

in the Loop

St. Patrick-St. Anthony: Rich in History and Community Service

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Catholic Church, a Hartford Steam customer, is located in the heart of downtown Hartford, at the corner of Church and Ann streets. In fact some may say the parish actually is the heart of downtown Hartford, bringing its many ministries to the community's alienated and poor. Its mission must strike a chord, as the parish now includes members from 82 zip codes! (And 95 percent of parishioners are non-Hartford residents.)

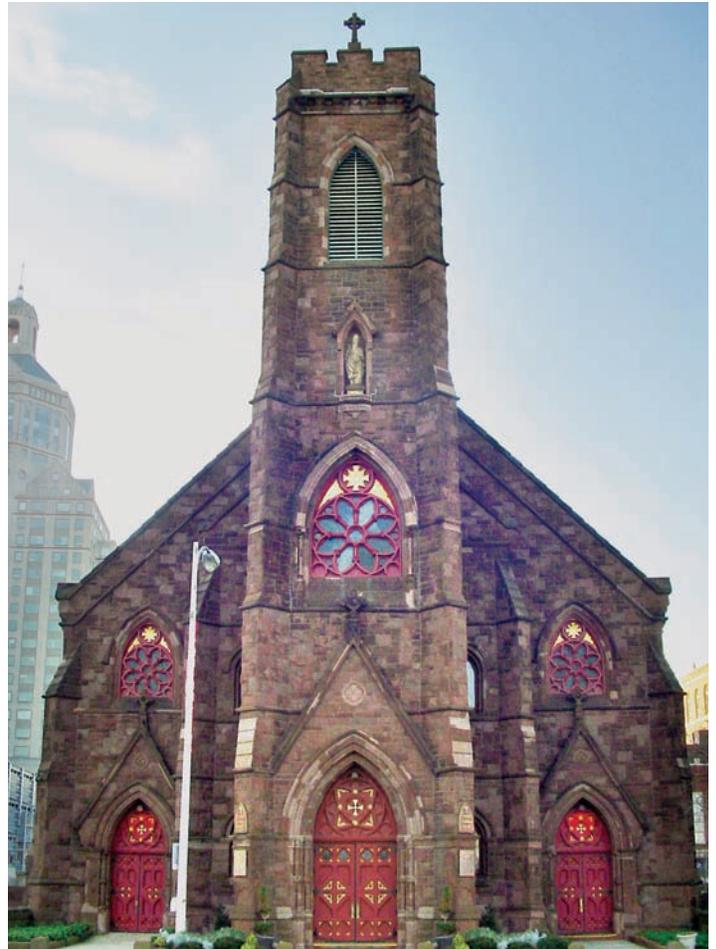
The parish has a long tradition of community service dating back to its founding as St. Patrick's in 1851, the first Roman Catholic church in Connecticut. Serving a large population of Irish immigrants, the first church building was constructed in 1851, only to burn to the ground in 1875. Rebuilt immediately even grander than before, the new Gothic structure featured an 'upper church' and 'lower church' to accommodate its many members. At its peak, 20,000 people attended Mass at the church each week!

In 1959, shortly after St. Patrick's merged with St. Anthony's parish, an arson fire claimed the upper church. Many precious artifacts in the lower church, including the Stations of the Cross, were spared, however, and were brought up for use in the reconstructed main sanctuary, carrying with them the church's grand history.

But St. Patrick-St. Anthony also faced challenges beyond the fire incident. As downtown Hartford grew and businesses were added, more residences were torn down and parishioners moved to the suburbs. The church struggled to maintain its vital presence in the face of dwindling numbers.

The Franciscan Order, long familiar with urban ministries, took over in 1990, breathing new life into St. Patrick-St. Anthony and establishing a new Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry on the site. The parish has since flourished, expanding from 221 families in 1990 to 2,100 families today.

The church building itself, which has received steam service from Hartford Steam for nearly 20 years, has been rejuvenated as well. The original stained-glass windows



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Catholic Church, a Hartford Steam customer, is Connecticut's oldest Roman Catholic parish.

from Holland, including a stunning rose window, have been beautifully restored; the brickwork has been repointed, waterproofed and cleaned; and the interior has been restored, painted and brought back to its original splendor.

"We have 48 ministerial programs," says Fr. Jim Hynes, OFM, pastor, who is now in his seventh year at the church. "We welcome and extend hospitality to all people both inside and outside our parish. We have a sandwich ministry program, providing food every day for the homeless; a prayer shawl ministry; a sister parish in Haiti, where we support their education program; a community center with a high school for teen girls with children; and we partner with others to make Catherine's Place possible, an outreach where poor, homeless or recovering women can find a haven for recovery and hope. That's just a very brief look at only a few of our programs. We have more than 1,000 volunteers from our parish plus dedicated staff members who help make these ministries possible. We're eternally grateful for their commitment to do God's work in the world."

The Hartford Steam Co. is pleased to have the opportunity to serve the church and help provide warmth and comfort to those who worship within its walls. For more on St. Patrick-St. Anthony's programs and a virtual tour, visit www.stpatrick-stanthony.org.

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The Intelligent Use of Energy: Thermodynamics Made Simple

Richard R. Vaillencourt, PE, Canterbury Engineering Associates

Editor's Note: This is first in series of articles on intelligent energy use in buildings by consulting engineer Richard Vaillencourt.

We hope you'll find them helpful as you work to optimize your building's energy use.

There are many measures Hartford Steam customers can take to be sure they use their thermal energy efficiently and wisely. But they can start by embracing one simple rule of thermodynamics: **Energy always moves from hot to cold.** The neat thing is that this rule cannot be broken. It cannot be negotiated. It cannot be bent. But once you understand it, using energy intelligently becomes relatively easy.



Richard R. Vaillencourt, PE

You make something hot by putting something hotter next to it. The energy will move from the warm object to the cool object, making the warmer object colder and the colder object warmer.

You make something cold by putting something even colder next to it. That's the same principle: One object is warmer than the other; the colder object sucks the energy from the warmer object, making the warmer object colder and the colder object warmer.

For example, the coldest parts of your refrigerator are the inside walls. They suck the heat out of the air in the refrigerator. The air is next to the bottle of milk that you put in the refrigerator, and it sucks the heat out of the milk. The inside walls don't get warmer because the energy that is pulled into them is constantly being sucked away into the compressor and pushed out by the condenser into your kitchen.

Notice that heat behaves like water contained in two connected tanks: It tries to reach a common level between the two objects. Also notice that the heat from the warm objects placed in the refrigerator does not disappear. It is simply (well, not so simply) moved from inside the refrigerator to outside and dumped into the kitchen. If your kitchen is air-conditioned, then the heat is picked up and transferred to the outside world.

There is also an important corollary to the first rule: The greater the temperature difference between the hot and cold sides of the transfer, the greater and faster the energy moves from the hot to the cold.

Applying these simple thermodynamic principles can help you lower your building's energy bill. How? The first and easiest thing to do is to try to keep the indoor temperature as close to the outdoor temperature as you can get away with. (If you actually kept your inside temperature equal to the outside temperature you would reduce your energy need to zero – but you would probably also need a new job.) This is where night setback controls can help you save energy. They reset thermostats closer to the outside temperature when no one is in the building to complain.

On the other hand, if you let the space temperature on the inside become significantly warmer in the winter – or colder in the summer – than the air temperature on the outside of your building (either through calibration errors, or unrestrained occupant control, etc.), then the energy transfer through the walls to the rest of the world is significantly greater. And that means you're using – and paying for – more energy than you need. (Something to consider as the thermometer starts to edge toward the freezing mark!)

On the Marquee

Check out our updated marquee ad on Trumbull Street outside the new Hartford Civic Center: **"We don't order up the cold weather. Or the wind. Or the snow. But we do order up comfort you can rely on. No matter the weather. We're the Hartford Steam Company. Providing heating and cooling to downtown Hartford since 1962."**

Which buildings are customers?

Hartford Steam Co. serves a wide range of customers – from commercial office buildings to churches to theaters. Visit www.hartfordsteam.com/customers to see photos of our customer buildings – a new feature on our Web site.

May the new year bring health and happiness to your hearth and home.

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