

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 2026

St. Joseph Church in Ansonia Celebrates *100 Years*

- Story by Jim Tierney

A century after its founding by Ansonia's Polish community, St. Joseph Church marked 100 years of faith, tradition and service with a celebration on May 31.

To mark its anniversary, the church in Ansonia celebrated with a Mass in English and Polish with Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne as the principal celebrant and concelebrated by several priests and deacons. A dinner followed at Warsaw Park.

Father Tadeusz Maciejewski, pastor, says he and Father Mitchell J. Wanat, who is in residence at the church, are "so thankful to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for enabling us, Vincentian Fathers, to share in his divine plan with the parishioners and friends of our most cherished St. Joseph Parish. Praise the Lord."

The church's origins date back to 1923, when members of the local Polish community first gathered to advocate for the construction of a Catholic school in their hometown.

Through their determination, hard work and the support of local clergy, St. Joseph Church and school were established. The church, located at 32 Jewett St., was dedicated in 1926. Ten days later, St. Joseph School opened and was staffed by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The parish school educated generations of students before closing in 2001.

"Many of the future members of St. Joseph Church would go to their daily jobs and then work on building the church as bricklayers and carpenters

and work on the weekends," says Ellen Amodeo, a church historian and former teacher at the school. "We still have a Polish Mass on Sundays at 10 a.m."

In the "old days," Amodeo adds, St. Joseph's Church was known for its popular sports nights which were fundraisers for the church and school.

"Bob Skoronski of the Green Bay Packers would bring his teammates, including Bart Starr, to speak at our sports nights," she says. Starr was a Hall of Fame quarterback and Skoronski played on five NFL Championship teams, including when Green Bay won Super Bowls I and II.

"Bob was a Derby boy who played on the championship teams under legendary Coach Vince Lombardi," Amodeo explains.

St. Joseph Church was also the first one in the area to have a blessing of fire trucks, emergency vehicles and first responders from Ansonia and Derby. This annual event occurs at during the annual picnic held in September.

Today, the commitment of its parishioners remains strong, with four generations of some families having attended the church. St. Joseph Church continues to serve through charitable initiatives and its longstanding tradition – the annual Warsaw Park Picnic.

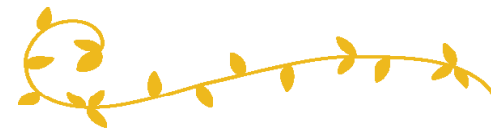
"Our picnic is known for its delicious Polish food," Amodeo says. "Everyone is welcome to come to our picnic, usually held the third Sunday in September. There is no admission and plenty of parking at our beautiful Warsaw Park."



A special flag, Praise God, was designed for the anniversary.
PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



Upcoming Events



JUNE 4 - AUGUST 27 @ 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!



JULY 8 @ 7PM - 8PM
**FREE SUMMER CONCERT - CELEBRATING
75 YEARS OF HOLY FAMILY**
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center,
West Hartford

Gather your family and friends, grab a blanket or portable chair, and make your way to our pavilion for this lively summer concert celebrating 75 years of Holy Family.

The music will include classical, popular, and Broadway music and will be a wonderful chance to experience the great talent of some of Holy Family's music ministers.

You are welcome to bring your own beverages and snacks to enjoy throughout the evening. Our grounds are magnificent, so come early to enjoy our walking paths or recenter yourself with a journey through our labyrinth.

This concert is FREE to attend, but we will be collecting donations to support our 75th Anniversary Campaign. No registration is required.



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! Visit us on Facebook @StMarysChurchDerbyCt or on our website www.OLQAderby.org.



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.

Thursday, July 9th: 6PM - 10PM

Friday, July 10th: 6PM - 10PM

Saturday, July 11th: 3PM - 10PM



JULY 24 - 26 @ 7PM
**TRIDUUM IN HONOR OF GOOD
SAINT ANN**
Blessed Michael McGivney Parish,
St. Michael Church, New Haven

The Saint Ann Society would like to invite you to the annual Triduum in honor of good Saint Ann. The dates of the Triduum will be July 24th, 25th, and 26th (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) at 7:00pm. The Triduum begins with two nights of rosary and prayers invoking the intercession of Saint Ann. The third and concluding night is a Mass with a reception afterward. Please extend this invitation to anyone whom you feel may benefit from this experience or just wants to join us. Also, we are always actively looking for women who may want to become new members of the St. Ann Society.

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Total Goal: \$10M 90.01% as of 6/11/26

\$9,000,852.29 in pledges from 24,718 generous donors

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



WE ARE
ONE

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal