756-4034, EXT. 113.

Matrimony: The Sacrament of Marriage at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church are celebrated Friday and Saturdays. The Bride or Groom should contact *Carolyn Abramo, Wedding Manager; 860-756-4034, EXT. 111* or <https://spsact.org/wedding-request-form/> to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance and before any other arrangements are made for a reception.

Pastoral Care Outreach Ministry: We offer holistic care in collaboration with the parish staff (friars, ministry coordinators, and parish nurses). Members of this team are responsible for visiting parishioners at home or in long term and short term care facilities. *Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.; 860-756-4034, EXT. 129.*

Prayer Network: The St. Patrick–St. Anthony Prayer Network consists of approximately fifty parishioners who commit themselves to praying daily for those in need. <https://spsact.org/prayer-network-prayer-request/> or Parish Office; 860-756-4034.

Open Hearts LGBTQ+ Ministry: This ministry consists of two Groups: **Open Hearts** holds monthly fellowship meetings, and **Friends and Family (LGBTQ+) Support Ministry**, which supports members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

For information on Open Hearts:

<https://spsact.org/contact-open-hearts-ministry/>

For information on Friends and Family contact:

<https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-friends-family-ministry/>

Volunteering and Outreach Ministry Information:

St. Patrick-St. Anthony invites individuals to give freely of their time and expertise in order to make a difference. Our volunteers participate in liturgical ministries as well as other forms of service to the church, the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry and the community at large. *Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement; aholstgrubbe@spsact.org; 860-756-4034, EXT. 110.*

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Timothy J. Shreenan, O.F.M., Pastor, tshreenan@gmail.com

Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Guardian, wbeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDominio, Business Manager, kdidominio@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

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, Carolyn Abramo, Albert Tornatore, and Deborah Godin.



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