

# Sainte Anne Parish

Salem, MA

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The image features four lit purple candles of varying heights, arranged in a cluster. They are surrounded by green pine branches and clusters of bright red berries. The background is dark with soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of orange and yellow. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

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



*Sainte Anne Parish is a faith community in the Roman Catholic tradition. We strive to live up to the motto: "We Are Family." We see ourselves as a local expression of the universal Church, the People of God, the Body of Christ. Through God's grace we seek to be welcoming and loving. Our life centers on the daily celebration of the Eucharist. We meet Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and are then challenged to bring His love to others.*

### Parish and Religious

#### Education Offices:

11 Cleveland Street  
Salem, MA 01970

**Office:** 978.744.1930

**Religious Ed.:** 978.745.8915

#### Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9am- 12 Noon  
Friday (office closed)

#### Emails:

Office: [stannesalem@aol.com](mailto:stannesalem@aol.com)  
Religious Education:  
[faithformation@stannesalem.org](mailto:faithformation@stannesalem.org)  
Bulletin:  
[stannesbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbulletin@gmail.com)  
Parish Pastoral Council:  
[PPC@stannesalem.org](mailto:PPC@stannesalem.org)

#### Rectory:

290 Jefferson Avenue  
Salem, MA 01970

# Sainte Anne Parish

WEEKEND MASSES: .....Saturday 4:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
DAILY MASSES: ..... Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM  
HOLY DAY MASSES: .....As Announced  
CAMEROON MASS: .....2nd and 4th Sunday of Month, 1:00 PM  
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: ..... Thursday, 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
ROSARY GROUP: .....Thursday, 6:00 PM  
CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: .....Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
CONFESSIONS: .....Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 PM or By Appointment  
CHAPEL: .....Closed Until Further Notice  
CHURCH: .....Will Remain Open After 9 AM Mass Until 7 PM Monday,  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; Saturday 9 AM-5 PM;  
Sunday Open for Mass Only

**Welcome to New Parishioners:** Please introduce yourself to us after Mass. To register, contact the Parish Office or online at [stannesalem.org](http://stannesalem.org).

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12:15 pm. A preparation for parents and godparents will take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Rectory. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a baptism.

**Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance to arrange for the celebration of your wedding.

**Home Visitation:** We are happy to visit for confession, holy communion, anointing of the sick, or with anyone who is unable to come to church. Please contact the Parish Office.

**Anointing of the Sick:** This sacrament is for anyone who is seriously ill, in a weakened condition, facing surgery, entering hospice care, or near death. Please contact the Parish Office for this sacrament to be celebrated.

### PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Maurice Agbaw-Ebai, Administrator  
Charlene Carrier, Coordinator of Religious Education  
Marc Deschenes, Maintenance & Repairs  
Nancy Gavenda, Sacristan  
Michelle Kolodziej, Operations Manager  
Paul L'heureux, Projects Manager  
Joseph Stella, Director of Music Ministry  
Lourdelyn Valsote, Administrative Coordinator

Visit our Website - [www.stannesalem.org](http://www.stannesalem.org)

Visit us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Sainte Anne Salem, MA](https://www.facebook.com/SainteAnneSalem)

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel - Sainte Anne's Parish, Salem, MA

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The book of Revelation also known as the Apocalypse (a Greek word meaning unveiling, disclosure or revelation) constitutes one of the apocalyptic literatures that has been out of use for many centuries and is no longer easily interpreted by modern readers. It is a book which borrows extensively from the Old Testament, especially Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Daniel. A characteristic of this book is the account of visions in symbolic and allegorical language. Whether these visions were real experiences of the author or simply literary conventions employed by him is an open question.

This is probably the most misunderstood book in the entire Bible because it abounds in unfamiliar and extravagant symbolism, a feature common with apocalyptic literature which was widely popular in Jewish and Christian circles from 200BC TO 200AD. Most of the complicated symbolism modern readers find so confusing with apocalyptic literature would have been familiar to its first readers from the knowledge of the many other apocalypses that were written at the time. In the book of Revelation for example, we come across the use of symbolic numbers that would have made sense to the readers of that period: 7 for perfection, 6 for imperfection, 5 for affliction, 4 for the earth, 12 for Israel, 1000 for a great number. These are not numbers to be taken literally. Thus the lamb with seven horns and seven eyes suggests Christ's universal (seven) power (horns) and knowledge (eyes); the 144,000 'saved' who were marked with the seal in 7:4 represent the large number of the redeemed who constitute the perfect Israel (12x12x1000) and not an exact number of those who enter heaven. Similarly, the monstrous dragon (Satan) and the beasts (the Roman emperor and the religion of emperor worship) and the horrendous blood-drinking harlot (pagan Rome) are so portrayed as to make as vivid as possible the ugliness of sin and the opposition to God and his Christ.

**Author, background and Date of Composition**

The last book in the New Testament canon was written originally to the seven churches in the Roman Province of Asia minor. This book was written by John, identified by later Christian tradition as the apostle John, author of the fourth Gospel. However, the style in this book is somewhat different from that of the Gospel. He does not present himself with the authority of an apostle nor with the title "the elder" used at the beginning of his second and third letters. His style and theology is also different from the fourth Gospel. In the Gospel, he is called to 'to give witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus (Jn 1:2) and to prophesy again about many peoples (10:11). Thus the comparisons of style, vocabulary and use of Greek grammar make it impossible to suppose that the author of this book and writer of the Gospel of John are the same person. Nevertheless, he writes with an authority that he presumes will be accepted in the churches in and around Ephesus where the Johannine community was based. Despite the differences with the Gospel of John, there are strong resemblances between his language and theology and that of John's Gospel. This makes it possible that the author was a prominent disciple of the Johannine school, belonging to the group of prophets referred to by the expression 'your brothers the prophet' (22:9) who enriched the communities of Asia Minor. They fought against false apostles (2:2) and Nicolaitans (2:15) especially their teaching of Balaam (2:14) and the so-called deep secrets of Satan (2:24).

The book was composed in the second century towards the end of the reign of emperor Domitian (81-96), when emperor worship got a new impulse from local governors in Asia Minor. Hence, the symbolism of the first beast (13:1-10) and Babylon the harlot (ch.17), which all referred to idolatrous emperor worship. The propagators of this cult were portrayed as the second beast, or false prophets and seducers (13:11-17; 19:20). Thus, it was composed as a resistance literature to the persecution of the church by the Roman authorities. Written at a time when the Christians of Asia Minor needed encouragement and orientation. A number of them had already become martyrs (2:13, 6:9). Many others were harassed by local authorities and put in prison (2:9-10); others were tempted by money and worldly pleasures (3:17, 13:16-17, 18:11). It was thus a letter of encouragement written in an apocalyptic style.

**Message**

It would be incorrect to consider this book a forecast of future history or to identify its symbolic characters with historical persons of the present, recent past or immediate future. All that the book tells us about the future is that the people of God would encounter persecution throughout their history. And they will triumph in the end by the omnipotent power of God in Jesus Christ who will come to judge the world. Thus, no matter how great the evil in the world, God is still in control of history and his triumph is a divine certainty. In this decisive battle between Christ and the followers of Satan, Christ's overwhelming victory will usher in an everlasting reign of God (11:15; 12:10). Even the forces of evil, unwittingly carry out the divine plan (17:17), for God is the sovereign lord of history.

A personal message from this book to all Christians is the assurance of Christ's cosmic victory. Reminding us that Christianity is a dynamic force in our lives. That is why the seven letters that begin the book (1-3) warn the churches to which they are addressed about the danger of mediocrity in the practice of religion. Ultimately therefore, the message of this book is about God and Jesus Christ, who has conquered the world by his cross. No matter the opposition, God's universal rule is certain. The faithful should therefore, not lose courage even if they live in a world filled with structures of sin, for they will share in the triumph of Christ over the false pretenses and the promises of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. (Fr. Denis Tameh).

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Once again this year, we have been blessed with an anonymous donor who will match all donations made to the Salem St. Vincent de Paul Society during the month of December. This is an opportunity for members of the Salem community to double the value of a gift to help Christ and his poor. What better way to celebrate this Christmas season, especially in this year of the pandemic, than to help the needy in our own city? **All donations made in the month of December will qualify for the match.** You may place your donation in the collection box at Ste. Anne's any time during the month of December or you may also mail checks made out to St. Vincent de Paul and addressed to Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 158 Federal Street, Salem, MA 01970. For the last month, your donations helped to fund \$17,786 in assistance to the poor in Salem (the most we have ever spent in one month), including \$8,672 for overdue rent to avoid eviction; \$2,786 for past due electricity and fuel bills to avoid shut off of those utilities; \$4,009 for food vouchers; and \$1,173 for miscellaneous items such as beds and bedding, and adult diapers. Because we are a volunteer organization, our operating expenses were just \$147 for the month. We gratefully acknowledge your generous contributions which help the needy of Salem.



**Masses for Christmas and New Year's**

**Christmas Eve:**  
4 pm and Midnight

**Christmas Day:**  
10 am and 1 pm (Cameroon Mass)

**New Year's Eve:**  
4 pm

**New Year's Day:**  
10 am

We have reinstated SignUp Genius for Christmas. **You MUST register to attend one of the Masses for Christmas and New Year's.** Please visit our website to sign up ([www.stannesalem.org](http://www.stannesalem.org)) or call the Parish Office at 978.744.1930.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

It's that time again, we ask you to make a donation in memory of a loved one so that we can purchase the necessary flowers and decorations. The names of your loved ones will be listed in a bulletin insert and we ask that they be remembered in all our prayers. **Please mark an envelope Flower Donation.** Drop the envelope in the collection or bring it to the Parish Center. **Christmas donation in memory of:**

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Donated by \_\_\_\_\_



Fr. Maurice blessed the print of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness and Mother of the Americas, at the 4PM Mass on Her Feast day, December 12th. The print originated in Mexico and was donated to Fr. Maurice by the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Medford, MA where he served from 2015-2017. Fr. Maurice has gifted the print to the parishioners of Ste. Anne's, where it will hang in the main church. We are very grateful to Dennis Levasseur for hanging the print. We invite you to spend some time in quiet reflection with Our Lady.

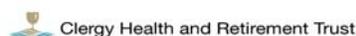




<b>Saturday, Dec. 19</b> 4:00 pm	<b>Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Parish Family
<b>Sunday, Dec. 20</b> 8:30 am	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Ronald Deschenes, Birthday, by the Family Doris Fournier, 2nd Anniversary, by Judy Ware
11:00 am	Deceased Members of the Thibodeau & Bossea Families, by Susan and Bob Quinn Deceased Members of the Blanchette & Castonguay Families, by Claire Blanchette
<b>Monday, Dec. 21</b> 9:00 am	Arthur Sr. & Hilda Jean
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 22</b> 9:00 am	Joseph Ingemi III, Birthday Remembrance, by the Family
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 23</b> 9:00 am	Kathy Streakov, Recovery, by Claire White-Sullivan and friends
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24</b> 9:00 am	Jane Mullins, by the Marengi Family
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24</b> 4:00 pm	<b>Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord</b> Parish Family
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24</b> Midnight	<b>The Nativity of the Lord: Midnight</b> Parish Family
<b>Friday, Dec. 25</b> 10:00 am	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> Parish Family
1:00 pm	Cameroon Community
<b>Saturday, Dec. 26</b> 4:00 pm	<b>Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr</b> Rita Pelletier, in Remembrance, by Gloria Matton
<b>Sunday, Dec. 27</b> 8:30 am	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> Parish Family
11:00 am	Will Matton, by his wife Rosie Lamarre, Loving Husband, by Grace Lamarre

**Notes from the Parish Office**

The Parish Office is working on updating and standardizing office procedures. As you know, a new voice mail system was recently installed (the phone number remains the same: 978.744.1930). In the near future, the office email address will be changing from stannesalem@aol.com to **info@stannesalem.org**. Please be sure to make note of the new email address, which should be used when contacting the Parish for Mass intentions, scheduling funerals, baptisms, etc., or for any general information. Additionally, the cost for Mass Intentions is now \$15 per Mass. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions at 978.744.1930.



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS AT CHRISTMAS

The upcoming Christmas collection will benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the health and well-being of our 536 active and senior priests in good standing. Whether it is within our parish communities or in the community at large, our priests are making a difference every day. If you are able, please consider a generous gift to the Christmas collection this year. Thank you in advance. The following are Senior Priests who have served faithfully at Ste. Anne's. Please remember these faithful priests in your prayers and when contributing to the Christmas Collection this year: Reverend Roger Cormier, Reverend John Kiley, and Reverend Lawrence Rondeau. **Donate at [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or SCAN the QR Code** for Venmo, Google/Apple Pay, or PayPal via Givebutler.



**VOLUNTEER(S) WANTED**

There is a project that will require the expertise of a carpenter. If you are blessed with carpentry skills and have some free time, please contact me to discuss the project. You can reach me through the Parish Office at 978.744.1930 or via email to **agbawm@gmail.com**. Thank you for your consideration. God bless, Fr. Maurice



THE GREATEST GIFT...  
*Jesus*

"O King of glory, though you hide your beauty, yet the eye of my soul rends the veil. I see the angelic choirs giving you honor without cease." – St. Faustina



**FINANCIAL UPDATE - SUPPORT YOUR PARISH**

Your financial support of the parish pays for utilities, staff and clergy salaries, property maintenance, supplies, and supports our parish ministries. Everything we do as a parish relies on the offertory collections and other donations. Your continuing generous and sacrificial giving will assist your parish to provide for your spiritual needs and to serve the wider community. **Merci and Thank You!**

Week ending 12/13	Collection	Online Giving
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,785</b>	<b>\$640</b>
<b>Sacramentals</b>	\$125	
<b>Shrines/Candles/Flowers</b>	\$285	
<b>Maintenance/Repairs/Fuel</b>	\$75	
<b>Gifts/Bequests</b>	\$600	
<b>Grand Annual</b>	\$100	
<b>St. Vincent de Paul</b>	\$1,737	
<b>Grandma's Attic</b>	\$1,500	
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	\$339	
<b>All Saints Day</b>	\$10	
<b>Solemnity of Mary</b>	\$20	
<b>Retirement Fund Religious Sisters</b>	\$21	
<b>Christmas</b>	\$40	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,637</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,277</b>	

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday December 20**

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

**Monday December 21**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday December 22**

1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday December 23**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday December 24**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

**Friday December 25**

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

**Saturday December 26**

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

**Sunday December 27**

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



**For the Sick:** Jason Alexander, Dorothy Sherry, Armen Sarafian, Pat John, Steve L., Kathleen Levy, Ron Budka, Leona Budka, Denise Wells, Kayla Campagna, Jay P., Madeline St. Pierre, Joan Driscoll Bick, Pat Jalbert, Steven Conner, Raymond Thompson, Larry Blanchard, Chris Hall, Laurie Babbin, Rob Holloran, Karen Friedrich, Peter and Ben, Carol Whyntott, Barbara Newman, Lila LaMalfa, Dina Russo, Carson Borden, Terry Walters, Bill Walters, Frank Popielski, Jean Sacco, Pauline Bellomo

**For the Military:** Jason Boyle, Nicholas Budka, Sean Patrick Mautone, Keith Lovely, David Irwin, K. Ryan McKinley, Michael Angers

**For all victims of the Coronavirus, for all front line workers, and for all medical researchers that they may find an effective prevention.**

**For all the deceased members of our parish.**

**For our Advent celebration,** that it would be a time of reflection on the coming of Christ, filled with prayer, repentance, and love for God and neighbor.

**For Priests and Seminarians:** Please pray each day for our Boston priests and seminarians:

- Saturday - Fr. Donald Clifford and Fernando Vivas
- Sunday - Fr. Christopher Lowe and Joseph Hubbard
- Monday - Fr. Michael Steele and Denis Nakkeeran
- Tuesday - Fr. Raymond Van De Moortell and Matthew Norwood
- Wednesday - Fr. John Reardon and Daniel Zinger
- Thursday - Fr. Francisco Anzoategui and Giovanni Argote
- Friday - All Priests in the World
- Saturday - Fr. Mark Noonan and Fernando Ayala

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

**Christmas Masses on CatholicTV**

 <b>Vatican</b> 12/24 8pm	 <b>Maryland</b> 12/24 11pm	 <b>CatholicTV</b> 12/25 12am
 <b>Chicago</b> 12/25 1am	 <b>D.C.</b> 12/25 5pm	 <b>CTV Spanish</b> 12/25 5:30pm

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