



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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Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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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):

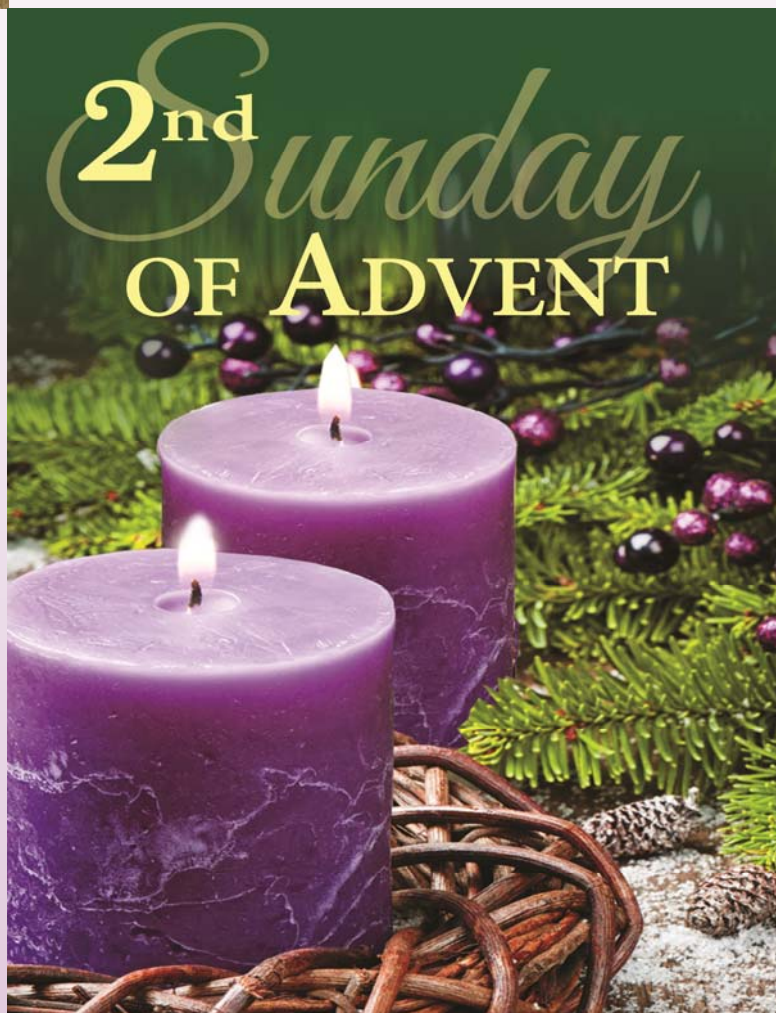
Call the Parish Office

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:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Mondays 9:30-10:30am

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

Chaplet: following daily Mass

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12 Noon



2nd Sunday of Advent

MONDAY, December 10

9:00 **Arthur Godbout, Sr.**, requested by
Arthur Godbout, Jr.

TUESDAY, December 11

9:00 **Connor Zieky**, requested by
the Savarese Family

WEDNESDAY, December 12

9:00 In celebration of the 50th Wedding
Anniversary of Luis & Virginia Fernandez

THURSDAY, December 13

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

FRIDAY, December 14

9:00 **Anna ZuWallack**, requested by
the ZuWallack Family

SATURDAY, December 15

4:00 **Robert Simon**, requested by a friend

SUNDAY, December 16

7:30 **T. Roger Entress**
9:30 **Special Intentions**
11:00 **Hyong-Seok Kim (5th Ann.)**, requested by
his daughter



Advent Reconciliation

Monday, December 17th

Confirmation Students: 6pm
Parish: 7pm

Give yourself the gift of forgiveness and peace as you
prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas.



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 10

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church
Youth Ministry Meeting: 6:30-8pm in Room 1

MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church.

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

Advent Series: 7:15pm in Rm. 3

Young Adult Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30pm (Activity Rm)

TUESDAY, December 11

RCIA (morning group): 9:30am in Room 3

RCIA (evening group): 7pm in Room 3

Social Justice Committee Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, December 12

Prophets Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 2/3

Acts Bible Study: 6:30pm in Room 3

THURSDAY, December 13

Advent Series: 9:30am in Room 3

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 14

Acts Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3 (check w/leader if meeting today)

SATURDAY, December 15

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, December 16

 **Parish Coffee:** after the 9:30am Mass in Fr. Bennett Hall
Sponsored by the St. Ann Men's Retreat Ministry

Advent Series: 10:30am in Room 3



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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Visit www.stannavon.org for full details. To register, contact Ann: ann.distefano@stannavon.com; 860-673-9858, x228

Grow in Faith with Friends

Form a Small Group with your friends/neighbors to explore your faith and deepen your friendships, at your pace and from the comfort of home. Materials and support are waiting for you!

Parenting with Purpose

"The video presenters are so relatable." "These are great tips not just to help me raise my kids, but to help me be a better person!" Come see what your peers are talking about!

Join us for our engaging video series on parenting on CCD Sundays at Avon Middle School, Room 228.

* 9am – "Sharing Faith" For K-4th Grade parents

Childcare for babies-preK is available at this session - sign up by Thurs prior with babysitters Lisa, lrg1010@comcast.net AND Paula, uconnloves@att.net

* 5:45pm – "Families of Character" for 5th-8th Grade parents

Young Adult Group

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of the month at 7:30pm in the Activity Room (beneath the left wing of the church). Unwind, connect and explore faith with other men, women and couples in their 20's and 30's.

Contact: Kylie Brasel, (860) 951-6211, kylie.brasel13@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook: St. Ann's Young Adult Group

Annual Toy/Gift Collection

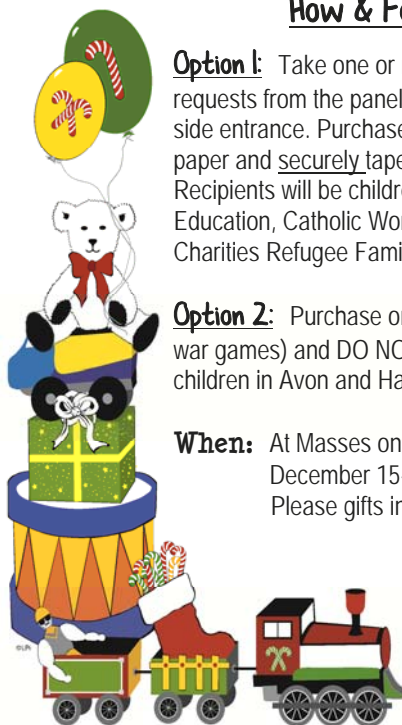
Weekend of December 15/16

How & For Whom:

Option 1: Take one or more paper Christmas gift requests from the panel in the Gathering Space or 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 15-16, 2018
Please gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall



God Bless You For Your Generosity

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

December 8/9 & December 15/16

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 the weekends of: Dec. 8/9 & 15/16.

WE HAVE OPLATEK
We will also be selling Oplatek,
Polish Christmas wafers,
during the plant sale.

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

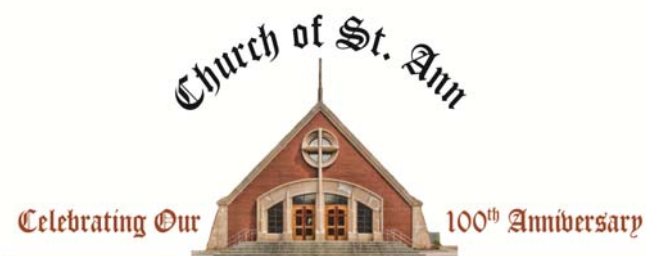
Please start looking for new warm socks, gloves, hats, cough drops, tissues, travel size toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and chapsticks that we can use to put together gift bags for the people who will spend Christmas at ImmaCare shelter. We are also hoping to help supply a shelter/apartment that assists women who are experiencing homelessness or have recently moved into an apartment. Most of the items needed are the same. Any sweatshirts - for men or women - are also needed and can be gently used as they will not be Christmas presents. Just leave any items in the church kitchen and please mark for ImmaCare.

Thanks to all of you not only cook or donate to the shelter throughout the year, but also to those who pray for these people to whom winter is so cruel. May your families enjoy a beautiful Christmas season, surrounded by love and joy.



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

December 2, 2018: \$ 7,482.71
Online Giving/Pmts (week ending 12/5/18): \$3,524.00
Next weekend's 2nd collection:
Monthly



2018 ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION

We'd like to thank all of those who have already made a donation to our 2018 Parish Annual Appeal. Unfortunately we are still behind our totals from last year so we ask that you please prayerfully consider making a donation to our Parish. Thank you!

*You can pick up a pledge form in the Gathering Space,
 Parish Office or print one out from our website:
www.stannavon.org*

The Men of the Church of Saint Ann are Invited to the

Annual Men's Retreat

January 18 - 20, 2019

At Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
 West Hartford

Join Us for a focus on

**"No Ordinary Path ...
 Holiness in Everyday Life"**

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

Call or Email your St. Ann Representatives:

Paul Watson 860-922-0812

(Pgwatson33@gmail.com)

Bob Yurch 860-675-1366 (byurch@fiainc.com)

December Bulletin Announcement Deadlines

*Due to the holidays and our bulletin publisher's early upload dates,
 please note the following bulletin announcement deadlines. Thanks!*

Sunday Bulletin:	Announcement Deadline:
December 23	Thursday, December 13th
December 30	Tuesday, December 18th
January 6, 2019	Friday, December 21st



***Live This Advent with
 Peace & Purpose!***

Drop in to our Advent Reflection Series anytime
 through December 20th

Groups are meeting at church in Room 3 on
 Sundays at 10:30am or Mondays at 7:15pm, or
 Thursdays at 9:30am. **All materials are provided!**

To register, please contact: 860-673-9858, x228
ann.distefano@stannavon.com

Coming to the Church of Saint Ann The Weekend of December 15/16.

Representatives from Catholic Bethlehem Christian Families will be with us on the weekend of Dec 15 & 16, 2018, 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
 pick up a gift for a loved one or
 yourself from the Holy Land!***



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school.

You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and
ransom captive Israel"*

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever. (Bar 5:1)

Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. (Ps 126)

Second Reading:

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:6)

Gospel:

"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Lk 3:5-6)

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

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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 9, 2018

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/
Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/
Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/
Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of?" Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and ? made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

Making straight the path of Christ is not only the vocation of John the Baptist but of every baptized believer. God desires to lead us with His mercy and justice. These are essentials in God's kingdom and some of the gifts Christ's future coming will bring. But our world's systems do not place emphasis on these values. Wanting greater profits, downsizing companies in order to reduce expenses, using others for personal or corporate gain, and valuing institutions over people are just a few of the "values" we encounter every day. We are called to straighten the path to Christ. In a world that places value on things that are counter to our call, how do we respond? We need to learn to discern what is of real value and then take the risk of bringing it into the marketplace.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

DAILY

ADVENT CHALLENGE

Light a candle, preferably on your Advent wreath if you have one, and reflect on what it means to have the light of Christ inside of you.

ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

[SUBMITTED BY PATRICK LAORDEN]



Advent Retreat for Young Adults
"No Ordinary Path: a Young Adult's Call to Holiness"

Sunday December, 9th 2018
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford
1:00-8:00pm
Offering: \$30 (includes dinner & Mass)

Join a vibrant group of young adults in exploring how we can live out our common call to holiness. We will examine the contemplative and active aspects of our faith and explore what holiness can resemble in young adults.

Register online at: www.holyfamilyretreat.org

This retreat is co-sponsored by the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry and Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center

AVON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PRESENTS

JOYS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

AT THE HISTORIC AVON MEETING HOUSE

Feast on four courses of traditional holiday fare while enjoying the joys of Christmas song and traditions.

Proceeds to benefit the restoration of Avon's Historical Meeting House on its 200th anniversary

December 14, 15 & 16

Fri 6:00 pm

Sat 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sun 2:00 pm

\$40 per person
(includes meal, glass of wine & entertainment)

6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
Catering by Bees Knees of Avon CT

Questions? Call 860-678-0488

Purchase reservations at
www.avon-church.org

Gather Together

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry in collaboration with The Underground CT is offering "Gather Together," a Connecticut human trafficking awareness event. It will be held Saturday, Jan. 12 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow St., in Manchester. Expert speakers will discuss the reality of trafficking in Connecticut, the work being done and how churches can help. To register, email theundergroundct@gmail.com. For more information, contact Lynn Campbell at 860-242-5573.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Light a spiritual fire in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 1-3, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT and Jul 12-14, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Pat & Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-315-2127 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.