



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

www.stannavon.org

860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Rev. Joseph P. Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

CHURCH OF SAINT ANN TRUSTEES

Kelly McCabe and Kathy Randall Gill

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

Russell Koch: russ.koch@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K - 8)

Valerie St. Jean, MPS: ext. 223 valerie.stjean@stannavon.com

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Rosemary Neamtz, MSW: ext. 226 rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com

BOOKKEEPER/FAITH FORMATION REGISTRAR

Jennifer Soucy, CPA: ext. 227 jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

Ann DiStefano, MPS: ext. 228 ann.distefano@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 kris.martino@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Kerry Magrini: kerry.magrini@stannavon.com

MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Chip Janiszewski: chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

BAPTISM and MARRIAGES:

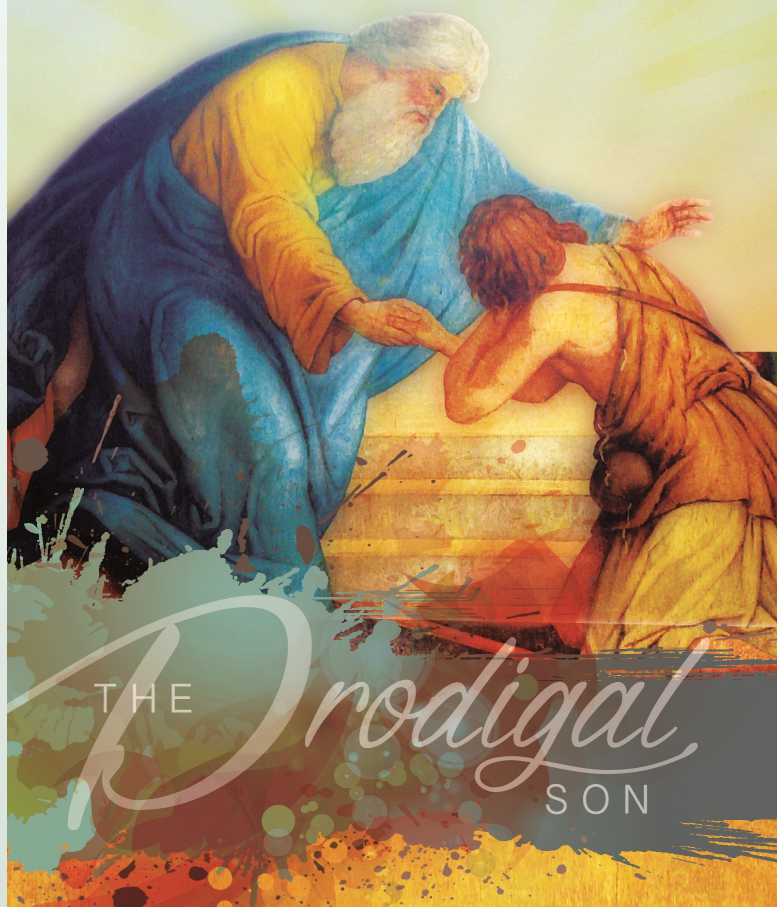
Please call the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext. 221
Please schedule marriage dates at least 6 months ahead. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass or on Sundays.

BULLETIN DEADLINE & INSERTS

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 2pm on the Monday prior to the weekend you would like it published.

Also, please contact the office to obtain permission to insert fliers into the weekly bulletin.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



THE Prodigal SON

MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday:

9:00 am

Sunday Vigil (Saturday):

4:00 pm

Sunday:

7:30, 9:30 and 11:00am

First Friday:

9:00 am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: after 4pm Mass

First Friday: Before 9:00 AM Mass

Other times by appointment

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Mondays 9:30-10:30am

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tues.- Fri.

9:30-9:40am in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12noon

MASS INTENTIONS



Fourth Sunday of Lent

MONDAY, March 20

9:00 Anthony A. Teixeira, requested by the Hamel Family

TUESDAY, March 21

9:00 Special Intentions

WEDNESDAY, March 22

9:00 For the intentions of Janet Newman (LIVING), requested by her Wed. morning Bible group

THURSDAY, March 23

9:00 For the deceased members of the Vuono Family, requested by the Bondhus family

FRIDAY, March 24

9:00 Kenny Brereton, requested by the Waterbury Family

SATURDAY, March 25

4:00 Mary Hojnowski, requested by Russell and Diane Koch

SUNDAY, March 26

7:30 David Michael Federico, requested by the family
9:30 Zbyszek Bielecki, requested by the Osiecki Family
11:00 Mark Kuzia, requested by Tom & Marilyn Lenihan

WELCOME!



If you are a resident in this area, we hope that you will continue to grace us with your presence and register with our office manager. You may call 860-673-9858 or stop by the parish office to register. If you are a visitor, we thank you for participating in worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN

MONDAY, March 20

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church

RCIA: 11am in Room 3

Lenten Confessions: 6pm in the church

MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church (all welcome)

Lectio Divina, Live! 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

TUESDAY, March 21

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 22

James Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3

RCIA: 1pm in Room 3

WWP Touching the Divine: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

THURSDAY, March 23

Step by Step: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

Acts Bible Study: 6:30pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

Adult Confirmation: 7:15pm in Room 1

FRIDAY, March 24

Kingdom of Happiness: 9:45am via Zoom

Parish Pasta Dinner: 5:30-7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

Stations of the Cross: 7pm in the church

SATURDAY, March 25

Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3

Easter Egg Hunt (PreK-Grade 4): 2:45pm in Fr. Bennett Hall (RSVP)

SUNDAY, March 26

Kingdom of Happiness: 10:30am in Room 3 and via Zoom

Fr. Cheah Book Talk: 12 noon in Fr. Bennett Hall



Lenten Confessions

Mondays during Lent: 6pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: 7pm

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

THIS WEEKEND: MARCH 18/19
Clothe the Naked

Collection of clothing for Hartford Catholic Worker Youth Outreach

NEXT WEEKEND: MARCH 25/26

Visit Those in Prison

Donations are being collected to help fund the purchase of religious periodicals that are distributed to incarcerated persons in CT. This periodical (Word Among Us) enriches faith, and the recipients are very grateful.



Annual Easter Plant Sale

Help us decorate the altar for Easter by purchasing an Easter plant in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. Plants are \$10 each.

**Weekends of March 18/19 and 25/26, 2023
after all Masses in the Gathering Space**

On our website you can (stannavon.org/easter-plant-sale):

- download order form
- order and pay online with credit card or bank account.

(This is a singular form/payment, no need to sign up for Online Giving.)

NOTE: Forms must be received no later than Wednesday, March 29th, for your loved ones' names to be included in the Easter bulletin.





ST. ANN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 25th
2:45 - 3:45pm

Hosted by our Family Ministry Team & the Easter Bunny!

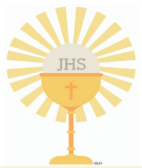
This Easter Egg Hunt is for children in Pre-K through 4th Grade. Please provide your own basket. Includes an Easter craft and a simple snack.

Join us for a Family Mass at 4pm



RSVP:

link to SignUpGenius on our website at:
www.stannavon.org/easter-egg-hunt



The Holy Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

This week's theme: Seeing the Reality of the True Presence

Today's Gospel is the story of the man born blind and the miracle of Jesus restoring his sight. (John 9:1-41) We know that many Catholics no longer believe in the real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Sadly, the majority (70% by the latest Pew Poll) believe that the Holy Eucharist is only a symbol.

Interestingly many Protestant Pentecostal preachers are beginning to believe in the true Presence. Benny Hinn, a Pentecostal healing evangelist publicly stated, "More people are healed in a Catholic church than Pentecostal churches. That's an absolute fact.... because Catholic people revere the Eucharist. Jesus didn't say, "This is a symbol of my body." He said, "This is my body." (See "National Catholic Register" February 22, 2023 "What Does Eucharistic Revival Look Like?" by Mary Healy.)

Reflection: Are you one of the Catholics who is blind to the true Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? Do you think that you are receiving only a symbol, when you receive Holy Communion? Is the story of the blind man in today's Gospel a reflection on your lack of belief?

Why not in humility ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you when you next receive Holy Communion? St. Teresa of Avila stated that all of her greatest spiritual experiences occurred after the reception of the Holy Eucharist. God loves you and can give you the gift of Faith in His divine Eucharistic Presence. If you sincerely ask Him in prayer, you too will see.



No Greater Love
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am
Fr. Bennett Hall

March 29th: Session 1: The Prayer of the Agony
Session 2: "Are you the Christ?"
April 5th: Session 3: The Trial Before Pilate
Session 4: The Death of the Messiah
April 12th: Session 5: The Seven Last Words
Session 6: The Resurrection

Each date features two 30-minute videos followed by discussion.

DROP IN - ALL ARE WELCOME!

no registration required * no homework

Questions: Ann.DiStefano@stannavon.com

Video Trailer: https://youtu.be/3kQIQ1_Z6Qk

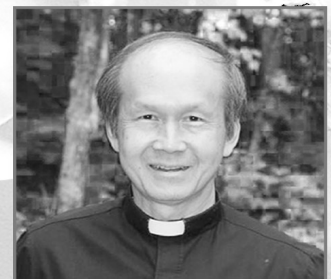
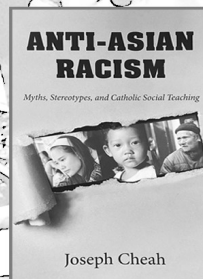
CONFIRMATION

Please keep our 61 Year-Two Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit next weekend!

Church of Saint Ann presents:

Anti-Asian Racism: Myths, Stereotypes and Catholic Social Teaching

Sunday, March 26, 2023, Noon
Church of Saint Ann, Father Bennett Hall



Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D., M.A. & M.Div.

FREE books to the first 10 registrants!

To purchase book call 1-800-258-5838, use promo code "MAD".

Light refreshments served. Registration free but required.

To register email: AnnDiStefano@stannavon.com

RSVP by March 20

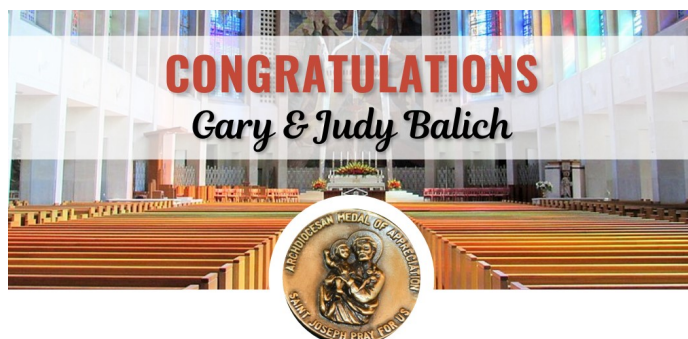
WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 3/12/23: will report next weekend

Online Giving (March 8-15, 2023): \$2,840.50

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection:

Catholic Relief Services



THE ST. JOSEPH MEDAL OF APPRECIATION 2023

The St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation is a means of recognizing the dedicated laity of our parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. The nominees of the medal can be one individual or one married couple (in a valid Church marriage) selected among the laity. The person/couple must be in full communion with the church and have given exceptional service and devotion to the parish over a period years.

I am so excited to announce that the 2023 St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation is being awarded to Gary and Judy Balich! Gary and Judy have been members of St. Ann's for 40 years. They are both Eucharistic Ministers, members of the Social Outreach Committee and volunteers for the Avon Food Pantry. Gary is Grand Knight for the St. Ann Council of the Knights of Columbus where he has organized countless fundraisers for the parish and the greater community. Gary was the St. Ann Delegate on the Archdiocese of Hartford Synod. Both Gary and Judy have taught in our Religious Education Program. Judy and Gary are devoted Catholics and they share they are wherever I need them.

I am truly grateful to Gary and Judy and I am honored to award them with this prestigious medal. Gary and Judy will receive the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation from Archbishop Leonard Blair on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 3:00pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Al Fontana, Pastor



It's That Time of Year Again...

If you are a registered parishioner *using envelopes or online giving*, and would like a copy of our records of your weekly envelope contributions, please e-mail Kris in the Parish Office: kris.martino@stannavon.com or call 860-673-9858, ext. 221. Note: Contributions to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are mailed separately from the Archdiocese.




Vacation Bible Camp
June 19, 20, 21, 22
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Stellar - Shine Jesus' Light
ONLINE REGISTRATION:
www.stannavon.org/bible-camp
ONLY (10) PRE-K spots left as of 3/15



Connecticut March For Life: March 22nd

Life is a Gift, God's precious Gift

12 noon: Rally at the Capitol

1pm: March for Life around Bushnell Park

A bus will leave St. Ann's parking lot around 10:15am and return to St. Ann around 3pm. No cost for the bus (40 seats available) Let's fill the bus and together stand for life!

Please help us turn Connecticut into a state that protects the unborn and rejects euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide for our sick and dying. We need everyone's help to make Connecticut a state that shows respect and compassion for life. *Please sign up on the poster in the Gathering Space. More details can be found on the poster. Thank you.*



THE MEN OF SAINT ANN PRESENT:

Happy as a Clam!

PARISH PASTA DINNER

GLUTEN FREE PASTA WILL BE AVAILABLE

We will be offering both Marinara Sauce & Clam Sauce

Gather some friends & bring the family for a fun night out!

Adults: \$7 Kids under 18: \$3 Family Max: \$20

Friday, March 24, 2023

5:30 - 7:00pm

Fr. Bennett Hall

MARCH 19TH, 2023 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(Practicing) Catholic, Recognize Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments, by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Not As Man Sees

I don't know Fr. Stu personally, but I've heard a fair number of his homilies. I think it is safe to assume that if he and I were to get into a discussion on any number of things, from church history to liturgical music to stand-up comedy, each of us would cringe at the opinions of the other.

But Fr. Stu happens to offer just about the only confession time within 20 miles of me that consistently works with my schedule. That means that, quite by accident, Fr. Stu is my regular confessor. For years now, he's sat patiently on the other side of the grille, listening to me pour out the details of my transgressions, from the pathetic to the embarrassing, and he absolves me of my sins.

In the Gospel, Christ links vision with humility and pride with blindness. We see again and again in Scripture how God delights in surprising us, in revealing himself through people, places, and experiences we not only didn't expect but perhaps had totally written off.

We are right to be proud of the truth, but we are wrong if the truth causes us to be proud of ourselves. The truth no more belongs to the one who believes it than sight belongs to the blind man in the Gospel. A gift does not reflect on the recipient. It reflects on the giver.

After a great deal of thought, I've decided to be grateful that God contrived to give me a confessor whom I strongly disagree with on so many things. It's a powerful reminder of how much I must receive from other people, even those I



2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2023 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK Live the Liturgy

The blind man showed great bravery by speaking of Christ's miracle in the face of the Pharisees' disdain. But then, how could he ignore the truth, once he had seen it? It would be a form of blindness worse than the absence of physical sight. To deny Christ would be a blindness he chose for himself. ©LPi

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of March 19, 2023

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/
Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:13)

Psalms:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

Second Reading:

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14)

Gospel:

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" —which means Sent — So he went and washed, and came back able to see. (Jn 9:6-7)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

God asks a rhetorical and slightly sarcastic question to Samuel, the prophet: "**How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel?**" Like us, Samuel is depressed that the old king failed. It's painful to admit that the old regime is done. But God won't let us wallow our pity-party forever. "**I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,**" announces the Lord, "**for I have chosen my king from among his sons.**" Samuel finally goes and anoints the young David as the new king. And his kingdom is glorious; it's the golden age of Israel's earthly history.

How discouraging to see that my own selfish ego is no longer in charge! How long will I grieve that money, power, pleasure, and reputation have been rejected as the ruler of my life? How wonderful that God has a new future in store for you and me. He is sending us to Bethlehem to anoint the new David as our king. His kingdom won't fail us. He'll slay our goliaths, unite our dispersed energies, and build a Temple where God himself will dwell.

So how long will you grieve? How long?

— Father John Muir

©LPi

CHURCH OF SAINT ANN

2022 Sacramental and Financial Report

Dear Faithful of St. Ann:

I have been your pastor for over six months and I am filled with gratitude for your faithful and generous support of the financial and social efforts and activities of our parish.

Three years ago we have seen our world turned upside down due the Coronavirus Pandemic. We have had to endure lockdowns, quarantines, and isolation. The phrase "social distancing" had become common language. The pandemic took the sacraments away from the faithful and most people had to participate remotely.

Although COVID-19 has placed a strain on our parish, as it has everywhere in the world, this year's Financial and Sacramental report shows that St. Ann Parish is back in big way! We have so much to be happy about. Furthermore I truly believe that things will continue to get better.

I humbly thank God for the gift of St. Ann Parish made possible by the hardworking and generous parishioners. God bless your family and your home with gifts of peace, health and happiness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Alphonso Fontana, Pastor



As of December 31st, 2022 the number of registered households at the Church of Saint Ann was 1846 and we had 6191 active members.

Sacramental Information

**35 Baptisms
57 First Communions
44 Confirmations
45 Deaths**

<u>INCOME</u>	\$
Offertory, Annual & Special Purpose	681,277
Gifts, Donations, Bequests	41,703
Religious Formation & Other Miscellaneous Income	76,405
Other Income	157,803
TOTAL INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	957,188

<u>EXPENSES</u>	\$
Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	306,177
Insurance	17,616
Utilities (Oil, Gas, Electric, Phone, Cable)	67,640
Maintenance & Repairs	50,683
Contracted Services (Plowing, Mowing, Professional Services, etc.)	74,686
Rectory Expenses (Food & Household Supplies)	33,032
Liturgy (Hosts, Wine, Candles, Vestments, Music)	14,903
Religious Formation (Books, Rent, Supplies)	3,137
Charity & Ministry Events	35,519
Bank & Investment Fees	20,762
Office Expenses	11,449
Publications & Memberships	17,537
School Subsidy & Assessments	6,250
Cathedralium	90,598
TOTAL EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	749,989
INCOME/(LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	207,199

<u>OTHER INCOME</u>	\$
Interest & Dividends	72,996
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	238,298
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(738,759)*
Discount on Cathedralium	4,024
Proceeds from Insurance	3,450
Forward with Faith - Hartford Bishop's Foundation Grants	53,951
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	(366,040)

<u>OTHER EXPENSES</u>	\$
Depreciation Expense	134,041
Forward with Faith - Hartford Bishops Foundation Expenses	107,814
Other Non-Operating Expense	2,639
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	244,494
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(403,335)

**Unrealized Gains/(Losses) are subject to market increases and decreases. These values should not be relied upon for economic decision making purposes. They will change with the market until such time that they are realized, i.e. sold.*



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