



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

www.stannavon.org

860-673-9858

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Chip Janiszewski: chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com

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.

second Sunday of ADVENT



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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



Second Sunday of Advent

MONDAY, December 5

9:00 Special Intentions

TUESDAY, December 6

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

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:00 Mary Lou Walker, requested by Bob & Kathy Dully

THURSDAY, December 8, Immaculate Conception (HO)

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

12:10 Special Intentions

7:00 Special Intentions

FRIDAY, December 9

9:00 Special Intentions

SATURDAY, December 10

4:00 Fr. Thomas P. Quinn, requested by Sandra Bondus

SUNDAY, December 11

7:30 Ruth Pandiscio, requested by her family

9:30 Bill, Terry and Patrick Roderick requested by Tom and Pat Heavren

11:00 Derek Stockwell, requested by the family

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.

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 3/4 and 10/11!



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, December 5

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, December 6

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom

Advent Evening Program: 7:00pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

Social Outreach Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, December 7

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 8

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

Acts Bible Study: 6:30pm in Fr. Bennett Hall and via Zoom

FRIDAY, December 9

Advent Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, December 10

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

SUNDAY, December 11

Advent Reflection Series: 10:30am Room 3 and via Zoom

Parish Social: after 9:30 and 11am Masses in Fr. Bennett Hall



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 8th - Holy Day of Obligation

Masses will be at: 9am, 12:10pm & 7pm



Divine Mercy Holy Hour

This Sunday, December 4th
2:30 - 3:30pm

Please join us for this powerful devotion!

Parish Social

Next Sunday, December 11th
after the 930am & 1100am 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 **securely tape the identifying tag to the gift**. 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



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.

Text & Calls from Father Al

This Advent we are 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 did not receive the first text or want to add another line, text JOIN to (860) 359-2648. To add a landline or have questions please contact:

kerry.magrini@stannavon.com



COME SING in the LOFT!!

...Join our SEASONAL CHOIR on CHRISTMAS EVE...

...Join a CHOIR for MASSES in 2023...

A quote often attributed to Saint Augustine says "To Sing is to Pray Twice."

We are adding voices for Christmas Eve and for Masses in 2023. Have you ever wanted to explore singing with our Music Minsters in the Choir Loft? If so, please reach out to our **Director of Music, Tom Stockton at 860-673-9858, ext. 230**, and/or our **Ministries Coordinator (and long time Choir Member), Chip Janiszewski at chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com** for more information – we would love to chat with you!

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

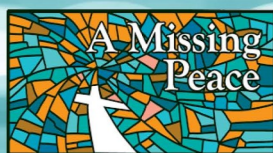
Weekly Collection for 11/20/22: \$4,525.62

Weekly Collection for 11/27/22: \$4,466.00

Online Giving (Nov. 18-30, 2022): \$5,059.00

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection:

Retired Religious Fund



You are invited to join us on a Weekend Retreat

"A Missing Peace"

At Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT

The retreat begins with a buffet dinner on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday with a Celebration of Mass followed by a hot brunch.

WOMEN'S RETREAT DATE: JANUARY 6-8, 2023

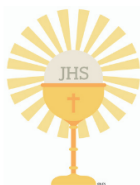
Contact: Eileen DiMauro: ecdimauro@yahoo.com

MEN'S RETREAT DATE: JANUARY 13-15, 2023

Contact: Paul Watson: pgwatson33@gmail.com

Additional Info: www.holyfamilyretreat.org

Let us find together, "A Missing Peace" for which we all long. Through our prayer together, our presentations, and our discussions, we can come closer to understanding how to achieve the peace that Jesus meant for us to have, and equally important, the peace that is meant for us to share in our families and in our world.



The Holy Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

This week's theme: Are we ready to receive Him?

St. Teresa of Calcutta wrote, "Are we ready to receive Him? Before the birth of Jesus, His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose YOUR heart, and all it holds? Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas."

Reflection: Are you ready to receive Jesus today in Holy Communion? He comes to dwell in your heart in a most personal and intimate way when you receive Him. Spend some minutes after each Holy Communion in humble reflection and in thanksgiving. Talk to Jesus heart to heart. Give Him the gift of your presence since He is truly present to you.

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



Please note:
starting in 2023,
the suggested
donation for
Mass intentions
will be \$25

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

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

How Much Is Enough?

I've got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn't care what name you bear. He doesn't care where you were born, and he doesn't care what your family tree looks like. He doesn't care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I've also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It's so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That's enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That's enough.

I'm on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That's enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

The God in whom we believe is “the God of endurance and encouragement.” Have you ever thought about God in those terms? Our sight can become limited by the concerns of the world and our individual lives. We can look to the past and see what is happening in the present, but the future is primarily left to our imaginations. God has a clear vision for the future. It is one where the “wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.” It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one. We can see the complete picture of life in God. We see what we may be, what may come, and who we can become. Preparing the way for the Lord means moving beyond the limitations of ideology, time, space, preference, and self-focused concern so that we can see as God sees. God will give us what we need to endure whatever comes, and the encouragement we need to get where we can be.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the “wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.” God is not indifferent. He is the God of “endurance and encouragement.” In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her.

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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 4, 2022

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. (Is 11:3-4)

Psalms:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Rom 15:7)

Gospel:

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Mt 3:1-2)

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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 (IRA'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.

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Go to: <https://LSPChristmas22.givesmart.com>

Avon Boy Scout Troop 274 Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 274 is preparing for our annual Christmas Tree and Wreath sale. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and serves to support our Scouts by offsetting costs associated with our Summer High Adventure Trips.

Stop by **J. Fosters** in Avon to select your special tree or choose from one of our amazing wreaths. The sale starts Black Friday, continues Thanksgiving weekend, and weekends in December, while inventories last.

Hours of Operation

Fridays

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Saturdays and Sundays

10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

As in years past, trees are sure to go fast.

And as a special thank you, customers will receive a free coupon to J. Fosters ice cream.

We have a large selection of trees and, even after a very busy weekend, still have a large inventory. We sell Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday. However, if you need a tree or wreath before next Friday, you can email us at scoutmaster@avontroop274.org and we can arrange for someone to be there for you.

Our current inventory includes:

- 5 ft to 9 ft Balsams (Silver and Premiums)
- 9 ft to 11 ft Canaan firs (hybrid Balsam/Fraser)
- 8 ft - 10 ft Frasers
- 16" Wreaths (ring diameter)
- 24" Wreaths (ring diameter)

We hope that you will consider supporting us.

If you do stop by, don't forget your J. Foster's coupon.





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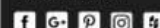
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