



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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BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

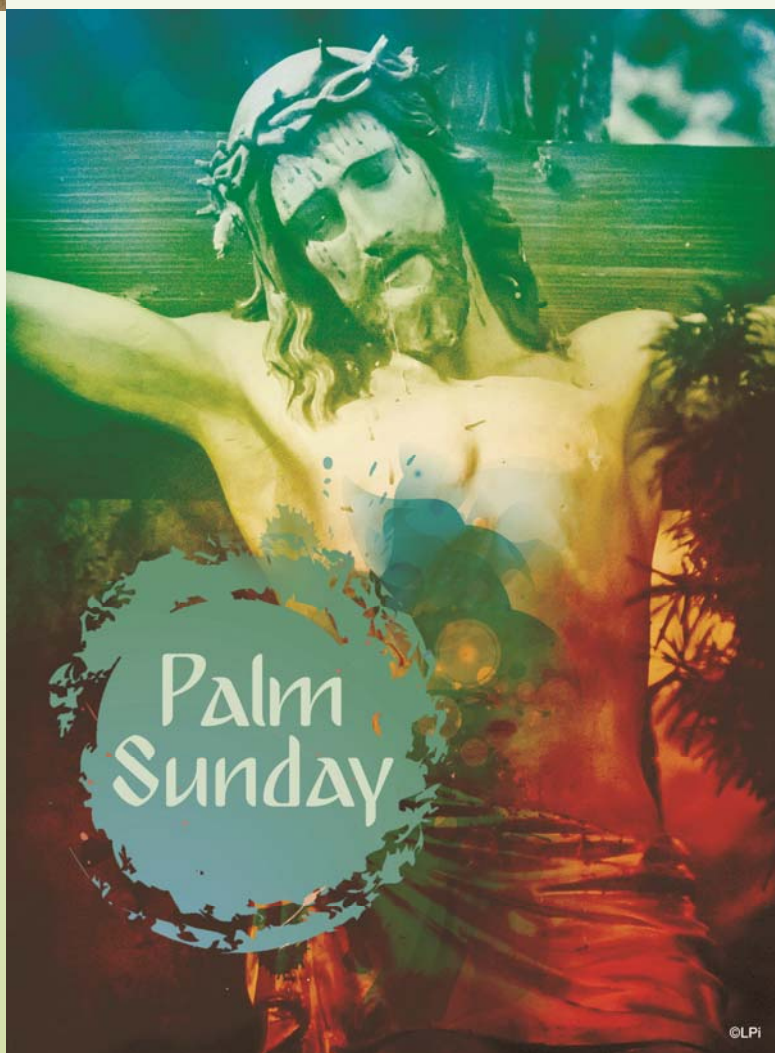
Call the Parish Office

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



**Palm Sunday of
the Passion
of the Lord**

MONDAY, March 26

9:00 **Joseph and Sadie Klish**, requested by
Barbara and Gino Calderone

TUESDAY, March 27

9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, March 28

9:00 **Special Intentions**

7:30 *Tenebrae*

THURSDAY, March 29, Holy Thursday

7:30 *Mass of the Lord's Supper*
Adoration until 10pm

FRIDAY, March 30, Good Friday

9:00 *Morning Prayer*
3:00 *Liturgy of the Lord's Passion*

SATURDAY, March 31, Holy Saturday

9:00 *Morning Prayer*
10-11 *Confessions*
12:00 *Blessing of the Food*
8:00 **For all those in whose memory or honor
the altar plants have been donated**

SUNDAY, April 1, Easter

7:30 **For all those in whose memory or honor
the altar plants have been donated**
8:45 **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**
11:30 **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, March 26

MMP Cenacle: 7:15pm in the church.

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

Young Adult Bible Study: 7pm in the Activity Room

TUESDAY, March 27

RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

Extra Choir Rehearsal: 7pm in the choir loft

WEDNESDAY, March 28

Tenebrae: 7:30pm in the church

THURSDAY, March 29, Holy Thursday (see schedule below)

FRIDAY, March 30, Good Friday (see schedule below)

SATURDAY, March 31, Holy Saturday (see schedule below)

SUNDAY, April 1, Easter (see schedule below)

Happy Easter!



2018 Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 26

Lenten Confessions at 6pm-7pm

Wednesday, March 28

Tenebrae at 7:30pm

Holy Thursday, March 29

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm
Adoration until 10pm

Good Friday, March 30

Morning Prayer at 9am
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3pm

Holy Saturday, March 31

Morning Prayer at 9am
Confessions at 10am-11am
Blessing of the Food at 12pm
Easter Vigil at 8pm

Easter Sunday, April 1

Special Mass Schedule
7:30am, 8:45am, 10am & 11:30am



Corporal Works of Mercy 2018

During this Lenten season, our Parish family Lenten commitment is to practice the corporal works of mercy, both individually and as a community. Donations should be placed in the labeled boxes in the Gathering Space. Anything you can donate is appreciated!

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own, and to take practical steps to alleviate it. – Pope Francis

This Weekend, March 24/25:

Bury the Dead

Reach out to family, friends, and neighbors who have lost a loved one, particularly a spouse, by inviting them to lunch, bringing them to Mass, or including them in social activities.

Also, EASTER FOOD BASKET collection this weekend.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Spiritual Growth During Lent & Beyond

The *Rediscover Catholicism* Lenten book program has concluded, in time for you to enjoy all the beautiful services of Holy Week. Thank you to our Small Group leaders who facilitated the book discussions: Colleen Waterbury, Pat Wall, Valerie St. Jean, Jim Serruta, Joe Savidge, Chip Janiszewski, Mark Hamel, & Karen Edgar. **Now, let us live what we have rediscovered!**

"Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures" Ready for Newcomers!

In *Rediscover Catholicism* we learned that a key way to engage with the Mass is to read and reflect on the Sunday Scriptures beforehand. That's just what we do each week in "Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures!" Beginning the week of April 8th, join us in Room 3 on Sundays at 10:30am (with Chip Janiszewski) or Mondays at 7:15pm (with Jim Serruta) for coffee, community, reading, conversation and prayer via the popular *Lectio Divina* method. Materials are provided. **Drop-ins are welcome!**

"Sandwich Sunday" a Success!

Thank you to the dozens of parishioners who gathered after Masses last Sunday to live out their faith by making sandwiches for the hungry/homeless in Hartford. **500 sandwiches** were prepared and blessed before being delivered to ImmaCare Shelter, Mercy Shelter, and St. Joseph Cathedral Food Pantry. Young and old also made greeting cards to send along as a personal touch. Special thanks to Chris Tyler White and Kate Mugno for help with cleanup and delivery. Yes, we will offer this ministry again!

"Matthew" Bible Study Resumes

After a hiatus for Lent & Easter, our "Matthew" Bible Studies are ready to reconvene. The Wednesday, 7:15pm group will meet April 4th. Due to Spring Break, the Friday, 9:30am group will delay gathering until April 20th. See the full calendar at www.stannavon.org.



Youth Choir-Easter Rehearsals

Singers in grades 4-8: Come help us make a joyful noise at 11:30am Mass on Easter Sunday! Choose from these convenient rehearsal times (we meet in the choir loft):

- Every Thursday from 4:15-5pm.
- Wednesday March 7th & Wednesday, March 21st: 7-7:45pm
- Rehearsal with Orchestra: Saturday, March 31st: 11:30am

Contact: Choir Mom Ann DiStefano, avon.distefano@comcast.net



Please join us for a
Tenebrae Service
Wednesday, March 28th
7:30 p.m.

What is Tenebrae? The name 'Tenebrae' means darkness or shadows and it is a Holy Week devotion dating back to the 7th or 8th Century A.D. It is characterized by successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. No service during the entire church year is more biblical: Every word of Tenebrae is taken verbatim from the scriptures. The purpose of the service, through prayer and music, is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story and the events leading up to Good Friday; it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Sunday. Attending this powerfully moving service will set the tone, introduce the themes and adjust your heart and mind for the great events of the Passion and will help you prepare your heart for an even greater experience of Easter JOY.



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

March 18, 2018: \$6,304.00
 Online Giving (week ending 3/20/18): \$2,957.00
 Next weekend's 2nd collection:
 Easter/Parish Charities

2018/2019 FAITH FORMATION
SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION

It's time to plan for our 2018-2019 Faith Formation school year. Again this year, we will automatically enroll all existing students into the next grade level assuming all requirements have been met. Please visit our website for the registration form and return with your payment on or before June 1, 2018. Registrations received after June 1st will be charged a \$40 late fee. Please do not hold up your child(ren)'s registration due to financial issues. We are happy to make payment arrangements that work for your family. All information is confidential.

Our Faith, Our Future
Archbishop's Annual Appeal

In these trying times, the need of our surrounding community grows and the assistance provided by the Appeal becomes all the more crucial. If you have not yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal will help continue the vital services, ministries and programs that help so many throughout our Archdiocese.

Young ADULT BIBLE STUDY!

Young Adults in their 20's & 30's are invited to join us for faith filled discussions on Sunday's scripture, with open minds and hearts. We meet Monday nights at 7:30pm, usually in the Activity Room beneath the church wing, but check our Facebook group (St. Ann's Young Adult Group) for location information. Everyone is welcome - please bring friends! Coordinator:
 Ceci Menendez: cecilia.menendez@uconn.edu.

Save the Date

**ST. ANN'S
SUMMER Bible Camp**

JUNE 25-28

9:30am - 12:30pm

This year's theme is
Shipwrecked:
 Saved by Jesus.
 Stay tuned for more
 news to come!

Dear Parishioners,

This year there will be 53 candidates receiving the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist. They received their First Reconciliation on January 20, 2018, and are preparing for reception of the Blessed Sacrament in the Spring. Soon we will be putting out the Little Lambs for you to select a child and pray for them while they prepare for their sacrament.

Due to the overwhelming positive response, we would like to continue to gift each child with a First Communion Bible. We are asking that you sponsor any child or children, with this gift anonymously and it will be presented to them on their First Communion Day. In return, we will be asking the children to pray for the person who gave it to them *every time they read their Bible*.

The Bibles are reasonably priced and if you are interested in being part of this beautiful event, please pick up a form on the tables in the Gathering Space and return it with your payment of \$15.00 per Bible (made out to Church of St. Ann). Please mail to the church in an envelope clearly marked "for First Communion Bible" or drop it off at the Parish Offices. How pleased Jesus must be to know that both the children of this year's First Eucharist class and the adults of our Parish are praying for each other!

Thank you so much for your consideration and for your prayerful support of these beautiful children!

Yours in Christ, Father McHugh



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

I read a story recently about a teacher who donated to one of her former students a kidney. This tremendous act of selflessness came about because the young person had lost most of the function his kidneys due to an illness. Literally, that teacher gave the gift of life to someone who wasn't her own child or another family member. This is certainly radical stewardship.

How far would you go to give of yourself so that another might live? Would you have to love him or her like your own child or parent? No one can deny it would be a difficult decision, especially if your giving put your own health at risk.

Reflecting on these things helps to provide some perspective on the crucifixion of Jesus. Not only did he suffer tremendously at the hands of the Romans, he gave his life for us so we might live forever. What does true stewardship look like? The cross is a symbol to us of total surrender. When we are called to give of ourselves in ordinary ways in daily life we sometimes hesitate and think twice. Perhaps when we are unsure we should look to the cross and there we can find our strength. And then when the call comes to truly sacrifice and place our trust in God, we may have already developed a lifestyle that makes responding, "yes," that much easier.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*God did not come to explain suffering.
He came to fill it with His presence*

- Paul Claudel

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Processional Gospel:

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mk 11:9-10)

First Reading:

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced. (Is 50:7A)

Psalm:

You, O Lord, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me. (Ps 22)

Second Reading:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness." (Phil 2:6-7A)

Gospel:

"Truly this man was the Son of God." (Mk 16:39B)

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

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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of March 25, 2018

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39
Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [2a]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42
Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15-15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7
Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7or Lk 24:13-35

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Our humanity bleeds through today's Gospel passages in more ways than one. We see both elation and fall, hope in the midst of the darker sides of our natures. If we allow it, these Gospels hold a mirror to our own fickle hearts. The crowds cry "Hosanna" and the Apostles profess allegiance unto death. In a manner of days - even hours - Jesus is betrayed, abandoned, denied, condemned, tortured, and executed. As God, he could have stopped this horrific narrative from unfolding, but he doesn't. He allows free will to play itself out.

There are nearly two millennia between this spectacle and us. We can stand safely removed, if we choose. But Lent invites us to return to this story. Lent invites us to find ourselves in the people we encounter there. Are we the repentant woman at Bethany? Are we naysayers of such lavish piety? Have we acted in a way that betrays those we love or denies what we know to be good and true? Have we fallen asleep in our faith? Have we unfairly accused others of a crime or immorality we imagine, though perhaps they didn't commit? Do we help others carry their burdens? Do we stand in solidarity with those who suffer? Do we care for the dying?

This week, take up today's Gospel again. Look carefully at the Passion narrative and sit with it in silence. Find yourself in the story and ponder its meaning for your own life. Journey with Jesus to the foot of the Cross so that you too may say, along with the faithful centurion, "truly this man was the Son of God!"

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

Today some of the most poignant themes of human life come into clear central focus: the feeling of being praised and honored, fear, anxiety, betrayal, despair, doubt, uncertainty, trust, hope, sadness, separation, suffering, death, determination, and courage. These are the emotions and realities that every human being wrestles with often. Jesus, the Son of God, encounters them all. As we journey through life, we have to confront the existential meaning of each of these things. How do they fit into the bigger picture? Jesus shows us most clearly that even those things we fear the most lose their power when we discover that we are being led to new life. Suffering is redemptive. Sin and death give way to grace and life and God's unconditional love conquers all. May we see in Jesus' Way of the Cross the path of truth we all must follow.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

**Shut off your phone and
let God call your heart** ❤️



Phone Fast Fridays During Lent
#PFF
ArchdioceseofHartford.org

**It's That Time of
Year, Again...**



If you are a registered parishioner using envelopes or online giving, and would like a copy of our records of your weekly envelope contributions, please e-mail Kris in the Parish Office: kris.martino@stannavon.com or call 860-673-9858, ext. 221. Note: Contributions to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are mailed separately from the Archdiocese.

House Bill 5340, An Act Concerning Education Savings Accounts

It was recently announced that St. Francis-St. Hedwig School in Naugatuck will be closing after this academic year. Michael Culhane, Executive Director of the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, has written a statement that will appear in various media, regarding this school closure and the impact that proposed legislation will have on the future of Catholic schools.

Visit the web address below to read the full statement.

https://www.stewardsfortomorrow.org/uploads/1/1/7/1/117137536/op-ed_march_2018_-_naugatuck_schools_03.11.2018.pdf

Catholics Coming Home - An Opportunity to Learn More About Our Faith

St. Patrick Church, 110 Main Street, Farmington, is sponsoring a seven week program to learn more about our faith. Whether you are struggling with the church, have been away from the church, or are an active Catholic who'd like to learn more about the Catholic faith to grow closer to Christ, please consider this invitation to join us. In a relaxed environment we will discuss what Catholics believe, with an opportunity to address issues with which you may have problems.

The seven sessions, which will be led by a team of parishioners, will be held on Thursdays, 7:00 -8:30 PM from April 19 to May 31, 2018, in the basement church hall at St. Patrick. If you wish to register or want more details, please contact David Edwards at 860-413-2536, e-mail eugeneedwards5468@icloud.com.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear." As we celebrate Palm Sunday, let us keep our ears open to the love from our spouses and God by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jul 6-8, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT and Nov 2-4, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Pat & Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-315-2127 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

Beginning Experience of Connecticut for the Widowed, Separated and Divorced

Weekend Dates:

May 4-6, 2018 in Bloomfield, CT

September 21-23, 2018 in Farmington, CT

"The truth is no one has to suffer alone, and although life may never be the same, it can be good again...very good. Beginning Experience can help, just give us one weekend. You'll meet people who have gone through the same things you are going through. They know how you feel because they have felt it and lived through it. They will share with you how they came to terms with their loss and how they've moved forward with their lives. More important, they will listen.

Founded by a Catholic sister and her divorced friend, our program serves those of all faiths. It can help you deal with the natural grief process and offers an opportunity, through God, for turning your pain of loss into an experience of positive growth.

**For more information, contact: Victoria at 860-993-2384
or visit their website at: www.beginningexperience.org**