

# 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

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

Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

## DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland: [deaconjeff@stannavon.com](mailto:deaconjeff@stannavon.com)

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## CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

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## RCIA DIRECTOR & LITURGY COORDINATOR

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

## PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 [kris.martino@stannavon.com](mailto:kris.martino@stannavon.com)

## CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Meredith Springer: [meredith.springer@stannavon.com](mailto:meredith.springer@stannavon.com)

## BAPTISMS:

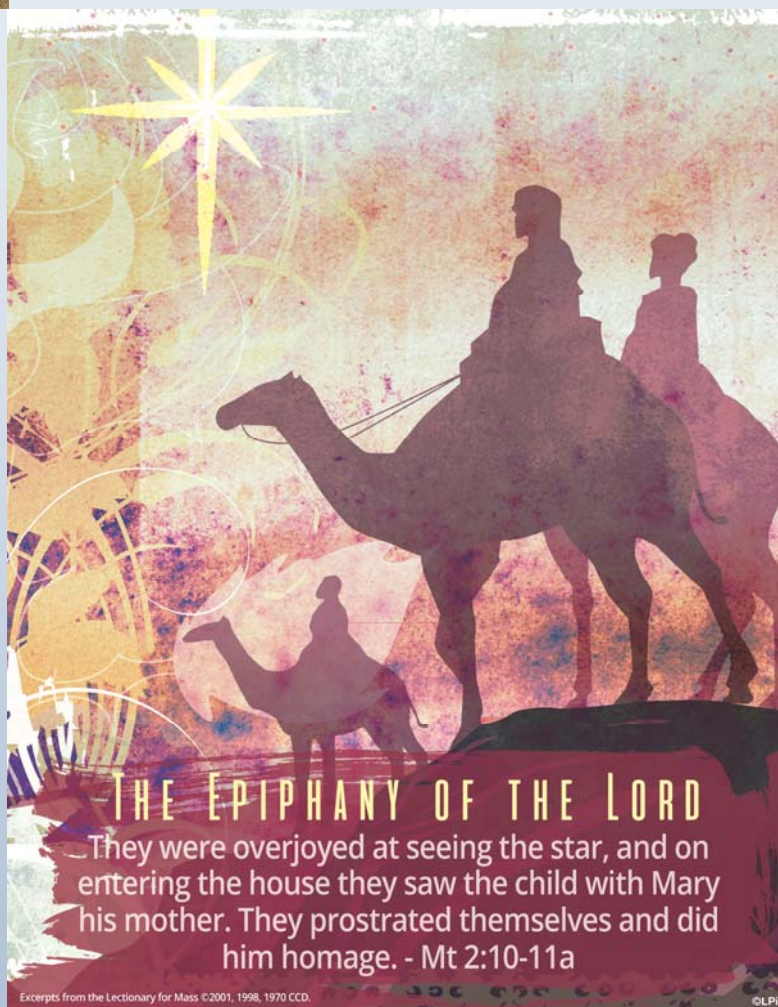
Registered parishioners call the Parish Office

## 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

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tues.- Fri.

9:30-9:40am in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12noon



## Epiphany of the Lord

### MONDAY, January 6

9:00 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on Earth

### TUESDAY, January 7

9:00 Nunzio Calafiore, requested by  
Maria Comare Burgio

### WEDNESDAY, January 8

9:00 Nunzio Calafiore, requested by  
Paul & Fina Burgio

### THURSDAY, January 9

9:00 John Pappalardo, requested by  
Joe, Inez and David Faillace

### FRIDAY, January 10

9:00 Janice Maillet Lonabough, requested by  
Ida and Ron Maillet

### SATURDAY, January 11

4:00 Fr. Maynard Kearns, requested by  
his sister, Julie

### SUNDAY, January 12

7:30 Anastasia Kalvoda, requested a friend  
9:30 Edward J. Janiszewski, Sr., requested by  
the St. Ann Music Ministry  
11:00 Doris Stockton, requested by  
the St. Ann Combined Choirs



*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 6

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church  
MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church .

*All are welcome! (Enter through door on the left side of the church)*

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall  
Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures: 7:15pm in Rm. 3

### TUESDAY, January 7

RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

### WEDNESDAY, January 8

Walking with Purpose: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

### THURSDAY, January 9

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church  
Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft  
Video Series/Relativism: 7pm in Room 3  
Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

### FRIDAY, January 10

Video Series/Relativism: 9:30am in Room 3

### SATURDAY, January 11

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

### SUNDAY, January 12

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

*The Men and Women of the Church of Saint Ann  
are Invited to a retreat at Holy Family Passionist  
Retreat Center in West Hartford*

## Annual Women's Retreat

January 10 - 12, 2020

## Annual Men's Retreat

January 17 - 19, 2020

*Join Us for a focus on*

**"Our Deepest Longing"**

*We spend our time and energy on the necessities of  
everyday life, which hold so many things that are beyond our  
control. But what is it that we are longing for in the deepest  
way? We will explore that deep longing planted inside us by  
God – a longing for peace, for wholeness, and for relationships  
that bring us joy and lift us up.*

*Our Retreat begins with dinner Friday night at 6pm and  
concludes with Brunch at 11:00am on Sunday*

*For more information go to the Holy Family Retreat  
Center website: <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>*

### Call or Email your St. Ann Representatives:

**Women:** Nancy Janiszewski at 860-818-9260  
Eileen DiMauro at 860-930-3046.

**Men:** Paul Watson 860-922-0812 (Pgwatson33@gmail.com)  
Bob Yurch 860-675-1366 (byurch@fiainc.com)



## Women of St. Ann's

ARE YOU READY TO WALK WITH PURPOSE, AND BE

**FEARLESS & FREE**

PLEASE JOIN US TO CONNECT,  
SHARE & BECOME CLOSER TO GOD.

Begin 2020, with friendship.



WHILE BEING WRAPPED IN THE  
EMBRACE OF THE ONE WHO  
LOVES US ALL COMPLETELY.

Wednesdays: Jan 8-Feb 19 at 7-8:30PM

Cost: \$35 includes book

Please contact

wendyarcher@comcast.net to register

## Church of St. Ann's Annual Used Book Sale

January 17 - 19, 2020



### Donation Dates:

Wednesday, January 15th: 9:30am—6pm

Thursday, January 16th: 9:30am - 6pm

Friday, January 17th: 9:30am - 11:30am

**Please donate books:** best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, religious, classics, biographies, memoirs, self-help books, vintage books, cookbooks, children's books, young readers, books-on-CD, etc., and vinyl records.

### January 2019 Book Sale Dates:

Friday, January 17th: 5pm - 7:30pm (\$5 adult admission)

Saturday, January 18th: 9am - 6pm (no admission fee)

Sunday, January 19th: 8am—12:45pm (no admission fee)

### Volunteers are needed for collection & sale week

To volunteer at the January 2020 Book Sale, please contact  
Nancy Casey 860.673.3141 Thank you!

*Proceeds go towards the St. Ann Scholarship fund which donates  
partial tuition scholarship to deserving urban students  
attending local Catholic High Schools*



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, January 6, 2020

7-8:30pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

*Come be a part of our ministry!*

All are welcome

...including brand new knitters!

For more information call Tina:

860-674-1541



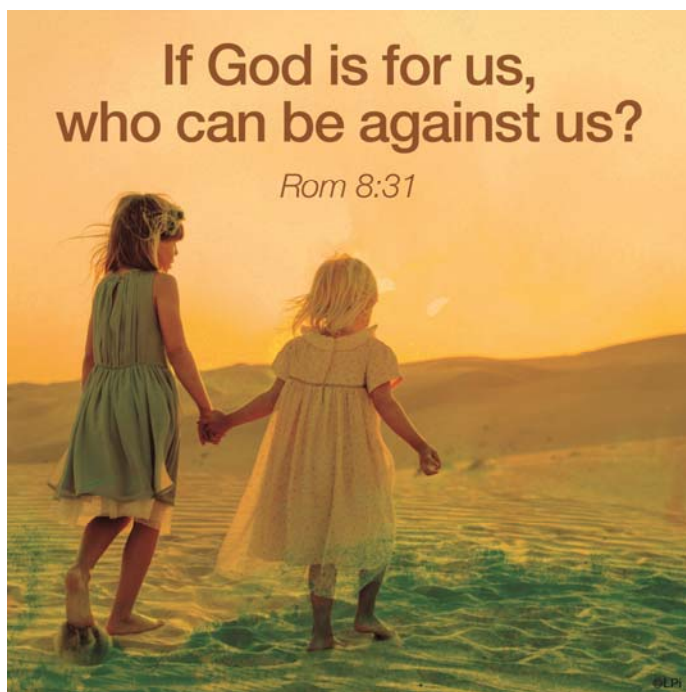
## Do You Know Anyone Who Could Use the Comfort of a Prayer Shawl?

St. Ann's Prayer Shawl Ministry has shawls available!  
If you know of someone who is going through an illness or  
time of need and feel a prayer shawl will  
lift their spirits or provide comfort,  
please contact Tina Dibble,  
860-674-1541, to pick one up.  
In addition, we have a few lap robes,  
which are ideally suited for someone  
who is wheelchair bound.



If God is for us,  
who can be against us?

Rom 8:31



## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

**December 22, 2019: \$7,734.14**

**December 29, 2019:** not available at time of upload

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

## 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.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

**Question:**

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men...who were they?

**Answer:**

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men magoi. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts "from afar" at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.

-LPi

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## ADULT CONFIRMATION - Unlock the Power of the Spirit in Your Life!

Are you an ADULT CATHOLIC who has been baptized and received First Communion, but were NEVER CONFIRMED? We're delighted to offer an 8-week preparation program here at St. Ann's for you, leading to your receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 5, 2020 at 7pm at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford.

**WHEN:** Thursdays, Feb 13-Apr 2; 7-8:30pm

**WHERE:** Room 3, lower level of Fr Bennett Hall

**FACILITATOR:** Deacon Jeff Sutherland

**TO REGISTER:** Contact [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto:ann.distefano@stannavon.com); 860-673-9858, x228

## Parents: Tired of Small Talk? Try ALPHA!

January 5th at Avon Middle School

(while children are in class, both AM & PM sessions)

Childcare provided at morning session



\*To register for childcare, contact Lisa Giarratana by the Thursday prior to the session: [lrg1010@comcast.net](mailto:lrg1010@comcast.net); 860-471-3776.

## Video Series:

*"Who am I to Judge - Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love"*

Beginning the week of January 6, join us for this 5-week video series so appropriate for our times. Learn how Catholic morality is all about love, how making a judgment is not judging a person's soul, and how, in the words of Pope Francis, "relativism wounds people." Gain greater confidence in God's moral law, greater clarity in how to explain it effectively to our secular friends, and greater compassion for those with whom we disagree.

Register ASAP with Ann DiStefano (see bulletin front) for one of the following sessions:

**Thursdays, 7-9pm, Room 3**

**Fridays, 9:30-11:30am, Room 3**



## HEARTS & SOULS

Ministering to body, mind and spirit, the Health Ministry offers blood pressure screening, health counseling and referrals to our community of faith. **Upcoming Office Hours: Sunday, January 12th from 8:15-11am in the Sacristy** ( 2<sup>nd</sup> door on the left as you enter the vestibule of the church). No appointment necessary.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

### Penances and Prayers

God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight  
under the rafters of a barn:

Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay,

And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.\*

When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem,

"Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet.

Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries

Come after with our penances and prayers,

And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay

Beside the wise men's golden jars.\*

\*Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

## QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*Our heart is restless,  
until it rests in you*  
-St. Augustine

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:6)

### Gospel:

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Mt 2:11b)

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

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## WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of January 5, 2020

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/

Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-1

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/

Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/

Mt 3:13-17

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We may walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn't coming for them, not in the minds of Jesus' contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they'd never met, one they couldn't be sure truly existed. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Who do you know seeks God so tenaciously?

"Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem," the Gospel tells us. Who are the seekers in your own life? Maybe it's your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or your desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they're not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. But they may well be seekers of truth in ways we didn't expect. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give directions when appropriate.

The magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God's truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself, "God, do I know you as well as I should? Would I journey as far as the magi to meet You, if I could? Do I journey to meet You daily in prayer? What do those answer say about me, and about our relationship?" Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be "overjoyed" at seeing the Light of the World.

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## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

Have you ever experienced a time in your life when everything came together and became abundantly clear? You may have been confused about something, in the dark, at a point of doubt, or unclear as to how to act. You may have questioned someone's motivation and found yourself coming to the wrong conclusion. Then out of nowhere, the insight came and reality dawned. You experienced an epiphany of sorts! Today, we celebrate Christ's manifestation to all of the nations of the world. Has it dawned on you yet that Jesus Christ is the answer humanity has been seeking? Jesus is truly the beginning and end of all things and the key to understanding God's presence in every human heart. Once this real Epiphany dawns on us, we can never see God, ourselves, or one another in any other way. The Divine Light illumines everything and connects the dots.

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## THE BULLETIN BOARD

### THE HOLY MASS: DID YOU KNOW?

Please see  
**"THE VEIL REMOVED"**  
film at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOLZDaTglaM>

### Retrovaille Weekend for Troubled Marriages

If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring, even if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, the Retrouvaille program can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to: communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly, and re-discover why you fell in love.

The next upcoming weekend is January 17-19, 2020.

For information, call 1-800-470-2230, or  
email [cherylandsteve@cox.net](mailto:cherylandsteve@cox.net),  
or visit our website [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

### "The ABCs of Annulment"

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal  
Bloomfield, CT

The Rev. Daniel Keefe, pastor of St John Bosco Parish at 731 Main St, Branford, in collaboration with V. Rev. George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar from the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, will host "The ABCs of Annulment" on Friday of January 10 from 7-9 PM in the St Mary's Church Hall. An updating of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as updates made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be discussed by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, Deacon George Frederick and Jim Tottenham who make up the Annulment Team. Team members also include two Spanish speaking members - Lisandra Martinez and Marian Guzman. They will help participants in writing their application in the follow-up workshop on Fridays - January 17, 24 from 7-9 P.M., also in the church hall.

The "ABCs of Annulment" event is open to all.  
Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials.

No registration is required.  
For further information call  
Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at:  
[larlus300@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larlus300@sbcglobal.net).



GIVE GOD  
YOUR WEAKNESS,  
& HE'LL GIVE YOU  
STRENGTH

### Archdiocesan Marriage Enrichment Celebration

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life will hold its 13th annual marriage enrichment evening on Sat., Feb. 1, 2020, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Mary Our Queen Church and Parish Center, 248 Savage St., Plantsville, CT. This year's program will begin with Mass, include dinner, prayer, reflection, and fun centered on the theme: *"The Name is Bond... Marriage Bond: The Agents of Unity in Sacramental Marriage."* The cost is \$25.00 per couple and includes dinner. To register or obtain more information, contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-302-1110, or email to [tfinnphd@gmail.com](mailto:tfinnphd@gmail.com). Please R.S.V.P. by Jan. 28, 2020.