



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
December 21, 2025 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Dream of Joseph by Francisco Rizi (1608-1685)

**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 22 1 SM 1:24-28; LK 1:46-56
 Tuesday, Dec 23 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; LK 1:57-66
 Wednesday, Dec 24 2SM 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16;
 LK 1:67-79
 Thursday, Dec 25 IS 9:1-6; PS 96 1-2,2-3,11-12,13;
 TI 2:11-14; LK 2:1-14
 Friday, Dec 26 Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; MT 10:17-22
 Sunday, Dec 27 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; PS 128:1-2,3,
 4-5; Col 3:12-21; MT 2:13-15, 19-23

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 21, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

When I was a young child I used to love looking at the Nativity scene in our parish church in Buffalo. In fact, our parish had two: one for inside the church and one for display outdoors. Both sets were made of carved wood, just like the beautiful Nativity set in our own church of St. Patrick-St. Anthony.

Ever since that time many years ago, I had hoped to own a wood-carved Nativity set some day. I finally got mine in 2002 after a trip to Europe when I found a shop in Vienna which sold many different Nativity sets of varying sizes. I ordered a "starter" set and continued to collect figures during subsequent trips abroad. My set now totals 42 figures, including St. Francis. I decided to set it up in the Franciscan Center this year so that everyone could enjoy it. See the photo of it at the bottom of this page.

I know that many cathedrals, churches, retreat houses and museums have a custom of displaying different Nativity scenes from different parts of the world, or different types of media (wood, clay, glass, etc.) I'm thinking that it might be something we could do here next Christmas at St. Patrick-St. Anthony. If you have a Nativity set that is attractive and interesting, or from another culture, and are willing to loan it to us for about a month, please let me know. The main room of the Franciscan Center offers plenty of space for display, and it might become a fun tradition here.

This Sunday and next, the Gospels focus on Saint Joseph before and after the birth of Jesus. His silent witness can be a source of inspiration and hope for all of us in these difficult times. Rather than removing the Holy Family from Nativity scenes, I prefer to see them as symbols of God's presence (Jesus), guidance (Joseph), and faithful discipleship (Mary). Here is a poem I came across many years ago about the role of Joseph at Christmas.

"Getting to the Front of the Stable"



Who put Joseph in the back of the stable?
Who dressed him in brown,
put a staff in his hand,
and told him to stand in the back of the crèche,
background for the magnificent light of the Madonna?

God-chosen, this man Joseph was faithful
in spite of the gossip in Nazareth,
in spite of the danger of Herod.

This man Joseph, listened to angels
and it was he who named the Child Emmanuel.

Is this a man to be stuck for centuries
in the back of the stable?

Actually, Joseph probably stood in the doorway
guarding the mother and child
or greeting shepherds and kings.

When he wasn't in the doorway,
he was probably urging Mary to get some rest,
gently covering her with his cloak,
assuring her that he would watch the Child.

Actually, he probably picked the Child up in his arms
and walked him in the night,
patting him lovingly until he closed his eyes.

This Christmas, let us give thanks to God
for this man of incredible faith
into whose care God placed the Christ Child.

As a gesture of gratitude,
let's put Joseph in the front of the stable
where he can guard and greet
and cast an occasional glance at this Child
who brought us life.

Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Have a blessed Christmas!

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.



Christmas Flower Memorials

Please remember:



at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season

Requested by: _____

Offering \$ _____ Enclosed

Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: December 23, 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 24, 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 24, 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: Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 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!

Open Hearts Ministry

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.

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 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

Monday, December 22, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Anthony LaBriola

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

7:30 AM Lidia Ferreira & Albano Ferreira

12:05 PM Madeline Capodanno

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00 PM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

5:30 PM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

10:30 PM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

Thursday, December 25, 2025

8:00 AM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

10:00 AM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

11:30 AM Prayer Intentions for our parishioners

Friday, December 26, 2025

9:00 AM John Walsh

Saturday, December 27, 2025

4:00 PM Ann Therese Tarala, Adeline Caruso, for their birthdays

Sunday, December 28, 2025

8:00 AM Daniel Laffin Sr.

10:00 AM Prayer intentions for Arthur & Annette Corey's
62nd Anniversary

11:45 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Eufemia

5:00 PM Blanch Gregoire

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.

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.

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.



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. The Prayer Shawl Ministers gather 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: January 12, starting at 7:00pm - On Zoom.

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.

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>



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.

Sanctuary Lamps

Week of December 21, 2025

In memory of

Richard Crockett
Marion Guerrero
Regan Martins



The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter

The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter is now open.

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>

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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