



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

860-673-9858

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

www.stannavon.org

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

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Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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Tim Healy: deacon.tim@stannavon.com

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Maureen Fiedler: 860-995-4026

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 kris.martino@stannavon.com

BUILDING & CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

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.

THIRD 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

3rd Sunday Of Advent

MONDAY, December 12

9:00 **Emma Carlone**, requested by
her children and grandchildren

TUESDAY, December 13

9:00 **Fr. Thomas P. Quinn**, requested by
Sandra Bondhus

WEDNESDAY, December 14

9:00 **Terry Roderick**, requested by
Tom and Pat Heaven

THURSDAY, December 15

9:00 **Special Intentions**

FRIDAY, December 16

9:00 **Hyong-Seok Kim**, requested by
the Kim Family

SATURDAY, December 17

4:00 **For the deceased members of the Vuono
& Bondhus Families**, requested by
the Bondhus Family

SUNDAY, December 18

7:30 **Christopher Hwang**, requested by the family

9:30 **William Taylor**, requested by
the Missett family

11:00 **Nancy Boyd-Martin**, requested by
the Mascoli 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 worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S

MONDAY, December 12

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

TUESDAY, December 13

RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

Social Justice Committee Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, December 14

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

Lectio Divina: 3pm in Room 3

Re-Employment Support Group: 7pm. in the Activity Room

THURSDAY, December 15

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft

Youth Choir: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft

Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

FRIDAY, December 16

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal: 4-5:45pm —FULL CAST
Rehearsal in the Choir Loft and Fr. Bennett Hall

SATURDAY, December 17

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

The Living Nativity-A Christmas Pageant: 6pm in the church

SUNDAY, December 18

Advent Series: 10:45am in Room 3



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

This Weekend, December 10/11

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.

WE HAVE OPLATEK

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

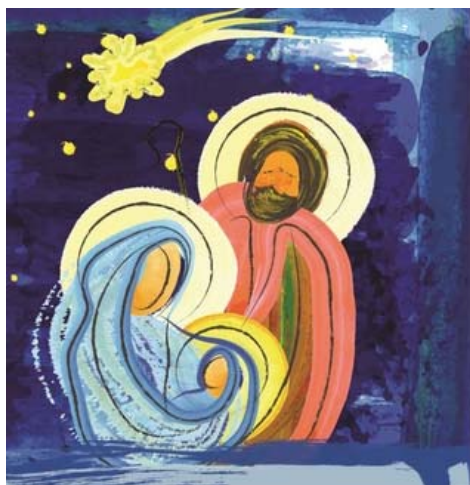


The Living Nativity

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.



Christmas Schedule

Christmas Pageant

Saturday, Dec. 17th at 6pm

6pm

Advent Penence Service

Monday, Dec. 19th 7pm

7pm

Christmas Eve

Saturday, Dec. 24th

4pm, 6pm & 10pm

Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 25th

8am & 10am

Solemnity of Mary - Sunday, January 1st

is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year: regular Mass schedule applies

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:30-31

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



*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

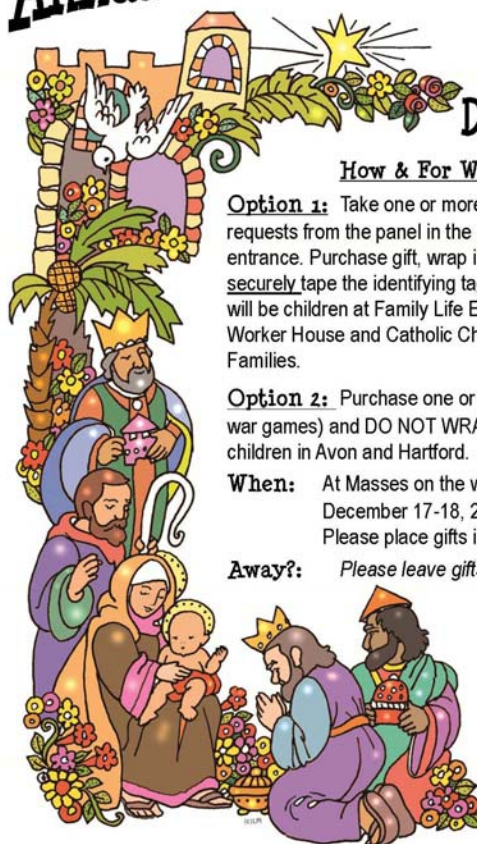
How & For Whom:

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 16th from 4 - 5:45 pm

Full Cast Dress 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.

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

December 4, 2016: \$8,007.41

Online Giving (week ending 12/7/16): \$2,621.00

Next weekend's 2nd collection: Monthly

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

We would appreciate donations of warm sox, hats, or gloves to go into Christmas gift bags for the guests of the ImmaCare shelter and the No-Freeze emergency shelter. For many this will be the only gift they get- and the items are greatly needed!

Also- if you have blankets or sleeping bags, or men's coats, we are trying to round up those items for both shelters. They don't have to be new- just warm and clean!

Thanks so much. All items can be left in church kitchen and please mark them "Immacare".

-From the shelter guests to you, the very best wishes for a blessed holiday season with family and friends.



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!

Cover design © Liturgical Publications Inc. Photo © Andrzej Tokarski, from bigstockphoto.com.

Gifts for those in Convalescent Homes

Once again St. Ann's would like to remember those in Convalescent Homes for the holiday with:

Ladies/Gentlemen: Small blankets, combs, nail clippers, picture frames, sweat pants & tops, eyeglass holders, sweaters (prefer button front style), writing paper, envelopes & stamps, large faced watches & clocks, slippers, socks, bathrobes, PJs, hats, bird feeders that attach to windows, large-face playing cards, wall decorations, wicker baskets for odds and ends, and artificial flower/plant arrangements

Ladies: Costume jewelry, pins, necklaces earrings, hair picks, perfume, powder, cosmetic bags, emery boards, nail polish, nightgowns, knee-highs, bed jackets & easy to open pocketbooks

Gentlemen: Flannel shirts, after-shave lotion.

Please mark each package for size, ladies or men.

Please place in box in the Gathering Space by Sunday, December 18th



Social Justice Committee Fundraiser Event to Help Haiti

**Bertucci's Restaurant
Avon & West Hartford
December 13, 2016
11:30 AM - 9 PM**



As you know, Italy has recently suffered devastating earthquakes. Please join fellow parishioners by participating in a local fundraiser at Bertucci's local restaurants. On Tuesday, December 13th, 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 Italy.

Have lunch, dinner, drinks or take out meals--and help the people in Norcia rebuild. Bertucci's requires a ½ page Dining for Dollars flyer in order to qualify for the 15 percent donation to Italy.

For those who would like to donate directly to this 501c3 non-profit charity, please write your check to: The Monks of Norcia, and send it to Mrs. Constance Rotondo, 40 Tamara Circle, Avon. 06001. Thank you. For more information about the earthquake at the Monks monastery in Norcia, please check out the following website: <https://en.nursia.org/>

Thank you!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

John the Baptist is truly an intriguing figure of history. He was a cousin of Jesus and literally prepared all those who would listen for this new way of life ushered in by a Messiah. Besides the key role he plays in the Gospel story, his depiction in Scripture, and then in literature, movies, and other media, gives us an image of a pretty unique person. How about locusts and wild honey for dinner? Can you imagine camel's hair as a staple in your wardrobe? He lived differently, and he stood out among the status quo. Of course, his look and cuisine didn't stand out nearly as much as his message.

How do you stand out? What separates you from the crowd? God has created each of us completely unique and with a combination of gifts like no one else. How can you uncover and understand your unique gifts? First, reflect on what makes you happiest in life. We are happiest when we are using the talents God gave us. Next, think about what comes naturally to you, whether it is a skill, task, or emotion. Recurring patterns in our behavior and experiences provide clues to our giftedness. Finally, what do other people see in you? The communities we live in, whether it is our family, parish, school, or workplace are filled with people who can provide clues to us by their observations. After these steps, can you say what makes you special? Now, let's start to grow that, lean on it, and stand out in a way that brings glory to God.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*Let us love God, my brothers, let us love God.
But let it be with the strength of our arms
and the sweat of our brow.*

--St. Vincent de Paul

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. (Is 35:4)

Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146) OR: Alleluia

Second Reading:

You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. (Jas 5:8)

Gospel:

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." (Mt 11:10)

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

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2016

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised." Jesus has quite a résumé. When asked whether or not he is the long awaited Messiah, Jesus replies with this list of his credentials as proof of his position. These signs and wonders speak volumes, to be sure. But perhaps the most interesting line on the list is his concluding one, "the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Why does he count this among his litany of miracles? What is so remarkable about sharing good news?

Perhaps Jesus included this element of his work--the preaching of good news--to remind his followers that the physical healings were not the ultimate goal of his mission. Rather, the spiritual healing that comes from hearing the good news of salvation is what Jesus was really about. The "poor"--which in a sense means all of us sinners, trapped by the poverty of the sins that enslave us--are freed by Jesus' message of a loving God who wants to bring us into his kingdom. Our poverty is erased by his richness. His mercy "undoes" our sin and we are invited to become the children of God who share in the glories of his heavenly abode.

Sometimes it's tempting to just want the visible miracles. But the invisible ones--the conversions that take place in the silence of the human heart--are truly the more important works of God. Such interior transformation is what leads us to eternal life; even a physical cure won't last for eternity--death still comes at some point. But the really good news is that this miracle of conversion is available to all of us. And this season of Advent is the perfect time to let God work his miracles in our hearts.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

John the Baptist is truly an intriguing figure of history. He was a cousin of Jesus and literally prepared all those who would listen for this new way of life ushered in by a Messiah. Besides the key role he plays in the Gospel story, his depiction in Scripture, and then in literature, movies, and other media, gives us an image of a pretty unique person. How about locusts and wild honey for dinner? Can you imagine camel's hair as a staple in your wardrobe? He lived differently, and he stood out among the status quo. Of course, his look and cuisine didn't stand out nearly as much as his message.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

*Still Looking for Special and Unique Gifts?
Next Weekend You Can Shop at St. Ann!*

HAND CARVED GIFTS FROM THE HOLY LAND

Representatives from Catholic Bethlehem Christian Families will be with us on the weekend of Dec 17 & 18, 2016, to ask for your help and blessing for the native people of the Holy Land in Bethlehem. These families, sixty years ago, made up 18% of the population. Due to recent events in the Middle East, it has caused these families to face devastating economical strain, and caused the population to decrease to less than 2% in the Holy Land. These families have relied on the income from their religious hand carved olive wood artifacts to tourist. So we have come to the USA to try to help support these families by bringing their artifacts here to sell in the USA. All the proceed from sales will be send back to the families of the Holy Land so that they may be able to keep their homes and provide their families. The last few years were very tough for the Christian families, and this is the only source of income for them.



Please stop by and consider purchasing a unique gift for a loved one or even for yourself!

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

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:2-11

Why do you think John the Baptist had questions about Jesus' identity?

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah spoke about the glory and splendor of God. How do you see God's glory and splendor present in the public ministry of Jesus?

James 5:7-10

The Letter of James contains some of the New Testament's finest wisdom teachings. What wisdom does James offer believers while waiting for the return of Christ?

LPI

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.