



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

www.stannavon.org

860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor

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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.

Third 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



Third Sunday of Advent

MONDAY, December 12

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

TUESDAY, December 13

9:00 Arthur Richard Godbout, Sr., requested by
the Godbout Family

WEDNESDAY, December 14

9:00 Anna ZuWallack, requested by
the ZuWallack Family

THURSDAY, December 15

9:00 For Divine Peace on Earth, requested by
James Woolley

FRIDAY, December 16

9:00 For Divine Peace on Earth, requested by
Kathryn Woolley

SATURDAY, December 17

4:00 Terry Tromza, requested by Mary Jane Jeter

SUNDAY, December 18

7:30 Leone Lozier, requested by Doris and Lionel Cyr
9:30 Evan Scollard, requested by his family
11:00 Richard Hill, requested by
Rose Ann and Ken McBride

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 worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN

MONDAY, December 12

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 13

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, December 14

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 15

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

FRIDAY, December 16

Advent Reflection Series: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, December 17

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

SUNDAY, December 18

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

Last Weekend!

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!

COME SING in the LOFT!!

Join our SEASONAL CHOIR on Christmas Eve

Join a CHOIR for Masses in 2023



CHURCH CHOIR

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 Ministers 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!



How We Can Help the Homeless During the Holidays...

Once again St. Ann is hoping to make up a Christmas gift bag for each of the men staying at ImmaCare shelter. With the cold weather upon us, these bags provide desperately needed items but also show that people care. This week, with the lifting of some Covid restrictions, the shelter numbers increased from 50 to 88 men. Items we'd like to include are socks (both warm and athletic), hats, gloves, chapstick and toothbrushes. Please drop off any time in the church kitchen. Many thanks in advance!



Parish Social

THIS Sunday, December 11th
after the 9:30am & 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 **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!**

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St. Ann's Social Outreach Ministry*



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 Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0658084 and
 AmazonSmile will donate to St Anns Church of Avon, at no cost to you.

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

**save
the
date**

SAVE YOUR BOOKS!!!

Annual Used Book Sale

Fri-Sat January 27-28

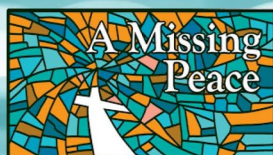
*Volunteers Needed
Details upcoming*



**SEEK THE
LORD IN THE
PLACES YOU
FEAR TO GO**

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 12/4/22: \$5,915.43
Online Giving (Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 2022): \$3,489.50
Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *monthly*



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

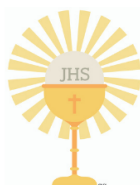
Contact: Eileen DiMauro: ecdimauro@yahoo.com

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: Doubt

In today's Gospel John the Baptist has his doubts about Jesus. He sends his disciples to ask Our Lord, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Reflection: Do you doubt the real, substantial Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? In humility ask Our Lord today after you receive Him in Holy Communion to reveal His loving Presence to you. Do you doubt His love for you, as you gaze upon the crucifix? Do you doubt His desire to come to dwell in the very depths of your heart, as you approach Him in the Holy Eucharist?

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

Please send any bulletin submissions to:
kris.martino@stannavon.com

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

The Season That Gives Back

*I don't have anything left to give.
You can't pour from an empty cup.
All I do is give. Who is giving to me?*

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 11, 2022

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/
Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. (Is 35:4)

Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146) Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. (Jas 5:7)

Gospel:

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:2-3)

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against the grain of what it means to be God's child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all of this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don't have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life's despair. Be strong, fear not! Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well.
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

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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.

Preparing our Way

Tending the Pathway of your Heart

Mondays in Advent
at Sacred Heart Church, Bloomfield
26 Wintonbury Avenue

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
November 28 and December 5, 12, 19

Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
Beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
available from
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Scriptural Meditation with Benediction
by Fr. Michael Ruminski
from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner and Discussion
in Fr. Picher Hall
from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low;
The rugged land shall be a plain, the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh
shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
Isaiah 40:3-5

Questions: contact the Parish Office
860-242-4142
sacredheartblct@gmail.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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