



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
January 11, 2026 • The Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of Christ, Andrea del Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci; Uffizi, Florence

**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 10, 2026

4:00 PM Katherine & Rose Murphy

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:00 AM Jose Maria & Laurinda De Jesus Costa

10:00 AM Doris Curtis

11:45 AM In thanksgiving to St. Christina

5:00 PM Nino Nolasco

Monday, January 12, 2025

7:30 AM Edward J. Littleton, III

12:05 PM Alan W. Gates, 10th Anniversary

Tuesday, January 13, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Mick O'Hara

Wednesday, January 14, 2025

7:30 AM Margaret Leonard

12:05 PM Deceased members of the Giadone Family

Thursday, January 15, 2026

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Diane Baio

Friday, January 16, 2026

7:30 AM Janice Valade

12:05 PM Robert P. Midura, Jr

Saturday, January 17, 2026

4:00 PM In thanksgiving to St. Genevieve

Sunday, January 18, 2026

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM Richard Crockett

11:45 AM Anthony Suranna

5:00 PM Susanna Jones

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Jan 12	1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday, Jan 13	1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday, Jan 14	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday, Jan 15	1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday, Jan 16	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Sunday, Jan 18	Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1; Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

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

January 11, 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,



We conclude the season of Christmas today with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the fifth century, Bishop Maximus of Turin wrote that we have every reason to celebrate this day with the joy of Christmas: "At Jesus' birth his mother Mary held her child close to her heart. So today the Father holds his beloved Son for all people to adore. Jesus is baptized so all Christians may follow him with confidence."

During the coming year let us follow Jesus with hope and confidence, that we may know his nearness at all times, especially in moments of conflict and adversity. May he be for us the servant of whom Isaiah spoke in today's first reading: one who shall bring forth justice to the nations and lead forth those who live in darkness.

I hope you will be able to join us next Saturday, January 17th, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the covenant with our Sister Parish of Saint Geneviève in Haiti. We will begin with Mass at 4:00 PM and then move to the Franciscan Center for a festive party with Haitian-inspired food and drink.

Bòn anivèsè! Happy Anniversary!

We will also share the latest news from the Ste.-Geneviève School, a special message from Pastor Father Gaby, and beautiful feedback from students about their family and life in Haiti. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be available and every family or individual will receive a commemorative mug. There are no fees or reservations needed, so please join us from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for this historic milestone!



Blessings for a happy, healthy and blessed New Year!

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

All are Invited
Come Celebrate 20 years of our
Sister Parish Covenant with St. Genevieve
on January 17th, 2026



Attend 4:00pm Mass

Featuring the Gallery Choir
AND the Drumming Circle

**Reception to follow
in the Franciscan Center**

Hors D'oeuvres & Drinks Available

Receive Your Commorative Mug!

One per family or individual

2026 Mass Book Information

Did you know? The 2026 Calendar still has dates available for your Mass Intentions? **The 2027 Calendar will be open for intentions on Friday, January 23, 2026.**

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

Note: Kindly submit your suggested offering of \$15 per Mass 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.

News From the Business Office

It's that time of year again. You can now request your 2025 Tax Statement.

We are grateful for all the gifts you have shared with us over the last year, and want to make sure you have all the appropriate tax documentation.

Right now, you can request one of two ways:

Call the church office at 860-756-4034;

or Email your request to info@spsact.org

Please be sure to indicate if you want it sent via USPS or email.

Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: January 13, 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, January 14, 2026, 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, January 14, 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: Wednesdays, January 14 & 28, 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!

Religious Education . . . Registration is always on our website!

The religious education programs at St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church are designed to allow parents to choose not only the best schedule for their young children but also the best learning format for those children. We firmly believe that the parents (and families) are the original and primary educators of their children, and we are honored to support you in nurturing your child's faith. Our classes begin at age three.

For this reason, religious education for children through sixth grade can occur at St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church within a traditional format, a hands-on (Montessori) format (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) or a family format (Whole Community Catechesis).

Our middle and high schoolers are very involved in social justice and community service. They host parish wide service projects (i.e. Advent Wreath Workshop and Easter Cookie Delivery), build connections with the homebound of our parish, and volunteer regularly helping set up and working in the hydroponic gardens with LEVO International. Service continues as students enter high school including regular service with House of Bread, No-Freeze Shelter, Franciscan Center Sandwich Ministry and other opportunities with our community partners, and an open invitation to participate in the life of our parish by joining any of our ministries such as the singing in the choir, lecturing, Altar Serving, etc.

All programs take place within the traditional school year (September through May). Check out the website www.spsact.org/faith-formation/youth-faith-formation for more information or contact Deborah Pelletier at dpelletier@spsact.org.

Open Hearts Ministry (Time

Change) Next meeting will be January 11, 2026 at 3:30 pm. 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.

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>



Inspired Assemblages



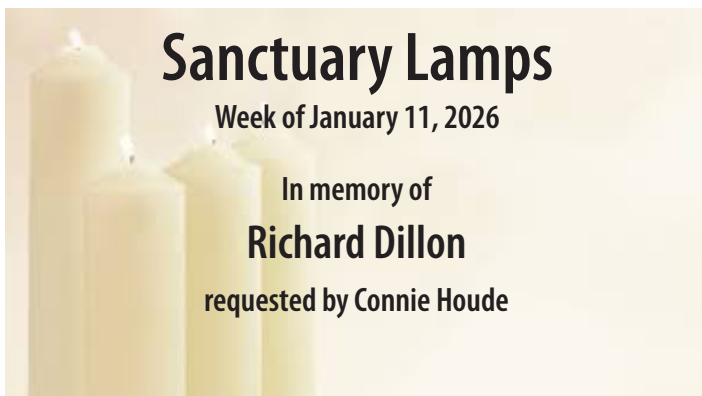
The Clare Gallery is excited to share our year of exhibits celebrating voices that “were left out” at the founding of our country. Our first exhibit is *Inspired Assemblages*, works by Terese Newman. Programming includes a **virtual artist talk on Thursday, February 5, 7:00 - 8:00 PM** and an **artist 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 box- es. The interplay between both bodies of work helps Newman keep her Mexican-American roots alive and close to her heart.



Sanctuary Lamps

Week of January 11, 2026

In memory of

Richard Dillon

requested by Connie Houde

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 **January 15 at 7:00 PM on Zoom**. The book selection for January is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

According to Goodreads.com, “Ariel Lawhon’s newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard.”

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.

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 January 18, 2026.**

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

Important Places in the Life of Jesus

Thursdays, January 29 & February 12

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.

Christmas Flowers have been given in memory and in honor of ...

- ❖ Joseph Mazzafera, Nicholas & Kathleen Arturo, Bill & Barbara Moody and Leo Andreolio, by Rocco Arturo
- ❖ Madeline G. Bartholomay & Gary S. Bunting, by George Bartholomay
- ❖ Philip & Marion Benedetto, by Stephen Benedetto
- ❖ Ronald Biederman, Thomas Sataro, Anna Pavlick and Joseph Pavlick, by Pat Biederman
- ❖ Alfio Bonanno & Janice Valade, by Sal & Lisa Bonanno
- ❖ In honor of all those who spread Peace and Kindness to one another, by John & Jeannette Bonee
- ❖ In Memory of Maggie Kelly by Celia Bouza
- ❖ Charlotte & Francis Bowen, Thomas McMillan, and Irene, Eugenia & Edward Guzak, by Trish Bowen & Stan Guzek
- ❖ William D. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. John Fiorillo, Mr. & Mrs. B. Brown, and Louis-John Fiorillo, by Amy Brown
- ❖ Buckanavage & Gentkowski families, Fr. Andrew Giardino, OFM, Bob & Lucy Bezila, and Denis Geary, by Pat Buckanavage
- ❖ Judy Ryiz, Jeanie Grasso Gagnon, and Jerelyn Fields, by Natalie Campbell
- ❖ Deceased members of the Cardoni, DeMarchi, and Baker Families, by Alex & Jean Cardoni
- ❖ Our beloved son Rob Casinghino, by Joan & Arnold Casinghino
- ❖ Peter & Margaret Ciotto, Love Rosemary & Peter Ciotto
- ❖ Thoms E. Claffey and Thomas C. Burgess, by Barbara Claffey
- ❖ Hank Cleary, Mary & Harold Cleary, and Beatriz Cleary, by Prudence Cleary
- ❖ Miriam & Darby Costello, by Darcé Costello
- ❖ Richard Crockett, by Connie Crockett
- ❖ Josephine & Salvatore Tanasi, by Connie Crockett
- ❖ Marjorie & Samuel Crockett, by Connie Crockett
- ❖ Antonio & Stella Pizzoferrato, Anthony Pizzoferrato Jr, Agatha Weilock, Daniel & Gaynell Cronin, and Robert, Cheryl & Barbara Cronin, by Anne Cronin
- ❖ Kathryn & Paul Rizza and Mary G. Falvey, by Teresa Curry
- ❖ The Curtiss & Catalano Family by Paula & Stephen Curtiss
- ❖ Raymon Dalton, by Sharon Dalton
- ❖ Frank & Elaine D'Amico, by Fran D'Amico
- ❖ Fred D'Amico, by Fran D'Amico
- ❖ Donald J. Deasy & Kathleen M. Gorman, by Pat Deasy
- ❖ Michael & Joseph DiLullo, by Jamie DiLullo
- ❖ Our kind and gentle granddaughter, Regan Martins, during this Christmas season, by Regina Domingo
- ❖ Bruce Dominick, Ed & Gene Dominick, Stephen & Neva Aufmuth, and the Grafe & Pretzer families, by Jeremey & Melissa Dominick
- ❖ Michael, Frank & Eleanor Doody, by Melissa Doody
- ❖ Helen Zilinsky & Michael Grigaitis, by Pat Dressler
- ❖ Laurence T. Maher and L. Timothy Maher, by the Dworkin Family
- ❖ Eileen & Daniel Ragnoni, Vicki Ragnoni, John Sheeny, and Lillian & Edward Hussey, by Victor & Mary Eanniello
- ❖ Koluch & East Families, by Lin & Jean East
- ❖ Fitol & Fedoruk Families, by Richard Fitol
- ❖ John B. Fitzpatrick, Jr and Gerard & Yolanda Petrosino, by Paul Fitzpatrick
- ❖ Joseph G. Foran, Sr., by June Foran
- ❖ Richard F. Mullaney, Mary B. Mullaney and Fr. Bob Butler, by Marie Mullaney & Anthony Foran
- ❖ Richard Formica and Gaetano & Concetta Romano, by Jo-Ann Formica
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Fox, Mary Ellen Fox, James Fox, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fox, and Mr. & Mrs. Bernard J. Fagan, by Geri Fox
- ❖ Lillian & John Gannon, by Mary Gannon
- ❖ Franklin L. Carifa, by Mark Garavel
- ❖ Lisa Garavel Terry, by Mark Garavel
- ❖ Bob & Phyllis Garavel, by Mark Garavel
- ❖ Querino Genca, by Felicia Genca
- ❖ Concetta, Salvatore & Carmen Gianni, and Rose Zoppoli, by Mary Gianni
- ❖ Peter Papadopoulos, by Claudia Gober
- ❖ Charles A Golec, by Kathleen Golec
- ❖ Edward & Marie Mulcahy, Anthony & Helen Golec and Genevieve Zak, by Kathleen Golec
- ❖ Deceased members of the Gorman & Desjardins Families, by James Gorman
- ❖ Carroll F. Tierney, Jean F. Tierney, Debbie Chase and Horace M. Gottlieb, by Lois & Norman Gottlieb
- ❖ Sister Rita Johnson, by James & Allison Healy
- ❖ Barbara Bebert & Joseph Kelliher, by Paul Hebert
- ❖ Stella & Stanley Brzozowy and Johannah Reeves, by Stella Heyl
- ❖ Thomas & Marion Hoey, Dorothy Ryan, and Sister Susan Carlin, RSM, by Nancy Hoey
- ❖ Devito & Hoisl Families, by Thomas & Andrea Hoisl
- ❖ Anna & Edward Alexis and Larry Tracey, Jr, by Connie & Bob Houde
- ❖ Paul, Sr. & Kevin Brian Sweeney, Love Sheila Hummel & Family
- ❖ Joe & Teresa Melzen, the Melzen, Lukach & Humphrey families and Ginny Reynolds, by Jim Melzen & Mark Humphrey
- ❖ Ed & Lillian Hussey, Dan & Eileen Ragnoni & John Sheehy, by Stephen Hussey
- ❖ Magdalena Anderko and Sally Doyle, by David & Nicole Inyangetor
- ❖ Makardy & Elizabeth Kania, by Brian Kania

Christmas Flowers have been given in memory and in honor of ...

- ❖ Fran, Ed, Jerry Marin and Carmella, John, Jack & Pam Karwan, by Pat & Mike Karwan
- ❖ My Aunt Eileen, by Marla Katz
- ❖ Dan & Eleanor Laffin and Sal & Francis Coco, by Dan & Maryann Laffin
- ❖ Daniel Laffin, III and Scott Brady, by family
- ❖ Mary & John Lemega, Mary & John Ramos, Michael J. Digby, John V. Ramos, Barbara A. Dubovik, August W. Linder, Inez Williams, Carole A. Spector, John C. Brennan, Fr. Jim Hynes, OFM, Laura S. Diunizio, Hilda T. Perry, Bob Lemega and Sylvia Digby, by Joyce & John Lemega
- ❖ Our beloved son, Benjamin Walter Linn, by Bob & Joanne Linn
- ❖ Salvatore Lombardo, Sebastiana Lombardo and Ann Hamm, by Mary Lombardo
- ❖ Rosemary "Rory" Marquis & her great-grandparents, Pietro & Angela Maria Fazio and Francis Marquis, by Rosina & Steven Marquis.
- ❖ Lois Martineau, by Art Martineau
- ❖ Our sweet daughter, Regan Marins, Love you forever
- ❖ My wife, Beverly Matakaetis, by John Matakaetis
- ❖ Helen Kehoe and Roemary & Dennis McCarthy, by Stephen & Renee McCarthy
- ❖ Francis & Katherine McGrath, by Katherine McCormack
- ❖ The McDermott, Fairweather & Obregon Families and Efigenia Palomino, by Joann McDermott & Maria Obregon
- ❖ Bruce & Anita DeNeve, William & Ruth Moran and William Moran, Jr. By Barry & Louise Moran
- ❖ Nora & Francis Mullen, Helen & John Felice, Mary Anne M. Scalora, and Mr. Francis Mullen, Jr., by Paul & Rosemary Mullen
- ❖ Marie & Ed Mulcahy and Richard & Rosemarie Olson, by Patricia & Richard Olson
- ❖ Sylvester & Loretta Cholko, James & Lillian Penders, and Katherine P. von der Lieth, by Jim & Joan Penders
- ❖ Jim Picone, Michael O'Donnell and Patricia & Bob Zipps, from MaryJoan Picone
- ❖ Arthur & Jean Field and Francis & Barbara Pierz, by Joseph & Beverly Pierz
- ❖ Delphinie & Leo Bricuglio, Sr, by Marie Poland
- ❖ For all the fallen service men and women, by Marie Poland
- ❖ All our Parishioners, by Marie Poland
- ❖ All victims of abuse and in honor of all the survivors, by Marie Poland
- ❖ Prisloe & Olie Families, by Mark Prisloe
- ❖ The deceased members of the MacFadden & Przybycien families, by Julie & Tony Przybycien
- ❖ The deceased members of the Ashe & Remillard families, by Tara & Norman Remillard
- ❖ Fr. Andrew Giardino, ofm, Fr. Jim Hynes, ofm and Fr. John Murphy, ofm, by Tony & Maria Retartha
- ❖ Mary Schulz, by Linda Scanlon
- ❖ Silvio Celadon, Ryan Ross and Jamie Whittaker, by Marc & Sheila Sherer
- ❖ In Memory of Kathleen Murray, Joseph and Mary Connell, Joseph J. and Valerie Shertick, Cynthia Stanco, by Joe & MaryJo Shertick.
- ❖ Stanley Sidur, Lydia Sidur, Genowefa & Marian Barkowicz and Jason Connolly, by Andrea Sidur
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Sliney, Sr., by Tom Sliney
- ❖ Margaret Stephen, by Siobhan Stephen
- ❖ Joseph Sullivan, by Susan Sullivan
- ❖ The Sheehan & Sullivan Families, by Susan Sullivan
- ❖ To honor the upcoming union of the Katz & Suraci families, by Ethan Suraci
- ❖ William & Rosalie Swift, by Kathleen Swift
- ❖ The deceased members of the Thibeault, Stearns, and Mirek Families, by Brian & Anne Thibeault
- ❖ Mr. Robert B. Lytle & Mrs. Josephine F. Voss, by Gregory & Stephanie Voss
- ❖ Denis Geary, by Faith VosWinkel
- ❖ Barton & Adrienne VosWinkel, by Faith Vos Winkel
- ❖ Aelred, Rita, Ken, Doreen, & Tom Wagner, Philip Knutson and Anne Ferrucci, by Wilbur Wagner
- ❖ Deceased members of Wawzyniecki & Sowerbutts families, by Patti & Stefano Wawzyniecki
- ❖ Rose Magnano and Ross Magnano, by LouAnn & Jim Warren
- ❖ Angela Sullivan, Virbert Sullivan, Hewley Barker and Roberto Soto, Jr., by Maxine Woolford
- ❖ In loving memory of J. Gregori Montano, Dennis F. Sullivan, John Termine, John F. O'Connor and Pamela Johnson, by Raymond Woollett
- ❖ Victor & Lena Yedziniak by Lorraine Yedziniak



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

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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

MAINTENANCE STAFF

AJ DuVerger, Director of Maintenance

Gilberto Lisboa, Weekday Church Custodian

Juana Dominguez, Center and Friary Custodian



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 10 - 16, 2026



Gil Thompson, a parishioner of St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church in Marlborough, hosts the weekly online rosary and reads a scriptural passage before each Hail Mary. SUBMITTED PHOTO

COME, PRAY THE ROSARY ONLINE

St. John Fisher Parish invites the homebound to join in.

Five years ago during the height of the coronavirus, Deacon John McKaig of St. John Fisher Parish in Marlborough was invited to join two parishioners to pray the rosary on a Zoom call.

"I was going through chemo at the time, and my wife Patty and I started joining them the following Monday," he recalls. "Nine months later, my cancer was in remission."

Every Monday at 8:30 a.m., the prayer community begun by Jennifer O'Neill and Kurt Filosa gathers online to pray the Scriptural rosary, and that half hour has been a source of solace for people who often can't leave home.

"The big advantage," says Gil Thompson, who hosts the prayer session, "is that if someone is too sick to come to church, they can sit at home with their laptop and pray with us. Some, who have cancer, can turn on their video and not worry about transportation. We could be anywhere in the world and pray together."

His wife Laurie recalls a member of the church who suffered from Lou Gehrig's Disease and was committed to praying with them.

"When he first joined us, you could see the impact it had on him," she says. "He asked to do the responses, and tears would be flowing from his eyes."

The community of 10 people was so committed they would often go to his home to get him up.

"He needed us and we needed him," Laurie says. "It got to the point where he could no longer speak, but two weeks before he passed, his caregiver brought him on." The group prays for many intentions, including those who are sick, new babies, job seekers, graduates and people who have overcome illnesses.

"We pray for everything," Gil says, "including our pastor, Father George Mukuka." Word of the online rosary ministry spread and parishioners often reach out with intentions.

"It's fulfilling to pray for people," Laurie says. "Parishioners who are ill are happy when they hear they're in our prayers. And whether they're here or not, they know we're praying for them."

"We're starting our week with prayer and thinking about people who are less fortunate because of health issues or whatever," Gil says, "And we think about them for the rest of the week."

During the rosary, Gil reads the Scriptural verse for each Hail Mary, while Laurie prays the response and others recite it at home.

"This method of praying the rosary keeps my mind focused on the Scripture reflections that the leader reads before each Hail Mary," Deacon McKaig says.

The beauty of the rosary, he says, is that it offers Catholics a way to meditate on the life of Jesus and the Blessed Mother, starting with the Annunciation when Mary said "yes" to God's invitation, and culminating in Jesus' Ascension and her Assumption.

"When we join others in this spiritual practice, it's a powerful way to live out our baptismal promises by living the Greatest Commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and the Second Commandment, which is like it, to love our neighbor as ourselves," Deacon McKaig says. "This lets us always remember it's not about me. It's not about you. It's all about what we can do for someone else."

To join the rosary prayer group on Mondays at 8:30 a.m., go to St. John Fisher's website, stjfishchurch.org, and click on the "Ministries" tile and then the link for "Online Rosary."

- Story by Joe Pisani



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