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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.

# 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

9:00

9:00

9:00

9:00

9:00

4:00

7:30

9:30

11:00

December 5, 2021



**Special Intention** 

**Special Intention** 

& David Woolley

**Special Intention** 

For Divine Love, Divine Peace and Divine Will

on Earth, requested by Judith Stafford

Oscar Maillet, requested by the family

Derek Stockwell, requested by the family

Earth, requested by Judith Stafford &

**Dr. Thomas Boylan,** requested by

For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on

Bill & Terry & Patrick Roderick, requested by

**MONDAY, December 6** 

**TUESDAY**, December 7

WEDNESDAY, December 8

**THURSDAY**, December 9

FRIDAY, December 10

SATURDAY, December 11

SUNDAY, December 12

David Woolley

Tom and Pat Heavren

Ann & Brian Beloin

2nd Sunday of Advent



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, December 6

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

TUESDAY, December 7

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

## WEDNESDAY, December 8

The Lives of Great Christians Series: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall "Keeping in Balance" Women's Study: 7pm in Fr. Bennet Hall

THURSDAY, December 9 Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church "Matthew" Bible Study: 7pm in the Activity Room and via Zoom

FRIDAY, December 10 Advent Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom

## SATURDAY, December 11

SUNDAY, December 12 Advent Reflection Series: 10:30am in Rm. 3 and via Zoom Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 2:30pm in the church

> \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting date rescheduled to Mon., Dec.13th.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION \* 0/ ///////\*/

Immaculate Conception of Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 8th

Masses will be at: 9:00 am 12:10 pm 7:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

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Next Sunday, December 12th

2:30-3:30pm in the church



Please join us for this powerful devotion!

## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 11/21/21: \$6,345.00 Weekly Collection for 11/28/21: \$4,568.75 Online Giving (Nov.19-Dec. 1, 2021): \$6,361 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *Retired Religious Fund* 



# Youth Ministry POINSETTIA SALE



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 after Masses in the Gathering Space on the weekends of: December 4/5 & 11/12.

On our website you can download a form to print and return completed with payment. There is also an option to order/pay online: www.stannavon.org/poinsettia-orders



We will also be selling Oplatek, Polish Christmas wafers, in the Gathering Space after Masses on December 4/5 and December 11/12J

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

Once again we will be putting together Christmas gift bags for the men at ImmaCare shelter. The bags not only have needed supplies and warm



clothes, but also the message that we care at a time when it's easy to feel very alone.

We are requesting socks (warm or athletic), hats, scarves and gloves . Would also like to add large bars of soap and tubes of Toothpaste. Gift cards are always welcome!

Please drop off in the kitchen by Dec 14th. Thanks for your continued support of ImmaCare and know the shelter guests send their best wishes for a blessed Christmas!

## HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE

Receive the Gifts of Advent

## **Advent Reflection Series**

Stay centered and peace-filled this season

## November 28<sup>th</sup> - December 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Room 3 and Via Zoom

- Sundays @ 10:30 am
- · Mondays @ 7:15 pm
- Fridays @ 9:45 am

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Small Group! Materials provided.

Or, form your own

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## Video, discussion & prayer

#### Register: ann.distefano@stannavon.com

## 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</u> <u>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 8:** St. Catherine of Siena (1 hour) **DECEMBER 15:** (1 hr) 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





As we continue our Advent journey towards the precious gift of the Birth of Christ, the words of St. Angela of Foligno come to mind. "The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the GIFT of gifts and the GRACE of graces." There is no closer union possible between God and man on this Earth than the gift of the Incarnation. Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, willingly takes upon Himself our human nature.

<u>Reflection:</u> The entire purpose of the Incarnation is our salvation. This is the reason why Jesus came into the world. God has created us for the eternal joy of Heaven. To attain Heaven is to be a saint. When you receive Jesus in Holy Communion, why not ask Him to make you a saint? The frequent, reverent reception of the Holy Eucharist is the surest path to sanctity. Leon Bloy, a French author and convert wrote, "The only tragedy in life is not to be a saint."

Thank You for Your Generosity!

With joyful gratitude, the recipients of our Turkey & Fixin's collection received your bountiful donations. Additionally the gift cards and cash were plentiful for most needed items.

Your never failing kind hearted generosity and support is sincerely appreciated! Thank you also to the families who assisted for several hours at the Turkey Express truck!

Together we serve all God's people!

<u>Totals:</u> 224 turkeys, 4 hams

and a ton of fixin's!



## **Early Bulletin Submission Deadlines**

Due to the bulletin publisher's early upload schedule for bulletins throughout the month of December, please adhere to the following submission deadlines: (for the weekend of Dec. 12th, please no later than later than Sunday, Dec. 5th, as the bulletin needs to be uploaded on Dec. 7th). Thank you!

For this weekend's bulletin:	The bulletin submission deadline is:
December 18/19	Wednesday, December 8th
December 25/26	Tuesday, December 14th
January 1/2	Sunday, December 19th





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.

# Annual Toy/Gift Collection

## Weekend of December 11/12, 2021

#### 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 <u>securely tape the</u> identifying tag to the gift. Recipients will be children and families at Family Life Education, Catholic Worker House and Catholic Charities new citizen families.

## **Option 2:**

Purchase one or more gifts (please, no war games) **DO NOT WRAP.** Recipients will be children in Avon & Hartford.

## Drop Off:

Please place gifts on tables at far end of Fr. Bennett Hall the weekend of December 11-12. **If you are going away:** Please leave gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall.

> God Bless You For Your Generosity! Sponsored by: St. Ann's Social Justice Ministry

## DECEMBER 5, 2021 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP** Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

#### God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

## WEEKLY READINGS

#### Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

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 [cf. Is 35:4f]/
·	Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/
•	Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/
	Lk 1:26-38
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 [cf. 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/ls12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
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## SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading:

For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. (Bar 5:4)

#### Psalm:

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

#### Second Reading:

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. (Phil 1:9-10)

#### Gospel:

The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Mk 7:37)

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#### **INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK** Live the Liturgy

Sometimes, especially when life gets overwhelming and difficult, we can find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable. Wallowing in this uncomfortable darkness seems to be our norm and it's difficult to see a way out of, or through, this experience. If we listen carefully enough, we will hear God's voice calling out deep within, beckoning us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Faith tells us that God has already begun the creation of a good work in us and is with us, bringing it to completion, until Christ Jesus comes again. It is this light of God's glory for which we are asked to pave the way and straighten the paths of our lives so that it can shine. With all that life can ask of us and bring to us, it is our task to constantly discern what is of value. So that we do not get so weighed down by things that we no longer see, or feel, God's salvation.

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

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## THE BULLETIN BOARD



## Maximize Your Year-End Gifts to the Church of St. Ann

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.

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.



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





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