

**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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24
4:00 pm Mass
with cantor and Liturgical Dancers
5:45 pm Mass
with Church Street Singers and Treble Clef Choir
10:00 pm Prelude Music
with our Combined Choirs
10:30 pm Mass

Thursday, December 25
all Masses with vocal ensemble, organ, and instrumentalists
8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass
11:45 am Mass

All are welcome!



Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Dec 15	Nm 24: 2-7; Mt 21: 23-27
Tuesday, Dec 16	Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Mt 21: 28-32
Wednesday, Dec 17	Gen 49: 2, 8-10, Mt 1: 1-7
Thursday, Dec 18	Jer 23: 5-8; Mt 1: 18-25
Friday, Dec 19	Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1: 5-25
Sunday, Dec 21	Is 7: 10-14; Ps 24: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1: 1-7; Mt 1: 18-24

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

A Service of
Lessons and Carols

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21
7:00 PM**

The Pastor's Corner

December 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I can't remember if I've ever mentioned this before, but the older I get the faster times and seasons fly by, especially the season of Advent when so much happens in just a few weeks' time. As a child, Advent seemed to drag on endlessly as I dutifully counted down the days until Christmas on my felt letter board.

Although it didn't seem like the best time to be away, the Archdiocese of Hartford held its annual Priests' Convocation the first week of December in Newport, RI. Fathers Bill, John and I attended the Convocation, and it was a very good experience for us, as we had the opportunity to get together with Archbishop Coyne and the priests of the Archdiocese. I want to say again how well regarded our parish is in the view of the local clergy, and how grateful the archbishop is for the presence of the Franciscans at St. Patrick-St. Anthony. He has thanked me numerous times for the outreach that our parish provides to the people of Hartford.

On a related note, I am pleased to announce that our parish has pledged \$101,412.97 to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, the highest amount we have reached since I have been pastor. It is gratifying to see your commitment to the local church and its outreach to those in need. As I mentioned recently, the archbishop sent us an additional \$10,000 to assist our sandwich ministry in light of the elimination of SNAP benefits.



Christmas Flower Memorials

Please remember:



at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season

Requested by: _____

Offering \$ _____ Enclosed



We receive many inquiries about Fr. Francis Soucy, and I'd like to say that he is making progress with physical rehab to get himself back on his feet – literally! I know that he is grateful for your concern, but it's still too early to determine if and when he might return. If you'd like to send him a note or Christmas card, his address is: Fr. A. Francis Soucy, O.F.M., St. Anthony Friary, 180 Sargent Ave., Beacon, NY 12508-3923.

May these fleeting days of Advent bring you closer to the loving presence of God made manifest in the birth of Jesus. Blessings on your week ahead!

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



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.



Advent Nourishment

Tuesday, December 16; 12:30-12:55 PM

immediately following the 12:05 PM Mass in the church and on live-stream.

Join us this Advent at noontime for spiritual nourishment. Gather for the Celebration of the Eucharist at 12:05 PM. Immediately following Mass, we listen to spiritual talks reflecting upon the faith-filled people we hear about in our sacred Advent texts and from our Franciscan tradition.

Presenters: Allison Holst-Grubbe, Deb Pelletier, Sarah Christopher



Advent Evenings of Reflections on Zoom

Tuesday, December 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



Open Hearts Ministry

Notice: Open Hearts LGBTQ+ Ministry will not meet the 2nd Sunday in December (12/14). Next meeting will be January 11, 2026. For more information on Open Hearts and to speak to an OHM member contact us at: <https://spsact.org/contact-open-hearts-ministry/>



Friends and Family Ministry

Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.

Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: December 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, December 17, 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 17, 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 17, 2025, 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the Sisters of St. Joseph, 27 Park Rd, West Hartford. 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!

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:00 PM Denis Geary

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8:00 AM Fr. John Ashe

10:00 AM John V. Ramos, 33rd Anniversary

11:45 AM In thanksgiving to St. Lucy

5:00 PM Manuel Almagro

Monday, December 15, 2025

7:30 AM Nicholas Pavia

12:05 PM Richard N. Shea

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

7:30 AM Charlie Kirk

12:05 PM Giadone Family

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Bob Lemega in remembrance of his birthday

Thursday, December 18, 2025

7:30 AM Mimi John

12:05 PM Dan Buckanavage, 15th Anniversary

Friday, December 19, 2025

7:30 AM Kate Lilly

12:05 PM Maria Magdalene Galvan

Saturday, December 20, 2025

4:00 PM Ronald Gina, 14th Anniversary

Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:00 AM William, Angie, and Joanie Speziale

10:00 AM Tony Intino

11:45 AM Donato & Maria Monaco

5:00 PM Prayer intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

Stipend Amount to Change January 1, 2026

Please Note: Archbishop Coyne, together with the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Hartford, have announced that, effective **January 1, 2026**, the offering for Masses celebrated in churches of the Archdiocese and Province will be \$15.00.

Sanctuary Lamps

Week of December 14, 2025

In memory of

Dan Buckanavage, 15th Anniversary

requested by Pat Buckanavage

Support the 2025 Parish Appeal

The 2025 Parish Annual Appeal is now underway and with the end of the year approaching, it's a great time to consider a donation.

We hope to make needed repairs to the ceiling of the basement of the church; repair the entryway of the right-side doors of the church; continue to address issues with the church's sound system; and repair or replace the kneelers in the church.

Please consider responding generously to this year's Parish Appeal.

To donate, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-PAA>, scan the code, place your return envelope in the basket or mail to the church.



Sing With Us for Christmas

Singing with us for Christmas would be a great opportunity experience what it's like to be a member of our music ministry!



Please contact Music Director David Garrido Cid at dgarridocid@spsact.org for more details!

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Calling all who knit or crochet and those who would like to learn these art forms. You are invited to contribute your time and talent to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church. We are in need of new people to join us in this prayerful and rewarding ministry. For the past 12 months, the Prayer Shawl Ministers have been gathering both virtually and in-person for our bi-monthly meetings! And, yes, you can * learn * how to knit or crochet through Zoom. Our experienced ministers are skilled teachers as well. Please JOIN US!

Next Meeting: December 18, starting at 10:30 - In-person at the Franciscan Center.

For more information and the Zoom meeting link, contact Janet Bristow at janetbristow@sbcglobal.net or you may also call the parish office at 860-756-4034, x.113 and leave your contact information. Pat Curtis will get back to you with information.

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.



The Emmaus Grieving Parent Ministry



"Blest are you who weep and mourn, for one day you will laugh."

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents, in the Franciscan tradition of "All are Welcome," serves the spiritual needs of grieving parents whose children of any age have died by any cause. We meet at the Franciscan Center at 3:30 on the third Sunday of the month. Next meeting is December 21, 2025.

Please call the church office for more information at 860-756-4034.

The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter

The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter is now open.

For many years now we have collected food and prepared a Sunday dinner for the shelter clients and the staff.



This year the Shelter has increased available beds from 45 to 65. The shelter opens at 7pm each night and closes at 7am the next morning, as this is only a temporary shelter.

Help spread some cheer and share the warmth with a wonderful meal. We are looking for food donations and volunteers.

Please use this link to access opportunities to work with this ministry: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-CWES-2526>

A Franciscan Heart in the World Podcast: Advent Edition

Advent isn't about rushing or perfection. It's the season when God draws near—quietly, humbly, right into the real places of our lives.

Join Br. Mike Johnson for daily 5–7 minute reflections that help you see again, breathe again, and rediscover Emmanuel in the ordinary.

One day at a time, we'll walk toward the light that's already breaking in.

To listen on Apple Podcast:

<https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-FHW-Advent-2025>



To listen on Spotify:

<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-SPOT-FHW-Advent-25>



To listen on iHeart radio:

<https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-IH-FWH-Advent-25>



2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Parish Goal: \$115,000.00

Total Donations: \$101,412.97

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

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 DiDomenzio, Business Manager, kdidomenzio@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

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>

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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