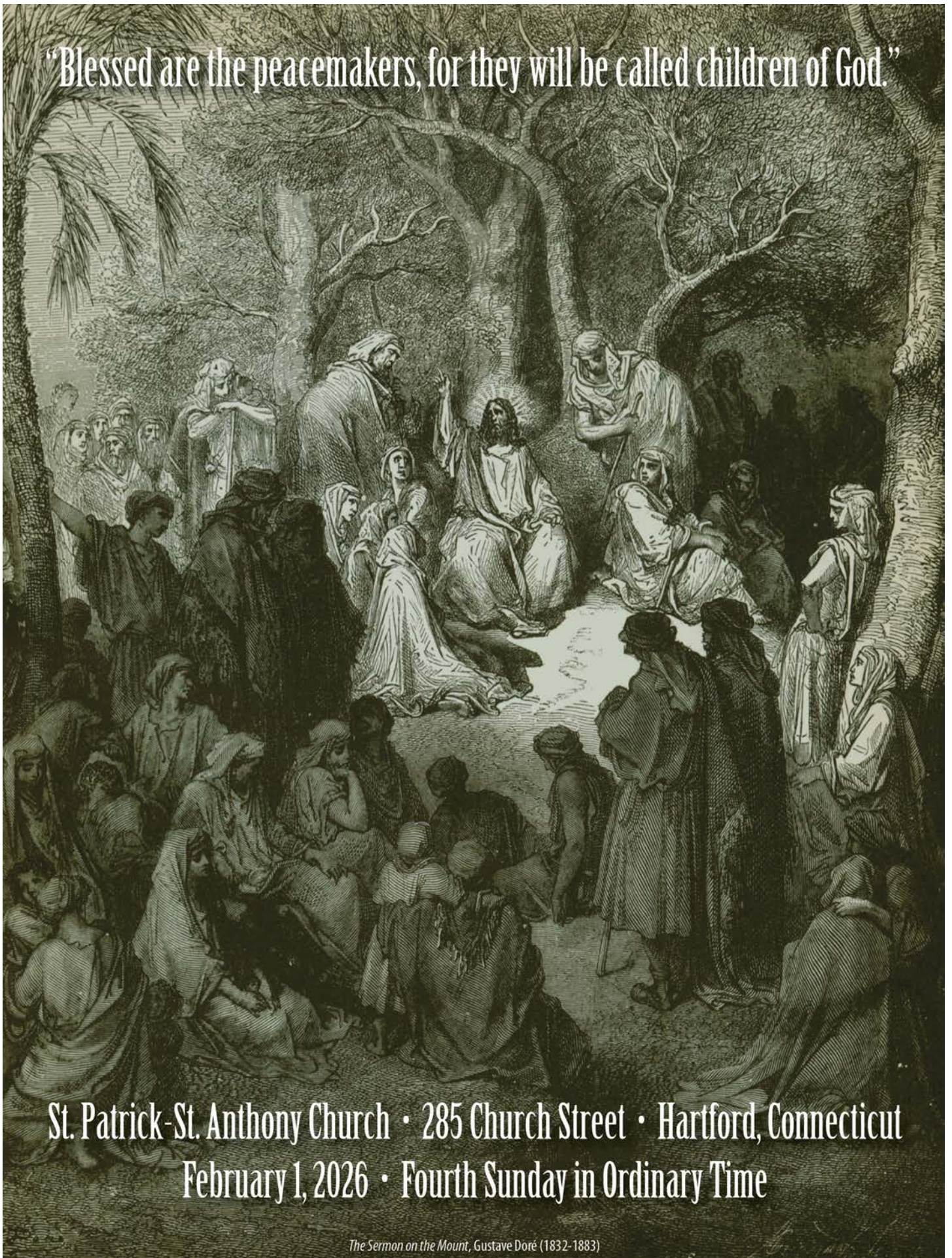


"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
February 1, 2026 • Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Sermon on the Mount, Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

**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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 31, 2026

4:00 PM Richard Formica, 8th Anniversary

Sunday, February 1, 2026

8:00 AM Charlie Kirk

10:00 AM Vincent Giansanti, Jr.

11:45 AM Rashid & Yesmine Ellis

5:00 PM Joseph Pavlick

Monday, February 2, 2026

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Ann Hann

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

7:30 AM Charlie Kirk

12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

7:30 AM Charlie Kirk

12:05 PM Katherine McGrath

Thursday, February 5, 2026

7:30 AM Frank and Maria Pizzonia

12:05 PM Kathleen McArdle, 1st Anniversary

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:30 AM Joao da Costa

12:05 PM Carl DiLorenzo & Nancy Ricci

Saturday, February 7, 2026

4:00 PM Regan Martins

Sunday, February 8, 2026

8:00 AM Querino Genca

10:00 AM Mike Ciotto

11:45 AM John Termine

5:00 PM

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Feb 2 Mal 3:1-4; LK 2:22-40
Tuesday, Feb 3 2 Sam 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; MK 5:21-43
Wednesday, Feb 4 2 Sam 24:2, 9-17; MK 6:1-6
Thursday, Feb 5 1Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; MK 6:7-13
Friday, Feb 6 Sirach 47:2-11; MK 6:14-29
Sunday, Feb 8 Is 58:7-10; PS 112: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; MT 5:13-16

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

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.

The Pastor's Corner

February 1, 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I am delighted to announce the formation of a new Pastoral Council for our parish of St. Patrick-St. Anthony. Ten members of our parish were nominated by our staff to serve on the council: Beverly Boyle, Emily Luna, Kim Nardone, Chris Kehoe, Marc Sherer, Luke Brown, Thea Montanez, Andrew O'Toole, Dominic Basile-Vaughan, and Anne Thibeault who was selected to serve as coordinator. Our Pastoral Associate, Pat Curtis, will be the staff liaison to the council.

The idea of creating a new pastoral council sprang from a desire to establish an organizational council or group to synthesize input, advise, prioritize, influence and inspire growth and development within our faith community. Further aid to our implementation of the council came from the School for Synodality, a Catholic organization in Great Britain which produced a very fine pastoral council starter kit called "Reimagining Pastoral Councils."

To quote from the Introduction to this document: "Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has been seeking ways of living out the call to collaboration and co-responsibility in its community life. Pastoral councils have been seen as one of the ways in which such co-responsibility can happen. Despite initial successes, however, pastoral councils have often proved difficult to sustain ... The widespread problems of pastoral councils suggests that simply having better meetings or taking better minutes will not make long-term change. We suggest a wholesale re-imagining of pastoral councils in a synodal style, a distinctly Catholic model of decision-making, which draws on centuries-old practices of spiritual discernment."

The first gathering of our Pastoral Council was a day of orientation held on Saturday, January 24th, in the Franciscan Center. We began with a simple round of everyone introducing themselves, since some of us were meeting each other for the first time!

One of the elements of a synodal way of reimagining pastoral councils is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the group. Prayer is an integral part of each gathering, which begins and continues with Lectio Divina, a form of "sacred reading" of the Scriptures developed by the Benedictines. Rich Broggini, a parishioner and lay member of the Cistercian Benedictines in Spencer, MA, gave us an introduction to the practice of Lectio Divina. Following that, Fr. Bill Beaudin

gave a thoughtful reflection on the three attributes or dispositions members bring to the council: head, heart, and hands. Each of these elements is important, but not everyone embodies all of them. The head gives us the knowledge and understanding of a question; the heart gives us the passion to address the question; the hands give us the means to accomplish what is needed.



Further discussions involved these questions: What brought us to this community? What surprises or challenges you about our faith community? Where does our community need to grow? These questions gave the group the opportunity to express individual concerns and dreams for our parish as we look to the future with hope and confidence.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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



Anne Thibeault



Beverly Boyle



Emily Luna



Kim Nardone



Chris Kehoe



Marc Sherer



Luke Brown



Thea Montanez



Andrew O'Toole



Dominic Basile-Vaughan

Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: February 3, 2026 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, February 4, 2026, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Join us on Zoom. Thirty minutes of quiet prayer practice every Wednesday morning. Join us on Zoom. Zoom link in Monday email. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-IQP-2025>.

People of Hope: Next Meeting, Wednesday, February 4, 2026 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: Next meeting, February 11, 2026, 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the Franciscan Center. We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. 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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Come 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, the 2nd Monday and last Thursday of each Month! And, yes, you can * learn * how to knit or crochet through Zoom. Our experienced ministers are skilled teachers as well. Please JOIN US!

February Meetings : February 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. February 26, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Franciscan Center.

For more information, please 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.

Important Places in the Life of Jesus

Thursday, February 12, 2026

7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom



This two-part online slide presentation consists of photos taken by Dan on a pilgrimage to Israel in 2022, along with his commentary on the historical background and significance of each site. The presentation covers the most important sites associated with the early life, ministry and passion of Jesus. The first part, on January 29, begins with the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth and continues through the early ministry of Jesus.

The second part, on February 12, continues exploration of Jesus' ministry and ends with the Chapel of the Ascension in Jerusalem. Questions and discussion are welcome.

Presenter: Dan Kueper

Free Will Offering

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-CT-Jesus-Places> to register.

The Drumming Circle

Join us Monday, February 2, 2026 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

Open Hearts:

Please join us for one or both meetings. All are welcome. For more information Please go to <https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-open-hearts-ministry/> and a ministry member will reach out to you.



Open Hearts Ministry: Monthly Meeting:

February 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM. After the 5:00 PM Mass.

Friends and Family Ministry: Monthly Meeting: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center.

Lenten Rosary

Thursdays in Lent, February 19 & 26 and March 5, 12, 19 & 26
8:00 to 8:30 PM on Zoom



The advice of my late mother Doris Curtis for any matter of great concern or worry was to “put it in the hands of the Blessed Mother”. This practice was at the core of my Mom’s spirituality ~ it was how she lived her life. I find myself hearing her words clearly now during these days of turmoil and uncertainty for our families, country and our global reality.

If you desire to be part of a communal devotional practice of praying the rosary, would you please join us this Lent on Thursday nights? We will gather on Zoom for a half hour of prayer together.

Facilitators: John McDonagh, Stacie Mawson & Pat Curtis

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-Lenten-Rosary-2026> to receive the Zoom Link.

The Emmaus Grieving Parent Ministry



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 February 15, 2026.**

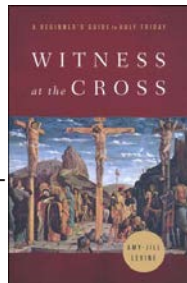
Please call the church office for more information at 860-756-4034.

Become A Witness at the Cross Tuesdays, February 24, March 3 & 10 7:00-8:15 PM on Zoom

We will seek a richer understanding of the characters who the Gospels tell us were witnesses to the Crucifixion as we consider Dr. Amy-Jill Levine’s book, *Witness at the Cross*. Together we will prepare for a deeper encounter with Good Friday. We will consider the experience from the perspective of Mary; the Beloved Disciple; Mary Magdalene and the women from Galilee; the two thieves crucified with Jesus; the centurion and soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Stepping into the story in these different roles, we will learn that each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and each one of us comes away with a new insight. We will be transformed.

Facilitator: Pat Curtis. Free Will Offering

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-Witness-Cross-2026> to receive the Zoom link.



A Novel Idea Book Club

A Novel Idea Book Club has been meeting for more than 30 years. We come together on Zoom from October through March and meet in-person AND on zoom during the warmer months, April through September, but take August off. Please consider joining our group.



Our next meeting is **February 19 at 7:00 PM on Zoom**. The book selection for February is *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng.

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 if you need more information.

Lenten Nourishment

Tuesdays, March 10, 17 & 24; 12:30 to 12:55 PM,
immediately following the 12:05 PM Mass in the
Church and on Live-stream



Join us this Lent for spiritual nourishment. Immediately following the Celebration of the Eucharist at 12:05 PM, we will listen to spiritual talks reflecting upon the Lenten stories we hear throughout this season of challenge and change. Join us by either staying in the church after Mass or staying on live-stream to participate virtually.

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

2026 and 2027 Mass Book Information

The 2027 Calendar is now open for intentions.

How to request your intentions: Call the office at 860-756-4034 or email info@spsact.org to request your intentions and/or Sanctuary Lamps. Please provide a 2nd and 3rd choice when making your request.

Note: Kindly submit your suggested offering of \$15 per Mass and/or Sanctuary Lamp shortly after making your reservation. This can be done via Online Giving, cash or check. You can place your donation in the Sunday basket in an envelope addressed to the church office or send via USPS to 285 Church St., Hartford, CT 06103. Checks are to be made payable to SPSA.

Please call the church office, 860-756-4034, if you have questions.



New Adult Faith Programs: Save the Dates

Saturday, March 21, 5:00-7:00 PM, "The Bible and Sexuality"
Sunday, March 22, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 PM, "Jesus, Women and The Family of Faith"

Hartford International University collaborates with faith communities to foster connection and to offer educational experiences provided by their esteemed faculty. St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church has been invited to partner with HIU to present several opportunities to engage with internationally renowned scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine is a distinguished scholar and teacher in New Testament and Jewish Studies. She is the first Jewish person to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute. In 2021, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

On the weekend of March 21-22, we will offer faith formation programs to interact with Dr. Levine. Professor "AJ", as she is known, works to counter biblical interpretations that exclude and oppress. The biblical scholarship explored may be new to you, leading to fresh insights, reflections, and inspiration.

These programs are free and will be at the Franciscan Center. The gatherings will include time for questions along with refreshments. Registration details are forthcoming.

SAVE these DATES ~ PLAN now to join us and bring a friend, colleague, or family member!

**Weekly Offering Update
for Jan. 25 will be in the Feb 1 Bulletin**

Due to the winter storm

Thank you for your continued support

Request your
2025 Tax Statement
or go to spsact.org/2025-giving-statement

Inspired Assemblages



The Clare Gallery is excited to share our year of exhibits celebrating voices that "were left out" at the founding of our country. Our first exhibit is *Inspired Assemblages*, works by Terese Newman. Programming includes a **virtual artist talk on Thursday, February 5, 7:00 - 8:00 PM** and an **artist reception on Sunday, March 15, 2:00 - 4:00 PM**. **Both events are open to the public.** Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-CG-IA-2026> to receive the link for the virtual artist talk.

Terese Newman is an American artist who grew up in a mixed-race Mexican-American household in Southern California. She left for a New England college at age 19, and though she did not find many others with her background, she was able to keep her Mexican roots alive through her artwork. Her memories are filled with Mexican folk music and dancing; delicious homemade food and sweets; as well as highly colorful and diversely patterned clothing and fabric. These memories are the inspiration for her work, creating narratives through their vivid color, play on identity, and symbolic textures, patterns, and words.

Newman's work is filled with symbolism, veneration, and humor. She believes her connection to a higher power influences her work by guiding, challenging, and supporting her creative choices. Her cigar box collages are examples of the play between spirituality and empowerment.

Newman's digital paintings inhabit layered spaces that are filled with intense color, textures, and pattern—similar to her cigar boxes. The interplay between both bodies of work helps Newman keep her Mexican-American roots alive and close to her heart.

Secular Franciscan Order

Monthly Meetings:

Is God calling you to live a life of love, peace, and holiness in the model of St. Francis of Assisi?



The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Our purpose is to bring the Gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for ways to embrace the Gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise.

Join us every 3rd Sunday at 2:00 pm for our gathering in the lower level of the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church. **Our next meeting is February 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM** to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order. We will be discussing Social Justice related to "Caring for God's Creation".



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 information 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 February 8, 2026 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

Volunteer Today:

Feeling the need to give back? Consider volunteering for one of the following ministries:

Care Ministry Team: help to guide families through the planning process of their loved one's funeral.

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 go to <https://spsact.org/current-volunteer-opportunities/> to view current offerings. Please contact our Director of Community Engagement, Allison Holst-Grubbe at aholstgrubbe@spsact.org for more info!

All Are Welcome Retreat - Save the Date



New Opportunity in the New Year
"All Are Welcome" Day of Reflection
Mercy by the Sea Retreat Center,
Madison, CT

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Retreat Leader: Fr. Bill Beaudin, OFM

Here's a chance to step away from the ordinary schedule of life and devote this time to your spiritual growth. And, if you have never experienced Mercy by the Sea before, please join us!

Mercy by the Sea offers beautiful, simple, and peaceful spaces that enable reflection, open the heart to prayer, and facilitate opportunities for conversation.

Come away with us on a retreat day in May 2026! To register early to reserve a spot for you and a friend or relative, **please contact Pat Curtis at pcurtis@spsact.org or 860-756-4034, x.113.**



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Men's Retreat at Holy Family

Please join men of the St. Patrick / St. Anthony parish at the next Men's Retreat at Holy Family from Friday evening 3/27/26 at 6:30 to Sunday afternoon 3/29/26.

Perhaps it is time to return for an annual men's retreat to "refresh" your faith during these chaotic times? The theme of this year's retreat is: Pilgrims of Hope and the cost is \$375 (more if you can, less if you can't) for the weekend that includes 6 well prepared meals, the fellowship of like minded men and a respite in a comfortable room at the monastery. **If you have any interest, please check out their website and sign up at: [www. HolyFamilyRetreat.org](http://www.HolyFamilyRetreat.org). You may also contact Jack Martins at: jvmartins7923@gmail.com with any questions you may have.**



**Thank you for celebrating our
20 year Covenant with our Sister Parish
for the Feast of St. Genevieve
on January 18, 2026!**

The Sister Parish Committee sends thanks to everyone who made our anniversary celebration such a special evening.

To the supporters and parishioners who attended the reception - Mesii! We hope you enjoyed our updates, food and reflections.

To our Choir and Drummers, and David Garrido - Mesii Anpil! The special Creole and Caribbean music helped us be in solidarity with St. Genevieve liturgical music and culture.

To all the staff and our Pastor, Fr. Tim, we are always thankful for your ongoing support and behind-the-scenes help! We know that our sisters and brothers in Haiti are thankful for our strong Covenant bond and have hope through our continuous commitment.



Consider Joining The Music Ministry

The Music Ministry program at St. Patrick- St. Anthony church is well known in the area (and beyond) for its long-standing tradition of truly meaningful repertoire, presented at an exceptional degree of quality. And NOW is the time for YOU to contribute and be part of that!!



The Music Ministry relies heavily on its choral (singing) groups:

- **Gallery Choir:** A group of mixed voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), which rehearses on Wednesday evenings (7-9PM), and primarily participates at the 10AM Mass on Sundays
- **Bass Clef Choir:** A group of lower voices (Bass and Tenor), which rehearses on Mondays (6:30 - 7:45PM), and participates primarily at the 5PM Mass every other Sunday.
- **Treble Clef Choir:** A group of upper voices (Soprano and Alto), which rehearses on Wednesdays (5:30 - 6:45PM), and participates primarily at the 5PM Mass every other Sunday.

All choirs are always open to new members.

At this point, the Bass Clef Choir can REALLY benefit from new members joining in. Is that gonna be you!? YES! Yes It can.



Yes, the choirs aim for high quality repertoire, and yes, it helps to know how to read music. But don't let that scare you! That is not a requirement! We strive to be welcoming to everyone (!), regardless of prior knowledge or background. All we need is a positive attitude and eagerness to blend our voices, to better praise our God in Beauty and Unity.

Send David an Email should you wish to inquire about participating in any of the choral groups, or with any questions you may have: dgarridocid@spsact.org.

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>

Announcing CGS Adult Formation Course For Level 1

St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church has been a center for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Adult Formation since 2005. We welcome adults from our parish and those from around the region interested in pursuing formation training in this method of nurturing the faith of children.



Catechists who work with children in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd have completed at least 100 hours of training in theology, child development, and the Montessori method.

Adults who have completed this training have reflected that it was “life changing,” and enriched their faith beyond measure.

We are offering a CGS Level 1 Formation Course for adults. We invite you to consider giving yourself this week to nurture your faith.

Part 1: May 18-22, 2026 and November 14, 2026

Part 2: February 6, 2027 and May 24-28, 2027
from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Please contact Deb Pelletier (dpelletier@spsact.org) to hear about parishioner pricing.

Tuesday Pasta Dinners: Helping to Feed Those in Need!

We serve warm meals on Tuesdays, and lately we have been serving about 100 meals.



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-mealsto> sign up.



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, wibeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDomenzio, Business Manager, kdidominzio@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.



Branches on the Vine

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 6, 2026



Members at their monthly meeting at St. Agnes Church. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thirty years ago, when Deacon Nick Genovese and his friends approached the now-deceased Father Francis X. Callahan about starting a men's group at St. Agnes Church, he asked half-jokingly, "What do you guys want to do? Play cards?"

Of course, that was never part of the plan, Deacon Genovese recalls, laughing. Today, the St. Joseph Men's Society of Precious Blood Parish, made up of St. Agnes and St. Mary churches in Milford, is known for its service to the church and the community, which includes everything from an annual golf tournament to a Lenten dinner, a parish picnic, a Communion breakfast, 'coffee and' after Mass, and a St. Patrick's dinner.

The list also includes occasional chores and repair work, such as replacing the padding on the kneelers at St. Agnes, all done in the spirit of their patron, St. Joseph the Worker. Deacon Genovese, the group's president, says some 20 members willingly volunteer as the occasion requires.

"We named it for St. Joseph the Worker because the guys do work," he says. "If there's anything that needs to be done or if the men can help with projects in the parish, they are there."

The group meets the first Monday of the month from September to June, 5:30 p.m., in Father Callahan Hall at St. Agnes Church. The men begin with a prayer and then a Scriptural reading, followed by a reflection

MEN'S GROUP INSPIRED BY ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

by Deacon Genovese. Then, they have dinner and a business meeting to discuss upcoming activities and the distribution of funds to groups they help. A parish priest, including Father Aidan Donahue, the pastor, usually attends the meetings. The monthly meal is a tradition that goes back almost to the beginning. Deacon Genovese recalls it was Father Callahan's idea to boost membership; and it worked. Thomas Maguire is the resident chef who prepares everything in the kitchen at the church hall.

The biggest event the men's society sponsors is the annual golf tournament, held on the last Monday in July. Proceeds from the tournament, which is organized by Jerry Farina, who succeeded his father as golf chairman, are used to benefit charitable organizations, including the pro-life group for unwed mothers, Ronald McDonald House®, the Boys and Girls Club, veterans organizations, and the homeless.

"We've been very successful over the years, thanks to all the support we got," Deacon Genovese says. "It's a great bunch of guys, and now we have some from St. Mary's since we combined with them to form Precious Blood Parish." Dues are still \$5 a year.

He credits the other founding members -- the late Bill McMullen, Lou Elmo and Richard Carnaval -- for their vision in starting the society. "Jack Jansen has been our treasurer for 30 years, since the organization started, and he recently turned 90 and still plays golf," Deacon Genovese said. "We had a party for him and honored him with a plaque. Fundamental to the group's success all these years is their patron, St. Joseph the Worker. "Think about it. St. Joseph was the protector of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He was a model father and a model worker. We all look up to him and respect him as a saint," Deacon Genovese says.

He also tells a story about the annual golf tournament and St. Joseph: "When you play golf, you want good weather, and in the 25 years of the tournament, it has never been rained out," which is a blessing he attributes to their patron.

For more information about the St. Joseph Men's Society of Precious Blood Parish, contact Deacon Nick Genovese at nicholasgenovese@sbcglobal.net.

- Story by Joe Pisani



Upcoming Events



02/9 MONDAY 7PM
HOLY HOUR TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING
St. Bridget of Sweden Church, 175 Main St,
Cheshire

Around the world, an estimated 27.6 million people (women, children and men) are exploited for labor, services and commercial sex. What is our response to this crime against humanity? Let us go to Christ, present in the Eucharist, who is the source of our hope and strength, and pray together. The Human Trafficking Task Force of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites you to join us on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00 pm at St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire (175 Main Street) for a Eucharistic Holy Hour to pray for an end to human trafficking. After the service, meet members of the Task Force to learn how you can get involved in this important work.



02/6 FRIDAY 6PM
MASS OF HEALING
St. Peter Church, 99 East Main St,
Torrington

Experience the Power of Healing — In these challenging times, many of us carry burdens – be it physical ailments like cancer and kidney disease, emotional struggles like depression, anxiety, PTSD and grief, or spiritual battles. **YOU'RE NOT ALONE.** Reconnect, find solace, and embrace the healing powers of our divine physician, Jesus Christ. A special Healing Mass with anointing of the sick will be celebrated by Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, pastor of St. John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington. The evening begins with the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Mass. Let's come together, share our stories, and experience the transformative power of faith. Remember, Jesus is still in the business of healing.



02/21 SATURDAY 9AM
MAKING PREMIE HATS | KNITTING
RETREAT DAY
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center,
303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

Welcome to our annual Knitting or Crocheting Day! This year we are giving our work to the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain. When you register, pick a pattern of your choice to knit or crochet, and bring at least one preemie hat to the retreat (more if you can!). While at the retreat we will make more...the joy of handmade items is in giving them to folks who appreciate them.

Offering: \$75, includes lunch

To register and learn more, visit:
www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/knitting-retreat

SATURDAY
FEB
7

YOUTH ADORATION
AND
Winter Dance

Adoración juvenil y baile de invierno
Młodzieżowa Adoracja i Zimowy Bal

GRADES 7-12

St. Mary Church, 5 Hillhouse Ave
5:30PM Adoration | 6:30-9PM Winter Dance

RSVP by February 1 by scanning the QR Code or visit
tinyurl.com/mcgivney-youth-adoration-Feb7
Tickets are \$5 per child or \$10 max per family

HOLY BIBLE

BIBLE STUDY

Hosted by the Young Adult Ministry

Fridays, 6:30-7:30pm
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Hall Library
2819 Whitney Ave. Hamden
Bring your Bible, notebook and pen!

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