



# Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road \* Avon, Connecticut \* 06001

860-673-9858

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

[www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org)

## WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

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Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

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## BUILDING & CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

## BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

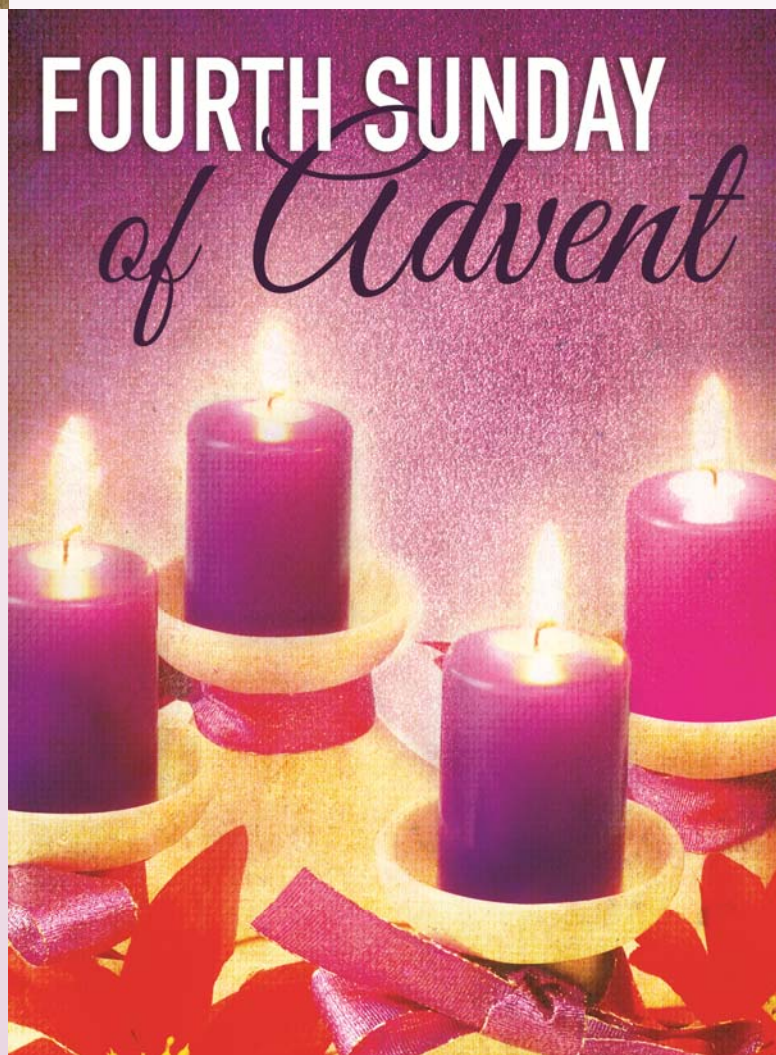
Call the Parish Office

## 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.



## 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



## 4th Sunday Of Advent

**MONDAY, December 19**  
9:00 **Special Intentions**

**TUESDAY, December 20**  
9:00 **Jonathan Michael Gilotti**, requested by  
his Mom and Dad

**WEDNESDAY, December 21**  
9:00 **Special Intentions**

**THURSDAY, December 22**  
9:00 **Pietro DiTommaso**, requested by his family

**FRIDAY, December 23**  
9:00 **Camille & Peter Angelina and  
Michael Nay**, requested by the family

**SATURDAY, December 24**  
4:00 *For all those in whose memory or honor the  
altar plants have been donated*  
6:00 *For all those in whose memory or honor the  
altar plants have been donated*  
10:00 *For all those in whose memory or honor the  
altar plants have been donated*

**SUNDAY, December 25, Christmas**  
8:00 *For all those in whose memory or honor the  
altar plants have been donated*  
10:00 *For all those in whose memory or honor the  
altar plants have been donated*

# 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 19

**Advent Series:** 9:30am in Room 3  
**Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle:** will return Jan. 2, 2017  
**Advent Reconciliation Service:** 7pm in the church  
**Advent Series:** 7:30pm in Room 3

### TUESDAY, December 20

**RCIA:** 7pm in Room 3

### WEDNESDAY, December 21

**Lectio Divina:** will return in January  
**Knights of Columbus Meeting:** 7pm in Room 2

### THURSDAY, December 22

**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 23

### SATURDAY, December 24

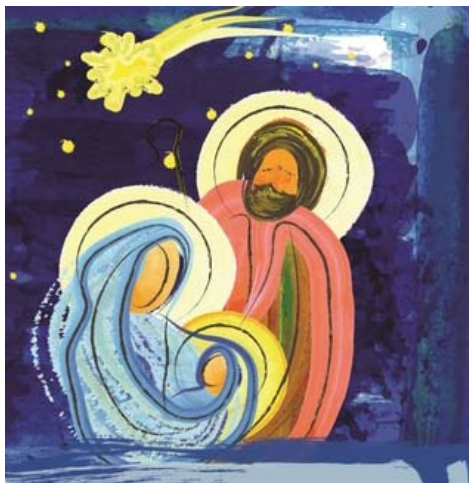
**Men's Breakfast Group:** 8am in Room 3

### SUNDAY, December 25, Christmas

*Merry Christmas!*

*Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*Mt 1:20-21*



## Christmas Schedule

### Christmas Pageant

Saturday, Dec. 17th at 6pm

6pm

### Christmas Eve

Saturday, Dec. 24th

4pm, 6pm & 10pm

### Advent Penence Service

Monday, Dec. 19th 7pm

7pm

### 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*





## 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.

## 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.



### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Annual Toy/Gift Collection

### Weekend of December 17/18

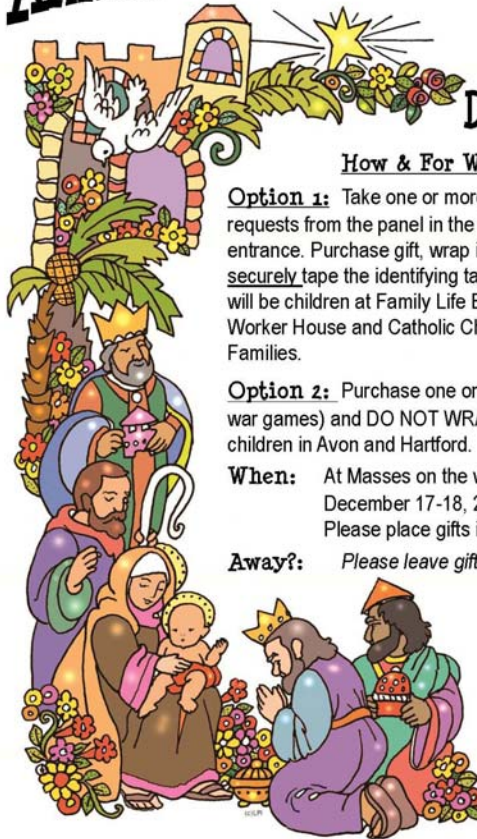
#### How & For Whom:

**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

## Gifts for those in Convalescent Homes

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

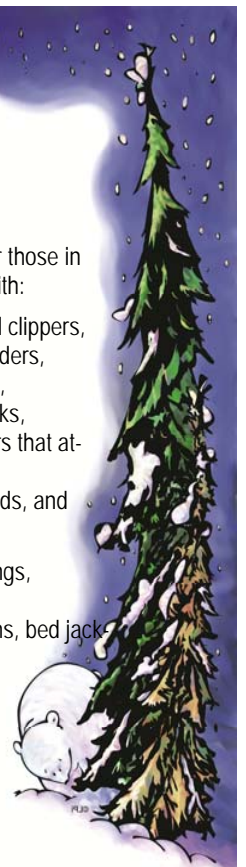
**Ladies/Gentlemen:** Small blankets, combs, nail clippers, picture frames, sweat pants & tops, eyeglass holders, sweaters (prefer button front style), writing paper, envelopes & stamps, large faced watches & clocks, slippers, socks, bathrobes, PJs, hats, bird feeders that attach to windows, large-face 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



## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

**December 11, 2016:** \$8,249.40

**Online Giving** (week ending 12/14/16): \$3,299.00

**Next weekend's 2<sup>nd</sup> collection:**

*Christmas and Parish Charities*

## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

### CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

#### Question:

How were the prophets able to predict the coming of Jesus, the Messiah?

#### Answer:

For the most part, the first reading for the Sundays of Advent is taken from Old Testament prophetic literature. These passages, along with most other prophetic literature, weren't intended by the prophets themselves as predictors of Jesus' birth, life, and mission; a more accurate way to understand prophetic literature is to see it as addressing social, political, and religious issues of the day. God, speaking through the prophets, calls his people to more faithful covenant living.

However, the Church teaches that, within the Old , "the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way" ("Dei verbum," 15). The Passion and Resurrection of the Lord led to the reinterpretation of prophetic texts by his followers who understood these texts in a new light; the original texts, written at a specific time to address specific issues, were later understood to contain other meanings. The process continues to our own day as we strive to apply the Scriptures to our twenty-first-century faith reality. This is what makes the Bible a living text through which God continues to speak. Let us listen with open minds and hearts.



### Visit Our Website!

Visit our website for news, events, to learn about our many ministries and for great resources:

**stannavon.org**

*Did you know that you can also read our weekly bulletin in full color on our website? Check it out!*

# SAVE THE DATE

## The 9<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>, between 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, between 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> - 5 PM - 8 PM - \$5 adult admission

Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - 9 AM - 6 PM (no admission fee)

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

#### Volunteers are needed for sorting books on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

To volunteer at the January 2017 Book Sale, please contact

Nancy Casey (860.673.3141) [nancekc@gmail.com](mailto:nancekc@gmail.com) or

Constance Rotondo (860.404.0204) [constance.rotondo@comcast.net](mailto:constance.rotondo@comcast.net)

**Thank you!**

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## Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY  
JOSEPH  
HOLY SPIRIT

WEDDING  
ANGEL  
DREAM

BABY  
JESUS  
VIRGIN

V	I	R	G	I	N	T	H	W	I	S
J	C	S	H	U	J	O	S	E	P	H
D	R	E	A	M	R	W	I	D	A	O
S	O	B	Y	A	O	N	U	D	G	W
M	E	N	G	R	W	E	A	I	S	D
T	B	A	B	Y	B	M	O	N	A	E
R	E	N	D	R	O	I	T	G	J	O
S	P	G	O	H	F	J	E	S	U	S
K	A	E	I	V	N	A	G	M	D	L
H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	Y
S	R	H	N	E	D	L	S	E	H	A



### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

*The name Emmanuel means, "God is with us." This is a title we use for Jesus frequently during the Advent and Christmas season, but its impact should stay with us throughout the year. The Incarnation, God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ, broke into our world in a profound manner that means that God is not only with us, God is us. The relationship offered to you and I by God is now more intimate and meaningful because of the birth of Jesus Christ.*

*God is truly with us and our goal is to be truly present to him at all times. To be prayerful is an important characteristic of an Everyday Steward. It means more than reciting prayers and setting aside ten minutes a day. Our goal is to experience the presence of God throughout the day in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of living. Offering all the actions and moments of the day to God as we awake, and then examining our day before we go to sleep at night, help lead us closer toward that goal.*

*When we begin to sense God's presence at all times, and we realize that being with God does not mean one of us has to be talking all the time, then we can truly attest to our reality in a quiet voice at any time, "Emmanuel, God is with us."*

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### QUOTES

#### Words to Inspire the Faithful

*Where there is no love, put in love and you will draw love out.*

--St. John of the Cross

### SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Is 7:14)

#### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

#### Second Reading:

Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:5-6)

#### Gospel:

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

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### WEEKLY READINGS

#### Readings for the Week of December 18, 2016

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25  
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38  
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45  
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56  
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66  
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79  
Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." Joseph heard these prophetic words in a dream. They were words of anticipation, of what was to come. And in a sense, they ushered in a kind of Advent for Joseph. With this divine message, Joseph began a period of holy waiting. He now knew that the Messiah was going to be coming into his own home, and he had just nine months to prepare! We can only imagine how Joseph might have spent these precious days. Most likely he did more than prepare a physical home for his soon-to-be-born Son; he must have also used these days to prepare his heart, mind, and soul for such a tremendous mission.

Today, we stand in a position not all that different from St. Joseph. We also know that the Messiah will be arriving--not just in remembrance at Christmastime, but in reality at the second coming. But unlike Joseph, we don't have an exact timeframe. We don't know when Jesus will return. We just know that we need to be ready!

During the season of Advent we are challenged to recall this fact and strive to get our hearts in order. The days are short now until Christmas, and for all we know they might be short until Christ's return as well. What remains to be done? Aside from wrapping presents and planning parties, where do we yet need to tidy up our habits to properly celebrate the real meaning of this festive season? How can we make sure that we don't get swept away in the external preparations, forgetting the work that needs to be done in the invisible silence of our souls?

God may not speak to all of us directly in our dreams, but he does speak to us clearly through his word. May we recognize today the mission he has laid before us.

### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

#### Live the Liturgy

As we gather on this Fourth Sunday of Advent our anticipation for the coming of the Messiah heightens and intensifies. Our desire to connect with the source of who we are, God himself, takes on greater fervor. We anticipate the salvation Christ brings, which promises us a renewed spirit and freedom. We all long to be free. What binds us and prevents us from embracing what God desires to give? If we desire, we can taste this freedom now and then possess it fully when Christ comes!

## THE BULLETIN BOARD

*Still Looking for Special and Unique Gifts?  
This 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](http://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

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest." (Matthew 9)



**Come and Pray**  
Winter Holy Hours for  
Vocations to the Priesthood



"A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people."  
- Pope Francis

The Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites everyone to come and pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese at three special Holy Hours this Winter, celebrated by Fr. Jeff Gubbotti, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. Each Holy Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a light "coffee-and" reception so we have the chance to meet one another. Please join us!

Monday, December 19th \* 7:00 p.m.  
St. Rita Church  
1620 Whitney Ave. in Hamden

Wednesday, January 11th \* 7:00 p.m.  
St. Margaret Church  
24 Academy St. in Madison

Thursday, February 9th \* 7:00 p.m.  
St. Pius X Church  
525 Woodtick Road in Wolcott



Please consider joining the St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society.  
Information can be found on our website, [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com).



The Catholic Transcript magazine will be distributed to more than 192,000 Catholic households in Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield counties within the Archdiocese of Hartford. It will be published in full color 10 times a year, beginning with a Jan./Feb. 2017 launch issue.

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