

The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything."
Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."



Christ and the Samaritan Woman, Duccio di Buoninsegna (c. 1250/1255 - 1318/1319); Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
March 8, 2026 • Third Sunday of Lent

**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, March 7, 2026

4:00 PM Jose dos Santos

Sunday, March 8, 2026

8:00 AM Alex Pretti & Renee Good

10:00 AM Angela Maria Fazio

11:45 AM Mary & Joseph Lamesa

5:00 PM Anthony Labriola

Monday, March 9, 2026

7:30 AM Alex Pretti & Renee Nicole Good

12:05 PM Charlie Kirk

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

7:30 AM Leon Bernard

12:05 PM Viadotas Kuzminskas

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for the people of Hartford

12:05 PM Cornelios James & Noel Kelly

Thursday, March 12, 2026

7:30 AM Antonio & Analia Alves

12:05 PM Teresa Monterosso

Friday, March 13, 2026

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners.

12:05 PM Mary Canty

Saturday, March 14, 2026

4:00 PM Pamela Johnson

Sunday, March 15, 2026

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM Frank Perrone

11:45 AM Dora & Harold Adams

5:00 PM Timothy McCabe, 1st Anniversary and Eugene Flyotte, 2nd Anniversary

Daily Mass Readings



Monday, Mar 9 2Kgs 5:1-15ab; LK 4:24-30
 Tuesday, Mar 10 DN 3:25, 34-43; MT 18:21-35
 Wednesday, Mar 11 DT 4:1,5-9; MT 5:17-19
 Thursday, Mar 12 Jer 7:23-28; LK 11:14-23
 Friday, Mar 13 Hos 14:2-10; MK 12:28-34
 Sunday, Mar 15 1 SM 16:1b,6-7,10-13a; PS 23:1-3a, 3b-4,5-6; Eph 5:8-14; JN 9:1-41

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

The Pastor's Corner

March 8, 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,



I am delighted to announce that Jim and Beverly Boyle will be this year's recipients of the Saint Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation which will be given in a ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Joseph next Sunday, March 15th, starting at 2:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Beverly and Jim have been faithful parishioners of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church for over 35 years. Active in our music ministry as a member of our choirs for several decades, Beverly's additional contributions to our parish range from serving on the Parish Council in the 1990s to currently serving as a member of our newly-formed Pastoral Council. Jim contributed artwork to an exhibit in the Clare Gallery, "Creativity in the Time of Covid" in early 2022. Beverly



is always able to identify when additional volunteers are needed, and with Jim's support, steps in ably to fill those roles. This kind of leadership was true as Beverly joined our weekend and weekday lector ministries during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a couple of years later when she became an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. As the longest-serving member of our music ministries, Beverly served on the search committee to hire our newest Director of Music. Most notably, Jim and Beverly together bring a spirit of hospitality and caring to the ministries in which they are involved. Their many years of faithful stewardship have been a gift to our parish and the communities we serve.

Clearly, Jim and Beverly are most deserving of this honor, and I am so happy to have this opportunity to show our thanks and appreciation to them through this recognition from the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Blessings on your week ahead!

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



Lenten Rosary

Thursdays in Lent, Remaining sessions: March 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.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: March 13, 20, 27, 2026 at 12:35 PM. Join us following the 12:05 Mass on Fridays during Lent in praying the Stations of the Cross.

The 2026 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Your support of this year's Appeal ensures that essential charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford will be carried forward.

- In 2025, we were able to provide over \$1,400,000 to over 165 various organizations, nominated by pastors, across the Archdiocese.

- Organizations such as The House of Bread and the Franciscan Center's St. Anthony's Bread for the Poor, right here in our own town received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in serving our neighbors.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. **No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.**



Ongoing Faith Formation Programs:

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Zoom Meetings: Every Tuesday. Next meeting: March 10, 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, March 11, 2026, from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. Zoom link in Monday email. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-IQP-2025>.

People of Hope: Next Meeting, Wednesday, March 11, 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, March 11, 2026, 7:00, location in 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. If you haven't tried it yet, please do! The process is simple and will be explained each time, and sharing is welcomed, but optional. Join us when you can!

Become A Witness at the Cross

Tuesday, Mar 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.

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 Monthly Meeting: Next meeting will be March 8, 2026 after the 5pm Mass. We meet the 2nd Sunday of each Month.

Friends and Family Ministry: Monthly Meeting: Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 3:30 PM in the Franciscan Center. We meet the 3rd Sunday of each Month.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Calling all who knit or crochet and those who would like to learn these art forms. You are invited to contribute your time and talent to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church. We are in need of new people to join us in this prayerful and rewarding ministry. The Prayer Shawl Ministers gather both virtually and in-person for our bi-monthly meetings, the 2nd Monday and 4th 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!

March Meetings: March 9, starting at 7:00pm - On Zoom and March 26 starting at 10:30am in the Franciscan Center.

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.

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

ST. PATRICK-ST. ANTHONY LADIES GUILD PRESENTS



The Annual Spring Basket Bazaar

MARCH 7/8 AFTER ALL MASSES
MARCH 14/15 AFTER ALL MORNING MASSES

Clare Gallery: Inspired Assemblages

Inspired Assemblages, by Terese Newman, celebrates our . Please join us for an artist reception on Sunday, March 15, 2:00 - 4:00 PM. The event is open to the public.



Scholar in Residence Weekend: 3/21 - 3/22



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 Jew 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 multiple faith formation programs to interact with Dr. Levine. "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.

Saturday, March 21, 5:00-7:00 PM, "The Bible and Sexuality"

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-SCR-321> to register.

Sunday, March 22, 9:00-9:45 AM, "God's Garden Needs Every One of Us". Special opportunity for preschool and elementary age children and their families, grandparents & godparents. Join us for this author presentation on her book **A Very Big Problem**, which affirms that we all are needed in a special way in God's Garden. This book is available wherever you buy books.



Pre-registration is not required.

Sunday, March 22, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 PM, "Jesus, Women and The Family of Faith". Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-SCR322> to register.

These programs are free and will be at the Franciscan Center. The gatherings will include time for questions along with refreshments. Please Join Us!

The Emmaus Grieving Parent Ministry



"Blest are you who weep and mourn, for one day you will laugh."

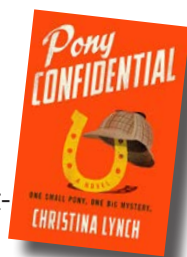
The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents, in the Franciscan tradition of "All are Welcome," serves the spiritual needs of grieving parents whose children of any age have died by any cause. We meet at the Franciscan Center at 3:30 on the third Sunday of the month. **Next meeting, March 15, 2026.**

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

A Novel Idea Book Club

Our next meeting is **March 19 at 7:00 PM on Zoom**. The book selection for March is *Pony Confidential* by Christina Lynch.

From the Books That Slay Editors at booksthat-slay.com:



Pony Confidential by Christina Lynch is a wildly original novel that blends courtroom drama, childhood trauma, and the whimsical yet emotionally resonant perspective of a sentient pony. It's both funny and heartbreaking, equal parts surreal and socially grounded.

... It's a genre-bending narrative that never sacrifices emotional depth for its humor or strangeness.

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.



All Are Welcome Retreat

**“All Are Welcome” Day of Reflection at Mercy by the Sea
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!

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.**

Introduction to the Gospels

Tuesdays, March 24 & 31 and April 7 & 14, 7:00-8:15 PM at the Franciscan Center.

This four-part introduction to the gospels will discuss the following for each one:

- Scholarly consensus about the author of that gospel
- Scholarly consensus about the presumed date and place at which the gospel was written
- Presumed sources
- Major themes of the gospel, and key differences between it and the other gospels

We will discuss each gospel in the order in which it was likely written, as follows:

- **Mark - March 24**
- **Matthew - March 31**
- **Luke - April 7**
- **John - April 14**

Alively discussion is always welcome! No questions will be off-limits.

Presenter: Dan Kueper has a Master’s degree in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and has led Bible studies at several parishes.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-Intro-Gospels> and let us know you are coming.

My Narrative ~ Artwork by Linda Martin



Clare Gallery’s second exhibition this year continues to celebrate “Voices Left Out at the Founding of Our Country.”

My Narrative opens March 19. A virtual artist talk is on Monday, March 23, 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Zoom, with an artist reception on Sunday, April 12, 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

Martin has worked with fabrics much of her life. She appreciates their vast diverse patterns, textures, colors, and designs. Over the years, she loved the arts and regularly modified fabrics for her own clothing and home decor. Martin has developed her unique artistic voice through collage fiber art. One could say she “paints” with fabric—its colors, designs, and textures—making work that speaks about her own lived experience, as well as the lives of others she chooses to portray. Her work is a testament to the history of quilting, as well as the future of collage fiber art, where the only material Martin utilizes is from the world of textiles.

Through her work, she intends to create a conversation with her audiences explaining that it speaks to “who I am, where I come from, what I see, and where I am going.” For My Narrative, Martin says, “the pieces that I chose for this exhibit allow me to tell stories of my family, my spiritual belief and my political standing in this country.” She believes she is speaking and sharing her truth through her artwork.

Virtual Artist Talk Registration links:
<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-CG2nd-2026>



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.**

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and the Franciscan Center Regularly Minister to Our Immigrant Neighbors,

particularly through our partnerships with area organizations. With those community partners, our parishioners volunteer as ESOL tutors and assist with legal emergency planning. As a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), St. Patrick-St. Anthony and the Franciscan Center have advocated for GHIAA's immigrant rights agenda (<https://cljct.org/campaign/immigration/>). Most currently, a statewide coalition including GHIAA is lobbying Governor Lamont to sign an executive order protecting CT's National Guard from federal deployment for immigration enforcement. You can add your voice to those calling for this protection (<https://www.acluct.org/lamont-national-guard-eo/>).



If you'd like to become involved with these initiatives, please contact Allison at aholstgrubbe@spsact.org.

Weekly Offering Update

February 22, 2026: \$14,933.23

March 1, 2026: \$21,990.48

Thank you for your continued support

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, Albert Tornatore, and Deborah Godin.

St. Genevieve: Persevering Through New Challenges

Despite the many crises Haiti has endured, St. Genevieve School has continued to grow since our support began in 2005. Over the years, we have added grade levels, expanded our staff, increased enrollment, and broadened the curriculum. Our students consistently succeed on national exams — a testament to their dedication and the commitment of our teachers.

Today, however, escalating violence has brought significant new challenges. Enrollment has approximately doubled since instability intensified several years ago. With gangs present in the Zoranje area and insecurity forcing nearby public and private schools to close, many displaced students have found refuge at St. Genevieve, adding to our school ranks. Somehow, through determination and faith, space is found and every child receives a hot meal each day.

The buildings were never big enough to host all day classes so elementary classes are in the morning, and older students attend in the afternoon. The day begins for each session with an assembly for prayer and flag raising. St. Genevieve also has several satellite schools further out in Fr. Gaby's parish. Currently over 100 students are enrolled with 7 staff. No meals are served and only basic subjects are taught.

We remain hopeful that the current hardships will give way to a stable government, reduced inflation, and lasting safety and peace for all of Haiti.

Thank you for your continued prayers and steadfast support.

Go to <https://spsact.org/our-parish/sister-parish-st-genevieve/> to learn more about our ministry in Haiti and support us!



Tuesday Pasta + Protein 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 with a protein 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.

Mark Your Calendar - The Walk is Coming



The Walk Against Hunger 2026 will be on Saturday, April 25th at Dunkin' Park in Hartford. The Walk will start at 10:00 AM, but please arrive at the stadium by 9:15 AM.

More info and a link will be available in the weeks to come.

Get those walking shoes ready!!



Work with us at Levo International

441 Homestead Avenue, Hartford

Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join the St. Patrick St. Anthony community as they support the build-out of Levo's newest site. You can expect to engage in tasks such as: sanding lumber, staining lumber, cleaning and sanitizing materials, landscaping and mulching, building hydroponic systems, potting and seeding.

Please go to <https://levointernational.org/volunteer> to sign up.

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>

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!



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

North Central Connecticut

Habitat for Humanity SPSA Spring Builds

March 28 and April 11, 2026.

Join with others from our community and Habitat for Humanity to work together on a construction project in Hartford.

Schedule: 7:45 - Arrival, Check-In; 8:00-3:00 Build Day.

Lunch will be catered and provided for all volunteers.

Questions? Contact Sue O'Donnell ~ sodonnell38@gmail.com
sodonnell38@gmail.com.

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.*

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>

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Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist

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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

A.J. DuVerger, Director of Maintenance

Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian

Juana Dominguez, Friary Custodian

Catholic Relief Services Collection

This collection will occur March 14/15, 2026. Please give as generously as you can by scanning the qr code below or going to

<https://www.osvhub.com/spsact/giving/funds/catholic-relief-services>



Around noon on April 25, 2015, a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. Strong aftershocks continued for days afterward. Not only did about 9,000 people lose their lives, but 23,000 others were injured, and more than 750,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. Families displaced by the disaster suffered the loss of loved ones and homes. They also confronted the poverty of lost livelihoods.

A grandmother named KunMaya not only lost her home but also suffered the loss of her son. For more than eight years following the earthquake, she and her husband lived in a temporary wooden shelter that offered little protection against weather. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), working with local partners, assisted KunMaya and more than 6,200 other families affected by the earthquake through the Resilient Communities through Vulnerable Earthquake Recovery (ReCoVER) project. Through this program, CRS-trained masons built an earthquake-resilient home for KunMaya and her husband. At the same time, ReCoVER offered KunMaya training in raising poultry and managing financial savings—training that helped her establish a growing poultry business that has allowed her to sustain her family while also saving and building for the future.

CRS relies on the support it receives through The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to victims of wars and natural disasters throughout the world. CRS carries out this work in ways that address immediate needs and provide long-term solutions to help build a stable, hopeful future.

Your donations help our brothers and sisters through grants to these agencies:

In the United States

Reveal Christ's love by welcoming suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Reveal Christ's love through legal aid to struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reveal Christ's love in ministry to people on the margins . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

And Around the World

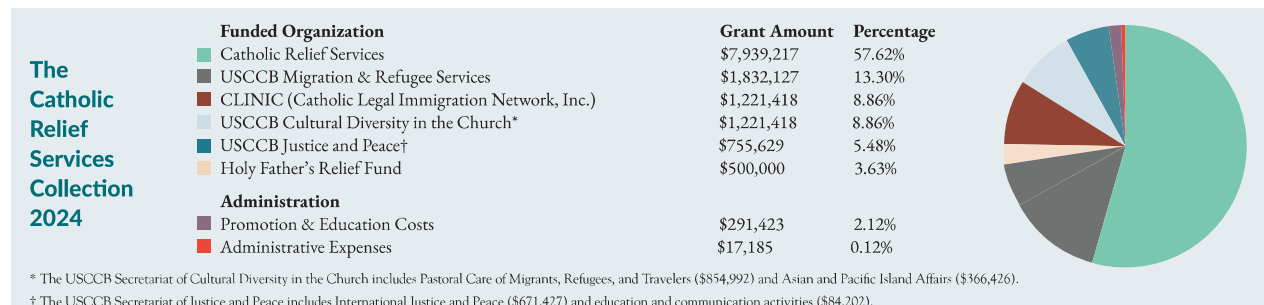
Reveal Christ's love to hungry mothers and children in Nepal and elsewhere . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**, the official overseas relief agency of the bishops of the United States.

Reveal Christ's love by working for peace . . . through the public policy and education and communication work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace**.

Reveal Christ's love to the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.



Help with an online donation



United States
Conference of
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Branches on the Vine

MARCH 7 - 13, 2026



Sister Dolores Liptak, a member of the Sisters of Mercy, historian and first archivist for the Archdiocese of Hartford, reads an excerpt from one of her books.

PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES MARKS 50 YEARS OF PRESERVING CATHOLIC HISTORY

- Story by Shelley Wolf

In 1973, Sister Dolores Liptak, a Sister of Mercy, completed her studies for a doctoral degree in American history at the University of Connecticut. But she still needed to write her dissertation. A professor suggested she research Catholic immigrants in Connecticut, beginning in the 1880s.

Her research led her to the Catholic Transcript and then to the Archdiocese of Hartford's archives in the Chancery.

"What I found was two dozen boxes on the floor near a large vault, where they kept the baptismal records," she recalls. While the baptismal records were safely stored in cabinets, she says, "the historical records had zero organization."

In order to do her research, Sister Dolores needed to dig through those boxes of correspondence. Also, around that time, the Catholic Church was getting serious about capturing its history.

"In the 1970s, the Vatican issued a document asking every diocese in the world to make sure their archives were organized and available to all serious researchers," Sister Dolores says. The United States bicentennial was also looming.

So, Sister Dolores, Vivian Stephenson, then editor of the Catholic Transcript, and Mary Caffrey, an English teacher, proposed to then-Archbishop John J. Whealon the creation of what is now the Office of the Archdiocesan Archives.

This year, the Archives, which is located on Farmington Avenue in Hartford, is celebrating its 50th anniversary (1976-2026). Sister Dolores, now 94, is its first archivist.

Today, the Archives functions as a private records facility. It contains the official governing and business records of the archdiocese. It also contains ancillary records, objects, artwork and other materials of historical significance, which reflect the mission and ministry of Catholics as a whole.

The Archives supports three categories of users: the archbishop; Catholic parishes, schools, clergy and archdiocesan administrative offices; and qualified researchers doing approved scholarly research.

It is private and not open to the general public. However, over the years, the diligent collection and maintenance of records by a series of archivists (ranging from religious sisters to professional archivists) has quietly captured the history of bishops, clergy and Connecticut's Catholic people.

These records have proven invaluable to book authors and to clergy assigned to special projects.

For instance, during her years as an official archivist (1976-1985), Sister Dolores assisted author Christopher Kauffman in finding a document about Blessed

Michael McGivney for his book Faith and Fraternalism: The History of the Knights of Columbus.

At the request of Archbishop Whealon, Sister Dolores used the Archives herself to research and author the book Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Leadership, which chronicled the bishops and how the Church evolved with the influx of European Catholic immigrants.

One gem in the Archives she still recalls is a touching letter written in 1890 by Michael Simko, requesting the state's first Slovak Roman Catholic parish be created in Bridgeport so 1,200 people could practice their "beloved religion" and "so our souls might not be condemned."

In recent years, clergy have consulted the Archives in preparation for the Jubilee Year of Mercy and for the Archdiocese of Hartford's 175th Anniversary. The Archives also houses a time capsule filled with parish memorabilia to be opened in 2093, the Archdiocese's 200th Anniversary.

Today, Archivist Bridgette Woodall and Assistant Archivist Lindsey Restelli are carrying on the work of cataloguing archdiocesan records and preserving history. They also process 200-plus research requests from clergy and archdiocesan employees annually. **Note:** For sacramental records, contact your local parish.



Upcoming Events



LENT
Special Events

Shroud of Turin Presentation
Friday, March 13th at 7:00 PM
Deacon Alan Germain, based in the Archdiocese of Hartford, will present on the Shroud of Turin, covering its history, scientific research, and biblical significance.

Living Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 27th at 7:00 PM
Grade 6 Faith Formation students will present a dramatic, prayerful reenactment of the final hours of the life of Jesus Christ.

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03/18 WEDNESDAY 7PM
LENTEN REFLECTION - GOD AS OUR LOVING FATHER | THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON
St. Paul Church, 485 Alling St, Kensington

How do we become separated from God the Source of eternal life? And what does God provide to restore us? What does the Prodigal Son teach us about how God sees us? Join us for a Lenten Reflection, followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All are welcome!



03/29 SUNDAY 11:30AM
PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT
St. Mary's Church, 212 Elizabeth St, Derby

Free Breakfast of egg sandwiches, pastries, coffee/tea/juice after Mass hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Egg Hunt with Raffle after the 10:30 am Mass hosted by the Ladies Guild. BYOB- Bring your own basket! All are welcome!



03/19 THURSDAY 1 - 6PM
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
The Lyceum, 181 Main St, Terryville

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish will host a community Blood Drive in partnership with the American Red Cross on Thursday, March 19. Please consider giving the gift of life by donating blood. Your generosity can help save lives and support those in critical need. *Schedule your appointment today via the QR code.*

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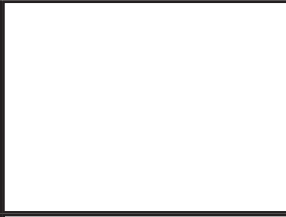
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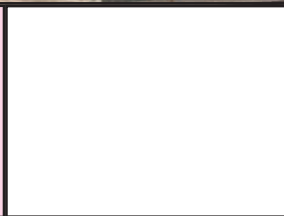
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