



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

860-673-9858

Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor

www.stannavon.org

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Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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Mike Gould: ext. 225

BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

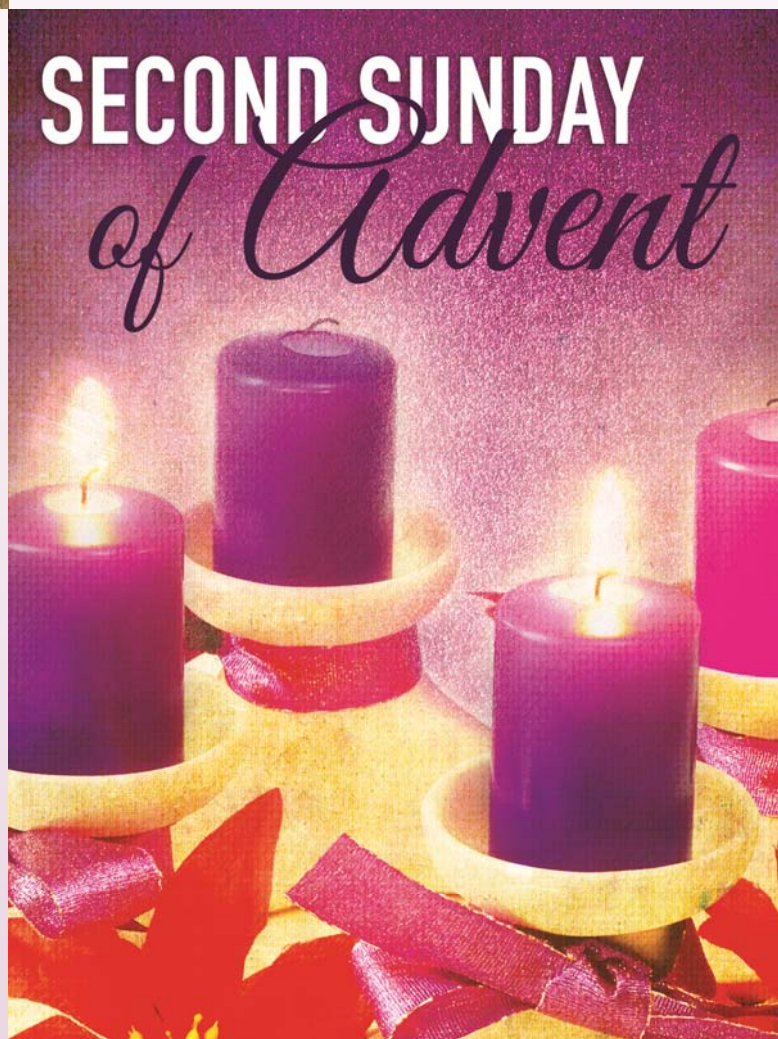
Call the Parish Office

MARRIAGES

Please set the date with the priest or deacon at least six months prior to the wedding. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass or on Sundays.

BULLETIN DEADLINE & INSERTS

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 2pm on the Monday prior to the weekend you would like it published. Also, please contact the office to obtain permission to insert fliers into the weekly bulletin.



SECOND SUNDAY of Advent

MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday:

9:00 am

Sunday Vigil (Saturday):

4:00 pm

Sunday:

7:30, 9:30 and 11:00am

First Friday:

9:00 am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: after 4pm Mass

First Friday: Before 9:00 AM Mass

Other times by appointment

DEVOTIONS:

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

Chaplet: following daily Mass

Holy Hour

Thursday: 12:00 Noon

MASS INTENTIONS



2nd Sunday Of Advent

MONDAY, December 5

9:00 **Dr. Theodore deGroot**, requested by
his wife and family

TUESDAY, December 6

9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:00 **Joan Javnick**, requested by
Steve and Caterina Christensen

THURSDAY, December 8, Immaculate Conception

9:00 **Theresa Cirilli**, requested by the family

12:10 **Special Intentions**

7:00 **Special Intentions**

FRIDAY, December 9

9:00 **Special Intentions**

SATURDAY, December 10

4:00 **Russ Arnold, Sr. (1st Ann.)** requested by
Brian and Ann Beloin

SUNDAY, December 11

7:30 **Douglas Fisher**, requested by the family

9:30 **Arthur Godbout, Sr.**, requested by
the family

11:00 **Anna ZuWallack**, requested by the family

WELCOME!



If you are a resident in this area, we hope that you will continue to grace us with your presence and register with our office manager. You may call 860-673-9858 or stop by the parish office to register. If you are a visitor, we thank you for participating in worshipping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S

MONDAY, December 5

Advent Series: 9:30am in Room 3

Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle: 7:15pm in the church.

All are welcome! (Enter through door on the left side of the church)

Advent Series: 7:30pm in Room 3

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

TUESDAY, December 6

RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

WEDNESDAY, December 7

Acts of the Apostles Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 2 & 3 (filled)

Lectio Divina: 3pm in Room 3

THURSDAY, December 8, Immaculate Conception

Holy Hour: will return next week - Holy Day Mass

Traditional Choir: Holy Day, check with choir director

Youth Choir: Holy Day, check with choir director

Folk/Contemporary Choir: no rehearsal due to Holy Day Mass

FRIDAY, December 9

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: 4-5:45pm —FULL CAST

Rehearsal in the Choir Loft and Fr. Bennett Hall

SATURDAY, December 10

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

First Reconciliation: 11am in the church

SUNDAY, December 11

Advent Series: 10:45am in Room 3



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

December 3/4 & December 10/11

Poinsettia sale time is here again! Please help us decorate our beautiful church for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Plants are \$10 each and will be used to decorate the church. They will be sold in the Gathering Space after Masses this weekend and next.

WE HAVE OPLATEK

*We will also be selling
Oplatek, Polish
Christmas wafers,
during the plant sale.*



*Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin
Mary*

December 8, 2016

Holy Day of Obligation

*Masses will be at:
9am, 12:10pm and 7pm*

Divine Mercy Holy Hour



**THIS Sunday,
December 4th**
2:30 - 3:30pm in the church
Come and experience God's
transforming Love and Mercy!



*Stay focused on Jesus this
Advent season!*

Advent Reflection Series for Small Groups

Our small groups continue to meet on Sundays at 10:45am and Mondays at 9:30am and 7:15pm in rooms 1 & 3. For more information please contact Ann DiStefano at ann.distefano@stannavon.com or 860-673-9858, ext. 228

Online Reflection Series

"Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Advent," from the team who brought us *Rediscover Jesus!* Receive daily email messages featuring insightful video reflections, inspirational Christmas music, and practical tips for making Christmas more meaningful. Sign up via dynamiccatholic.com/advent.

Parish Advent Reconciliation Service - Monday, December 19th at 7pm. Give yourself the gift of forgiveness and peace as you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Annual Toy/Gift Collection

**Weekend of
December 17/18**

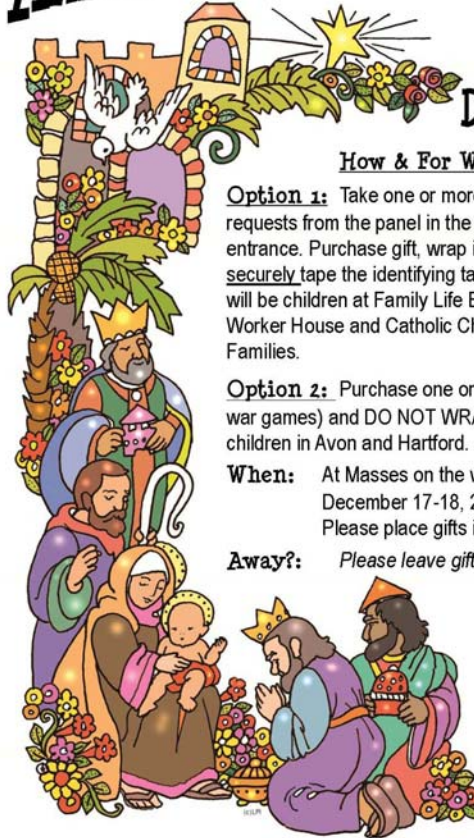
How & For Whom:

Option 1: Take one or more paper Christmas gift requests from the panel in the Gathering Space & side entrance. Purchase gift, wrap in Christmas paper and **securely** tape the identifying tag to the gift. Recipients will be children at Family Life Education, Catholic Worker House and Catholic Charities Refugee Families.

Option 2: Purchase one or more gifts (please, no war games) and **DO NOT WRAP**. Recipients will be children in Avon and Hartford.

When: At Masses on the weekend of
December 17-18, 2016
Please place gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall

Away?: Please leave gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall.



God Bless You
For Your
Generosity

Sponsored by the
Social Justice
Committee

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Friday, December 9th from 4 - 5:45 pm
Full Cast Rehearsal - All Performers!



Please consult your rehearsal schedule or contact Susan Rietano Davey if you are unsure whether your child(ren) should attend, or if you have any questions - srietano@gmail.com.



The Living Nativity

A Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 17th
6:00 pm in the church

This magical, musical retelling of the Christmas story is a feast for eyes and ears; an inspiring all-ages performance. All parishioners are cordially invited to join our child-performers in singing for Joy!

Admission is free.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come be a part of our ministry!

**Upcoming
Meeting:**

**Monday,
Dec. 5th**
7-8:30pm
in Room 2



**All are welcome...
including brand
new knitters!**

**For more
information call**
Pat: 860-673-3747
Tina: 860-674-1541

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

November 20, 2016: \$7,443.26

November 27, 2016: \$7,934.10

Online Giving (week ending 11/30/16): \$2,636.00

Next weekend's 2nd collection: *Retired Religious Fund*

How We Can Help the Homeless During the Holidays...

As many of you know and have so generously supported, we try every year to put together Christmas gift bags for the guests of ImmaCare shelter. For many, it is the only present they will receive and the warm goodies are always appreciated. In the past couple of years we have been able to fill 150 gift bags for the guests. This year, sadly, ImmaCare will not be running the No-Freeze shelter. Worrying about these men, many of whom choose to stay outdoors until they are brought in by caring police officers when they are at risk of freezing to death, we have tried to keep track of plans. It now appears there will be a No-freeze in Hartford and for that news we are grateful. And because it just seems right, we have offered to put together Christmas bags for those guests also.

We ask for any donations of new gloves, warm socks, and hats. Most of the homeless people who come to shelters need new ones every year. It's a cruel cycle because in the summer, there is no where to safely store them. We are hoping that when you are out shopping if you see any of these items, you will get them and drop off in the church kitchen, marked ImmaCare. We can assure you that they make wonderful gifts and will be appreciated!

Also- if you have warm men's coats, blankets or sleeping bags, the new No-Freeze shelter has a desperate need for those items. These don't have to be new-just clean and warm!



Thanks again to all of you who help these men throughout the year through your donations of fabulous food, toiletry items, - and your prayers.

260 Turkeys and a Ton of Fixin's!

Hartford and Avon Families thank us with heartfelt gratitude. We were even able to provide a few hams for Thanksgiving dinners. We did supply the need, and successfully fulfilled our commitment for our annual Turkey Express collection. God is Good - All the Time!

- Your Social Justice Committee

Thank You

SAVE THE DATE

**The 9th Annual Book Sale
January 6-8, 2017**

All proceeds go to Catholic High School Student Scholarships.

Please donate books in good condition during the following book sale collection dates/times:

Wednesday, January 4th, between 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Thursday, January 5th, between 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Friday, January 6th between 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Please donate: best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, religious, classics, biographies, self-help books, vintage books, cookbooks, collectibles, large print, children's books, young readers, memoirs, books-on-CD, music CDs, movies on DVD, and (new this year) record albums.

Please do NOT donate: encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, VHS movies, records, or cassette tapes.

In addition to books, please donate sturdy computer paper boxes and box tops.

January 2017 Book Sale dates:

Friday, January 6th - 5 PM - 8 PM - \$5 adult admission

Saturday, January 7th - 9 AM - 6 PM (no admission fee)

Sunday, January 8th - 8 AM - 12:30 PM (no admission fee)

Volunteers are needed for sorting books on Jan. 4th & 5th.

To volunteer at the January 2017 Book Sale, please contact

Nancy Casey (860.673.3141) nancekc@gmail.com or

Constance Rotondo (860.404.0204) constance.rotondo@comcast.net

Thank you!

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Social Justice Committee Fundraiser Event to Help Haiti

**Bertucci's Restaurant
Avon & West Hartford
December 6, 2016
11:30 AM - 9 PM**



As you know, Haiti has recently suffered devastating earthquakes. Please join fellow parishioners by participating in this local fundraiser at Bertucci's local restaurants. On Tuesday, December 6th, between 11:30 AM to 9:00 PM at Bertucci's restaurant in Avon or Bishops Corner, West Hartford; present this Bertucci's Dining for Dollars flyer to a Bertucci's associate and 15 percent of your check will go to help Haiti.

Have lunch, dinner, drinks or take out meals--and Help Haiti. Bertucci's requires a ½ page Dining for Dollars flyer in order to qualify for the 15 percent donation to Haiti. **SEE FLYER IN BULLETIN FOR COUPON**

For those who would like to donate directly to this 501c3 non-profit charity, please write your check to: Helping Haitian Children, Inc., and send it to Mary Lou Connors, 74 Old Farms Road, Avon. <http://www.nonprofitfacts.com/CT/Helping-Haitian-Children-Inc.html>

Thank you!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

My youngest child is going through Confirmation preparation this year. It is always quite a challenge to get through to a teenager about the importance of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. You can't see and touch these things, but they are more valuable than most tangible gifts we can receive.

Isaiah 11 features the list of the traditional gifts of the Spirit that we speak about in the context of the sacrament: wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. These gifts are freely given to us to assist us in our daily walk with God. Discipleship and stewardship are hard enough in this world without the help from God's Spirit.

During this Advent season, we think quite a bit about gifts and gift giving. What is the perfect gift for that special someone? What can you give that will have an impact and the person will remember for years to come? Over two thousand years ago, a gift was given to us in a manger that really made a lasting impact. That gift remains with us in a profound way through the sacraments. While we are busy trying to get gifts for others, let us be mindful of the gifts we have already received by the best gift giver the world has ever seen.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*The Church is a love story,
not an institution.*

-Pope Francis

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Is 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Rom 15:4)

Gospel:

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. (Mt 3:5-6)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2016

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Matthew 3:1-12

Why do you think John the Baptist placed such a strong emphasis on repentance during his public ministry?

Isaiah 11:1-10

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming Messiah who would rule with justice and faithfulness. What does this tell us about God's timeline and God's mercy?

Romans 15:4-9

Paul encouraged the Roman Christians to think in harmony and welcome one another for the glory of God. What actions do you do that glorify God?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." John the Baptist does not mince words. He tells it like it is. When the hypocritical Pharisees and Sadducees show up piously for baptism, John calls them out, saying, "You brood of vipers!" Not welcoming words, to say the least. Then he tells them that being part of the religious club (i.e., children of Abraham) isn't enough. No, "every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

It can be easy to join John in pointing fingers at those self-righteous religious leaders. But we're usually not so quick to point fingers at ourselves. On this Second Sunday of Advent, as we seek to prepare for the coming of Christ, we also need to hear John's solemn warning. How are we like these Pharisees? How have we excused ourselves because we are part of the "club," because we are baptized Christians, regular churchgoers, better than others, or whatever justification we use to declare ourselves in good shape? How have we failed to produce good fruit by being satisfied with a comfortable life and a routine practice of the faith? What do we need to change? Where do we need to grow? How do we need to reach out and serve others, to sacrifice sinful behaviors, to delve deeper into our love for the Lord?

John preaches today that God will "gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Advent is a gift from the Church -- a time to renew our spiritual life by getting rid of the chaff in our souls and producing instead a fruitful harvest. Now is the time to do this work. As John tells us, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

We are reminded today that the coming of the Messiah is intended to restore the innocence and trust originally experienced in the Garden of Eden. The Gospel message leads us to this vision. John the Baptist prepares us to receive the One who will preach this message only to suffer and die as a result of it. We are asked to repent and move away from where the world desires to lead us. We are called to the vision given us by our Savior. Hope allows us to persevere as we wait for what is to come.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:

On many Sundays, especially during Advent and Lent, we hear a reading from one of the prophets. What is significant about them for us? Didn't Jesus fulfill all their predictions?

Answer:

Lent and Advent are the times of the church year when the prophetic word forms an important part of the liturgical season. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch, and Zephaniah are just some of the prophets who offer powerful and essential lessons for Christians of any era. Prophets do not predict the future; they are very much concerned about the present, calling Israel to follow once again the word of God.

The prophets speak on behalf of God. All of them testify that the word spoken is not from them, but from God. This lands them in trouble, at times, with their audience. People did not like the message because of their sinful lives and their displeasure was taken out on the prophets. While tempted at times to throw in the towel, the prophets remained true to the life of faith and persevered in the proclamation of God's word. In modeling these virtues and calling us to greater fidelity, the prophets offer an example and message that are still important to us today.

-From LPI

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center West Hartford, CT

Retreat Theme: The Light of Simplicity - Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection as we explore the simple and transformative message at the heart of Jesus' teaching. Discover how simplicity can shine a light on what is truly essential and important in our lives. Be renewed and inspired by the paradox of simplicity and the gift of faith.

The retreat includes: home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time, and workshops. The retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening and concludes with Sunday brunch at noon. www.holyfamilyretreat.org/lightofsimplicity or call Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT at 860.760.9705 for more info.

Men's Retreat Date: January 20-22, 2017
Women's Retreat Dates: January, March, April and June (check website)

Enrich your Advent with EWTN

HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! Enrich your faith this Advent and Christmas with special programming throughout the season on EWTN. Attend Mass in Vatican City with Pope Francis, enjoy concerts from Europe and travel to the sacred sites of the Holy Land. Find EWTN in your area by visiting www.ewtn.com/channelfinder.

The Archdiocese of Hartford Catholic Biblical School
& The Office for Catholic Social Justice present

Bringing Laudate Si to Life During the Christmas Season and Beyond

Presented by **Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, PhD**
Executive Director, CREA (Center for Reflection, Education and Action)

Sunday December 4, 2016 1:30-4:00pm
St. Thomas Seminary • 467 Bloomfield Ave. Bloomfield CT

Our Christmas preparations offer the perfect opportunity to think about how our actions and life patterns impact the life of our common home, the earth. Drawing on a Bible-based spirituality, Sr. Ruth will lead us as we explore how we can live up to the challenges Pope Francis presents in *Laudate Si*.

Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/4TVsBuu8vCHBTuG12>
or call Jill Costa or BJ Daly Horell in the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis at 860-242-5573.

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOW, LET US
JOIN IN SONG
TO GLORIFY
GOD WITH ONE
HEART AND
ONE VOICE!

ROM 15:4-9

OH, BY THE
WAY, "ONE
VOICE" DOESN'T
MEAN ONLY
ONE PERSON
SINGING

SCYDER WEBB!
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