

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
toodorizzi@stannparish.com

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

Parish Office Staff

Deacon Sal Bonfiglio,	<i>Business Administrator</i>
Mrs. Christine Esposito,	<i>Social Ministry, Office Support</i>
Mr. Lou Falconeri,	<i>Plant Manager</i>
Sr. Ella Mae McDonald, MPF	<i>Dir. of Religious Education</i>
Mr. Anthony Nardino	<i>Dir. of Liturgy & Sacred Music</i>
Ms. Barbara Russell,	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Roy Rabinowitz

Community of Religious Teachers of St. Lucy Filippini

Sr. Phyllis Vella, MPF	<i>Superior</i>
Sr. Ella Mae McDonald, MPF	<i>Dir. of Religious Education</i>



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, NJ

The Lord's Day Mass Schedule

As of January 6, 2024

Saturday Vigil:

4:00 pm	St. Joseph Church
5:00 pm	Holy Trinity

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 of Blessed Sacrament (Latin)
12:00 pm	St. Ann Church
12:00 pm	St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
5:00 pm	St. Ann Church

Weekday Mass Schedule

As of January 2, 2024

Monday – Friday

8:00 am	St. Ann Church
12:15 pm	Shrine of Blessed Sacrament (English)

Fridays

7:00 pm	Holy Trinity Church
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Saturdays

9:00 am	St. Ann Church
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First Saturdays

9:00 am	Shrine of Blessed Sacrament (Latin)
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Holy Day Mass Schedule

7:00 pm Vigil	St. Joseph Church (English)
8:00 am	St. Ann Church
12:15 pm	Shrine of Blessed Sacrament English)
12:15 pm	Holy Trinity Church
7:00 pm	St. Ann Church
7:00 pm	Shrine of Blessed Sacrament (Latin)
7:00 pm	St. Joseph Church (Spanish)

Discover the difference a Catholic Classical education makes.



St. Ann Classical Academy

40 Second Avenue,
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Website: stannclassical.org

Facebook: [stannclassicalacademy](https://www.facebook.com/stannclassicalacademy)

Call to schedule an appointment or in-person tour.
Or email [<kalbright@stannparish.com>](mailto:kalbright@stannparish.com)

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

Stewardship Reflection on Lectionary Readings

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38

As any harried parent or excited child can tell you, there is just one day left until the celebration of Christmas begins. As Christian stewards let's live this last day of Advent well.

Our First Reading, from 2 Samuel, features King David, who has resolved to do God a favor by building Him a house in which to dwell. But God reminds David Who is truly in charge. "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went and I have destroyed your enemies before you."

What is true of David's position before God is true for all of us. Our God is mighty, all-powerful and Love itself. The only proper response is to worship Him and live our lives as a grateful gift for all His goodness to us.

How can we possibly live up to this task? Only by relying on God, as St. Paul tells us in the Second Reading, from his letter to the Romans. Paul instructs us to go to "him who can strengthen you... Jesus Christ."

The truth is, once we recognize that all we have is gift from God, the next step is to acknowledge that we need God's strength and wisdom to guide us in the best use of those gifts for the building of His Kingdom. Hopefully, we are making time during Advent to go to God in prayer and through the sacraments to obtain the strength we need to live as His disciples and the guidance to know we are indeed following His will with the gifts He has entrusted to us.

In fact, our aim should be to make the words of our Blessed Mother our own. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of her "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She trusted in her Heavenly Father to guide her at each step, and He did. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example as disciples today.

This Christmas, let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. It is the work of a lifetime. But He will give us all the help and strength we need to do it.

— *Catholic Stewardship Consultants, www.CatholicSteward.com*

the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is for Jesus Himself. For this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we hope for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

Christmas has a way of bringing together families and communities, to strengthen the bonds of friendship and love. It may also be the occasion of greater awareness of our need to open our hearts to the Lord Jesus, who comes to us in the Eucharist. We are well past the time of the blanket COVID dispensation from attending Mass. We are praying for Eucharistic Revival, that the Blessed Sacrament will become the center of our lives of discipleship. The Son of God came to us as the son of Mary, receiving a human body to sacrifice with saving love for humanity. During each Mass Jesus offers us his Body and Blood through Holy Communion. Jesus is inviting us to share in his life, his victory over sin and death. We all are in need of the healing, merciful love of Jesus. Let us be united as a faith community, together seeking the identity and purpose for which the Christmas mystery, the Paschal mystery and Eucharistic mystery is given as gift for us.

What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community. I extend to all an open, grateful heart of welcome. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024!

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)

As previously announced,
Revised Weekend Mass Schedule
(beginning January 6-7, 2024)

Saturday Evening

4:00 pm	St. Joseph Church (English)
5:00 pm	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 of Blessed Sacrament (Latin)
12:00 pm	St. Ann Church
12:00 pm	St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
5:00 pm	St. Ann Church

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

With deep joy and gratitude, I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas. During this Advent Season, it has been my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with

Peace! Fr. Tom

The Catholic Church of St. Ann

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 & Aid Assessment at

<https://online.factsmtg.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.



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*Christmas
Blessings*

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RICH COLASUONNO @ 732-236-0671,
ANNETTE COLASUONNO @ 732-672-0748
OR 3024@HELPOURMARRIAGE.ORG

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 peer ministry 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.

Pregnancy Aid Center

59 Thompson Street, Raritan;
908 526-8121

There is serious need of **toddler coats and winter clothing, diapers, wipes, shampoo, toys and baby equipment** to help local needy moms and children. It is a great way to give new life to your children's outgrown items.

Drop off is Wednesday from 12 pm to 2 pm. The center is open from 11am to 2 pm on Mondays; 10am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays, and 10am to 12 pm and 4 pm to 5:30pm on Thursdays.

Rosary for Life – January 19, 2024

Come Pray a Rosary for Life (in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington, DC and across the country). Bishop Checchio is scheduled to attend! **Friday, January 19, 2024 at 1:00 pm on Main Street in Woodbridge.** Park and meet in the St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 pm (369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ). There is a 12:10 pm daily Mass at St. James for those who wish to attend. For more information, contact amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

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 www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation (please register only one time for all 12 classes). For more information, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

Saint Ann Church Rosary Altar Society

Interested in sharing your devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary with other women who love our Lady?



Let's pray the Rosary together

- We gather the first Sunday of each month for our Corporate Communion. We recite the Rosary and attend the Mass together.
- We have a general monthly meeting (Sept thru June).
- Some of our special works include:
 - Tending to the Altar (Dressing the Altar)
 - Distribution of St. Rita Roses in May
 - Special prayer requests
 - Building community with hosting receptions and bake sales

We are actively seeking new members.
For more information, please contact:
Laura Sullivan: (908) 334-9790

St. Ann's Rosary Altar Society is very excited to have our *Family Favorites* 1990 Cookbook Reprinted in honor of our Parish's 120th Anniversary. So many of your Grand-mother's, Aunt's and Friend's recipes are in this book!!

Cost is only \$10.

To purchase your copy, stop by the Rectory Office or email info@stannparish.com



Men's Rosary Rally

Join men in **prayer** and **penance** to make **reparation** for our nation's sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for the glory of Jesus Christ.



**Saturday,
January 6th**

**Saturday,
February 3rd**

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

W. Main & Division Streets, Somerville, NJ

More info: njrosary@protonmail.com | [@mensrosary](https://www.mensrosary.com)

Men of all ages are welcome. Join us every First Saturday of the Month!



MARY COMFORTS EVE
Sr. Grace Remington, OSCO

Thank you, Immaculate and Virgin Mary, for bringing your child to us. Mary of Advent, with your example of patient waiting and prayerful trust, help the human family also to be open to draw close to Salvation, your Son, Jesus, and to bear Him forth in our own lives. In our great need, pray for us, New Eve!

Reflect more on this art. See Article by Garrett Johnson: **6 Things To Notice In This Beautiful Image of Mary and Eve**, <https://catholic-link.org/mary-and-eve/>

The Catholic Church of St. Ann

A New Year is upon us! There are two very exciting opportunities available to you to learn about our faith and grow in friendship with Christ.

One of these opportunities is through *The Bible in a Year* podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz. This is a daily podcast that goes through the entire Bible while Fr. Mike offers insight, prayer, and commentary on the readings. Released in 2020, this was the #1 Apple Podcast for two years in a row—reaching millions of people around the world. Maybe you’ve always wanted to read the Bible cover to cover but didn’t know where to start or got stuck in Leviticus. This is the solution. Catholics from all over the world have experienced the transforming power of God’s Word from this podcast and have felt a deeper and closer connection to God and the Catholic Faith.

The second opportunity is another podcast called *The Catechism in a Year* podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz. This was released for the first time on January 1st, 2023. Similar to *The Bible in a Year*, this podcast will go through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Faith and Fr. Mike will act as our insightful guide throughout the journey. Maybe you aren’t familiar with the Catechism and maybe you think the Catechism is just a reference book — it’s not! This is God calling you to learn more about our Faith. Through this podcast, you’ll discover a new love and clear understanding for what we believe as Catholics and why we believe it.

Both of these podcasts are completely free! Each of the daily episodes are about 20 minutes long, making it easy to listen to them while going on a daily walk, drinking your morning coffee, driving into work, or however you like. All you have to do is click “play” and allow God to transform your life day by day.

If you’re interested in either of these free Catholic podcasts and you want to join them, you can visit [AscensionPress.com](https://www.ascensionpress.com) or make use of the QR codes here.

Please pray about these opportunities and give God a chance to grow with you this year. God bless you all!

STILL ON SALE: St. Ann Classical Academy Holiday Calendar Raffle Tickets!

First Drawing: Sunday, January 1st

\$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 www.stannclassical.org/calendar-raffle.

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 www.stannclassical.org/calendar-raffle.

RL: 2023-09-01 ID: 412-1-454

Read and Understand the Bible with *The Bible in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

“As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together.”

—Ignacio G.

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place to listen to *The Bible in a Year*.



Understand Your Catholic Faith with *The Catechism in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

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place to listen to *The Catechism in a Year*.



Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 24, 2023

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 25—The Nativity of the Lord

7:30 am Dominico Natale by wife Emilia Natale

12:00 pm Jason Przybylski by his family

Tuesday, December 26

9:00 am Joseph & Eva Giaquinto by daughter JoAnn

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am Lina & George Taylor by Bob and Inez Taylor

Thursday, December 28

9:00 am Carmela, Angelo and Angela Casola by Nina Massa and family

Friday, December 29

9:00 am Arminia Starr by Pina Mattei

Saturday, December 30

9:00 am Maria R. Gasparro by Pasquale & Civita Truppi

4:00 pm Anna Fabrizio by Antoinette Falco

Sunday, December 31

7:30 am People of the Parish

10:00 am Anna Carra by Antoinette Falco

12:00 pm Leo F. McDonald by Sr. Ella May McDonald

5:00 pm Peter Scavo by his mom and dad

This Week's Daily Bible Readings

Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59;
Mt 10:17-22

Monday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14;
Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7;
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Weekly Candle, Lamp and Flower Intentions

Altar Candle #1

for Antonio, Maria and Giuliana Natale
by their family



Altar Candle #2

for Robert and Janet Graham
by Ken and Filomena Graham and family



Tabernacle Lamp

for Living & Deceased Members of the Cammarata Family
by Lena Cammarata

St. Joseph Lamp

for Antonio and Maria Rosa Gasparro
by their daughter Sabrina and family



Blessed Mother Lamp

for Maria Rosa Gasparro
by Teresa Cirianni Filiano



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 **December 17:**

Offertory Contributions	\$ 5,038
WeShare Offertory Contributions	\$ 3,264
Christmas, Other	\$ 245
Total for Parish Operation	\$ 8,547
DOM, Other	\$ 176

*Buon Natale
e
Felice Anno Nuovo*



Pray for those in the Military

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

Pvt Brennan Gasway, U.S. Army

AIC Olivia F. Geary, U.S. Air Force

PFC Brendan Hughes, U.S. Marine Corps

PFC Gavin John, U.S. Marine Corps

LCpl Matthew John, U.S. Marine Corps

Brock D. Laggini, 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

Zack Drecchio, 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

Vitangelo Bavaro

Joanmarie Carlone

Bruno Cirianni

Mary Contino

Jerry Costanzo

Ralph Cusati

Maria Anastasia

D'Amore

Roseann Danna

Josephine DiPiazza

John Falco

Frank Forte

Cindy Galvacky

Gambino Family

Gladys Gonzalez

Susan H.

Bernadette Healy

Anthony Hughes

Laura Karg

Brianna Rose Larson

Michael Lynch

Antonio, Alice &

Lisa Magdamit

Mark Marshall

Giovanna Martini

Lella Mathews

Susan Maurice

Jim McGuinness

Edward J. McNamara

Wilfredo Medina III

Joyce Melitsky

Andrea Michaels

Lidia Natale

A.J. Papavero

Edith Pena

Victor Rangel

Danilo & Sanbeda

Santos

Deborah Scarpone

Cathy Stinziano

Patricia Tibaldi

Saverio Todarello

Luisito Tolentino

Jenny Troisi

Lou Troisi

Emanuel Valentin

Ron Wyka

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had a blood type,
what would it be?
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