

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

MAY 30 - JUNE 5, 2026

Vatican Designates Special Jubilee Year of *St. Francis*

- Story by Shelley Wolf

This spring, St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Haven, part of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, kicked off its observance of the Jubilee Year of St. Francis with a visit from Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne.

Before the Mass, the Archbishop blessed the church's central doors, decorated with images of St. Francis of Assisi and wild animals, to commemorate this site as one of many pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Hartford where Catholics may obtain special graces.

The event was part of the larger Jubilee Year of St. Francis, which has been declared by the Vatican, and is being observed by Catholics all over the world. The special jubilee began on Jan. 10, 2026, and continues through Jan. 10, 2027.

The Jubilee Year of St. Francis marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, who died on Oct. 3, 1226.

The special jubilee year is intended to encourage Catholics to model on the beloved saint, who continues to inspire with his enduring example of humility, simplicity, peace, care for the poor and care for creation.

Born into a wealthy family, Francis renounced earthly riches to live a humble life in service to God. His love for Christ led him to seek to rebuild the Church, to embrace the poor and marginalized, to recognize the image of God in all creation, and to establish bonds of peace within all human persons.

Others were drawn to his way of living, and so St. Francis founded the first Franciscan Order (Order of Friars Minor), the Second Order (Poor Clares), and the Third Order Regular. Today, religious and lay members of these communities serve the spiritually and materially poor in hospitals, orphanages, schools, social service outreaches and retreat centers across the globe.

Over the centuries, the saint's legacy has continued to have a profound effect. Upon his election to the papacy, Pope Francis explained his choice of name to a group of journalists, praising Francis as "the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation."

For the Jubilee Year of St. Francis, Pope Leo XIV designated Franciscan-led communities and St. Francis-patronized churches as pilgrimage sites where visitors can earn a plenary indulgence for themselves or the souls in Purgatory.

To receive the plenary indulgence, Catholics must pray at a designated Jubilee church, obtain a sacramental confession (within 20 days), receive the Eucharist, and pray for the pope's intentions.

The decree also requires visitors to pray an Our Father and the Creed. In addition, visitors must seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Franciscan saints for global charity, harmony and peace. And they must have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin. The homebound and caregivers may participate spiritually, if not in person.



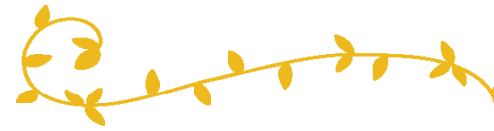
Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne opens the central doors to New Haven's St. Francis of Assisi Church, one pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Franciscan-led communities in the archdiocese include: St. Joseph Parish, Winsted; St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish, Hartford; St. Paul Parish, Kensington; and St. Martin of Tours Parish at St. Joseph Church, Canaan, St. Mary Church, Lakeville, and Immaculate Conception Church, Norfolk.

Churches under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi include: St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. John Paul the Great Parish, Torrington; St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Junipero Serra Parish, South Windsor; St. Francis of Assisi Parish, New Britain; St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Naugatuck; and St. Francis of Assisi Church, Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, New Haven.



Upcoming Events



JUNE 2 @ 7PM
CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
Mount Sacred Heart, Hamden

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are hosting a bilingual holy hour with consecration to the Sacred Heart in preparation for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The ceremony will include a special prayer of consecration, a blessing of each individual and family, and a blessing of the home. Each person or family will also receive a blessed image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of their choosing. We invite you to consider this opportunity to consecrate yourself or your family to the Sacred Heart! To register, email Sr. Angela at consecration@ascjus.org or visit bit.ly/consecration626.



JUNE 4 @ 6 - 8PM
SUMMER ALPHA YOUNG ADULT GROUP
St. Margaret Mary Church,
Rectory Basement, South Windsor

Welcome to all people ages 18 to 39 years old. Join us for food, friendship, faith, and fun, every Thursday throughout the summer! Every week we share pizza, watch faith-based videos, and participate in small group discussions. If you have any questions, text 860-816-6149. Our welcoming group would love to have you join us!



JUNE 12 - 13 @ 8PM
ALL NIGHT VIGIL
St. Joseph Church, Winsted

Vigil begins at 8PM with opportunity for Confession until 8:45PM. Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9PM. Each hour throughout the night will have some structured prayer time as well as time for quiet reflection. Vigil concludes with 8AM Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Coffee and water will be available throughout the night. Homemade Bread will be shared after the 8AM Mass in honor of St. Anthony's Feast Day, June 13.



JUNE 15 @ 8AM - 6PM **\$50**
YOUNG MEN'S RETREAT
Holy Family Passionist Retreat
Center, West Hartford

Experience a day of spiritual renewal and brotherhood with the St. Paul Young Men's Group, specifically for those ages 18 - 25. Hear from impactful speakers including Fr. Anthony Federico, Sam Todzia, and Noel Terranova while enjoying a full schedule of prayer, Mass, Confession, and great conversation.

Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door, which includes your meals for the day, from a light breakfast upon arrival to a full dinner and dessert, with coffee and refreshments available throughout. It's a perfect opportunity to step back from the daily grind and focus on fellowship and faith!



JULY 9 - 11
ST. ANTHONY CHURCH CARNIVAL
St. Anthony Church, Prospect

The St. Anthony Church Carnival brings three exciting nights of food, games, and community spirit from July 9-11. Admission and parking are completely free, with food service featuring daily classics alongside unique nightly Polish, Italian, and Mexican cuisines. Bring the whole family!

Thursday, July 9th: 6PM - 10PM
Friday, July 10th: 6PM - 10PM
Saturday, July 11th: 3PM - 10PM

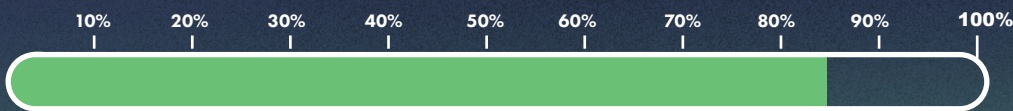


JULY 9 - 11 @ 5PM - 9PM
SUMMER FOOD FESTIVAL
Our Lady Queen of the Apostles
Parish, St. Mary Church, Derby

Our Summer Food Festival brings our parish and our community together for a joyful celebration held right in our church parking lot. Featuring delicious food tents, special evenings with live music, family-friendly games for children, and the excitement of announcing our annual raffle winners, the festival is a highlight of the summer season! Come join us – menu/poster can be seen on our Facebook events @[StMarysChurchDerbyCt](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchDerbyCt) or on our website www.OLQAderby.org.

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!



Total Goal: \$10M 84.53% as of 5/19/26

\$8,453,099.31 in pledges from 23,417 generous donors

*This figure does not include bequests given to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal



www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal