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DEACONS Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

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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

9:00

9:00

9:00

9:00

9:00

4:00

7:30

9:30

11:00

December 12, 2021



Sandra Bondhus

the ZuWallack Family

the Osiecki Family

Special Intentions

Special Intentions

Fr. Thomas P. Quinn, requested by

Anna ZuWallack, requested by

Karolina Goreczna, requested by

MONDAY, December 13

TUESDAY, December 14

WEDNESDAY, December 15

THURSDAY, December 16

FRIDAY, December 17

SATURDAY, December 18

SUNDAY, December 19

David Woolley

David Woolley



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 13

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

TUESDAY, December 14

"Keeping in Balance" Women's Study: 10:15am via Zoom Social Justice Committee Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, December 15

The Lives of Great Christians Series: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall "Keeping in Balance" Women's Study: 7pm in Fr. Bennet Hall Knights of Columbus: 7pm in Room 2

THURSDAY, December 16

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

FRIDAY, December 17 Advent Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, December 18

Divine Mercy

Holy Hour

This Sunday, December 12, 2021

2:30-3:30pm

in the church

SUNDAY, December 19 Advent Reflection Series: 10:30am in Rm. 3 and via Zoom

Youth Ministry POINSETTIA

For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on

For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on

Ray Griffin, requested by the Knights of Columbus

Earth, requested by Judith Stafford &

Earth, requested by Judith Stafford &

In celebration of the Anniversary of

Justyna and Andrew Sielski (living)



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



11/121

We will be praying the rosary following the Divine Mercy for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 12/5/21: \$6,400.00 Online Giving (Dec. 1-7, 2021): \$3,986.50 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *Monthly*

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 support of ImmaCare and know the shelter guests send their best wishes for a blessed Christmas! ImmaCare and know the shelter guests send their best wishes for a blessed Christmas!



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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





The Confessions of St. Augustine Starting Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:30AM in Father Bennett Hall

This 12-week series is devoted to an analysis of one of the world's greatest and most beloved books. St. Augustine, one of the most brilliant minds in all of Western Christianity, has had an enormous impact not only on the Church but the world as well

His *Confessions* is an intensely personal and emotional account of his life. It's a story of sin and struggle, error and truth, restlessness and ultimately peace. He teaches us how to pray, and teaches us who God is and who we are. As Augustine says, speaking to God, on the very first page of *Confessions*, "You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

You do not need any prior acquaintance with Augustine to take this course, only a desire to make contact with one of the great hearts and minds of the Catholic tradition.

To register and obtain materials, please contact Janet Newman at: wjnewman@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-676-0037.



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

Taken from <u>The Great Courses</u> program, "THE LIVES OF GREAT CHRIS-TIANS" and from <u>Bishop Barron's Word On Fire</u> program, "PIVOTAL PLAY-ERS," 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 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



Youth Ministry Christmas Tree

Youth Ministry will be putting up a tree and placing red bows and praying for every prayer intention that we confidentially receive. Prayer request can be made to rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com.

Every night this tree will shine as a symbol of peace, hope and joy during this Advent Season!



We are a now about halfway through Advent. When you next receive Jesus in Holy Communion, consider this quote from St. Peter Julian Eymard. "Is not Our Lord as meek and humble in the Blessed Sacrament as He was during His life on earth?"

<u>Reflection:</u> Whenever you approach the Blessed Sacrament, take a good look at the small, fragile, white, consecrated Host. Then consider the tremendous glory of all creation over which Christ reigns. What profound humility radiates from that tiny piece of consecrated bread in relation to the vastness and majesty of Creation.

Jesus, as we receive You into our hearts and souls with each Eucharist and as we prepare to commemorate Your birth in Bethlehem, please teach us meekness and humility. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Winter Book Study: The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

Each human being experiences restlessness – whether passion or desire, or simply the sense that 'something more' is out there.

"Spirituality is about what we do with our unrest." In The Holy Longing, Fr. Rolheiser asserts that each person has an innate spirituality uniquely suited to them. Finding yours can connect you to the Divine and open your heart to others on a profound level. For Christians, this involves balancing:

a) private prayer and private morality
b) social justice
c) mellowness of heart and spirit
d) communal worship

Come explore these notions in a 5-week book study Thursdays at 10am, **via Zoom**, beginning January 13, 2022. (Possibility of a weekday evening Zoom session, based on interest) Participant fee is \$15 (books included) Facilitator: Terry Pendergast.



Please register by January 7: <u>ann.distefano@stannavon.com</u>.

This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates. amazonsmile

You can make an impact while you shop on Amazon! Simply shop at <u>smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0658084</u> and AmazonSmile will donate to St Ann's Church of Avon, at no cost to you.

(Go to smile.amazon.com and sign into your Amazon account and select "St Anns Church of

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: Thanks!

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

DECEMBER 12, 2021 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/ls12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/
	Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/
	Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

Second Reading:

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:6)

Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK Live the Liturgy

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

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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



