## 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

V. Rev. Jeffrey Calia, C.O., Provost

Rev. Thomas Odorizzi, C.O., Parish Pastor todorizzi@stannparish.com

Mrs. Marisa Day, Head of School, St. Ann Classical Academy, PreK-8

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Sr. Phyllis Vella, MPF Superior

Sr. Ella Mae McDonald, MPF Dir. of Religious Education

#### St. Ann Church

45 Anderson Street; Raritan, NJ 08869 Telephone: 908-725-1008 • Fax: 908-707-1915

#### Website: www.stannparish.com

Email: info@stannparish.com

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

#### The Lord's Day Mass Schedule

Sat.: St. Ann Church

St. Joseph Church 4 pm Holy Trinity 5 pm

Sun.: 7:30 am St. Ann Church

St. Joseph Church (Spanish) 8:00 am

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 St. Ann Church

St. Joseph Church (Spanish) 12 pm

St. Ann Church 5 pm

#### **Daily Masses**

Mon. 8 am St. Joseph 12:15 pm Shrine 7 pm St. Ann 12:15 pm Shrine Tue. 7 am St. Ann 7 pm Holy Trinity 12:15 pm Shrine Wed. 7 am St. Ann 12:15 pm Shrine Thu. 7 am St. Ann

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 3-3:30pm, St. Joseph Saturday, Wednesday, 11-12noon. Holy Trinity Friday, 11-12noon Shrine of Bl. Sac.

or by appointment

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#### Third Sunday of Advent — December 17, 2023

#### Stewardship Reflection on Lectionary Readings

IS 61:1-2A,10-11; 1 THES 5:16-24; JN 1:6-8,19-28

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing. The more we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more we will be filled with joy.

Today as Advent begins to draw to a close and Christmas approaches, we should ask ourselves who and what we rejoice in.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for the Christian steward. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God. This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents, and material possessions — because ultimately we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

This freedom in the Lord is also the reason we can do as St. Paul instructs in his letter to the Thessalonians, in today's Second Reading. He tells us to, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God." As Christian stewards, we know that no matter what the ups and downs of life bring, our life is not our own — it is a gift from the Lord, and we can rest in full confidence that He will take care of us. When we offer every aspect of our life back to Him in grateful trust, every action we take, no matter how small, becomes a prayer. Our very lives become a testimony to the goodness of God.

We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." This is our calling, too, to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior by the way we make use of the time, talent, and treasure He has entrusted to our care. Our actions and our priorities themselves give testimony to all that God has done in our lives. What a privilege!

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

— Catholic Stewardship Consultants, www.CatholicSteward.com

#### As announced last week,

## Revised Weekend Mass Schedule (beginning January 6-7, 2024)

#### **Saturday Evening**

4:00 pm 5:00 pm	St. Joseph Church (English) Holy Trinity Church
Sunday	
7:30 am	St. Ann Church
7:30 am	St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
9:00 am	St. Joseph Church (English)
10:30 am	St. Ann Church
10:30 am	Holy Trinity Church
10:30 am	Shrine Chapel Church (Latin)
12:00 pm	St. Ann Church
12:00 pm	St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
5:00 pm	St. Ann Church

#### SCHEDULE of CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE at ST. ANN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
4pm and Midnight

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE at ST. ANN MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30am and 12 noon

Please Take Note: No 10am Mass at St. Ann Church

## FULL SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS DAY (Monday, December 25)

7:30 am	St. Ann Church
9:00 am	St. Joseph Church
10:30 am	Holy Trinity Church
10:00 am	Shrine of Blessed Sacrament (Latin)
12 noon	St. Ann Church
12 noon	St. Joseph Church (Spanish)

#### How to be faithful to the Sunday and Christmas Obligations: Ouestion:

Is it obligatory to go to Mass on Christmas Day, which this year falls on a Monday, if someone has gone Dec. 24 (Sunday) in the morning?

#### **Answer:**

Yes, there are two Mass obligations, the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation. A person cannot fulfill both obligations with one Mass. In order to fulfill a Mass obligation, we must attend either on the day of the feast or on the evening preceding (Code of Canon Law 1248). Therefore, a Sunday morning Mass could not possibly qualify as satisfying the Mass obligation the following day, since it is in the morning.

In order to satisfy the Sunday obligation, a Catholic could attend the Saturday evening Mass or Mass at some time on Sunday.

In order to satisfy the Christmas obligation, a Catholic could attend Mass on a Sunday at 4 p.m. or later or on Christmas Day itself on Monday.

It does not matter what kind of Mass someone attends so long as he attends Mass on either the day of the obligation or the evening preceding and does so for each obligation. Therefore, if someone attended a Saturday evening Mass for the Sunday obligation and then attended Mass again on Sunday at 6 p.m., that would satisfy both obligations, even if the second Mass was a Sunday Mass and not a Christmas Mass. Likewise, if a Catholic attended a 6 p.m. Mass on Sunday and a 10 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day, that would satisfy both obligations, even if the Sunday evening Mass was a Christmas Mass as well.

No matter how we slice it, two obligations equals two Masses.

#### St. Ann's Rosary Altar Society

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## In January 2024, St. Ann Classical Academy will be registering children for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Consider your children's future and what they will need to live in the world with confidence and hope. Will they have a firm sense of their human dignity and of their identity as one of God's beloved children? Will their knowledge of academic subjects coincide with an understanding of the purpose and goal of their knowledge? Will they appreciate God's presence and gift in all that is beautiful, true and good?

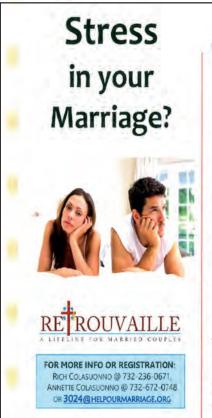
Consider St. Ann Classical Academy when making plans for the next year.

#### CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024-2025 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Dramp; Aid Assessment at

#### https://online.factsmgt.com/aid.

Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2024. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.



# ANNOUNCING AN UPCOMING RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND FOR COUPLES

FEBRUARY 2 -4, 2024

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peeministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track.

#### ON SALE NOW: St. Ann Classical Academy Holiday Calendar Raffle Tickets! First Drawing: Sunday, January 1st

First Drawing: Sunday, January

\$500 | Easter - Mar. 31, 2024

\$200 | New Year's Day - Jan. 1, 2024

\$200 | Valentine's Day - Feb. 14, 2024

\$200 | St. Patrick's Day - Mar. 17, 2024

\$200 | Memorial Day - May 27, 2024

\$100 | April Fools' Day – April 1, 2024

\$100 | Mother's Day - May 12, 2024

\$100 | Father's Day – June 16, 2024

\$25 | Remaining Days - Jan. 2 - June 30, 2024

**Tickets are \$25 and will be sold at all Masses.** Tickets can also be purchased through the school and St. Ann parish offices, from SACA families, or reserved online at <a href="https://www.stannclassical.org/calendar-raffle">www.stannclassical.org/calendar-raffle</a>.

Each \$25 ticket has 181 chances to win cash prizes from \$500 - \$25 for a total of \$5,950. Proceeds benefit St. Ann Classical Academy. Drawing to take place at St. Ann Classical Academy on the dates specified above. Winners need not be present and will be contacted directly by the school office. Results will also be posted on the school website at <a href="https://www.stannclassical.org/calendar-raffle">www.stannclassical.org/calendar-raffle</a>. RL: 2023-09-01 ID: 412-1-454

#### Family Ministry Fair Live Webinar – Jan. 25, 2024

All are welcome to join our Family Ministry Fair Live Webinar on Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:30 PM.

Our four speakers will be: Dr. Gregory Popcak (Catholic HOM), Damon Owens (Communio), Enza Cerami (Living Stones, Inc.) and Patrick Metts, LPC (RESTORE Catholic Marriage Resource).

This event presents a chance to learn and grow parish outreach to families and also minister to marriages. For more information and/or to RSVP for the Zoom link please contact **cdaverso@diometuchen.org** 

#### Adult Enrichment Course "The Theology of the Eucharist"

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation will be offering a free-of-charge Adult Enrichment Course entitled The Theology of the Eucharist" on twelve consecutive Thursdays starting January 4 through March 21, 2024 from 10 am to 11:30 am. The course will be offered at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. The classes will be presented by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D. and include a lecture and Q & A.

There is a \$15. fee to attend which covers all 12 sessions. You may register online at <a href="www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation">www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation</a> (please register only one time for all 12 classes). For more information, please email <a href="mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org">amarshall@diometuchen.org</a> or call 732-562-1543.

#### Third Sunday of Advent — December 17, 2023

#### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, December 18

7:00 pm Florence and Vincent Pacifico by Mary Pacifico; Rose Rust by the Falco Family; Michael DeLuca by John and Kathy Galella; and Victor Napenas by Roselle Regala

#### Tuesday, December 19

7:00 am Frank Cirianni by Catherine and Angelo Viscariello

#### Wednesday, December 20

7:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the Cammarata Family by Lena Cammarata

#### Thursday, December 21

7:00 am Ann DiBetta by Ann and Ken DiGraziano *Fríday, December 22* 

#### Saturday, December 23

9:00 am Maria Rosa Gasparro by her sister Caterina Grande

4:00 pm Stephen W. Forktus by the Forktus Family

#### Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Margherita and Paolo Cugliari by Caterina Fusca

10:00 am People of the Parish

12:00 pm Special Intention for Mark Marshall in honor of the Blessed Mother

#### Christmas Eve

**4:00 pm (Vigil)** Special Intention for the Ronca Family **Midnight Mass (Vigil)** People of the Parish

#### This Week's Daily Bible Readings

Sunday	Wednesday	
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11;	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38	
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28	<b>Thursday</b> Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;	
Monday	Lk 1:39-45	
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25	Friday	
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56	
lgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25	<b>Saturday</b> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66	

#### ANNOUNCEMENT: Death of Former Pastor

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of **Reverend Charles P. Scillieri**, a priest of the Diocese of

Metuchen, who passed away on Tuesday, December 5. Father Scillieri was ordained to the priesthood in 1973. He previously served in a number of parishes in the Dioceses of Trenton and Metuchen. He served as Pastor here at St. Ann's from 1985-91. He retired from active ministry in 2010.



#### Parishioner Financial Support

THANK YOU to all who help support the operation and ministry of St. Ann parish. Whether by envelope, by mail or by online giving, your contributions are essential and appreciated.

WeShare online giving is encouraged because of its ease of use, consistency in support and flexibility. Sign-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

#### Contribution information the for weekend of <u>December 10</u>:

Offertory Contributions	\$	5,835
WeShare Offertory Contributions	\$	2,572
Immaculate Conception Holy Day	\$	1,467
Christmas, Other	\$	513
<b>Total for Parish Operation</b>	\$ 1	10,387
DOM, Retirement Fund for Religious	\$	2,618

#### Weekly Candle, Lamp and Flower Intentions



Altar Candle #1 and #2 and the Tabernacle Lamp for Rose and Joseph Sansone by their family



A

Blessed Mother Lamp for a special intention in thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother

#### Pray for those in the Military

Pvt Brennan Gasway. U.S. Army
AIC Olivia F. Geary, U.S. Air Force
PFC Brendan Hughs, U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Gavin John, U.S. Marine Corps
LCpl Matthew John, U.S. Coast Guard
CW4 Michael Lopez, Jr.
LCpl Sean Maj, U.S. Marine Corps
Maj Michael Morella, U.S. Army
Sgt Dan Neville, U.S. Marine Corps
TSgt Anthony John O'Connor, U.S.Air Force

Victor Dulay, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps

Zack Orecchio, U.S. Navy
Pvt Tayla Rasmusson, U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Daniel J. Salvo, U.S. Marine Corps
Cpl Jonathan Schultes, U.S. Marine Corps
SPC4 Joshua Sena, U.S. Army
LtCol Louis P. Simon, U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Jerome C. Sunga, U.S. Army
Jack Vara, U.S. Marine Corps
Cpl Daniel Viscariello, U.S. Marine Corps
Sgt Janet Wyka, U.S. Army
Capt Kaitlyn Zimmitti, U.S. Air Force

#### Pray for those who are Sick in our Community

Joseph Arena	Gladys Gonzalez	Joyce Melitsky
Stephen Baumbusch	Susan H.	Andrea Michaels
Vitangelo Bavaro	Bernadette Healy	Lidia Natale
Joanmarie Carlone	Anthony Hughes	A.J. Papavero
Bruno Cirianni	Laura Karg	Edith Pena
Mary Contino	Brianna Rose Larson	Victor Rangel
Jerry Costanzo	Michael Lynch	Danilo & Sanbeda
Ralph Cusati	Antonio, Alice &	Santos
Maria Anastasia	Lisa Magdamit	Deborah Scarpone
D'Amore	Mark Marshall	Cathy Stinziano
Roseann Danna	Giovanna Martini	Patricia Tibaldi
Josephine DiPiazza	Lella Mathews	Saverio Todarello
John Falco	Susan Maurice	Luisito Tolentino
Frank Forte	Jim McGuinness	Jenny Troisi
Cindy Galvacky	Edward J. McNamara	Lou Troisi
Gambino Family	Wilfredo Medina III	<b>Emanuel Valentin</b>



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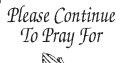
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