

The Catholic Church of St. Ann



St. Ann, our Parish Patroness, pray for us!

Under the Pastoral Care of the Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri

www.raritanoratory.org

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St. Ann Classical Academy, PreK-8

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Sr. Dolores Toscano, MPF *Pastoral Associate*
Sr. Ella Mae McDonald, MPF *Dir. of Religious Education*
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St. Ann Church

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Telephone: 908-725-1008 • Fax: 908-707-1915

Website: www.stannparish.com

Email: info@stannparish.com

Facebook: The Catholic Church of St. Ann- Raritan, NJ

The Lord's Day Mass Schedule

Sat.: 4 pm St. Ann Church
4 pm St. Joseph Church
5 pm Holy Trinity

Sun.: 7:30 am St. Ann Church
8:00 am St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
8:30 am Holy Trinity
10 am St. Joseph Church

10 am St. Ann Church
10am Shrine of Bl. Sacrament (Latin EF)
10:30am Holy Trinity

12 pm St. Ann Church
12 pm St. Joseph Church (Spanish)

5 pm St. Ann Church

Daily Masses

Mon. 8 am St. Joseph	12:15 pm Shrine	7 pm St. Ann
Tue. 7 am St. Ann	12:15 pm Shrine	7 pm Holy Trinity
Wed. 7 am St. Ann	12:15 pm Shrine	
Thu. 7 am St. Ann	12:15 pm Shrine	
Fri. 8 am St. Joseph	12:15 pm Shrine	7 pm Holy Trinity
First Fridays		7pm St. Ann
Sat. 9 am St. Ann		

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday,	after the 9am Mass,	St. Ann
Saturday,	3-3:30pm,	St. Joseph
Wednesday,	11-12noon,	Holy Trinity
Wednesday,	7-8pm,	St. Ann

—or by appointment—

Discover the difference a Catholic Classical education makes.



St. Ann Classical Academy

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Register now for the 2021-2022 school year
Call to schedule an appointment or in-person tour.
Or email kalbright@stannparish.com



Second Sunday of Advent — December 5, 2021

Stewardship Reflection on Lectionary Readings

BAR 5:1-9; PS 126: 1-6; PHIL 1: 4-6, 8-11; LK 3: 1-6

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge during this brief but important season of the liturgical year. Recall from last week that the purpose of this season is reflection on and preparation for the two “comings” of Christ – His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has already triumphed over sin and death and that we, His faithful disciples, will live in the light of His glory one day. “Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God... For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low...that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God... for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.”

Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

In the Second Reading, a letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, Paul gives us a pep talk as we make our stewardship journey, and we modern-day disciples can take heart in his words. He tells us, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Paul reminds us of two important realities that should greatly encourage us. First, that the stewardship way of life is very much a journey. We don’t have to have every aspect of our life perfectly nailed down; we are all “works in progress” called simply to take one step at a time closer to Christ. Second, it is God who started this good work in us – on the day of our Baptism – He cares deeply about this journey of ours and He will give us all the grace and strength we need to stay faithful to Him and continue growing in love and imitation of Christ.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God’s love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ’s coming among us. We are told the precise time, place, and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. Through John, we are told how to celebrate to the fullest this first “coming” on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming – through repentance.

This Advent let’s turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about – moving closer ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

— Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

ADVENT EVENT CALENDAR

December 11, 5pm	Lighting of Memorial Trees
December 12, 8-11:30am	Christmas Breakfast with Santa
December 12, 2:30pm	Advent Lessons & Carols at St. Ann’s
December 15, 7pm	Advent Penance Service at Holy Trinity
December 17, 6pm	SA Classical Academy Christmas Show
December 21, 6:30pm	Christmas Pageant (children from religious education program)

Mass Schedule for Christmas

Friday Vigil, December 24	4pm, 12 Midnight
Saturday, December 25	7:30am, 10am, 12 noon (no 4pm Mass)

Mass Schedule for Christmas Octave

Sunday, December 26	Feast of the Holy Family 7:30am, 10am, 12 noon, 5pm
Mon-Fri, Dec. 27-31	9am at St. Ann’s only
Friday Vigil, December 31	Mary, Mother of God 7pm at Holy Trinity only
Saturday, January 1, 2022	Mary, Mother of God 9am at St. Ann’s only
Saturday Vigil	Epiphany of the Lord, 4pm
Epiphany Sunday, January 2	7:30am, 10am, 12 noon, 5pm

How We Pray During Advent

Liturgical Notes

As the universal church begins its celebration of Advent, we as a parish are invited into the beauty of this liturgical season. Here are some things to be attentive to as we worship during the Advent Season:

Instead of a full hymn to begin Mass, the congregation sings a brief refrain (like a responsorial psalm) and the cantor/choir proclaims a verse which is the Entrance Antiphon (a quote from scripture assigned to a particular Mass). The refrain that we will sing echoes the words of John the Baptist: “*People of God, prepare your hearts; your savior is near!*”

We use a form of the Penitential Act that is a dialogue between priest and people: *Have mercy on us, O Lord - For we have sinned against you. Show us, O Lord your mercy - and grant us your salvation. The Kyrie Eleison (Lord Have Mercy) will be sung to highlight the penitential spirit of Advent, and the Gloria is not sung until Christmas.*

Additionally, before Mass begins, the congregation will be invited to have a communal time of silence. This time is offered to provide a time for personal meditation and preparation before Mass.

Advent is a time of great hope and anticipation as we approach the memorial of Christ’s birth, and look to his return in glory. It is our hope that our Sunday Worship can help make that sense of hope and anticipation tangible for you.

The Catholic Church of St. Ann

Christmas Gift Giving Tree

Thank you to all who took Giving Tree tags. Please bring your gifts to the church now so that they may be distributed. Your generosity is always appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Christine at the parish office.

Sanctify, our group for young parents, couples, single adults, and young professionals, will meet next **Sunday, December 5.**

Join us for prayer, formation, and fellowship as we continue our reflection on the Mass and its impact on our lives.

Eucharistic Adoration will be in St. Ann's church around 1:15pm, after the conclusion of the noon Mass. Formation and conversation will follow in the St. Ann school cafeteria. Looking forward to seeing you there!

SANCTIFY
SAINTS IN THE WORLD

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Interested in Exploring the Catholic Faith?

The scriptures of the entire advent season are filled with messages of hope. They're meant to help us realize that no matter how bleak and difficult and discouraging things may be, no matter how unchanged the dark things of life are, there's reason to keep on going. Jesus Christ, in whom rests "the hopes and fears of all the years," is with us, and he is the source from which hope is drawn. If you or someone you know would like to hear more about Jesus and the hope that he is to us, we invite you to join us at an inquiry session. Inquiry sessions do not assume a commitment to join the Catholic Faith family. Inquiry sessions are opportunities to ask questions about god, Jesus, the Catholic Faith family. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another faith denomination, or baptized catholic but have not received Eucharist or confirmation, are invited. Inquiry sessions are for those who wish to inquire, explore, and search for ways to grow in relationship with god. For more information, contact Fr. Tom.



In this season of Thanksgiving, why not celebrate your marriage and its many blessings by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 4 - 6.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.

Advent Lessons & Carols 2021

Featuring the combined choirs & instrumentalists of St. Ann, St. Joseph & Holy Trinity Parishes, the Shrine Chapel & the Raritan Oratory

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2:30 PM

**The Catholic Church of St. Ann
45 Anderson Street, Raritan**

Followed by a light reception in the School Cafeteria

Free will offering

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www.raritanoratory.org

THE SAINTS 2021

WITNESSES FOR TODAY

Free! December 10-12th

Learn from the Saints' wisdom and experiences on how your family can thrive in a chaotic world.

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- See the saints like never before, and introduce them to your family in a fresh and relatable way.
- Learn powerful lessons from the saints' lives; men and women who have been through difficult times and circumstances similar to our own.
- Discover how to incorporate the virtues of the saints into your daily family life.

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<https://www.cardinalstudios.org/the-saints-2021-home>

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

For Your Marriage helps couples at all stages of life to understand and live God's plan for happy, holy marriages by providing educational and spiritual resources.

It serves to communicate the meaning and value of married life for the Church and for society. Also a great resource for preparing for and planning your wedding.

FORYOURMARRIAGE.ORG



**REMINDER—DECEMBER 8
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF MARY**

Holy Day of Obligation Masses at 7am and 7pm

**To Celebrate the Feast of
The Immaculate Conception**



The Sgt. John Basilone Columbiettes will be selling Blessed Miraculous Medals after all Masses the weekend of December 4 & 5.

The cost of each medal is \$3.00.

Proceeds from the sale will help us continue our many charitable works.

Please make checks payable to Sgt. John Basilone Columbiettes

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our annual **Thanksgiving Baskets**. We were able to provide 62 meals for 250 adults and children in our parish and local community! Blessings to all!
- We are **collecting frozen turkeys and hams** to give at Christmas to 25 parish and local families. If you would like to donate, please contact Christine at the parish office at 908-725-1008 press#1, then#6.
- Our annual **Gift Giving Tree** has been up for two weeks. Please return the gift with the tag as soon as possible to the Church Meeting room. Your continued support is assisting three agencies and 8 parish families. Any questions, contact Christine At the parish office.
- We currently have openings for our **monthly food collection deliveries**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Christine for further information.
- We are in need of **boys winter clothing size 8** please. Please call Christine at the parish office before dropping off the clothing off.

Giving Thanks at St. Ann Classical Academy

The students and staff at SACA have much to be thankful for this autumn. On Wednesday, November 24, the school gathered for prayer, worship, adoration, and benediction at the start of the day. Through scripture and song, the school community looked at the truth, beauty, and goodness of God's abundant love, grace, and generosity in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Before dismissal, the school gathered together again for a special Thanksgiving assembly in which the students expressed their gratitude for God's blessing in song, poetry recitation, and drama presentations. With voices raised, our prayers of thanksgiving filled the school and prepared our hearts for Advent. SACA is truly blessed!

Year-End Giving...a suggestion!

Just a suggestion to those who may want to consider a tax deductible, 2021 year-end contribution to a non-profit organization for an excellent cause—the solidly Catholic education for our children that embraces the classical method of teaching and learning. The classical approach promotes a way of thinking that includes growing in the understanding of the human person, of all creation and of our eternal purpose with reference to the source of all life, truth, beauty and goodness. This God-centered approach maintains a view of the human person in relationship with God that gives parents a clear and healthy option to the benefit of their children's education.

For the past couple of years our parish school has been shifting to a classical curriculum and equipping faculty in the classical method. St. Ann Classical Academy is a PreK-8 elementary Catholic school that we would like to make more accessible to more families. Enrollment increased by more than 20 this year. We hope to increase by even more for next Fall. Consider supporting SACA progress. If you wish to discuss your contribution further, please contact either Fr. Peter Cebulka, Head of School, or Fr. Tom Odorizzi, Pastor.

BREAKFAST with SANTA

Join us for Breakfast with Santa

Sunday December 12th

8 AM – 11:30 AM – Santa arrives at 9

St. Ann's Parish 45 Anderson St. Raritan

Breakfast with Santa Menu
Eggs, made to order Omelets, Pancakes, French Toast Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries, Fresh Fruit, Muffins, Coffee, Tea, Juice

Remember to bring your cameras

\$8. Adults | \$5. Kids | Kids under 5 yrs old FREE

Sponsored by the Raritan Knights of Columbus and the St. Ann's Parish Community

Preparing The Way for Christ

with Dr. Scott Hahn

December 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM
The Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi

An Event to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Metuchen

Simbang Gabi 2021

In celebration of the 500th year Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines and in preparation for Christ's joyous birth, join in this beautiful **Filipino** Advent tradition via in-person or live stream from various parishes across the Diocese of Metuchen.

Each night, Wednesday, December 15 through Thursday, December 23, at 7:00 PM.

Starting Dec. 15 at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi with Bishop Checchio, concluding Dec. 23 at Immaculate Conception Church, Somerville, with Very Rev. Tim Christy, VG.

For other details please go to www.facebook.com/diometuchenfa.

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—December 8

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38a

Happy Solemnity! This is a day to celebrate! Today, we honor the glorious and miraculous Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother, an act of God's most profound mercy.

It is fitting that we see the Immaculate Conception as an act of profound mercy. Why is that so? What is it about this solemnity that is so closely linked to mercy?

Mercy is a gratuitous gift of God. By “gratuitous” we mean that it is not merited or earned. Mercy is not owed to us by God. If it were, it would not be mercy, it would be our right. But we have no right to mercy. It is freely given by God and it is given in abundance.

As for this glorious Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, it's important to look at it as a gratuitous gift from two perspectives. First, the “Immaculate Conception” means that when God created the Blessed Virgin Mary, He created her without sin. This was done through what we call a prevenient grace. This grace given her is an act of God's perfect and gratuitous mercy. She did not earn it or merit it; rather, God in His goodness chose to create her without original sin so as to have a suitable instrument by which the Son could come into the world. Mary, for her part, embraced this gift and chose to remain sinless throughout her life by a continual act of her free will.

Second, in creating our Blessed Mother immaculately, God did not keep her to Himself. He was not selfish with her. Instead, He chose to make this perfection of His creation our own mother. The Immaculate Mother Mary is now our spiritual mother in the order of God's grace and mercy. This, also, is an act of perfect gratuitous mercy on the part of our loving God. We do not deserve such a spiritual mother and protectress, but we have her and she is always there interceding for us and bestowing many graces from God upon us as a perfect mother would.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold gratuitous gift of God's mercy: 1) He created Mary Immaculate out of mercy, and 2) He gave her to us as our own mother and queen. Seek her motherly care today and throughout the year!



Dearest Mother my Queen, I gaze upon the beauty and holiness of you who, though a mere creature, are perfect in every way. You have been granted this singular and gratuitous grace from God with which you perfectly cooperated. May I always rely upon your motherly love and care and may I always allow you to bestow the grace of God upon me in accord with the Father's plan. You, dearest mother, are a gratuitous gift of Mercy to us all! Mother Mary, I love you. Pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Second Sunday of Advent — December 5, 2021

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 6

7:00 pm Col. Frank Carlone by his family
Margaret Gerenza by Connie Nilsen
Roman Hnatiw by Irene and Robert Miller

Tuesday, December 7

7:00 am Andrew Miller by Albert Donato and Family

Wednesday, December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

7:00 am People of the Parish
7:00 pm Immacolata Suriano by her children and grandchildren

Thursday, December 9

7:00 am Eugene Aufiero by Micheal and Tina DeFabio

Friday, December 10

Saturday, December 11

9:00 am Special Intention of the Oratory
4:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. Giuseppe Greco by their family

Sunday, December 12

7:30 am John and Marie Mraz by their family
10:00 am Giacomo Greco by Vincenza Greco
12:00 pm Joanne Cugliari by momma
5:00 pm People of the Parish

This Week's Daily Bible Readings

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday</p> <p>Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday</p> <p>Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p>Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p>Gn 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p> <p>Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p>Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday</p> <p>Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13</p>
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Weekly Candle, Lamp and Flower Intentions

Blessed Mother Lamp for Paul Crandall
By his family



Give in gratitude.

A donor to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to **next week's second collection** helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

Parishioner Financial Support

THANK YOU to all who help support the operation and ministry of St. Ann parish. All are encouraged to contribute using either envelopes or through WeShare Online Giving. We are also certainly grateful to all who drop off or mail their contribution. WeShare is a convenient and effective and signing up is easy. Simply go to the parish website and click on this icon and set up your personal account. Call the parish office if you need assistance.

Give Online
with WeShare

Contributions from November 21 weekend

Offertory Contributions	\$ 7,628
WeShare Contributions	\$ 3,333
Total for Parish Operation	\$ 10,961
DOM Other	\$ 664

Contributions from November 28 weekend

Offertory Contributions	\$ 5,274
WeShare Contributions	\$ 2,758
Thanksgiving	\$ 814
Total for Parish Operation	\$ 8,846
Works of Mercy (DOM Other)	\$ 306

Thank you and God bless you for supporting the mission of the church and the ministry of St. Ann parish.

This Advent, as we await the Son of God to break into the world, let's also ask Him to break into our individual lives. A life-changing Advent begins with our willingness to give ourselves over to God, again and again, in our prayer. This Advent, let's cherish and protect our time in prayer with God.

Pray for those who are Sick in our Community

Joseph Arena	Mary Felice	Susan Maurice
Joanmarie Carlone	Frank Forte	Jim McGuinness
Anna Carra	Cindy Galvacky	Edward J. McNamara
John Carrick	Gambino Family	Wilfredo Medina III
Katie Cassling-Fishman	Maria Rosa Gasparro	Andrea Michaels
Bruno Cirianni	Gloria Guide	Lidia Natale
Frank Cirianni	Susan H.	Ann Navatto
Mary Contino	Bernadette Healy	Victor Rangel
Jerry Costanzo	Anthony Hughes	Marie Richardson
Maria Anastasia D'Amore	Brianna Rose Larson	Deborah Scarpone
Michael D'Angelo	Franco Lopreiato	Charalena Sena
Roseann Danna	Michael Lynch	Cathy Stinziano
Josephine DiPiazza	Antonio, Alice & Lisa Magdamit	Patricia Tibaldi
John Falco	Mark Marshall	Saverio Todarello
	Giovanna Martini	Emanuel Valentin
		Ron Wyka

Pray for those in the Military

LtCol Michael A. De Cicco; U.S. Army	Zack Drecchio; U.S. Navy
Victor Dulay, Jr; U.S. Marine Corps	Pvt Tayla Rasmussen; U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Brendan Hughs; U.S. Marine Corps	PFC Daniel J. Salvo; U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Gavin John; U.S. Marine Corps	Cpl Jonathan Schultes; U.S. Marine Corps
LCpl Matthew John; U.S. Marine Corps	SPC4 Joshua Sena U.S. Army
CW4 Michael Lopez, Jr.	LtCol Louis P. Simon; U.S. Marine Corps
LCpl Sean Maj; U.S. Marine Corps	PFC Jerome C. Sunga; U.S. Army
Maj Michael Morella; U.S. Army	Jack Vara; U.S. Marine Corps
Sgt Dan Neville; U.S. Marine Corps	Cpl Daniel Viscariello; U.S. Marine Corps
AIC Anthony John O'Connor; U.S. Air Force	Sgt Janet Wyka; U.S. Army
	Capt Kaitlyn Zimmitti; U.S. Air Force

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