



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

Rev. Joseph P. Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland: deacon.jeff@stannavon.com

Tim Healy: deacon.tim@stannavon.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

Russell Koch: russ.koch@stannavon.com

COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Tom McCabe: tom.mccabe@stannavon.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR (K - 8)

Valerie St. Jean: ext. 223 valerie.stjean@stannavon.com

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Rosemary Neamtz, MSW: ext. 226

rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com

REGISTRAR & CONFIRMATION ASSISTANT

Jennifer Soucy: ext.227 jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

Ann DiStefano, MPS: ext. 228 ann.distefano@stannavon.com

RCIA DIRECTOR & LITURGY COORDINATOR

Maureen Fiedler: 860-995-4026

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

OFFICE MANAGER

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

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

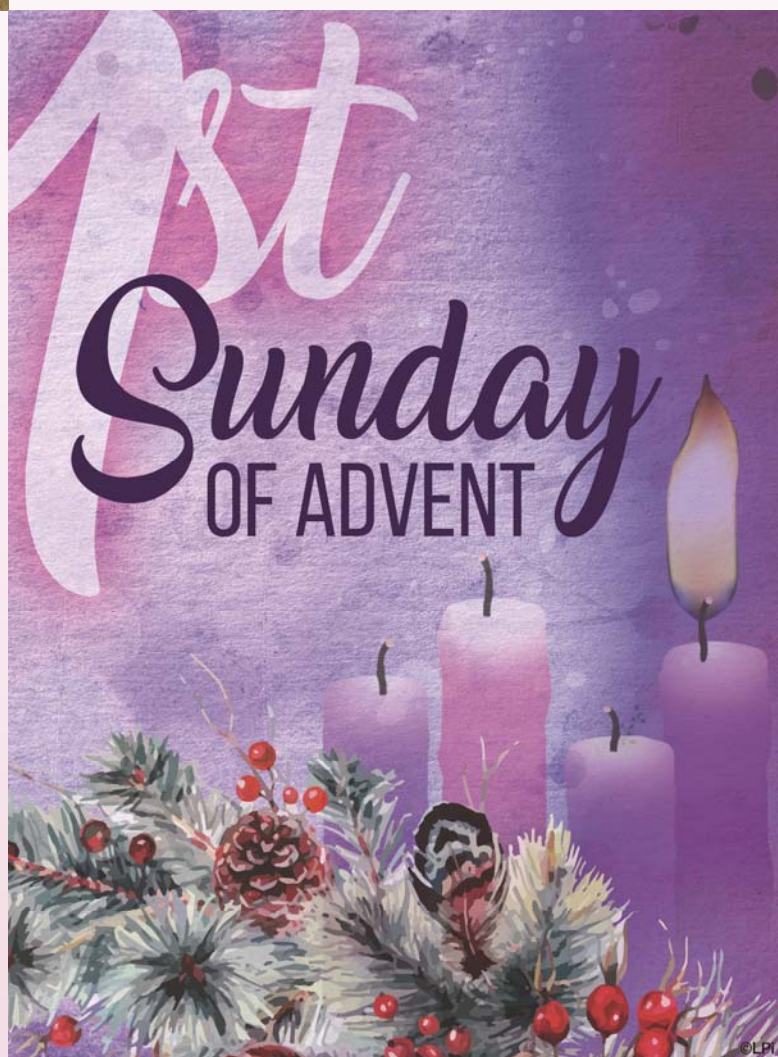
Call the Parish Office

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

MASS INTENTIONS

1st Sunday Of Advent

MONDAY, December 4
9:00 **Special Intentions**

TUESDAY, December 5
9:00 **Thomas & Ann McClure**, requested by their children

WEDNESDAY, December 6
9:00 **Janet Garger**, requested by the Garger Family

THURSDAY, December 7
9:00 **Dr. Theodore deGroot**, requested his wife and family

FRIDAY, December 8, Immaculate Conception
9:00 In celebration of the 49th wedding anniversary of Luis & Virginia Fernandez
12:10 **Special Intentions**

SATURDAY, December 9
4:00 **Derek Stockwell** requested by the family

SUNDAY, December 10
7:30 **Lionel Girard**, requested by the family
9:30 **Arthur Godbout, Sr.**, requested by the Godbout Family
11:00 **Lazara Luis**, requested by her daughter and grandchildren



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 4

MMP Cenacle: 7:15pm in the church.

Enter through door on left side of church. All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

Advent Reflections: 7:15pm in Rooms 1 & 3

TUESDAY, December 5

M+M Moms: 10am in the Activity Room

RCIA: 7pm in Rm. 3

WEDNESDAY, December 6

Psalms Bible Study: 9:30am in Rooms 2 & 3

Matthew Bible Study: 7:15pm in Room 3

THURSDAY, December 7

Advent Reflections: 9:30am in the Activity Room

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

Adult Confirmation: 7pm in Room 3

Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft

Children's Choir: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft

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

FRIDAY, December 8

Matthew Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (ALL PERFORMERS):
4-5:45pm in the church

SATURDAY, December 9

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, December 10

Parish Coffee: after the 9:30am Mass; sponsored by the Men of St. Ann

Advent Reflections: 10:30am in Room 3



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

*December 2/3 &
December 9/10*

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: Dec.2/3 & 9/10

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, 2017

Holy Day of Obligation

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



Christmas Pageant Full Cast Rehearsal

Friday, December 8th
4:00 - 5:45pm
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:



Kids in grades 4-8 Join Youth Choir for Christmas!

We rehearse on Thursdays from 4:15-5pm in the choir loft. Carl Sauerbrunn is our director, and we have a lot of fun together, learning music for Mass. We will sing at the 3:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Contact Choir Mom Ann DiStefano if you'd like to join us: avon.distefano@comcast.net; or (860) 463-7495.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Join our Advent Reflection Series for Small Groups!

- Gather with friends weekly at home or at church
- Read and discuss insightful, inspiring reflections on the Christmas story
- Explore the connections between the Sunday readings and your life, via *Lectio Divina*

Church-based Small Groups are meeting Nov 26-Dec 21.
Come when you can!

Sundays, 10:30am-12pm, Room 3
Mondays, 7:15-8:45pm, Rooms 1 & 3
Thursdays, 9:30-11am, Activity Room

Our resource is *"Do You See What I See?"*, the Advent booklet from The Word Among Us, available in the Gathering Space. The Discussion Guide is online at stannavon.org.

To register for one of the church-based groups, or learn how to form your own home-based small group with friends, contact Ann: ann.distefano@stannavon.com or (860) 673-9858, x228



The Men of Saint Ann's

Annual Men's Retreat January 19 - 21, 2018

**At Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
West Hartford**

Join Us for a focus on: "Grace Enough"

Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God's grace in our lives. In an age of division, tension and change, *Grace Enough* will explore the many ways God's presence empowers us and supports us through every step of life's journey. Discover anew how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Together we'll reflect on how living in God's grace guides us to make wise choices, leading to true happiness and peace.

The retreat begins with a buffet dinner from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Friday evening and concludes with the celebration of Sunday Eucharist at 10:45 a.m., followed by an optional hot brunch at noon. Families of retreatants are most welcome to attend the Sunday mass and brunch at no extra charge.

**For more information go to the
Holy Family Retreat Center website:**
<https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>
Click on Retreats, then Themed Retreats

Call or Email us:

Paul Watson: 860-922-0812 or Pgwatson33@gmail.com
Bob Yurch: 860-675-1366 or byurch@fiainc.com

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

November 19, 2017: \$6,859.73

November 26, 2017: \$9,234.80

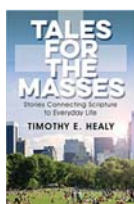
Next weekend's 2nd collection:
Retired Religious Fund



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, December 4th
7-8:30pm in Room 2

All are welcome...including brand new knitters!
For more information call Tina: 860-674-1541



Deacon Tim's New Book!

Deacon Tim's book of homily stories has just been published by CSS Publications. If you've enjoyed his homilies you'll likely enjoy this collection of stories, taken from his homilies over the last sixteen years. If you can't stand his homilies, Deacon Tim suggests you consider buying a copy for someone you don't like, just to annoy them. Who knows – they might be converted! You can find the volume on Amazon.com, directly from the publisher at: <http://store.csspub.com/prod-0788028464.htm> or you can just ask Deacon Tim to get one for you (less expensive).

CENACLES of the Marian Movement of Priests



Question: Is the cenacle primarily for priests?

Answer: No. In Message #34 (1-17-74), Our Lady introduces this question, "Why do I want them to come together in cenacle with me?" In this message she addresses herself to the priests, but what she tells them is also applicable to the laity. She wants all her children—priests, religious, laity, families, to gather together with her in cenacles of prayer, to pray with her and to learn how to love one another. Also, the cenacle helps us to deepen our understanding and live the obligations we have undertaken through our consecration to her Immaculate Heart. We refer you to the message dated Nov. 1, 1973, "my Faithful Cohort." (#25)

Excerpt from Cenacles of the Marian Movement of Priests Purpose/Guide

Our cenacle meets every Monday at 7:15pm in the church.
Come pray the Rosary with us.



HEARTS & SOULS

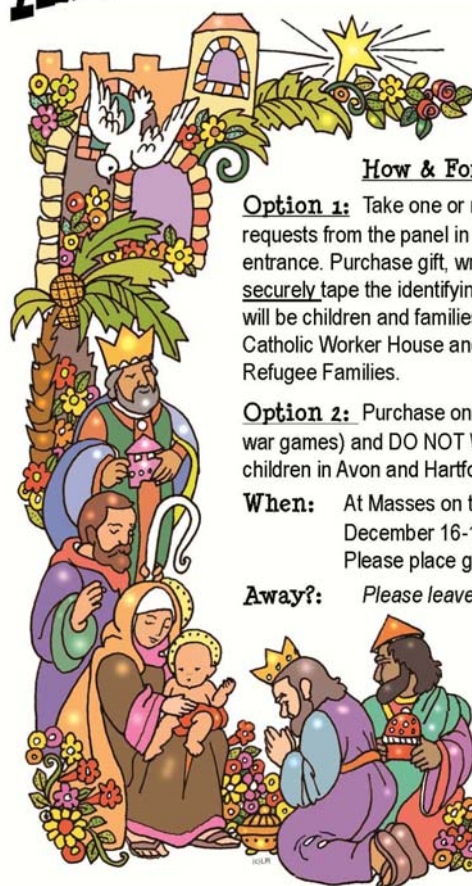
Ministering to body, mind and spirit, the Health Ministry offers blood pressure screening, health counseling and referrals to our community of faith. Office hours are generally the 2nd Sunday of each month from 8:15-11am in the Sacristy (2nd door on the left as you enter the vestibule of the church). No appointment necessary.

Communion For Shut-Ins

The Eucharistic ministers would be happy to bring Communion to those in our parish who are unable to come to church. Please call the Parish Office and leave your name and address if you wish to receive Communion **860-673-9858**.

Annual Toy/Gift Collection

Weekend of
December 16/17



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 and families 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 16-17, 2017
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

Calling All Artists!

WHO: Artists of all ages

WHAT: Your art work as a donation to the
9th Annual St. Ann Art Show and Sale

HOW: Use contact information below. All mediums accepted: watercolor, acrylic, oil, pencil, collage, photography, sculpture, artisan crafts, fabric art, etc.

WHEN: Donations happily accepted, preferably by
January 26, 2018

CONTACT:

Inez Faillace: 860.673.5579 or faillace1@comcast.net

Meg Kundahl: 860.521.1051 or mkfk@sbcglobal.net

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question? Unfortunately, we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way. Then sometimes when the stars seem to align just right we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things.

Whether it will be a pleasant or dreadful experience, we can say with certainty tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world is complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on him to be there with you. He is, now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful
*In thee, O Lord, have I put my hope.
Let me never be confounded.*

- St. Francis Xavier

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands. (Is 64:7)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor 3:8-9)

Gospel:

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping." (Mk 13:35-36)

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

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 3, 2017

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/
Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/
Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/
Mk 1:1-8

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus gives us a wakeup call. This is no time for slumber. Now is the time to be on our toes, alert, attentive, ready. But for what? For the coming of "the Lord of the house." During Advent, the Church does her best to help us get ready for the second coming of Christ. We don't know precisely WHEN he will return, but we know that he will. And the fact is, even if it doesn't happen in our lifetime, each and every one of us will still have to face the Lord at an unknown hour--namely, the hour of our death.

So let us be prepared! Let us be on the watch for anything that would threaten this most important of all encounters. We want to recognize the Lord as a friend and master, so that on seeing him we don't cower in fear at his awesome power and strength. Instead, we hope to rejoice in finally being able to behold him face-to-face. This of course is the result of a healthy and holy relationship with Christ.

To nurture such a relationship this Advent season the Church urges us to recommit to a life of prayer, worthy reception of the sacraments, and a commitment to following God's loving laws through a life of virtue. With these priorities in order, we can wait for the second coming with joyful anticipation, just as we joyfully await the celebration of Christmas.

During these weeks as we prepare our homes for the festive holiday season, may we also set aside some time and effort to prepare our hearts. Then, not only will we appreciate the yuletide wonders around us, but we can also look forward to the eternal wonders that lie in store.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

On this First Sunday of Advent, we are asked to be watchful and alert. Because of our baptism we are called to be gatekeepers of God's house and God's servants. We have been put in charge of caring for what God has made--the earth around us and our brothers and sisters. Being responsible means being attentive to what is within our care. Are we responsible and attentive stewards or does our attention and focus often wander to things that are not important to the kingdom of God?

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Events at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield

The Annual Christmas Festival Weekend at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield will include:

7pm Saturday, December 2nd, A Candlelight Carol Sing will begin at 7:00 Saturday evening in Pilgrim Hall and process to the Grotto. Cookies & hot chocolate will be served in the hall after this beautiful event.

3pm Sunday, December 3rd: The Living Nativity: A re-enactment of the Nativity with live animals, little angels, shepherds, choristers and a real Baby Jesus will take place at 3:00 pm in the Grotto. Cookies & hot chocolate will again be served in Pilgrim Hall. *A suggested \$5.00 donation will be greatly appreciated.*

Note: The Grotto Gift Shop will be open for all these events.

Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, Grotto Gift Shop

Beginning Sunday, November 5th until December 23rd, the Grotto Gift Shop at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield will be open from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Saturday & Sunday, 11:30 am (after Mass) until 4:00 pm. The Shrine is located on 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield, CT.

There is a varied selection of Advent wreaths and candles along with many new Christmas ornaments, cards & Fontanini Nativity sets. Also, unique gifts and books are available for all occasions, particularly baby & children's items.

Coping with Grief and Loss During the Holidays

Joe Colletti, Bereavement Consultant, will present at two locations.

Monday, December 11

2:00 – 3:30 P.M.

The Lodge 130 Deerfield Road, Windsor, CT

OR

6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center
Family Center Entrance
301 Country Club Road
Avon, CT

Light refreshments will be served.

This program is free and open to the public, but **please R.S.V.P. by December 7th** to let us know if you would like to attend and which location you will be attending.

860-688-2200
Windsor

860-673-8610
Avon

Offered by...



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes
Funerals • Cremation • PrePlanning

and

MARY'S PLACE
A center for grieving children & families

Catholic Bethlehem Christian Families Will Be at St. Ann Next Weeked With Their Lovely Olive Wood Items from the Holy Land

December 9/10

Representatives from Catholic Bethlehem Christian Families will be with us on the weekend of Dec 9 & 10, 2017, 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 browse their items and consider gifting loved ones something from the Holy Land!

