

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

JUNE 6 - 12, 2026

Reborn in Beauty: New Haven's Beloved St. Anthony Shrine *Restored to Splendor*

- Story by Jim Tierney

For several years, the basement of St. Anthony Church in New Haven was used as a chapel with an altar at one end of the hall, chairs in the middle and the statues of saints lining the walls in a rectangular shape.

Refurbished last year, the space is now a dedicated shrine and a focal point for devotion. Many statues were donated by early immigrant families from various Italian regions. Others found a new home here after the consolidation of St. Peter's and Sacred Heart churches in recent decades.

These statues reflect deep personal and cultural devotions, and they continue to be honored through private prayer, novenas and special observances connected to the saints they represent.

Father Héctor Rangel, pastor in solidum of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish which includes St. Anthony Church, says the shrine holds deep historical significance because "shrines were used by the Italian immigrants for their novenas," reflecting the traditions and devotions immigrants brought with them from their hometowns in Italy.

The recent renovations transformed the space into a dedicated shrine. A team reinforced every shelf and touched up the paint on several of the figures.

"We cleaned up the shrine, wiped down all the statues, replaced the old placards describing the saints, added two dehumidifiers for the muggy summers and polished the relic cabinets," says parishioner and refurbishing committee member Frank Mentone.

For many years, the basement at St. Anthony Church was used for religious education classes and prayer groups.

After St. Anthony and other city churches combined to form Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, religious instruction became shared among the churches at different locations, Mentone explains.

Today, the shrine serves as a gathering place for prayer and fellowship within the parish community. It is maintained by the parish sexton with additional help from parishioners.

"The vision is to have people visit the shrine before and after Mass for a quiet reflection as well as using it in the evening for special prayer groups," Mentone says.

The parish also celebrates St. Anthony, marking his annual feast day on June 13. This year, St. Anthony Church will hold a Triduum with Adoration and the Blessed Sacrament on June 8, 9, and 10 at 6 p.m. in the church. On June 12 at 6 p.m., an indoor festival will be held in St. Anthony Parish Center. Tickets must be purchased for the festival by June 10 by calling 203.410.4254.

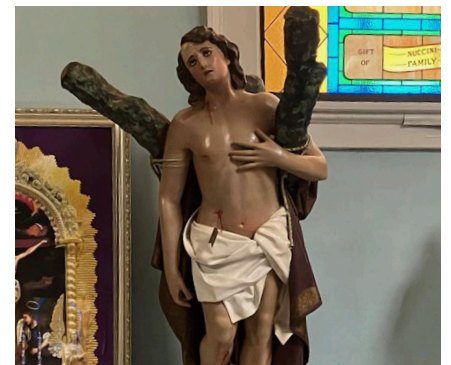
This celebration serves as a reminder that devotion to the saints is not confined to the past but continues to shape the spiritual life of the parish today, says Father Michael Dolan, pastor in solidum and moderator of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish.

"It is wonderful to see not just the cultural but theological gifts that are being shared as you move among the beauty in this refurbished chapel," Father Dolan explains. "The communion of the saints is brought to life in the exquisite craftsmanship of the artists. To walk among these religious figures is to experience both a spiritual uplifting and a profound sense of gratitude."

Situated in the basement of St. Anthony Church, 70 Washington Ave., New Haven, the shrine welcomes visitors for parish meetings, gatherings and youth activities. You can also visit the shrine on Sundays after the 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Masses.



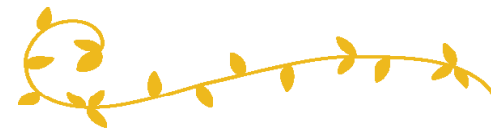
Pictured is a statue of St. Philip Neri in the shrine at St. Anthony Church in New Haven. The saint was an Italian Catholic priest who founded the Congregation of the Oratory, a group of secular clergy dedicated to pastoral care and charitable work. PHOTO BY JIM TIERNEY



A statue of St. Sebastian is one of several statues on display in the shrine at St. Anthony Church. PHOTO BY JIM TIERNEY



Upcoming Events



JUNE 13 @ 7PM
YOUNG ADULT BONFIRE
St. Paul VI Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Hamden

Join us on the lawn between the church and brick office building. All ages 18-40 welcome! We invite you to bring your own chair, favorite snack and non-alcoholic drink, and rosary beads!



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 9, 16, 23 @ 9AM - 3PM
ARTISTS WITH THE SPIRIT, DAYS ON THE LAKE
Sacred Heart on the Lake Retreat Center, Higganum

We offer a quiet, spiritual, and naturally inspiring atmosphere to paint, write, sketch, or craft. Because the retreat center is situated right on the water, it provides the perfect backdrop for the day. Please bring your lunch and art supplies. Coffee, tea and other hot and cold drinks will be provided. Sr. Lany Jo will be available for any help or guidance wanted. A Free Will Offering is asked for this day. Registration is absolutely necessary at sacredheartonthelake.org or call at 203-606-9102.



JUNE 19 @ 6:30PM
CANDLELIGHT MASS EVENT
Our Lady of Knock Parish, St. Patrick Church, Farmington

Come join the fun and enjoy a beautiful peaceful Candlelight Mass celebrated by Fr. Roberto McCarthy and then afterwards come socialize with other young adults (21+) from surrounding parishes for a fun evening of a cookout and cornhole!



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

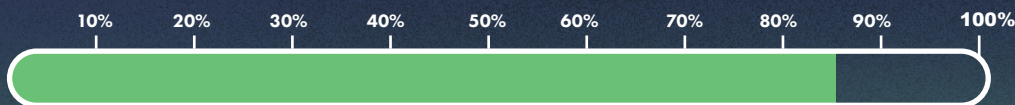


JULY 9 - 11 @ 5PM - 9PM
SUMMER FOOD FESTIVAL
Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish, St. Mary Church, Derby

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 86.37% as of 5/26/26

\$8,637,068.04 in pledges from 23,916 generous donors

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



WE ARE
ONE

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal