

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

December 19, 2021





MONDAY, December 20

James Coleman Snyder, Jr., requested by 9:00 Dianne Simpson

Advent Reconciliation at 7pm

TUESDAY, December 21

For Divine Peace, Divine Love and Divine Will on 9:00 Earth, requested by Judith Stafford & David Woolley

WEDNESDAY, December 22

Thomas Penzone (5th Ann.), requested by 9:00 Roseanne Harutunian

THURSDAY, December 23

Camille & Peter Angelina and Michael Nay, 9:00 requested by the family

FRIDAY, December 24, Christmas Eve

9:00 **Special Intentions**

- 3:30 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated
- 6:00 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated
- For all those in whose memory or honor the altar 8:00 plants have been donated

SATURDAY, December 25, Christmas

- 8:00 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated
- 10:00 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated

SUNDAY, December 26

- 7:30 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on Earth, requested by Judith Stafford & David Woolley 9:30 Evan Scollard, requested by the family
- Walter & Mildred Newman, requested by 11:00 Bill & Janet Newman

SUNDAY, December 26



This Week at St. Ann

MONDAY, December 20

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

TUESDAY, December 21

WEDNESDAY, December 22

THURSDAY, December 23 Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

FRIDAY, December 24, Christmas Eve

SATURDAY, December 25, Christmas





Advent Reconciliation

Monday, December 20th 7:00pm

Give yourself the gift of forgiveness and peace as you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

2021 Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve

3:30 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm Christmas 8:00 am 10:00 am

*Please note there will be no 4pm Vigil Mass this evening

Solemnity of Mary

Saturday, January 1, 2022 (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 12/12/21: \$5,2156.24 Online Giving (Dec. 7-13, 2021): \$2,885.50 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: none (December 24/25: Christmas & Parish Charities)

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!

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 Jan. 7th: ann.distefano@stannavon.com.



You Can Now Make a Christmas Donation to St. Ann by Credit Card or Bank Account... No Signing Up Necessary!

If you would like to make a donation to St. Ann for Christmas using a credit card or your bank account please use the following web address. There's no need to sign up for online giving as this is a direct donation to our Christmas Collection. Thank You!

www.osvhub.com/stannavon/ funds/christmas

January 1, 2022 Mary, the Holy Mother of God Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.





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.



The Men of the Church of Saint Ann are Invited to the

Annual Men's Retreat

January 14-16, 2022

At Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford

Join Us for a focus on

"In the Spirit of Trust"

For more information go to the Holy Family Retreat Center website: https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org Click on Retreats, then Themed Retreats Or call the Retreat Center at: 860-521-0440

Call or Email your St. Ann Representatives:

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



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!



The Holy Eucharist DID γΟU KNOW?

Did you know that the word "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread"? Were you aware that the word "manger" means "to eat" in French? These Biblical symbols prefigure the Holy Eucharist, which is the embodiment and the continuation of Christ's Incarnation among us.

<u>Reflection:</u> With our daily bread, our physical nourishment, we flourish. With the strength of the Bread of Life, the Holy Eucharist, our bodies and souls are fed with Divine grace to enable us to grow in our personal sanctification. In addition we are enabled to contribute to the sanctification of the world. St. Damien, who ministered to the lepers, wrote, "The Eucharist is the bread that gives strength. It is at once the most eloquent proof of Christ's love and the most powerful means of fostering His love in us."

A Christmas Prayer

As we mark the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lit four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world. Let us pray...

God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.



-LPi

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 Avon" as your charity! Bookmark smile.amazon.com to make it easier to shop!)

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:
January 1/2	Sunday, December 19th

DECEMBER 19, 2021 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart. - *Tracy Earl Welliver, MT*

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Monday: Tuesday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38 Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/ Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/
	Lk 1:57-66
Friday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29
	[2]/Lk 1:67-79
Saturday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-
-	25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 <i>Night</i> : Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
	[Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6,
	11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: ls 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
	[3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
	Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1
	Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80) Second Reading:

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

Gospel:

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

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

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.

©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

©LPi

THE BULLETIN BOARD



OLC Christmas Eve Celebration on Zoom December 24 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Choose Your Offering)

Come and join the celebration of Christmas with the OLC Retreat Team on Zoom! In our second annual Christmas Eve Program, we will rejoice in this time of wonder, light, and miracle through music, prayer, reflection, and sharing.

Don't miss this opportunity to gather for one hour on Christmas Eve morning with our OLC Community both far and near!

To register: https://form.jotform.com/213044392360145 or call 860-677-8519.

Find more information on our website https://bit.ly/3qj8MwN

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



