



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
January 4, 2026 • The Epiphany of the Lord

**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 3, 2026

4:00 PM Amalio & Florence DiLorenzo

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8:00 AM Arthur Jahn

10:00 AM Millie Intino and Sandy Patoka Tuga, 30th Anniversaries

11:45 AM Sebastian Kolodziej

5:00 PM Michael Miller

Monday, January 5, 2025

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

Tuesday, January 6, 2025

7:30 AM Arlete Akves & Jose Thomaz

12:05 PM Regan Martins

Wednesday, January 7, 2025

7:30 AM Jeanne Pizey

12:05 PM Salvatore Gianni

Thursday, January 8, 2026

7:30 AM Rick Dillion

12:05 PM Sebastioan Kolodziej

Friday, January 9, 2026

7:30 AM For the intentions of Carlos & Ceneida Gutierrez Costa

12:05 PM Ruth McHugh, 14th Anniversary

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

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Jan 5 1 JN 3:22-4:6; MT 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, Jan 6 1 JN 4:7-10; MK 6:34-44

Wednesday, Jan 7 1 JN 4:11-18; MK 6:45-52

Thursday, Jan 8 1 JN 4:19-5:4; LK 4:14-22

Friday, Jan 9 1 JN 5:5-13; LK 5:12-16

Sunday, Jan 11 IS 42:1-4, 6-7; PS 29: 1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; MT 3:13-17

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

December 28, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Move over, Keebler Elves, there's a new cookie in town! Thanks to the miracle of modern technology, yours truly has turned himself into a Christmas cookie. If you haven't already taken a bite out me when I posted on Facebook last week, here's your chance.



Speaking of cookies, I wish to thank everyone for your cards and goodies for the friars, including some delicious cookies and other baked goods. Fathers Bill, John, Mike and I are very grateful for your good wishes and generosity.

I am also very grateful for the many people who made our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus so beautiful. The dancers under the direction of Mary Beth Griffith, as well as our Church Street Singers under the direction of Katie Frewen, brought much delight to the worshipers at our Christmas Eve Masses.

Our spectacular music ministry under the direction of David Garrido Cid, including our combined choirs and excellent instrumentalists, provided superb music for the other Christmas Masses. Big thanks to you all! Our lectors, servers, sacristans and Eucharistic ministers all contributed to the sacred beauty of our liturgical celebrations.

I also want to offer my thanks to Alan Du Verger, Bill Prenetta, Erin Kelley and John Bizis for their assistance with the Christmas decor in the church. You all made a big task much easier!



In a particular way, I'd like to thank Stacie Mawson for making the beautiful new altar frontal which complements the vestments we acquired a few years ago.

As we enter into the new year of 2026, I am mindful of two major anniversaries that will be celebrated during the year.



In July, our nation will commemorate 250 years of independence. While we certainly have much to celebrate, I cannot help but think that we are also living in a very precarious moment of our history. While our nation was founded on the principles of freedom and democracy with liberty and justice for all, those values which we've always held as sacrosanct are now under tremendous threat. May we continue to yearn for freedom's light that we may, once again, be that shining city on a hill.

The other anniversary to be observed this year is the 8th centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi which occurred on October 3, 1226. For eight centuries Franciscans around the world have served the Church by living and preaching the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although we have had our struggles over the years, we continue to strive to keep our founder's ideals alive and evident for all to see and experience.

Our ministry here in Hartford has borne much fruit over the last 35 years, and I am hopeful that we will continue to serve you, as well as our brothers and sisters in the city of Hartford, with Franciscan joy and compassion. Together, may we work to bring the presence of Christ and Francis to one and all.

Blessings for a happy, healthy and blessed New Year!

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

Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: January 6, 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 7, 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 7, 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!

The Drumming Circle

Join us Monday, January 5, 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

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 has a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and has led Bible studies at his former parishes. Dan received a second Master's degree in City Planning from Rutgers University, and his career was in transportation planning, with a focus on making streets safe for all users.

Free Will Offering

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

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.

Weekly Offering Update

Thank you for your patience.

We will have a complete breakdown of weekly offerings for December and January 4, 2026 in the January 11, 2026 bulletin due to bulletin deadlines.

Stipend Amount 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 is now \$15.00.

*Bon anniversaire!
Happy Anniversary!*

Save the Date to Celebrate!

We're celebrating 20 years of education and nutrition for our Sister Parish of St. Genevieve.

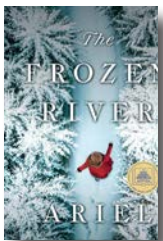
Please Save the Date: January 17, 2026!

Join us for 4:00pm Mass and a Reception afterwards from 5-7pm.

With your sustained support, we are celebrating 20 years of our Sister Parish Covenant with St. Genevieve! All are invited on January 17, 2026 starting at 4pm, for Mass and a Reception. We'll share the latest school updates, a special message from Pastor Gaby, and beautiful feedback from students about their family and life in Haiti. Our children at the reception will be invited to answer several questions to correspond back to the students at St. Genevieve.

Hors D'oeuvres and drinks will be available and every family or individual will receive a commemorative mug. Please join us!

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 November 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



"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 January 18, 2026.**

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

The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter

The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter is now open.

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>



Secular Franciscan Order

The members of the Secular Franciscan Order would like to thank you for participating in our project of feeding the birds for Christmas. It is a simple action, but even in the little things we honor God for His wondrous creation. Francis of Assisi knew the glory of creation and praised God for it.



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 January 18 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".

Do you Knit or Crochet or want to learn how?

Calling all who knit or crochet and those who would like to learn these art forms. You are invited to contribute your time and talent to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church.



We are in need of new people to join us in this prayerful and rewarding ministry.

For the past 12 months, the Prayer Shawl Ministers have been gathering both virtually and in-person for our bi-monthly meetings! And, yes, you can **learn** how to knit or crochet through Zoom. Our experienced ministers are skilled teachers as well. Please JOIN US!

If the winter blues threaten to dampen your spirits ~ please consider attending our gatherings for enjoyable storytelling and ministry knitted together!

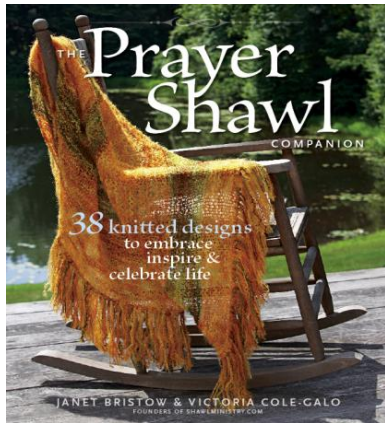
[Our virtual monthly meetings take place on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m.](#)

January 12 February 9 March 9 April 13 May 11 June 8

[Our in-person monthly meetings take place on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.](#)

January 29 February 26 March 26 April 30 May 28 June 25

Please consider joining us to learn the art of making Prayer Shawls and to help us continue to reach out to others in our community through this ministry of love.



"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God.

They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify.

Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."

Written in 1998 by: Janet Severi Bristow

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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.

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.

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 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 Jeremy & 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
- ❖ Fran, Ed, Jerry Marin and Carmella, John, Jack & Pam Karwan, by Pat & Mike Karwan
- ❖ My Aunt Eileen, by Marla Katz

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

- ❖ 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





Branches on the Vine

JANUARY 3 - 9, 2026



Father Jeffrey Gubbiotti holds the General Store in his Christmas village, one of many three-dimensional puzzles he made for the display at the St. Mary rectory in Derby.
PHOTO BY JOE PISANI

PRIEST KEEPS CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ALIVE WITH NOSTALGIC TRIBUTES

When Father Jeffrey Gubbiotti was in high school, five friends came over for pizza two days before Christmas, and while they were hanging out, someone mentioned caroling. That night, young Jeffrey, who had never seen carolers, began a lifelong tradition when the six friends went out singing Christmas carols in the Oakville neighborhood of Watertown.

He continued doing it every year through college, seminary and his priesthood, and now as pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish in Derby, he recently hosted the “Christmas Caroling Party” at St. Mary rectory followed by an open house. “From six of us in high school to as many as 70 in later years, I’ve tried to keep up the tradition,” he says. “The week before Christmas, we have an Advent prayer service, trivia games and caroling in the neighborhood, and later everyone is invited to the rectory to see the decorations.” It’s a holy and nostalgic time for Father Gubbiotti, who cherishes reminders of past Christmases with his parents and sister — including the nativity set his mother Cindy made in ceramics class, still displayed although the camel’s head had to be repaired. Then, there was the merry-go-round carousel he got when he was 8 years old.

“Over the years, you collect things that hold memories and evoke people you knew and events in your life,” he says. “I still have family ornaments from when I was young, and I put them on the tree now.”

For the priest, the season is also filled with religious symbolism.

“To me, the Christmas tree symbolizes Christ, the source of life,” Father Gubbiotti says. “He’s the vine and we are the branches, and when you put lights on the tree, it’s a reminder he’s the light of the world. The ornaments represent me and my family members. Hanging them is a way of uniting my life and those I love to Christ’s life. It’s a prayerful thing.”

There’s also another tree he displays that has special meaning. It’s a tree he bought for \$3 15 years ago, which he decorates with New York Yankee ornaments. At the top is a star he got for 50 cents that blinks blue and white — the team’s colors. Sometimes, he says, friends surreptitiously hang Boston Red Sox ornaments on it when he’s not looking.

Among decorations in the rectory are figurines he acquired on pilgrimages, including a carved St. Nicholas when he attended the famous German Passion Play

in the village of Oberammergau; a nativity from Assisi, where St. Francis created the first live nativity in 1223; a crèche from Mexico, where he studied Spanish early in his priesthood, and a Three Kings plate from Puerto Rico.

“They are things that have special meaning and remind me of people and trips I’ve made,” he says. “They also remind me to pray for them.”

Most important of all, Father Gubbiotti says traditions like these are a way to spiritually prepare us for the birth of the Christ child. Throughout Advent, the parish had a full calendar of events, including a session for ornament-making, a tree lighting at St. Mary-St. Michael School in Derby, an evening of lessons and carols, a Christmas cookie sale by Ladies Guild, and a crèche reenactment on Christmas Eve.

“The things that we all do to get ready for Christmas can be overwhelming and a source of stress,” Father Gubbiotti says, “but they can also be a source of prayer and an encounter with Christ if we invite Jesus be a part of them — whether it’s decorating, baking cookies or writing Christmas cards.”

-Story by Joe Pisani



Upcoming Events



Archdiocese of Hartford

Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Archdiocese of Hartford is celebrating its' annual Wedding Anniversary Mass in conjunction with the observance of **National Marriage Week** (February 7 – 14, 2026) an international event seeking to strengthen marriages in communities and influence the current culture.

National Marriage Week is an opportunity for the Catholic Church to focus on and celebrate the vocation to marriage and family life. It is an opportunity for the Catholic faithful to renew and deepen the lived experience of the Sacrament of Marriage – and bear witness to God's call to love.

On **Saturday, February 7, 2026**, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Archbishop of Hartford, will be honoring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: first and five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years during 2025 – 2026. *The Marriage Anniversary Mass* will be at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford at 4:00 p.m. **Registration closes January 21.** (Snow date if necessary - February 28)



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