

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

DEACONS Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

CHURCH OF SAINT ANN TRUSTEES Kelly McCabe and Kathy Randall Gill

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CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT Mike Gould: ext.225

BAPTISM and MARRIAGES:

Please call the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext. 221 Please schedule marriage dates at least 6 months ahead. 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 www.stannavon.org 860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor



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 27, 2022







TUESDAY, November 299:00 John Bruno, requested by the Bruno Family

WEDNESDAY, November 309:00 Frank Scalzo, requested by the Pizzuti Family

THURSDAY, December 19:00 Arthur Hennig, requested by the Hennig Family

FRIDAY, December 2 9:00 Special Intentions

SATURDAY, December 3

4:00 Marion Zalenski, requested by the ZuWallack Family

SUNDAY, December 4

7:30	Joseph W. Orsene, requested by
	the Droste Family

- **9:30** Jacqueline Diana, requested by the St. Jean Family
- **11:00 Don Sopelak,** requested by Cindy, Bryan and Megan Rourke



Celebrated annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday is the U.S. Catholic Church's Giving Day that kicks off the charitable season and brings the Catholic community together to give thanks and give back. The goal of the Giving Tuesday is to rally our Catholic community in support of the organizations that shape our souls: Our parishes, schools, and nonprofit ministries.

https://www.osvhub.com/stannavon/giving/funds/giving-tuesday



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 28

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church RCIA: 11am in Room 3

MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church (all welcome) **Advent Reflection Series:** 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

TUESDAY, November 29

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom Step by Step: 6:00pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

WEDNESDAY, November 30

Advent Reflection Series: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall RCIA: 1pm in Room 3 WWP Touching the Divine: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

THURSDAY, December 1

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church Acts Bible Study: 6:30pm in Fr. Bennett Hall and via Zoom

FRIDAY, December 2 Advent Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, December 3 Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3

SUNDAY, December 4 Advent Reflection Series: 10:30am Room 3 and via Zoom

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 3/4 & 10/11.

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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





Father Al:

Here's your spiritual snack for

the week.

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Coming Soon

This Advent we will be launching a new channel of communication to keep everyone up- to-date on church events, Mass schedules and share a "spiritual snack" from Father Al.

If you have any questions please contact: kerry.magrini @stannavon.com

*There will be a way to add more numbers and to opt out.

ADVENT Evening Program

"Unpacking the Figures of the Nativity"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 7-8:30PM FR. BENNETT HALL



After this inspiring session led by accomplished and personable guest speaker Mr. Noel Terranova of Holy Family Retreat Center, you'll never look at a manger set the same way again! Enjoy refreshments, presentation, mingling, and a special service activity: creating Blessing Bags for those in need. *Free will offering*. RSVP by Dec 1 to ann.distefano@stannavon.com



Noel Terranova is a full-time retreat team member at Holy Family. Noel studied theology and liberal arts as an undergraduate at Villanova University and holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Notre Dame. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in theology, also from Notre Dame, with a concentration in Liturgical Studies. His research focuses on Catholic sacramental theology after Vatican II and contemporary continental philosophy. Advent Reflection Series

Join us for our free Advent Reflection series, "*Refreshing Our Christmas Traditions*," featuring videos and discussion. (It's a busy time, so skip a session if you need to - videos available via FORMED.org) Change your mindset and find the Advent blessings of peace, joy, hope, and love in ALL your activities this year!

- Sundays (Nov 27, Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 18): 10:30am in Room 3 and via Zoom with Chip
- Mondays (Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12, Dec 19): 7:15pm in Room and via Zoom with Silvina
- Wednesdays (Nov 16, Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14): 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall with Andrea
- Fridays (Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16): 9:45am via Zoom with Ann

Register with Ann: 860-673-9858, x 228 or ann.distefano@stannavon.com

Thank You!

A huge thank you to the loyal and also the new volunteers who worked so hard to make the recent Scholarship Clothing Sale so successful. Grateful thanks, also, to the shoppers who turned out to support the sale. We couldn't have done it without you!



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 11/20/22: will be reported next weekend Online Giving (Nov. 14-18, 2022): \$503.00 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: Avon Special Needs

SAVE DATE Parish Social

Sunday. December 11th after the 9:30am 8 11:00am Masses Refreshments * Carol Singing * Kids' Activities Sponsored by our Little Lambs Ministry

Annual Toy/Gift Collection Weekend of December 17/18, 2022

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> <u>identifying tag to the gift</u>. Recipients will be children and families at Catholic Worker House, Catholic Charities new citizen families and Prudence Crandall Center (domestic violence shelter).

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 17-18. **If you are going away:** Please leave gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall.

> God Bless You For Your Generosity!

Sponsored by: St. Ann's Social Outreach Ministry





This week's theme: Stay awake to Whom is Present in the Eucharist

As we begin Advent, our Mass readings emphasis the necessity of staying awake to the realities of the spiritual. As we begin our preparation for the Birth of Christ, let us strive to be more conscious of the great gift of the Incarnation: the hypostatic union of God and man in Jesus. Let us also "stay awake" whenever we receive Holy Communion and realize who is truly present to us in the consecrated Host.

<u>Reflection</u>: This Advent as we approach the altar to receive Holy Communion, let us take time and try to prepare for the reception of this sublime gift. Let us try to grow in goodness and grace during Advent. The Blessed Sacrament is after all the of the continuation of the Incarnation among us. In the words of St. Ephraem, "We have the chalice of your Precious Blood, filled with life and light. The purer we are, the more we receive."

Annual Parish Collection Church of Saint Ann

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many to our Parish Annual Collection. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your gift card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcome and sincerely appreciated. Please complete your gift card and return it to the parish office today or go online at www.stannavon.org to support this critical mission. Pledge forms can also be obtained in the Parish Office. Thank you!

Early Bulletin Submission Deadlines for December

For Weekend of:	Submission Deadline is:	Need to upload to Publisher on:
December 10/11	2pm, December 2	December 6
December 17/18	2pm, December 8	December 12
December 24/25	2pm, December 14	December 16
Dec. 31/Jan. 1	2pm, December 20	December 22

Send any bulletin submissions to: kris.martino@stannavon.com

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Being Surprised by Christ

Some people hate surprise parties. There are those who are uncomfortable with a last-minute vacation or even an unexpected travel upgrade. If it wasn't part of the plan, it's a cause for consternation.

There is a temptation to view these folks as curmudgeonly — sticks in the mud, obsessed with predictability. But I think if we're being honest, there's a little bit of the surprise-averse in all of us.

Deep within the very heart of the element of surprise is a kernel of shock. And shock, in the moment, can feel similar to trauma. If we reflect on the most traumatic occurrences of our lives — a loss, an accident, a calamity — it is likely that we will say this: "It was the shock more than anything that got to me." Grief or fear, those feelings were overwhelming as well, but they came later. In the first moment, all we knew was we were going about our lives on one path until we were thrust on a different one and then the whole future changed.

This is the natural rhythm of our life here on earth. We never know what is coming — which is to say, in a beautiful way, we always know what is coming. More importantly, we know Who is coming.

Like the early riser who sets the "pre-alarm" (the one on which he knows he's going to hit *snooze* just to take the edge off the disappointment of waking up), we are always being given a heads-up in Scripture. From the earliest prophecies of the Messiah to Jesus' reminders in the Gospel to the very last words of Revelations, God has communicated to His stewards: *You know the time. The time is now.* We are called to constant vigilance, perpetual renewal, steadfast accountability.

In the end, the coming of Christ may be the only event in history that was a surprise, but not a shock — and so it will only be beautiful, even for those who hate surprise parties. - *Tracy Earl Welliver, MT*

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of November 27, 2022

 Sunday:
 Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

 Monday:
 Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

 Tuesday:
 Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

 Wednesday:
 Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22

 Thursday:
 Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

 Friday:
 Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

 Saturday:
 Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

 Next Sunday:
 Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. (Is 2:4)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. (Rom 13:11-12)

Gospel:

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Mt 24:42)

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK Live the Liturgy

Whether it is the surgeon performing an operation or the pilot directing a flight, one expects them to be alert. When we entrust our lives to someone, we presume that they will attend to them with the utmost care and vigilance. If we have this expectation of others, why would we not have it of ourselves? Our lives are precious vessels on an eternal journey. We can only stay afloat and on the course because of God's love and mercy. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. God's word transforms all that it touches, even a lukewarm heart. Let us seek God's grace this Advent season so that we can walk more fully in His light. Then, finding ourselves more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful, we will be eager and well prepared to meet our Lord when He comes. Why would we not want to be ready, awake, and watchful for the One we have waited for so long? ©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."

While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is for certain that he will come.

Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

Pre-Order Fr. Cheah's New Book with 30% Discount!

Good News! Orbis Books has announced that Fr. Cheah's book will be released on December 7th. Pre-orders for Anti-Asian Racism can be placed with Orbis Books by calling with credit card: toll free 1- 800-258-5838 on Mon.- Fri from 8am - 4pm . Make sure you mention the promotion code "MAD" to get the 30% discount.

Offer good through the end of 2022!

(Notice that to get the discount, it has to be ordered through Orbis Books, not Amazon.)

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.

PREPARING OUR WAY: Tending the Pathway of your Heart

Beginning Monday, November 28th and continuing every Monday in Advent, **Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield** will be offering Adoration and Confessions from 5 to 6pm followed by Scriptural Meditation with Benediction by



Fr. Michael Ruminski from 6 to 6:30, concluding with dinner and discussion. All are welcomed.

For more information contact the parish office at <u>sacredheartblct@gmail.com</u>.



All are invited!

Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT



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