



Church of Saint Ann

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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.



THE EPIPHANY of the Lord

"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:6b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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



Epiphany of the Lord

MONDAY, January 3

9:00 Eugene O. Nee (3rd Ann.)

TUESDAY, January 4

9:00 For the intentions of Mary Grace Dimock (Living)

WEDNESDAY, January 5

9:00 Sinna Marcotte, *requested by the Wednesday morning study group*

THURSDAY, January 6

9:00 In celebration of the birthdays of Andrzej and Andrew (Living), *requested by Justina*

FRIDAY, January 7

9:00 For the intentions of Mary & Anthony Franzonello (Living)

SATURDAY, January 8

4:00 Henry Hojnowski, *requested by Russell and Diane Koch*

SUNDAY, January 9

7:30 Donald King, *requested by the King Family*

9:30 Bernadette Kefakis, *requested by John and Maria Manning*

11:00 Louis Bechle, *requested by the Tolin Family*

WELCOME!



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, January 3

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church

TUESDAY, January 4

FORMED Information Session: 9am in Fr. Bennett Hall

FORMED Information Session: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

WEDNESDAY, January 5

THURSDAY, January 6

FORMED Information Session: 9am in Fr. Bennett Hall

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

"Matthew" Bible Study: 7pm in the Activity Room and via Zoom

FORMED Information Session: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

FRIDAY, January 7

SATURDAY, January 8

SUNDAY, January 9

A Christmas Gift to St. Ann Parishioners!

St. Ann's has a Christmas Gift for Our Beloved Parishioners!

Enjoy a FREE year-long subscription to FORMED.org-The Catholic Faith on Demand! You'll have access 24/7 to enriching and entertaining faith-based videos, movies, podcasts and audio/ebooks for adults, teens and children. **To access your free subscription, go to formed.org/signup. Enter "St. Ann 06001" and type your name and email, or scan the QR code to the right.** To learn how to navigate the myriad offerings on FORMED, join us for orientation/info sessions in Fr. Bennett Hall after Masses the weekend of January 15/16. Then, stay tuned for parish programs centered around FORMED content.

Questions: ann.distefano@stannavon.com



FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 12/19/21: \$7,378.25

Weekly Collection for 12/26/21: will be reported later

Online Giving (Dec. 17-23, 2021): \$3,545.50

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *Utility Fund*

They were
overjoyed at
seeing the star.

Matthew 2:10



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.

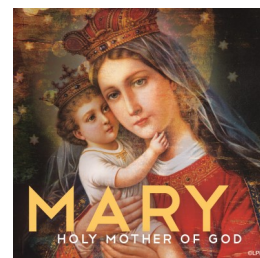
To register and obtain materials, please contact Janet Newman at: wjnewman@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-676-0037.



Saturday, January 1, 2022

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.



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:

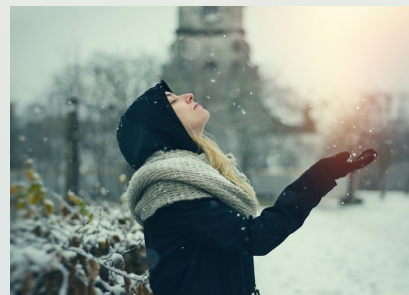
- a) private prayer and private morality
- b) social justice
- c) mellowness of heart and spirit
- d) communal worship

Come explore these notions in a 5-week book study on Thursdays beginning January 13th.

Groups will meet via Zoom at 10am with Terry Pendergast and 7pm with Claudine Meaney

Participant fee is \$15 (books included)

Please register by Jan. 7th: ann.distefano@stannavon.com.



ENCOUNTER
GOD'S LOVE

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)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, January 3, 2020

7-8:30pm in Room 2

Come be a part of our ministry!

All are welcome
...including brand new knitters!
For more information call Tina:
860-674-1541



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Church of St. Ann + Avon, CT



**The Holy
Eucharist**
DID YOU KNOW?

The latest Pew Poll released this past December indicates that only 26% of Catholics attend Mass each week. In light of the love, which Christ offers us in the Holy Eucharist, perhaps our focus in the New Year should be on growing in our appreciation of our Catholic Faith's most supreme gift.

Reflection:

In the Holy Eucharist Jesus gives us everything. He holds nothing back from us. All that He has, He gives to us. To quote Father Lawrence Lovasik in his book "THE BASIC BOOK ON THE EUCHARIST", "You could not ask for more. Christ could not give you more."

Ultimately the Eucharist is not only about receiving Holy Communion, it is about transforming your life. Why not consider this to be an invitation to transform your life in 2022 through a greater love and devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament?



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25,
27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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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 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

Give yourselves the best Christmas present ever – take time for your marriage. Strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

St. Mary's School is now enrolling for the
**2022-23 school year for Full Day
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today and come learn more
about the difference a Catholic
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WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:

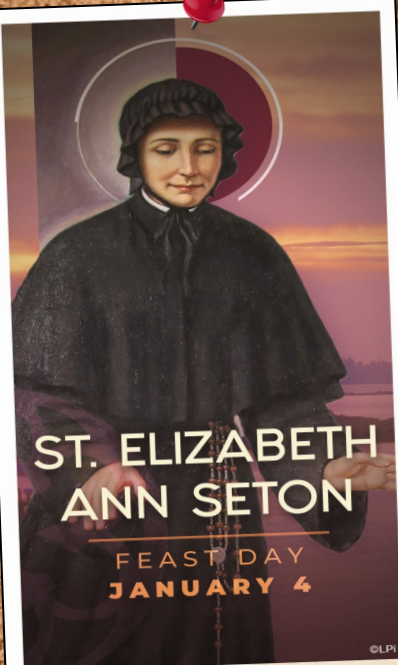
What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer:

This is a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: *How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled?* If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."



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