

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

Rev. Jerzy Auguscik, O.F.M., Conv.
Administrator
Deacon Wayne F. Griffin



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00am

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Friday: 7:00am
Saturday: 8:00am

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Liz Plavcan
860-225-6449
plavcancdstfrancis@yahoo.com

FRIARY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
Friary: 225-6449
Fax: 225-2315
Paula Boyer, Secretary

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Monika Krajewska

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00pm
or by appointment

MARRIAGE

Contact the Friary at
least 6 months before
the desired date to set up
schedule of premarital
conferences.

REGISTRATION

New parishioners should
register as soon as possible.
Please notify the
Friary of any change of
address or telephone
number.

BAPTISM

Pre-sacramental instruction
required. Call the Friary for
further instruction.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Please call the Friary if someone
you know is hospitalized or
homebound and would like to
receive the Sacraments.

PRAYER LINE

We pray for anyone in need of
prayer. Names are not necessary,
simply tell us your intention.
Contact Maureen at 224-2397
or Marjorie at 357-3853

BULLETIN DEADLINE

All copy should be submitted in
writing to the Friary office by
12 Noon on Monday.

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<http://saintfrancisnb.org>

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec. 16 – Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

4:30PM †Alfonse Napierski req. by Lynne Prairie

Sunday, Dec. 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:00AM †Anne Christine Putala req. by Family

10:00AM †Dec'd. of Slovitski Family by M/M Mercier

Monday, Dec. 18

7:00AM For Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

Tuesday, Dec. 19

7:00AM Health of Kelly Smith req. by a Family Friend

Wednesday, Dec. 20

7:00AM †Deceased. of Lynch & Hallinan Families

Thursday, Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius

7:00AM †Deceased. of Lynch & Hallinan Families

Friday, Dec. 22

7:00AM †Deceased. of Lynch & Hallinan Families

Saturday, Dec. 23

8:00AM †Anna Krasnowski, Anniv. of Birth req. by Grandmother

Saturday, Dec. 23 – Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30PM †Melvin Cloukey req. by Family

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00AM For Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

10:00AM †Ramona Luna 2nd Anniv. req. by Family

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Vigil: Christmas Eve

4:30PM 40th Wedding Anniv. for Anna & Kaz Waluk

Please Pray for...

Our Sick, Homebound and those in Nursing Homes:

Carl Bienkowski, Gladys Cloukey, Fr. Darius Dembkowski, Raymond Guerard, Leonard Guzzi, Phyllis Hary, Lee Labianca, Zbigniew Marszalkowski, Marita O'Neill, Richard Picerno, Stephen Sen, Paul Shaker and Helen Tomassetti.

This week the Sanctuary lamps will burn in memory of:



Blessed Sacrament

Jane Slovitski

Blessed Mother

Irene Slovitski

Saint Joseph

Anthony Slovitski

Memorial candles are available for \$5.00 each. Please call Paula at 860-225-6449 for details.



Church Support

December 8, 9 & 10

Immaculate Conception.....	\$691.00
Weekly Collection	\$1,264.76
Children's Envelopes	\$4.00
Religious Retirement Fund.....	\$650.50
Annual Collection	\$395.00
Online Donations	\$382.00

Thank you for your support.

Our Christmas & New Year's Worship Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 23 & 24

4:30PM; 8:00AM &

10:00AM

Attendance at the above Masses does not fulfill your Christmas obligation.

Christmas Eve Vigil

Sunday, Dec. 24th

4:30PM and 12:00Midnight



Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25th

10:00AM Only

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 30 & 31

4:30PM; 8:00AM & 10:00AM

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31st at 4:30PM

Monday, January 1st at 10:00AM Only

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, December 23 & 30 from 3:00 to 4:00PM

No Confessions will be heard on Sunday, December 24 or on December 31, 2017.

Protecting the Faithful from Illness

Parishioners are reminded that if they are ill or suspect that they are ill with a contagious illness, they are not bound by the Sunday Mass Obligation. They should remain at home and return to church when they are well.

We will help prevent illness by distributing Holy Communion in the form of bread only until the end of flu season, this coming Spring.

Today's Music

E: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel # 39

O: O Come Divine Messiah # 52

C: Pan De Vida # 435

R: Ready the Way # 64

You are invited to help!

You and your family are invited to join the fun as we prepare the interior of the Church for the Christmas season immediately following the last Advent Mass at 10:00AM on Sunday, December 24. The more hands we have the faster the work will be completed. Join us!!!

Now Accepting Mass Intentions for 2018

We opened the 2018 Mass Book last Tuesday. In order to give all parishioners a chance to book Masses we will only accept two weekend Masses per visit. Payment is expected when the Masses are booked. Daily Masses are \$15 each and the Vigil and Sunday Masses are \$20 each. The parish office is open weekdays from 8:30AM to 4:30PM, but is closed for an hour at 12:30PM.

Religious Give Thanks

A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donations to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Defending Our Religious Liberty

Pope Francis has warned, "When a sick person is not placed at the center and considered in their dignity, attitudes arise which can even lead to profiteering on other people's misfortunes. The growing health poverty among the poorest segments of the population is due precisely to the difficulty of access to care . . ." Let us pray that in transforming the HHS federal mandate, religious rights of the Catholic Church will be safeguarded.

Our Vocation Corner

We see John the Baptist as one who leads us to Jesus. He came to testify to the light. *Rejoice; never cease praying.* Let us never cease praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. If you are considering a life of prayer as a priest or religious, contact **Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, by calling Tel. 860-242-5573, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

Calendar of Meetings and Events

Religion Classes: Grades 1 – 5: Saturday mornings, 8:45 AM – 9:45AM, Jan. 6, 20, & 27, in the school.

Religion Classes: Grades 6, 7, 8, 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation: Sunday evenings, 4 – 6PM, Jan. 7 & 21, in the school.

Men's Rosary League: Wed., Dec. 20 at **11:00AM** in Church. Social Hour follows. All men are invited. This time change will be in effect for the Winter months.

Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: First Friday of each month. Next date: Friday, Jan. 5, 7:30AM to 3:00PM.

Visitation of the Sick: First Friday of each month. Next date: Friday, Jan. 5. Please call 860-225-6449 if you would like to be visited & receive Communion.

Become a Vocation Advocate

Join Today!

Join the St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society (SJVVPS), a new apostolate of the Office of Vocations of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Members of the society will commit to pray daily for vocations for the priesthood and the consecrated life, and may offer practical support to seminarians.

As a member of the society, you will be invited to Holy Hours, Ordination Events, and a special Day of recollection with our seminarians. You will also share in the spiritual fruits of the society. The Vocation Director of the Archdiocese will offer a monthly Mass for you, your family, and all your prayer intentions.

To register email: vocations@aohct.org with your name, address, and phone number and visit: www.hartfordpriest.com for more information.

Come and Pray –Holy Hours for Vocations to the Priesthood

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest.” (Matthew 9)

The Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites everyone to come and pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese at special Holy Hours, celebrated by Fr. Jeff Gubbiotti, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. Each Holy Hour begins at 7:00PM and will be followed by a light “coffee and” reception so we have the chance to meet on another. Please join us!

Tues., December 19th @ 7:00PM
Assumption Parish
61 No. Cliff Street
Ansonia

Thurs., January 11th @ 7:00PM
St. Josephine Bakhita Parish
767 Elm Street
Rocky Hill

Wed., February 21st @ 7:00PM
Most Holy Trinity Parish
68 N. Colony Street
Wallingford

Please consider joining the St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society. Information can be found on our website, www.hartfordpriest.com.

Catholic Mediterranean Cruise

Come and sail away on a 10-night Mediterranean Cruise with Father Aron Maqhsoudi on October 18th –28th, 2018 on Holland America’s Koningsdam out of Civitavecchia, Italy. Ports of call: Civitavecchia; Dubrovnik; Kotor; Corfu; Katakolon; Athens; Santorini; Naples and Civitavecchia.

Prices begin at \$3,578.00 for two passengers which includes all port fees and taxes. **ASK US ABOUT OUR LOWER NON-REFUNDABLE SNAP FARES.** Daily Mass offered. Deposits of only \$600 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. For further info or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-1785 or Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com.

Support NBCCW’s Madonna Plan

Please consider a gift to the Madonna Plan to help provide just the basic needs for a decent life for some of the world’s poorest. Thank you in advance for your consideration and Best Wishes for a Holy, Peaceful and Happy Christmas to you and your families from the New Britain Council of Catholic Women.

Please make checks payable to NBCCW and mail it to **Mrs. Shirley Krawczyk, 316 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06051.**

From the desk of the Administrator

This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. All three readings speak about rejoicing over what God has done for us. It is the Lord Jesus who came and freed us from the shackles of our sinfulness and gave us the freedom to live as children of God. Jesus put a face on the God that the Jewish people had been worshipping since the days of Abraham and taught us, once again, that the God of Israel is not some far off deity who watches us from a distance, but a loving Father with whom we can have a direct, personal relationship.

Our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah was the very passage that Jesus proclaimed in the synagogue in Nazareth in the presence of his neighbors. The prophet speaks of one who has been anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, liberty to captives, and release to prisoners. Jesus tells His friends and neighbors that this passage has been fulfilled in their hearing. The long expected anointed one who will bring mitzvah (God's compassion) to His chosen people is Jesus Christ, the humble carpenter, from a very small town in Galilee.

The prophet rejoices in the Lord, for God is the joy of his soul. God has clothed him in a robe of salvation and wrapped him in a mantle of justice. Just as the earth brings forth its plants and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations. Literatures on the spiritual life speak of the "joy of the saints" as more sustained and lasting. Francis of Assisi is called the joyful saint. This sense of joy was with him, despite the physical pains of hunger and the stigmata or wounds of Jesus on his body. His sense of joy came from the assurance that all will be well in God's providence. His joyful attitude goes hand in hand with thanksgiving for all of God's gifts in creation. He is thankful for Brother Sun and Sister Moon. He is thankful for the flowers that bloom and the birds that fly. He is even thankful for the approach of Sister Death.



Contemporary critics might see these examples as the romanticism of Francis. We cannot deny however that the joy of Francis has caught the world's imagination. In the past seven hundred years, thousands of books have been written about him. The joy of Francis infects people. His is the epitome of Christian joy. As we celebrate this Sunday of Joy, may we have the joy of Francis of Assisi? It is a joy based on faith that God in His provident way will take care of his people. It is a joy based on hope, that in God's plan all will be well. It is a joy based on love that happiness consists in loving and being loved. The message of Gaudete Sunday is that we find true happiness when we allow God into our lives. When we let that happen, then our priorities also shift. We will discover that true happiness does not depend on accumulation of wealth, accolades, and praises; True happiness consists in being faithful to God. True happiness lies not on consumption of things but on loving people. Happiness is to welcome God into our lives.

Blessed Advent!

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