

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut



December 7, 2025 • Second Sunday of Advent

Tree of Jesse, Ingeborg Psalter

**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

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



Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Dec 8 GN 3:9-15, 20; LK 1:26-38
Tuesday, Dec 9 IS 40:1-11; MT 18:12-14
Wednesday, Dec 10 IS 40: 25-31; MT 11:28-30
Thursday, Dec 11 IS 41:13-20; MT 11:11-15
Friday, Dec 12 Zec 2:14-17; LK 1:26-38
Sunday, Dec 14 IS 35:1-6a, 10; PS 146:6-7, 8-9,9-10;
 Jas 5:7-10; MT 11:2-11

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

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!

The Pastor's Corner

December 7, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In past years I have used various Christmas songs as inspiration for my weekly message to you. I remember writing about "Somewhere In My Memory" from the movie "Home Alone," as well as "I'll Be Home For Christmas." This year I'd like to base my thoughts on "We Need a Little Christmas" from the musical "Mame."

Jerry Herman, who died the day after Christmas in 2019 at the age of 88, composed the songs for the popular musical "Mame" in 1966, which starred Angela Lansbury.



In the musical, "We Need a Little Christmas" is performed after Mame has lost her fortune in the Wall Street crash of 1929, and decides that she, her young nephew Patrick, and her two household servants "need a little Christmas now" to cheer them up.

I feel that I am far from alone when I say that this year especially, we need not just a little Christmas, but a whole lot of it! Without getting too political (which is difficult, I admit), I would say that the majority of citizens in our country today are living with a mixture of feelings or emotions. Our psychological health has probably not been tested so much since the Great Depression when Mame Dennis lost her fortune.

Added to this, we must all deal with our own personal situations within our families or communities. Death and illness know not the times or seasons, and many folks must cope with the loss of someone close to them. Others are struggling with life-threatening illness or financial uncertainty, like sky-high health insurance.

Whatever struggles or challenges people are facing, we find ourselves in what's supposed to be "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" – to quote another holiday song made famous by Andy Williams.



I don't profess to having any secret answers to these age-old mysteries. But let's remember the Christmas story itself – the original one, that is, found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Try to put yourself in the place of the various characters who were part of the story of the birth of Jesus: Joseph, Mary, the shepherds, the Magi, and so forth. Think of all the fear and doubt they had to face. But in the midst of all their stress, they experienced the joy of God's presence made manifest. Angels played an essential role in announcing good news to every one of them, and they were all changed by the experience of the birth of a baby in Bethlehem.

As we make our way through the remainder of Advent (and beyond), try to focus your attention on all that really matters in life. The birth of a child has a way of doing that.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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



Advent Evenings of Reflections on Zoom

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

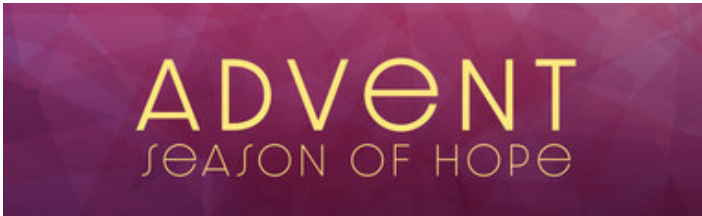


Engaging with the scripture scholarship of Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, we will explore and contemplate the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth,

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



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; Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-ADV-DIN-25> to register for the dinner and presentation. **Registration deadline for dinner is December 8.**

Presentation only at 6:30PM: \$10.00; Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-ADV-25> to register for just the presentation, there is no deadline to register for just the presentation.

Open Hearts Ministry

Notice: Open Hearts LGBTQ+ Ministry will not meet the 2nd Sunday in December (12/14). 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, December 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.

Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: December 9, 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 10, 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 10, 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!

Advent Nourishment

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

immediately following the 12:05 PM Mass in the church and on livestream.

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



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, December 8, 2025

7:30 AM Immaculate Conception
12:05 PM Prayer intentions for our Parishioners

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

7:30 AM Rose Torza
12:05 PM Prayer intentions for Richard Pires

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

7:30 AM Barbara Hebert
12:05 PM Prayer intentions for Robert & Nancy Lord's
65th Anniversary

Thursday, December 11, 2025

7:30 AM Joanne Speziale
12:05 PM Emilia Lopez

Friday, December 12, 2025

7:30 AM Evelyn Sogaro
12:05 PM Daniel Laffin, III

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

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.

With the 2025 Parish Appeal, 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

The Gallery, Bass, and Treble Clef Choirs of St. Patrick-St. Anthony will soon begin rehearsing repertoire for the Advent and Christmas Seasons.



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!

A Service of
Lessons and Carols

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21
7:00 PM**

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Church Street Singers info:
<https://spsact.org/ess-christmas-2025/>

Liturgical Dancer info:
<https://spsact.org/liturgical-dance-2025/>





Weekly Offering Update

11/23/2025:	\$16,370.77
11/30/2025:	\$19,573.23

Christmas Flower Memorials

Please remember:



at Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas Season

Requested by: _____

Offering \$ _____ Enclosed

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:
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Adult Faith Formation Offerings

FALL THROUGH ADVENT 2025

spsact.org/aff-programs-fall-2025



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>

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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