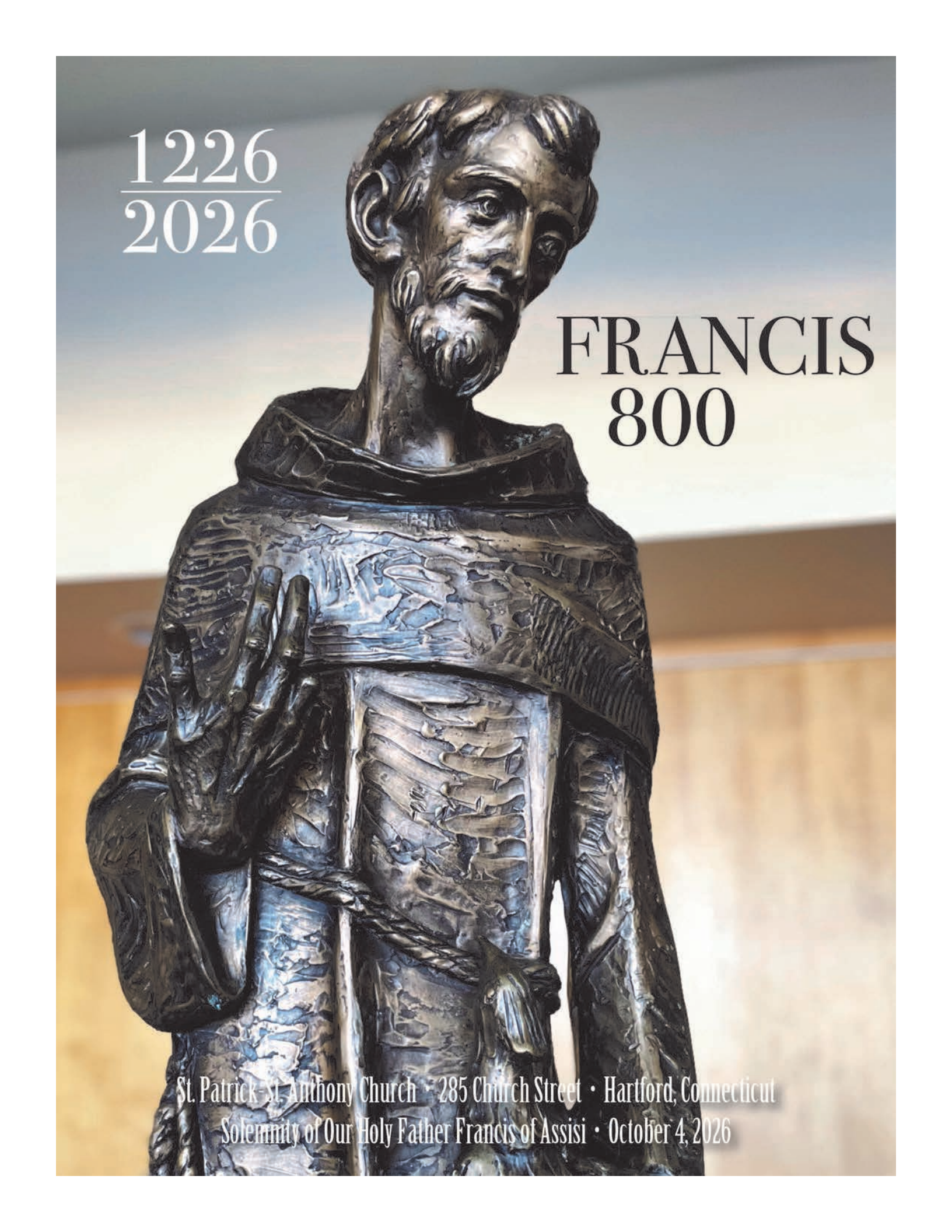




1226
2026

FRANCIS
800

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
Solemnity of Our Holy Father Francis of Assisi • October 4, 2026

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

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, Oct 3, 2026

4:00 PM Eleanor Laffin

Sunday, Oct 4, 2026

8:00 AM Harry Keally

10:00 AM Joseph G. Foran, Sr.

11:45 AM Alvin Collins

5:00 PM Linda Grenier, 10th Anniversary

Monday, Oct 5, 2026

7:30 AM Danny Bird

12:05 PM Concetta Gianni

Tuesday, Oct 6, 2026

7:30 AM Eleanor Laffin

12:05 PM Chuck Gagne

Wednesday, Oct 7, 2026

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Donato Monaco

Thursday, Oct 8, 2026

7:30 AM Prayer intentions for our parishioners

12:05 PM Richard Joseph Reilly

Friday, Oct 9, 2026

7:30 AM

12:05 PM John R. Lambert, Robert Lambert and fellow soldiers from their WWII Platoon.

Saturday, Oct 10, 2026

4:00 PM Deceased members of the Formica Family

Sunday, Oct 11, 2026

8:00 AM William, Angie & Joanne Speziale

10:00 AM Rose & Angelo Perrone

11:45 AM Bill Hamilton

5:00 PM Charles MacKay

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Oct 5	Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday, Oct 6	Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday, Oct 7	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday, Oct 8	Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13
Friday, Oct 9	Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26
Sunday, Oct 11	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-1

Please Pray for the Sick

Thomas Molitor, Joseph Shertick, Greg Reed, Kathryn Eagers, Tommie Henry, Syl Ciraulo, Mary Ertel, Mary Joyce Castafero, Rosemarie Perkoski, Fran Rago, Susan Degennaro, Albert Tornatore, Matthew Keohane, and Deborah Godin.

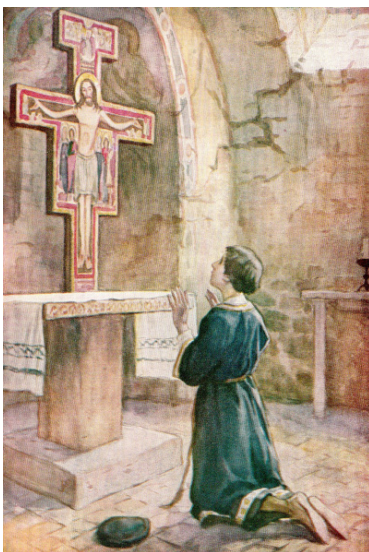
The Pastor's Corner

October 4, 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We've all heard the story. Francesco Bernadone was a restless young man, unable to find his calling. His dreams of being a heroic knight had turned into a bit of a nightmare after spending time as a prisoner of war. His father, Pietro, wanted his son to follow in the family business, but that didn't interest Francesco, either. What to do?

He found himself wandering about the outskirts of his home town of Assisi in the hills of Umbria – breathtaking vistas at every turn, but he seemed to hardly notice. Until he came upon San Damiano, a little church in need of a good bit of repair. He entered and knelt down underneath a large wooden crucifix painted in the Byzantine style of an icon.



The open eyes of Jesus on the cross seemed to lock him in a stare that was both intimidating and beckoning at the same time. He couldn't look away as feelings of doubt and fear, guilt and desire welled up within him. "Lord, what do you want me to do?" he asked. "Show me what you want me to do with my life."



And the Lord answered! A voice as clear as the day responded: "Francis, go and rebuild my church which, as you see, is falling down."

That was all he heard. That was all he needed to hear. It took a bit longer, however, to realize that Jesus wasn't asking him to physically rebuild San Damiano as well as a few other rundown churches

near Assisi. He did that, of course, but it gradually dawned on him that his vocation was to rebuild the church, the human institution that was perilously close to falling apart.



Now, as we commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis, the Church still faces many challenges and is always in need of repair and renewal. But amidst all the cries of anguish and anger we hear, there are also firm statements of faith and resolve from folks who will not let disappointments distract them from their commitment to Jesus Christ.

Yes, the Church is divine, but also very human, and Jesus uses human beings in all their fragility and sinfulness to be the sacrament of his love and mercy in a world that seems to be increasingly unpredictable.

Like Francis kneeling before the cross of San Damiano, we must keep our gaze focused on Jesus, who beckons us to follow him. Let us continue to do so, in moments of joy as well as sorrow, in the darkness as well as the light.

May the legacy of St. Francis fill all of us with a spirit of openness and charity as we seek to live the Gospel in a world desperate for Good News.

Buona festa and blessings on your week ahead!

Fr. Tim Shreenan, OFM

Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

Pastor

Bereavement Support Group

Practical support through grief

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church

A welcoming space to listen, share, and find support after loss.

Join us Sundays, October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22, December 6, 13, and 20 from 1:00 to 2:30pm

Call office at 860-756-0434 to sign up. Deadline: October 13, 2026

1226
2026



FRANCIS 800

PICTURING FRANCIS • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

7:00 PM in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

Images of St. Francis of Assisi stretch back to just a few years after his death in 1226 to the present day. From medieval frescoes to modern postage stamps, Francis has been depicted by countless artists in a variety of media. Join Fr. Tim as we explore the many ways we picture Francis.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 AM in the Friary Gardens

Bring your beloved pet for the annual blessing of animals in honor of St. Francis and his devotion to God's created world.

TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:00 PM in the Church

The annual service of the passing of St. Francis from earthly to heavenly life takes on special meaning this year, the 800th anniversary of his "Transitus." Relive his final moments in story, song and ritual.

CONCERT IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

2:30 PM in the Church

Missa Gaia ("Earth Mass") will be performed, along with other Franciscan-themed music by the choirs of St. Patrick-St. Anthony, Chorus Angelicus, and singers from Siena University. A free-will offering will be received.

PARISH PARTY • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

3:30 - 6:30 PM in the Friary Gardens

Hosted by the Franciscan Friars in honor of the Francis 800 Jubilee, join us for food and drink, face-painting, giant puppets by local artist Anne Cubberly, and activities for the kids. Our partner organization, Levo International, will also be on-site with creation-sustaining service projects for all ages and abilities.

This Week's Programs & Events

Djembe Drumming Circle

October 5, 2026 in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, from 6:30 to 7:30pm. All women and men are invited to join. If you have a drum, please bring it with you. First time drummers are asked to arrive at 6:15 pm. Call the parish office, at 860-756-4034 if you need a drum.

Group Spiritual Reflection- Next meeting, 10/06/2026,

Every Tuesday; on Zoom, 12:30 - 1:30 PM. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/GSR-Fall26> to receive the Zoom link for Tuesday's virtual session. *Facilitators: Mary Espinosa and Elaine Wiatr*

In Quiet Prayer - Next Meeting, 10/07/2026

Every Wednesday; on Zoom, 7:30 - 8:00 AM. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/IQP-Fall26> to receive the Zoom link. *Co-facilitators: Pat Curtis and Susan Lennon*

Divine Reading - Next Meeting, 10/07/2026

Each month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays; in the Franciscan Center, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. *Facilitator: Sheila Denion*

Weekly Rosary on Zoom - First Meeting, 10/8/2026

Join us Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29 from Time: 7:00-7:30 PM. October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. Join us for a weekly Rosary devotion on Zoom every Thursday, beginning in October and continuing through Advent, Christmastime, and Lent.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/Rosary-Fall26> to receive the Zoom link. *Facilitators: Jorge Garriga; Stacie Mawson, & Pat Curtis*



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Next meeting: Monday, October 12 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry shares God's love, one stitch and one prayer at a time.

We warmly invite you to join us in this prayerful and meaningful ministry. No experience is necessary.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-PS26> to register and receive the Zoom meeting link. For more info, contact Janet Bristow at janet1291947@gmail.com 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.



The Role of Women in Early Christianity

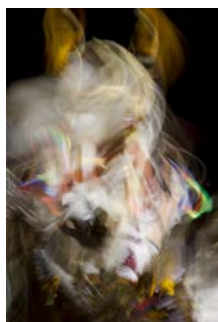
Tuesdays, October 13, 20 & 27 7:00-8:30 PM, at the Franciscan Center.

In this three-session course, we will discuss the role of women in Jesus' ministry; the role of women in Paul's ministry; and the imposition of traditional gender roles in the early church. We will also consider how to conceive the role of women in today's church, given this history. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-RWEC-26> to register. **Presenters: Dan Kueper & Pat Curtis**
Free Will Offering

Dancing with Sweetgrass: Artwork by Kim Weston

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 to 8:00 PM:
Virtual Artist Talk

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPS-ACT-Sweetgrass> to receive the ZOOM link for the October 13th event.

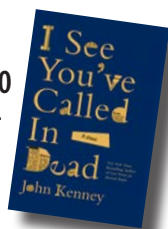


Sunday, October 18, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM: Reception and artist talk, with a drumming performance.

A Novel Idea Book Club

Our next meeting is October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The book selection for September is *I See You've Called in Dead*, by John Kenney.

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.



REFLECTING GOD'S GRACE

Supporting LGBTQ Youth & Families

Audience: Parishioners, families, priests, religious, pastoral ministers & LGBTQ ministry members

Hosted by St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church

Reflecting God's Grace: Supporting LGBTQ Youth & Families, Saturday, October 17, 2026 from 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, with reception following

The Family Acceptance Project will provide a one-day special event for our parish to strengthen families and promote well-being for their LGBTQ children. This program is open to parishioners, families, pastoral ministers and LGBTQ ministry members.

Facilitators - This gathering will be co-facilitated by Dr. Caitlin Ryan, who has worked in LGBTQ health for 50 years, and Dr. David Palmieri, a Catholic school theology educator of nearly 30 years who works with Catholic high schools and parishes to provide support for LGBTQ youth. Participants will receive foundational education on helping Catholic families to support their LGBTQ children with background materials and a copy of FAP's evidence-based family education booklet for Catholic families.

To register, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSACT-Ref-Gods-Grace>. The suggested offering is \$20.00.

Thank you for responding from the Heart

"Thank you for everything, for thinking of me in difficult situations." In the spirit of SPSA, you have offered your earnings and your prayers. You have made a decision to embrace those who are suffering. You sought no recognition, and offered your hand to Louise and her daughter, reaching out with food gift cards in their time of need. And, Louise expresses her gratitude.

"2, 5, 11". Inside a church those numbers might be from chapters and verses, or song numbers in a hymnal. While we pray and sing, it is disquieting to consider the two, five and eleven-year-old Columbian children whose father was detained while leaving for work; and then deported with nothing but the clothes on his back. What would you do if you were the Mother, and were forced to plan out a future for your children knowing you might be next? Your generosity of gift cards provided a respite from the worry of how to put food on the table.

As always, SPSA has put into action its Open Hearts & Open Doors guiding principles.

THANK YOU for everything and for thinking of all those struggling in difficult times.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

September Weekly Offering Updates

9/6/2026: \$19,529.56

9/13/2026: \$17,377.54

9/20/2026: \$15,222.56

9/27/2026: \$14,647.38

SPSA Pastoral Council Corner

Greetings and Happy Fall! It is hard to believe, but it has now been nearly 10 months since the inception of the Pastoral Council and we are pleased to introduce monthly updates to the St. Patrick-St. Anthony community so that there may be more transparency into where we are focusing our time and attention. As a Council, the last few months have been rewarding and productive as we collectively gained greater insights into how we may be able to further support this wonderful community. We welcome your continued feedback and look forward to engaging more deeply as we continue our journey!

The Pastoral Council met on September 26th and spent much of its meeting reviewing the results of our recent parish-wide survey. We are deeply grateful to everyone who took the time to share their experiences, perspectives, and hopes for St. Patrick-St. Anthony. Your feedback will help guide our continued growth as a welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant community of faith.

What We Heard in the Parish Survey

The Council reviewed an initial overview of the survey results from the 378 responses we received. Among the strongest areas of affirmation were the importance of our liturgies and sacraments in parishioners' spiritual lives, pride in being part of SPSA, the welcoming nature of our physical space, personal connections with members of the pastoral staff, and the variety of ministries available within the parish.

The survey also identified opportunities for continued growth. These include strengthening the sense of welcome and belonging experienced by children and young people, helping young adults remain connected after Confirmation, creating stronger connections to parish groups and ministries, increasing awareness of volunteer opportunities, and exploring parishioners' experiences of music and participation at Mass.

The survey contains a wealth of thoughtful open-ended feedback that deserves careful consideration. Throughout the fall, several short-term working groups will begin a deeper review of the data and comments in partnership with pastoral staff and ministry coordinators. The goal is not simply to study the survey, but to identify meaningful and achievable actions in response to what we heard. We anticipate sharing a more comprehensive report—including findings, analysis, and proposed actions—with the parish in early 2027.

Other Parish Updates

The Council also discussed several additional areas of parish life. Following recent changes in the friar community, with Fr. Bill's

departure to California, SPSA continues to evaluate its ministerial and staffing needs while maintaining its commitments to the parish and Trinity College. The parish is also exploring improvements to the church sound system as a first priority, with possible enhancements to livestreaming capabilities to be considered in the future.

Communication and connection will continue to be important areas of focus. A digital suggestion box is being developed to give parishioners another way to share feedback, and the Pastoral Council plans to provide a brief update following each monthly meeting. Upcoming opportunities for connection include the **Ministry Fair on October 24–25** and a **welcome brunch for new parishioners on November 15th**.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the parish survey and to all who continue to share their gifts, ideas, and hopes for SPSA. We look forward to continuing this work together as we seek to build a community rooted in faith, belonging, service, and welcome.

Welcome Brunch

ST. PATRICK-ST. ANTHONY
ALL ARE WELCOME

November 15
After the 10:00am Mass
In the Franciscan Center

New to St. Patrick-St. Anthony or curious to learn more?
Explore the ministries and history of our church and the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry.

"Peace and all goodness."
— ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI





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. Michael Johnson, O.F.M., Guardian, Parochial Vicar & Director of Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, mikeinbolivia@gmail.com

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, jleonard@spsact.org

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Sarah Christopher, Director of Parish Communications,

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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

MAINTENANCE STAFF

A.J. DuVerger, Director of Maintenance

Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian

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>

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

Branches on the Vine

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AOHB-1004> to read this week's content and view various upcoming events happening around the Archdiocese of Hartford.



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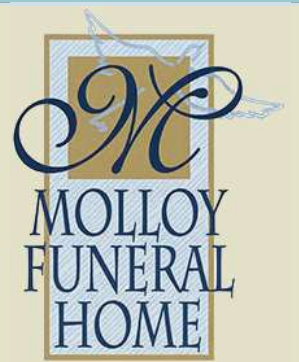
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