



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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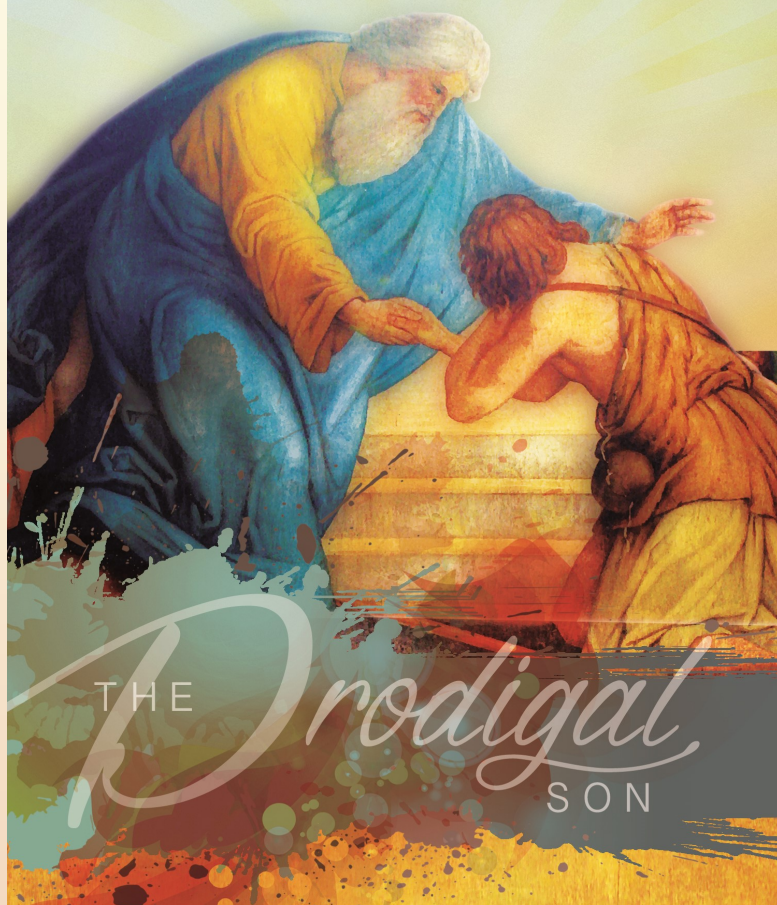
MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Chip Janiszewski: chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext.225

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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

MASS INTENTIONS



Fourth Sunday of Lent

MONDAY, March 15

9:00 Angie and Frank Scalzo, requested by
the Pizzuti Family

TUESDAY, March 16

9:00 Special Intentions

WEDNESDAY, March 17

9:00 Mary Melanson, requested by members of the
MMP Cenacle

THURSDAY, March 18

9:00 The deceased members of the Liptak Family,
requested by the Bondhus Family

FRIDAY, March 19

9:00 Gerri Cantilena requested by
the Angelina Family

SATURDAY, March 20

4:00 Claude Maillet, requested by the Maillet Family

SUNDAY, March 21

7:30 In honor of Ida Maillet and in memory of Oscar
Maillet, requested by the Maillet Family

9:30 For the health of Jolanta Nizanska (Living),
requested by the Osiecki Family

11:00 Christine Bielefeld Dewhurst, requested by
the family



STATIONS
OF THE
CROSS

Fridays during Lent:
7:00pm

Reminder:

There are no Monday evening confessions
this Lent per the Archdiocese of Hartford.



CEMETERY CLEANUP

Please remove all Christmas
decorations by Palm Sunday
(3/28/21). They will be thrown
away after that prior to Easter.
Thank You!



*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

MONDAY, March 15

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church
MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church
Lenten Reflection Series: 7:15pm via Zoom*

TUESDAY, March 16

Walking with Purpose: 10am -via Zoom
RCIA: 7:15pm via Zoom*

WEDNESDAY, March 17

Wednesday Morning Study Group: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall
Unemployment Support: 3-5pm -via Zoom *
Walking with Purpose: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

THURSDAY, March 18

The Bible Timeline: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall & via Zoom
Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church
Adult Confirmation: 7pm via Zoom*

FRIDAY, March 19

Lenten Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom*
Stations of the Cross: 7pm

SATURDAY, March 20

SUNDAY, March 21

Lenten Reflection Series: 10:30am via Zoom*

Face masks & social distancing required at all times!

* Zoom Instructions are on our website, under the COVID-19 tab.

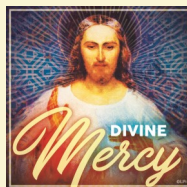


Join us on Palm Sunday when we welcome
**The Most Reverend Juan Miguel
Betancourt, SEMV**, Auxiliary Bishop of the
Archdiocese of Hartford, who will be
celebrating our 9:30am Mass that Sunday.

Divine Mercy Holy Hour

March 14, 2021

2:30 - 3:30pm



Our Lord told St. Faustina, "For the soul that trusts much will be
given." Please join us as we place our trust in Jesus!

Annual Easter Plant Sale

Our annual Easter plant sale will still take place this year and due to the continuing pandemic will be handled like our Poinsettia Sale last December. Forms will be available in the Gathering Space or can be downloaded from our website (stannavon.org - look under "Lent 2021" tab). Place your forms and payment in a sealed envelope, marked "Easter Plant Sale" and then either drop into an Offertory baskets at church or drop off at the Parish Office. You may also mail it to the church.

New This year!

If you'd like to pay by credit card or via your bank account you can do so using the link on our website at: stannavon.org/easter-plant-sale. This is a singular form/payment, no need to sign up for Online Giving.

Note:

Forms must be received no later than Thursday, March 25 for your loved ones' names to be included in the Easter bulletin.



Stop & Shop/Simsbury Bloomin' For Good to benefit the St. Ann Food Pantry Garden!

From February 26th through the month of March, the Church of Saint Ann Food Pantry Garden has been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every \$9.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker (pictured above) sold at the store located at 498 Bushy Hill Road, Simsbury.

LENT

REMEMBERING HIS SACRIFICE

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Corporal Works of Mercy 2021

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 13/14, Clothe the Naked*

Collection of clothing items for Hartford Catholic Worker Youth Outreach.

Next Weekend: *March 20/21 Visit Those in Prison*

Please help fund religious periodicals that are distributed to incarcerated persons in CT. These periodicals (Word Among Us) enrich faith, and the recipients are very grateful.



Unemployment Support 3-5pm on Wednesdays via Zoom

A weekly, virtual networking meeting to share your experiences coping with job loss to help everyone navigate the transition back to employment. If you prefer more anonymity you may call (646) 558-8656 and use meeting code 3671752517.

For more information: BrianJud@comcast.net

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3671572517> *

(Zoom tutorial on our website under Covid-19 tab)

Upcoming discussion topics:

Mar 17: Concentration

Mercy Friday

On March 19th, the feast day of Saint Joseph, join men, women, and children around the Archdiocese of Hartford in performing works of mercy.



archdioceseofhartford.org/mercyfriday

On Friday, March 19th, the Archdiocese of Hartford asks the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Hartford to observe a "Mercy Friday" by engaging in any of the corporal and/or spiritual works of mercy that might be possible at this time.

Here at the Church of St. Ann we engage in the Corporal Works of Mercy every weekend during Lent. That weekend our Corporal Work of Mercy is "Visit Those in Prison", for which there will be a collection that will be used to purchase religious periodicals to be distributed to incarcerated persons in Connecticut. We suggest either helping out that collection or engaging in any other corporal or spiritual works of mercy that you choose.

You can find out more information by going to: archdioceseofhartford.org/mercyfriday where you can also enter in what work/s of mercy you plan to do!

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection: 3/7/21: \$8,196.03

For those attending Mass, we have placed Offertory baskets placed within the church. For others, if possible, please consider continuing to support St. Ann via U.S. Mail or Online Giving (via our website) during these challenging times. Thank You!

Online Giving (March 3-10, 2021): \$3,392.00

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: Monthly

Dear St. Ann Parishioners,

Thank you for your donations of diapers and wipes from your "Hugs from the Heart" campaign to Two Hearts Pregnancy Center. Gifts such as yours, as well as the prayers and financial assistance of our generous donors, enable us to continue to provide care and support for God's precious children and to fulfill the mission work of Two Hearts.

Every mother and child who visits the center will be touched by your grace, prayers, and generosity. Please know that your gift is truly appreciated and is a blessing to our clients.

Please remember Two Hearts and their clients in your prayers, and may God bless you and your family.

*In His Love and Service,
Lynn Reynolds,
Executive Director*



Reaching Out, Healing Together

2021 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The 2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal has begun in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese. Last week was the Appeal Kick-off; I hope you have all received a request for support from Archbishop Blair. Please be as generous as your means permit to fund the charitable works of our Archdiocese.

Our goal is to engage our entire parish family in this year's Appeal. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, both here in our parish and across the three counties of the Archdiocese.

If you did not receive the 2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal request mailing, please pick up a packet at the rear of Church as you leave today.



The Holy Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

Imitate the saints! This is an invitation to each of us. It was emphasized in the teaching of Vatican II. We are each called to become a saint. Father Lukas Etlin explains in his booklet, "The Holy Eucharist Our All", that we accomplish this by nourishing a great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. By placing all of our cares, hopes and fears before Our Lord, we grow in our love for Him and for each other.

Reflection: Our social relationships need personal interactions in order to grow and blossom. If we do not spend time with a loved one or friend and if we neglect them, our relationship withers and fades. It is the same with our relationship with God. When was the last time you spent quiet time after reception of Holy Communion to actually talk with Our Lord? When was the last time you took moments out of your busy day to talk with Him in prayer?

Please join us each week as we probe the depths of this Sacrament of Sacraments.

Dear Parishioners,

This year there will be 45 candidates receiving the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist. They will be receiving their First Reconciliation on April 24, 2021, and are preparing for reception of the Blessed Sacrament in the Spring. We will be putting out the "Little Lambs" in the near future so that you can pray for all candidates as they prepare for their sacrament.

Due to ongoing 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 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

Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You're still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you're ready to give.

I've said it, and I'm sure you've said it, too. "Just five more minutes." You hit the "snooze" button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there's no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we're getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the "snooze" button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.

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SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. (2 Chr 36:19)

Psalm:

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Ps 137)

Second Reading:

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. (Eph 2:10)

Gospel:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/
Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6
[1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/
Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/
Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,
7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

Guidelines and Sign-Up Information for Attending Mass In Person



Guidelines from the Archdiocese of Hartford

- Face masks/coverings required.
- Please bring hand sanitizer for use during the liturgy.
- There will be limits on the number of socially distanced persons that may be present at a given Mass. We are currently limiting seating to 125. Please sign up for weekend Masses. (see below)
- Dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation has been extended through May 23, 2021, so the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, even those who are anxious need not be concerned if they miss Mass. Continue to watch from home.

You can find more information about attending Mass in person and the links to sign up for Masses on our website: stannavon.org/mass-times.

If you aren't able to sign up online, please call the Parish Office and let Kris know your name, phone #, the Mass date & time, and number attending and she will do it for you.

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.



Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone Virtual!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

"His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me." Do we have zeal to honor God through our marriage? The next virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences are

Friday/Saturday/Sunday March 19-21
Thursdays/Mondays April 8-29

VIRTUAL ABC's OF ANNULMENT

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield

Father John Dietrich, Pastor of Saint Matthews Parish at 20 Church Avenue, Forestville, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar from the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, will host the second Virtual "The ABCs of Annulment" on Saturday of March 20th, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on ZOOM. An updating of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as updates made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be discussed by Brother Larry Lussier C.S.C., and Jim Tottenham, of the Annulment Team. Included will be a complete review of the Archdiocesan Application Form or Petition. The "ABCs of Annulment" event is open to all. Registration (below) is required so that we can email the details of the meeting. Potential applicants also need to download the application form from the Archdiocesan Website by clicking here (also available in Spanish here). After the workshop, participants can sign up for one-on-one virtual assistance at their convenience with Br. Larry Lussier, at 475-221-8464, or James Tottenham, at 203-859-4195. For further information call Br. Larry at 475-221-8464 or email him at larlus300@sbcglobal.net.

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cccatholic.org

Help Stop State Sponsored Suicide

The Connecticut General Assembly is considering legalizing a form of suicide in our state commonly referred to as "aid-in-dying" or "physician-assisted suicide". The legislation is House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients".

Modern hospice care and the proper use of pain medications render suicide unnecessary, and we need to be mindful of the threat that a suicide mentality poses to vulnerable people and to people with disabilities

Many people believe that a physician is deeply involved in this process. This not true. The physician orders the mixture of medications, the patient must then orally consume the deadly cocktail of drugs without assistance. Many times without even a physician or nurse present.

We should never allow legislators to establish suicide as a solution to medical issues.

Catholic teaching condemns physician-assisted suicide because it, like murder, involves taking an innocent human life:

Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder. The Church's tradition has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice: To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested. Saint Augustine writes that "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it." True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear. (John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, no. 66).

TAKE ACTION:

Go to the website below, **read more on the issue** and then sign the petition to stop the legalization of assisted suicide in Connecticut

www.ctstopsuicide.org

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