



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

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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):

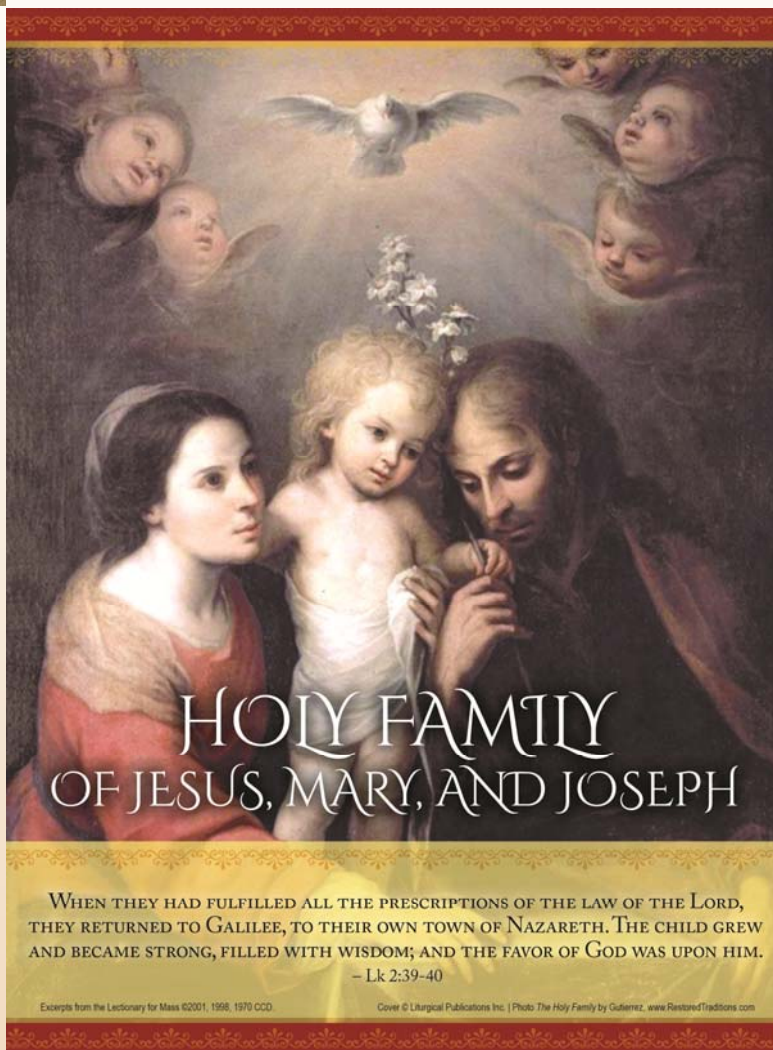
Call the Parish Office

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

*The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph*

MONDAY, January 1
9:00 **Special Intentions**

TUESDAY, January 2
9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, January 3
9:00 **Special Intentions**

THURSDAY, January 4
9:00 **For the Holy Souls in Purgatory**

FRIDAY, January 5
9:00 **Jonathan Michael Gilotti (2nd Ann.),
requested by his mom and dad**

SATURDAY, January 6
4:00 **Henry Hojnowski, requested by
Russell and Diane Koch**

SUNDAY, January 7
7:30 **Christopher Hwang, requested by the family**
9:30 **Gerald deSimas, requested by
the St. Ann staff**
11:00 **For the Intentions of the Hwang
and Joo Families, 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 worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S

MONDAY, January 1

MMP Cenacle: will resume January 8th
Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures: 7:15pm in Rm. 3

TUESDAY, January 2

RCIA: will resume January 9th

WEDNESDAY, January 3

Matthew Bible Study: 7:15pm in Room 3

THURSDAY, January 4

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church
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
St. Ann Cares Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 1

FRIDAY, January 5

Matthew Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3

SATURDAY, January 6

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, January 7

Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures: 10:30am in Rm. 3

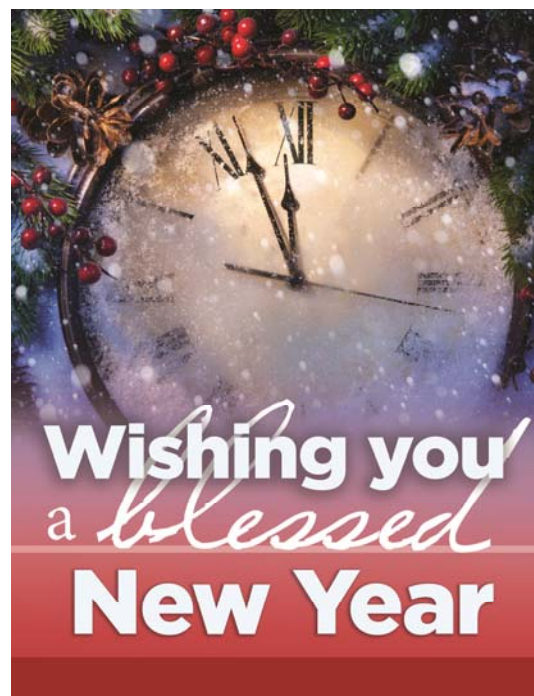


January 1,
2018

Mary, the Holy
Mother of God

Not a Holy Day of
Obligation this year

We will celebrate at our
regular daily Mass
at 9am



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

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

Once again we will be collecting socks, gloves, and hats to make gift bags for the men at ImmaCare shelter. Also, Chapsticks and toiletries. Hopefully, we will get enough to also have some distributed to those men and women who remain outside until the weather becomes life threatening. Please drop off any donations in the kitchen & label for Immacare. Our thanks & wishes for a blessed holiday season.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make the Advent Reflection Series such a blessing for our parishioners:

- Fr. McHugh, for generously providing the booklets
- Mark Hamel, for creating the discussion guide and facilitating a Small Group
- Ann DiStefano, Karen Edgar, Mary Healey, Chip Janiszewski and Jim Serruta, for facilitating Small Groups
- The dozens of participants who gathered to share their faith together.

If you read and reflected on the booklet in a group OR on your own, and it deepened your experience of Advent/Christmas, please let Ann know: ann.distefano@stannavon.com; (860) 673-9858, x228.

Want to give Small Groups a try?

Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures will resume the week of January 7th

We meet weekly for 90 minutes to read and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Scriptures, so that we may grow in our relationship with God, build community, and enhance our experience of Mass.

Join us at one of these convenient times: Sundays, 10:30am, Room 3
Mondays, 7:15pm, Room 3

Contact Ann above to register, or simply DROP IN to check it out. All materials are provided, but bring your Bible if you like.

Special Program for Women

Women of Influence



Our Lady of Calvary

RETREAT CENTER

Wednesday, January 10 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Presenter: Sr.

Elissa Rinere, CP



All women of the parish are invited to join the Marthas + Marys for "Women Of Influence," a special day program on Wed., Jan. 10th, 9am-1pm at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center, Farmington. Sr. Elissa Rinere will host an engaging presentation on the four inspiring women named "Doctor of the Church:" Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Hildegard of Bingen. Lunch is provided. The cost is \$30.

Register at:

<https://www.ourladyofcalvary.net/event/women-influence/>

Questions: Ann DiStefano, (860) 673-9858, x228

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

December 17, 2017: \$7,572.88

December 24, 2017: \$5,190.62

Next weekend's 2nd collection: none

CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized, but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? St. Ann's is delighted to offer a six-week preparation program just for you, leading to your receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral in Hartford in April 2018. The April date has not yet been determined but will be announced soon.

The Adult Confirmation Program will meet on Thursdays starting January 25th until Thursday, March 1st. The class, which will be in Room 2 (below Fr. Bennett Hall), will run from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Deacon Jeffrey Sutherland and Deacon Tim Healy will facilitate the class.

If you are interested in this program, please contact Maureen Fiedler, RCIA and Adult Confirmation Program Coordinator at 860-995-4026.



Hey, Fr. McHugh's inviting us to a party!

You're Invited!

St. Ann's first Ever Baptism Reunion.

Who: Parents with children baptized in the last five years.
What: Meet, play, eat, enjoy getting together with other families with recently baptized children.
 Pick up your free Baptism Go-Kit!
When: After the 11am Mass on January 7th for about an hour.
Where: Fr. Bennett Hall

We've mailed out as many invitations as we could, but we know we've probably missed plenty of people. If you've had a child baptized in the last four or five years, consider yourself invited!

We hope to see you there!

RSVP to Deacon Tim via email (DeaconTim@StAnnAvon.com) or text/voicemail his cell (860) 693-9744.

Tenth Annual Used Book Sale

In Father Bennett Hall

All proceeds go toward Catholic High School Student Scholarships



Donations:

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

Wednesday, January 10th * 9:30am-6pm

Thursday, January 11th * 9:30am-6pm

Friday, January 12th * 9:30am-11:30am

Please donate books in good condition

YES: best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, religious, classics, biographies, self-help, vintage, cookbooks, large print, children's, young adult, sports, books-on-CD

NO: encyclopedias, magazines, VHS movies, records, albums or cassette tapes (as they do not sell).

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

2018 Sale Information

Friday, January 12th

5pm - 7:30pm

\$5 adult admission

(Friday only)

Saturday, January 13th

9am - 6pm

Sunday, January 14th

8am - 12:45pm

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 Kundaht: 860.521.1051 or mkfk@sbcglobal.net

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?" What I found out was these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas, may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for you rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

The Word who found a dwelling in Mary's womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas.

- St. John Paul II

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. (Is 52:8)

Psalm:

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. (Ps 98)

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe. (Heb 1:1-2)

Gospel:

He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race. (Jn 1:2-4)

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

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
[cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11
or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! Today we rejoice that this new life, this infant God, has come to be "the light of the human race." He is here to shine in the darkness of our sin and sadness, to bring joy and peace in place of sorrow. We celebrate this day with all the energy we have because we know that Christmas truly means good news!

Many of us have topped our trees with a bright star that helps to light up our homes, especially at nighttime. These stars should be more than just plastic decorations, however! They should also shine as reminders to us of the Star of Bethlehem that announced the coming of Christ. What better way to welcome the Light of the World than with that magnificent star?

And just as the Magi found their way to Jesus by following the light of that star, so we too have a heavenly guide to follow: Jesus himself! We have his words and teachings recorded for us in Scripture, his actions and directives preserved through the Tradition of the Church, and the guidance of his Spirit to assist us along the way. And all of these GIFTS are ours because of Christmas! Because the "Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

As we exchange gifts with our loved ones on this special day, may we remember all of these wonderful things we have already received. And may we strive to give to our family and friends not only the treasures that come in boxes and bags, but also a share in the greatest gifts of God: forgiveness, mercy and the unconditional love that brings joy enough to last the whole year through.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

A people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Today is born our savior, Jesus Christ. As the image of the invisible God, he is the light that illumines the paths of our lives. He alone shows us how to be truly human and teaches us that humanity is blessed with the very presence of God. Fully human and fully divine, Jesus shows us how to order our relationships--our relationship with God, others, ourselves, and the world in which we live. Today he calls us to peace once again and to live with justice, mercy, and compassion on our lips and in our actions.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

St. Mary's School - Simsbury

January is Jumping at St. Mary's School! Take the leap to learn more about the advantages of a Catholic Education!

Take a Tour: Walk in Wednesdays, Jan. 3rd thru Jan. 31st
Drop in anytime between 9:00 am to 11:00 am and see our classrooms in action.

Sunday Open House: Jan. 28th 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
– Meet staff, faculty, current parents and students and alumni. Featuring workshops for both parents and children in coding and cursive!

Fairy Tale Fridays: Have a 3 or young 4 year old and thinking about Prekindergarten? Come in for story time and nursery rhymes with fun activities for Mom and child and take a peek at life as a Prekindergarten student at St. Mary's School!

Friday Mornings 9:00 am to 9:45 am Jan. 5th thru Jan. 26th.

For more information or to register for any of these events please contact Toni Chagnon at 860-658-9412 or tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.edu or stmarysimsbury.edu

THE BREAD

which you
DO NOT USE
is the bread
OF THE HUNGRY

THE GARMENT

hanging in
YOUR WARDROBE
IS THE GARMENT
of him who
IS NAKED

THE SHOES

that you
DO NOT WEAR
ARE THE SHOES
of the one who
IS BAREFOOT

THE MONEY

that you keep
LOCKED AWAY
is the money
OF THE POOR.

– St. Basil the Great

© LPI

THE GATE OF
heaven
IS VERY LOW; ONLY THE
humble
CAN ENTER IT.

– ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

2 Great Catholic Tours (Holyland) and (Fatima and Lourdes)

Come and Journey away on a tour of the Holyland April 24th – May 5th, 2018 or Fatima and Lourdes June 15th – 22nd, 2018.

Both of these great itineraries can be found on our website www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

Prices begin at \$1449.00 per person based on double occupancy for land. Call us for your air city departure price. Mass is offered. Deposits of only \$250 per person for the land will reserve your space. Space is limited. For further info or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-1785/
Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com