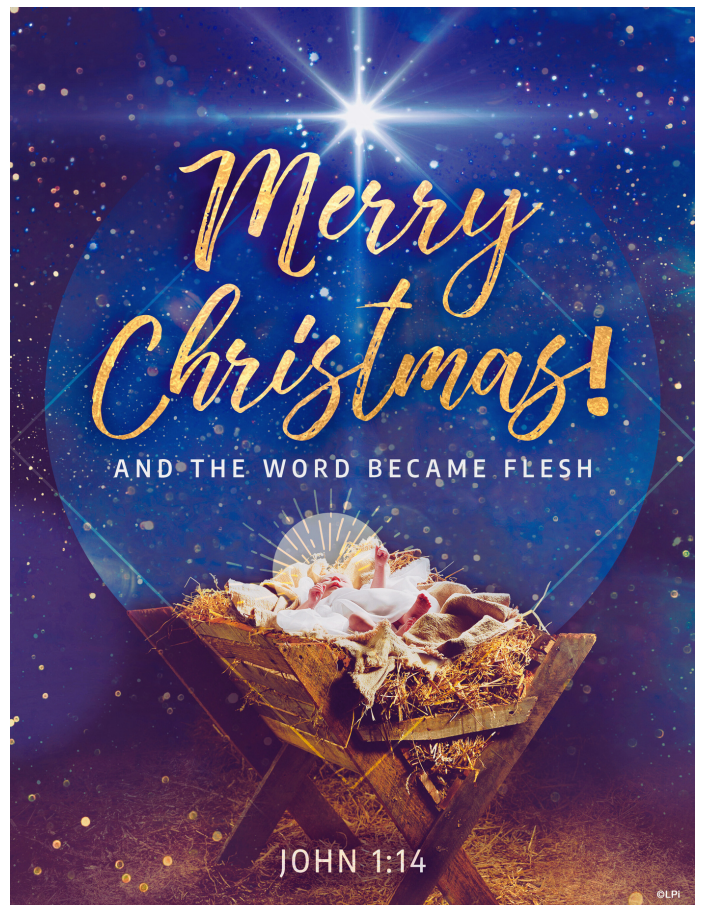
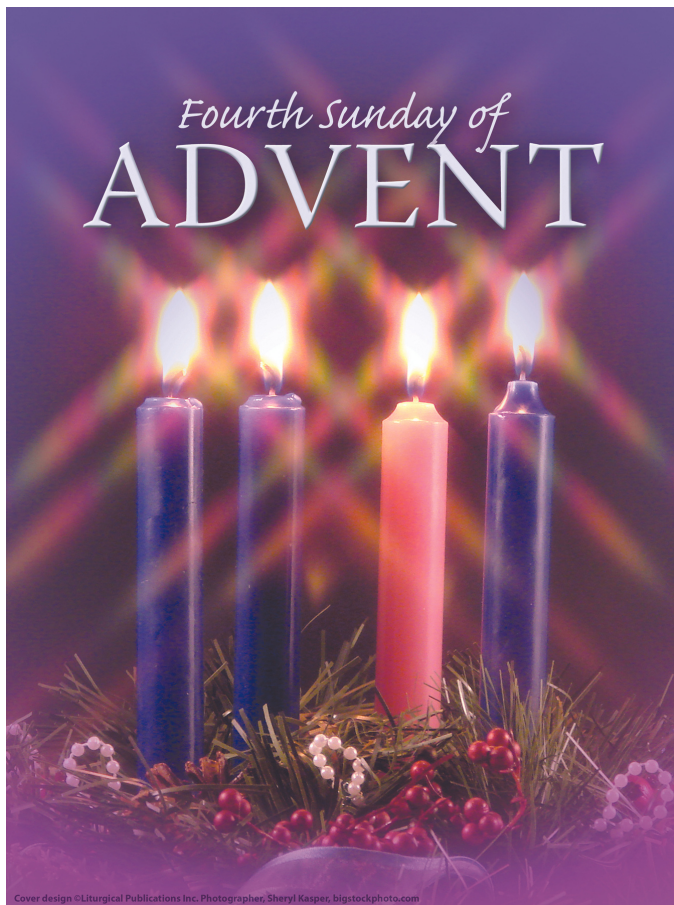


*St. Anne*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas



**Sunday, Dec. 24**  
**4th Sunday of**  
**Advent**  
8:30am Mass  
10:30am Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 24**  
**Christmas Eve**  
4pm Mass  
Children's Choir  
9pm Mass

**Monday, Dec. 25**  
**Christmas Day**  
8:30am Mass  
10:30am Mass

**Parish Offices Closed**  
Dec. 25-29

825 S. Ortonville Road | Ortonville, MI 48463 | 248-627-3965 | churchofstanne.org

# WELCOME TO ST. ANNE CHURCH

## Thoughts from Fr. John

### Dec. 24th, the Eve of Christmas

Happy Birthday, Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Although birthday parties are commonplace in American culture, celebrating birthdays in the Catholic liturgical calendar is rare and focuses completely on the turning point of human history.

Only three birthdays are being celebrated in the liturgical calendar, namely, Jesus's birth (December 25), Mary's birth (September 8), and John the Baptist's birth (June 24). Even though Mary's birth and John the Baptist's birth are underscored, we notice that their births only prepare for the coming of Jesus. For Mary, she is the "God-Bearer" ("Theotokos," Θεοτόκος), the Mother of God; John the Baptist, the "Forerunner" and the "Witness" ("witness/martyr," μαρτυρίαν) to Jesus. In short, Mary's and John the Baptist's birth do not stand alone but utterly depend on Jesus's Nativity.

To all of us who celebrate birthdays every year, we should think about how our birthday celebrations must also depend on Christmas: Jesus's Birth brings new light and hope to the world. May our celebration of Christmas this year bring Christ's Light and Hope to the world and light up our own birthdays, whenever they may be.

Happy Birthdays!

## OUR MISSION

*We, the People of St. Anne, are a growing Catholic Community with various gifts and talents, and we are open to the Spirit among us. Rooting ourselves in the word of God, we reach out to all in loving service, witnessing, and celebrating the life of Jesus Christ in our midst.*

## MASS TIMES

### Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 am

### Mass during the Week

Tues., Wed., Fri. at 9:00 am

## SACRAMENTS

### Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 pm or by appointment.

### Matrimony

Couples should contact Julie Neal at Ext. 1 at least six months before the marriage.

### Infant Baptisms

Second Sunday of the month. Please contact Julie Neal at Ext. 1.

## PARISH STAFF

### Moderator

Rev. Scott Thibodeau

### Associate Priest

Rev. John Chen

[john.chen@churchofstanne.org](mailto:john.chen@churchofstanne.org)

### Director of Religious Education

Marianne Boesch, ext. 4

### Worship Coordinator

Julie Neal, ext. 1

### Evangelical Charity

Karyn Milligan, ext. 3

Music Ministry

Laura Knaack, Director

Denise Arpke, Accompanist

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### Accountant

Cheryl Yuhas, ext. 6

### Office Manager

Anne Schulz, ext. 0

### Building Maintenance

Steve Szach, ext. 0

### Mission Support Director

Maureen Burton

248-623-0274 ext. 125

### Knights of Columbus

Bill Vengler, 248-909-2136

### Community Quilts & Crafts

Mig Lane, 248-1544

## PARISH OFFICE

Phone 248-627-3965 | Fax 248-627-5153

Office Hours: Mon. Tues, Wed. & Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch between 12:00 - 1:00 pm

**Weekend of** December 30th & 31st

Mass	Steward	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
<b>Sat. 4:00 p.m.</b>	Denny Anderson	Ken & Angela Sheperd	Mary Grocott Chris & Alison Elmes	Karyn Miligan Ruth Rogan
<b>Sun. 8:30 a.m.</b>	Denise Nowakowski	Judy Schmaltz Carol Klenner	Lloyd Schmaltz Cathy Genovese	Al Sagert Nancy Seery
<b>Sun. 10:30 a.m.</b>	Bryan Born	Bryan Born Stephanie Mackey	Chris, Cindy & Gabi Maldonado	Jim & Sue Kelty

**Altar Linen**

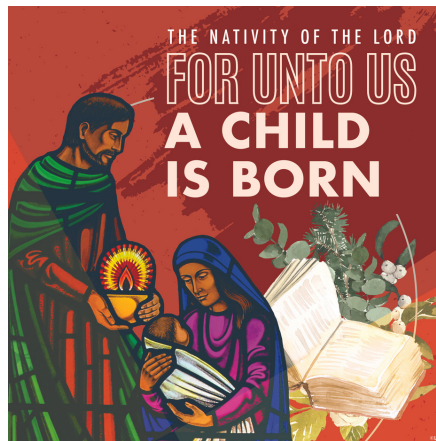
12-24-2023- Marilyn Bornais  
12-31-2023- Colleen Francis

**Altar Care**

01-05-2023- Julie Neal

**Recycling Ministry**

Dec. 9/10-23/24- Tom Newcomb  
Jan. 13/14-27/28- Pat Bardel



*In Our Prayers*

Andrew Siring  
Todd Patterson  
Pat Flees  
Patrick Lamb  
Sue Bruggeman  
Ariana Stephens

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, 12/23/2023 at 4:00pm Tuesday, 12/26/2023 at 9:00am**

Art & Charlene Carlson, by Ruth Rogan  
Marie Flanagan, by Andrew & Mary Siring

**Sunday, 12/24/2023**

**8:30am:** Gloria Boesch, by Family  
**10:30am:** Jack Zubalik, by Family  
**4:00pm:** Thomas & Josephine Simoneau, by Diane Knowles  
**9:00pm:** Ingrid Kasper, by Choir

**Monday, 12/25/2023 at 9:00am**  
**Mass at St. Daniel**

**Mass at St. Daniel**

**Wednesday, 12/27/2023 at 9:00am**

Bob Harvey, by Friends

**Thursday, 12/28/2023 at 9:00am**

**Mass at St. Daniel**

**Friday, 12/29/2023 at 9:00am**

Roger McCarville, by Friends

**Saturday, 12/30/2023 at 4:00pm**

Dick, Shirley & Gwen Koss, by Friends

**Sunday, 12/31/2023**

**8:30am:** Mary Ann Cox, by Friends

**10:30am:** Bob Knowles, by Friends

Please call the parish office to add a prayer intention.



I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and blessed New Year!  
Julie

## Liturgy of the Word for Children

There will be no liturgy of the Word for Children on December 24 or 31. This ministry will resume on Sunday, January 7 at 10:30am.

Are you interested in helping with this ministry? Contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.



## VENEZUELA

Every year, roads are closed to traffic in the city of Caracas to let people participate in *las pantinatas*— "the skating" where everyone roller skates to Christmas Mass.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all of our Confirmation students who helped sort and make Christmas candy bags. Together they fill over 150 treat bags for OCEF and Children's Village.

## Christmas Ministry Schedule

### Christmas Eve: 4pm Mass

**Lectors:** Clara Mackey, James Hall

**Mass Steward:** Bryan Born

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Stephanie Mackey  
Veronica Gdowski  
Marianne Boesch

Karyn Milligan

Cindy Travis

2 More Needed

**Ushers:** Jeff Mackey, Kevin Ziskie, 3 More Needed

### Christmas Eve: 9pm Mass

**Lectors:** Nancy Patterson, Cynthia Potts

**Mass Steward:** Todd Patterson

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Connie Marshall

Ruth Rogan

Kris Anderson

Ken & Angie Sheperd

**Ushers:** Bernie Potts, 3 More Needed



## Christmas Day 8:30am Mass

**Lectors:** Linda Mizejewski, Gary Putt

**Mass Steward:** Judy Sounart

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Chris & Alison Elmes  
2 More Needed

**Ushers:** Bob Norris, Joseph Yatouma, Lukas Yatouma

## Christmas Day 10:30am Mass

**Lectors:** Herman Greif, Gerard Schmid

**Mass Steward:** Denis Nowakowski

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Sue & Jim Kelty

Janet Tait

Jean Zubalik

**Ushers:** Jim Kelty, Jeo Claya, Bob White, Michael White

## January 1st- 10:30am Mass Mary, Mother of God

**Lectors:** Ken & Angie Sheperd

**Mass Steward:** Denise Nowakowski

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Karyn Milligan

Ruth Rogan

Sue & Jim Kelty

Alison Elmes

**Ushers:** Jim Kelty, 2 More Needed

## News of Great Joy

I am not going to wish you a Merry Christmas. I have no problem with merriness, and I certainly hope you have your share of it today. May the frosting on your cookies be extra thick. May the lights of your tree be particularly twinkly. May the crackling of your fire be especially pleasant, and the places around your table filled by smiling loved ones. No, there is nothing wrong with being merry, especially on such a day.

But the angels did not bring news of great merriment. They brought news of great joy, and though our world often confuses the two, they are not the same thing.

Joy is harder to achieve than merriness, but it's easier to keep because it is far, far more durable. Joy can withstand the roughness of this earthly life in a way that merriness never could. Merriness cannot live in the hearts of people whose plans have been upended, whose futures have been rearranged and whose very lives are in danger. But joy certainly can.

Merriness doesn't follow from a long and uncertain journey, with no reassurances except the steadfast belief that you are doing the will of God. But joy does.

Merriness does not shiver in a stable or hang on a cross. But joy can, and it has.

May you have a truly joyful Christmas.

*"You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing..." — Isaiah 9:2*

## Thank you!

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Community Christmas Toy Store completed its mission for Christmas 2023 with much success last weekend and the Christmas OCEF Distribution/Adopt-A-Family will finish on Monday, December 18. NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, GENEROSITY, TIME, AND COMMITMENT to our outreach programs! God bless everyone!

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained Christmas Gifts

**Question:** Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

**Answer:** Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ST. ANNE'S

### Youth Group

#### Save the Date for RISE Detroit 2024

This High School Teen Conference is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 4 from 9:00 am - 7:15 pm at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. We had 5 attendees last year and are hoping to double our numbers this year. Contact Stephanie Mackey at [stephaniesmackey@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniesmackey@gmail.com) or 248-431-1268 if you are interested in attending.

**Sundaes & Scripture** will resume on Jan. 7 at 7 pm in Hardy Hall. We will be kicking off a small group bible study on the book of Exodus. Join us to learn about the life of Moses and eat ice cream sundaes.

#### Christmas

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,  
you became human through the obedience  
of a simple young woman named Mary.  
Mary is our model of faith.  
May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.  
Give us the courage to face each day  
with the yes that Mary gave to you.  
We ask this through the incarnate God,  
who comes to us again during this Christmas season.  
Amen.



#### Retreat for Men & Women

This is a 'First Call' for all men and women of the parish to make their annual retreat at St. Paul's Retreat Center. Men, your weekend is February 23-25, 2024. Women, your weekend is March 15-17, 2024. Don't miss out on this wonderful experience of spiritual and physical renewal.

Call Ken/ Angie Sheperd (248-249-1542) or Jim/ Sue Kelty (734-516-4184).

Or reserve your spot online:  
[www.stpaulretreat.org](http://www.stpaulretreat.org)

#### Community Quilts & Crafts

Meetings are held the Saturdays and Tuesdays of every month. All are welcome -- quilters and non-quilters; those in need of service hours or fellowship.

Email or call for more information:  
Mig Lane [migobrien@yahoo.com](mailto:migobrien@yahoo.com)  
248.249.1544  
Angie Sheperd  
[alsheperd19@gmail.com](mailto:alsheperd19@gmail.com)  
248.249.1542



#### Bulletin

**Deadline:**

Noon Monday

#### Bulletin Article Submission:

If your organization holds an event, we are happy to post it in the bulletin as space allows. Writing, proofreading, and submitting an announcement is the responsibility of the sponsoring group. All bulletin content is subject to review by the priest and/or parish staff and content may be edited or declined.

