

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

DEACONS Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER Russell Koch: russ.koch@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K - 8) Valerie St. Jean, MPS: ext. 223 valerie.stjean@stannavon.com

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR Rosemary Neamtz, MSW: ext. 226 rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com

REGISTRAR & CONFIRMATION ASSISTANT Jennifer Soucy, CPA: ext.227 jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION Ann DiStefano, MPS: ext. 228 ann.distefano@stannavon.com

> DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Tom Stockton: ext. 230

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER Kris Martino: ext. 221 kris.martino@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Kerry Magrini: kerry.magrini@stannavon.com

MINISTRIES COORDINATOR Chip Janiszewski: chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com

LITURGY COORDINATOR Eva Kaminski: me2kaminski@sbcglobal.net

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.

Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

860-673-9858

Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor www.stannavon.org



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

November 28, 2021







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

MONDAY, November 29

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church Advent Reflection Series: 7:15pm in Room 3 & via Zoom

<u>TUESDAY, November 30</u>

"Keeping in Balance" Women's Study: 10:15am via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, December 1

The Lives of Great Christians Series: will return next week "Keeping in Balance" Women's Study: 7pm in Fr. Bennet Hall

THURSDAY, December 2 Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church "Matthew" Bible Study: 7pm in the Activity Room and via Zoom

FRIDAY, December 3 Advent Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, December 4

SUNDAY, December 5 Advent Reflection Series: 10:30am in Rm. 3 and via Zoom

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MONDAY, November 29

9:00 Special Intention, requested by Dianne Simpson

TUESDAY, November 309:00 Frank Scalzo, requested by the Plzzuti Family

WEDNESDAY, December 1

- **9:00** Jan Mikolaj Milakowski, requested by the Osiecki Family
- THURSDAY, December 2 9:00 Desmond O'Neill, requested by Lise O'Neill
- FRIDAY, December 3
- 9:00 Marion Zalenski, requested by the ZuWallack Family

SATURDAY, December 4

4:00 Barbara Martino, requested by Ann and Brian Beloin and Family

SUNDAY, December 5

- 7:30 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Diveine Will on Earth, requested by Judith Stafford & David Woolley
- 9:30 Barbara Martino, requested by the Knights of Columbus
- 11:00 Irene Wu requested by Mr. & Mrs. Sal Sequenzia

To schedule a Mass Intention, please call or email Kris in the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext. 221 or kris.martino@stannavon.com.



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 11/21/21: will be reported later Online Giving (Nov.15-19, 2021): \$877.00 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: Avon Special Needs





Are you searching for Peace, Meaning & Belonging?

A relationship with God through the Catholic Church can give you that, and more.

We'd love to talk with you about it in person, or by phone. No pressure; just friendly, open conversation, one-on-one.

Contact: ann.distefano@stannavon.com

Church of St. Ann + Avon, CT

HEARTS OF Jove & Jumility Constant Annual Constants



AN INSPIRING NEW SERIES ON WEDNESDAYS 9:30 am Fr. Bennett Hall

Taken from <u>The Great Courses</u> program, "THE LIVES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS" and from <u>Bishop Barron's Word On Fire</u> program, "PIVOTAL PLAYERS," this series offers an interesting look at the lives of a few important Saints. The focus is on the way they lived their lives, providing us with insights on how to become a better Christian.

DECEMBER 1: St. Francis of Assisi St. Clare of Assisi

DECEMBER 8: St. Catherine of Siena (1 hour)

DECEMBER 15: (1 hour) St. John Henry Newman

> NO NEED TO REGISTER DROP IN FOR JUST ONE OR FOR ALL SESSIONS For questions call Janet Newman at: 860-573-3446 or email: wjnewman@sbcglobal.net

Annual Parish Collection Church of Saint Ann

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by those who have already contributed towards our 2021 Annual Parish Collection. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Donate online via our website: www.stannavon.com. Pledge forms available in Parish Office or on our website.

Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated. Thank you.



The Holy Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

Advent begins today. When we receive the Holy Eucharist, Christ is giving Himself to us. He comes with the same profound depth of humility as He did at the Incarnation. Have you ever pondered how much it cost Our Lord just to leave the glory of Heaven and become man to redeem us?

<u>Reflection:</u> Recall as St. Augustine said that "Jesus took His flesh from the flesh of Mary." The purpose of the Incarnation is our salvation. Only with Our Lady's free consent, did she conceive Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, that same flesh of Our Lady is present as we receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of her Divine Son. We owe Our Blessed Mother much gratitude, devotion, and love. Why not dedicate this Advent's preparation for Christmas "to Jesus through Mary"? She always leads us more perfectly into union with her Son.

Maximize Your Year-End Gifts

Fall is traditionally when we think about making gifts to support our favorite charities, like the Church of Saint Ann. There are many options for tax-effective giving both for those who can continue to itemize their deductions and for those who will no longer itemize.

Making your gift from your IRA

If you are 70.5 or older, you can make qualified charitable distributions (QCD's) directly from individual retirement accounts (IRS's) using funds that might otherwise be taxed when withdrawn. Gifts can be made in any amount up to a total of \$100,000 per individual per year. The benefits of a QCD are reduced for those who continue to make deductible IRA contributions.

Because you are giving directly from your IRA, you won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your social security or other income to higher levels of taxation. These tax-free gifts are particularly wise for those who no longer itemize deductions for income tax purposes. Consult your financial or tax advisor for more information.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunk-enness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."

So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/
	Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday:	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	ls 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/
	Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next 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

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. (Jer 33:15)

Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

Strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. (1 Thes 3:13)

Gospel:

Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. (Lk 21:28)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK Live the Liturgy

Any human success requires vigilance. Opportunities and powerful moments of encounter can easily be missed when we are not attentive. It is all too easy today to live distracted and preoccupied lives. There is so much vying for our attention that it can be hard to be selective and really focus. Caught up in this whirlwind of busyness and anxiety, we become tired and almost sleepwalk through life. Advent is a time to selectively focus. These beautiful four short weeks are a time to look backward and forward and be attentive to the human journey and God's revelation. From the beginning of time, God has been seeking our attention. He constantly reminds us of the justice he desires to bring and the promise of his abiding unconditional love. Understanding and growing in these truths requires alertness so that we can be strengthened in our faith and prepared for whatever will come.

©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleep-walking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

©LPi

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. 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

"Go your way; your faith has saved you." Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

Avon Ongregational Hurch

JOYS OF THE HRISTMAS SEASON

AT THE HISTORIC AVON MEETING HOUSE

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

December 17 & 18

Friday 6:30 pm Saturday 6:30 pm \$40 per person (includes meal, glass of wine & entertainment)

6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001 Catering by A Perfect Thyme

Questions? Call 860-678-0488 Purchase reservations at www.avon-church.org



St. Mary's School is now enrolling for the 2022–23 school year for Full Day Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Schedule your personal tour today and come learn more about the difference a Catholic education can make in your child's life.



St. Paul Catholic High School Annual Frosty Falcon 5K

St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol will host its 11th Annual Frosty Falcon 5K in memory of Michael Walsh '07; on Saturday, December 4, 2021. This run/walk is in memory of Michael Walsh who was an avid runner on the cross-country team and graduated from St. Paul in 2007. Proceeds from this run/walk will support students furthering their higher education. This is a community-wide event and all are encouraged to join the fun this year as we add a Holiday twist! Festive attire is encouraged! The entry fee for the Frosty Falcon 5K run/walk is \$25. Visit <u>www.spchs.com/frostyfun</u> for more information or to register online.







Ad info, 1-800-477-4574 + Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 + www.4lpi.com

St. Ann. Avon. CT