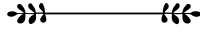


Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · December 28, 2024 - January 3, 2025



CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY MARRIES CREATIVITY AND FAITH IN WALLINGFORD



Santa kneels before the baby Jesus in this year's Christmas window display on the front side (middle window) of Holy Trinity School in Wallingford.

Just in time for the Wallingford Stroll in December, the eighth-grade students at Holy Trinity School in Wallingford completed their annual Christmas window display – to the delight of school neighbors and town residents.

The annual tradition, which has been going on since at least the 1980s, has been attracting local residents, some of whom drive by the school each year during the Advent and Christmas seasons to see what the students have put up, says Michael Frechette, principal of Holy Trinity School.

“Everyone loves to see the windows,” Frechette says, “and we get compliments on a daily basis.”

This year's central focus is a Nativity scene, with Santa bringing a gift and kneeling before the baby Jesus. The white paper figures are flanked by palm trees, with the buildings of Bethlehem not far off. Angels, doves and stars can be seen above. The decorations cover all three floors of the 110-year-old brick school building.

The decorations, which take a few weeks to put up, eventually fill all the windows of the school, from the front of the building, facing west, to the playground side, facing east. Even the stairwell windows are filled with stars. The playground side is visible from the town center.

The whole scene is sketched out in advance by Darlene Bailey, a retired teacher who was a teacher at Holy Trinity for 30 years. This year, she partnered with Anne Roth, another retired teacher, who taught at the school for 18 years. Together, they used an overhead projector to project images onto a wall and traced them to create the patterns. The eighth-grade students then used the patterns to trace the images onto white paper, and did the cutting and taping.

Over the years, the school has experimented with a mix of secular and religious themes, but finally settled on variations of the Nativity. “Our school represents religious faith in the community,” Bailey says, “and where it's located in town, you can see it coming down the hill. The whole town sees it.”

The window display runs from Dec. 6 to Jan. 6 (Three Kings Day). The school is located at 11 North Whittlesey Ave., Wallingford. For more information about Holy Trinity School, visit <https://www.hts-wallingford.org>.

Story by Shelley Wolf



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 5 at 6:00 PM

Free concert to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany · Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford
The Hartford Bishops' Foundation and the Cathedral of St. Joseph are hosting a free concert open to the public featuring Dr. Gabriel Löfvall, the Cathedral Schola Cantorum and a Brass & String Ensemble. The event celebrates the Epiphany and the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year: "Pilgrims of Hope," a time of great spiritual and social significance in the life of the Catholic Church.

Monday, January 6 at 6:00 PM

Catholic Academy of Waterbury, 386 Robinwood Road, Waterbury, CT

As a heritage school of St. Mary and Blessed Sacrament, we are proud to carry on traditions from both schools at our STREAM Academy. The original cross from St. Mary School was brought over to Catholic Academy of Waterbury this summer and will be lit for the first time. The original bell from St. Mary School was also recently installed and will be rung by members of the Blessed Sacrament community.

Saturday, February 8 – 15

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish Sponsors St. Francis Builds trip to Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

This group will work with Proyecto Marcos Sanchez Yabucoa, a non-profit grassroots organization. Residents have been tasked to establish a relief center to help its residents in the event of a disaster. The SFB group will work with the community on renovations to the school buildings they are using for this purpose. The cost of this is approximately \$900 plus airfare.

Meals and lodging are included within trip fees set for both trips. A limited number of scholarships are available. Questions or interested in learning more about these trips? Contact Sue O'Donnell at sodonnell38@gmail.com.



Tuesday, April 22 - Friday, May 2

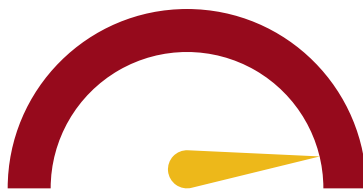
New England Catholic Biblical School Pilgrimage to Italy

The New England Catholic Biblical School invites all alumni, current students, and guests to our 11-day Pilgrimage to Italy in 2025 for the Jubilee Year! The Jubilee is a special year of grace, in which the Catholic Church offers the faithful the possibility of asking for a plenary indulgence, that is, the remission of sins for themselves or for deceased relatives. The cost of this pilgrimage is \$4899 per person roundtrip from New York (air/land tour price). To register to join the pilgrimage and receive more information, visit <https://www.catholicedaohct.org/catholic-biblical-school/events>.

For more events, please visit:
archdioceseofhartford.org/events

To submit an event for consideration, please email: communications@aohct.org

2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal



93.7% as of 12/16/24
\$9,369,675.63 of \$10M goal

