

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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## **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

# Fourth sunday of ADVENT

## 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 18, 2022



Fourth Sunday of Advent



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 19

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

Advent Reconciliation Service: 7pm in the church MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: will resume 12/26 Advent Reflection Series: 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

## TUESDAY, December 20

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom

## WEDNESDAY, December 21

RCIA: 1pm in Room 3 WWP Touching the Divine: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

THURSDAY, December 22 Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

## FRIDAY, December 23

SATURDAY, December 24, Christmas Eve

SUNDAY, December 25, Christmas Merry, Christmas



Advent Reconciliation Service Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00pm

There will be a Parish Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday December 19th at 7PM. Father Fontana and several priests from the Archdiocese will be hearing confessions.

## 2022 Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve

Christmas

4pm, 6pm & 10pm

8am & 10am

Solemnity of Mary: Sunday, January 1, 2023 Will be celebrated during our regular Sunday Masses

**MONDAY**, December 19

- 9:00 Charles Deye, requested by his family
- **7:00** Advent Reconciliation Service
- TUESDAY, December 20
- **9:00** Dave Matthes, requested by Ann and family

## WEDNESDAY, December 21

9:00 Thomas Penzone, requested by Rosanne Harutunian

### **THURSDAY**, December 22

9:00 Paul Argay, requested by the Emery Family

## FRIDAY, December 23

**9:00** Camille and Peter Angelina and Michael Nay, requested by the Angelina Family

## SATURDAY, December 24, Christmas Eve

- **4:00** 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
- **10:00** For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated

### SUNDAY, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

- **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

## 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!

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## Make Your Christmas Donation to St. Ann By Credit Card/Bank Account... No Sign-Ups Necessary!

If you would like to make a donation to St. Ann for Christmas using a credit card or your bank account by using 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



## Annual Toy/Gift Collection

Please remember to drop off your donations this weekend: December 17/18, 2022

> God Bless You For Your Generosity Sponsored by St. Ann's Social Outreach Ministry



## 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 guote 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!



The Parish of St. Ann would like to express their deepest gratitude to Theresa Brighenti, who for years has been the donor of the liturgical Catholic calendars that our parishioners have been able to pick up each Christmas season! Thank you and God bless you, Theresa!

## Ordering you gifts on Amazon this year?

You can make an impact this holiday season while you shop on Amazon!

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



## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 12/11/22: \$5,559.27 Online Giving (Dec. 6-12, 2022): \$2,415.50 Next Weekend's 2nd & 3rd Collections: Christmas and Parish Charities



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: <u>ecdimauro@yahoo.com</u>

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.

#### Jesus wished peace for us.

In the Gospel of John, just before he departs this earth, he says to his friends: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

Peace is something we crave, something we seek, and something thatseems so elusive. We rarely find true peace, and when we do, it lasts but a short time. We speak about **inner** peace, **world** peace, and the promise made by Jesus for **eternal** peace. But peace often seems missing in our lives.



## **The Holy Eucharist** DID γΟU KNOW?

## This week's theme: Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to men of goodwill.

"Gloria in excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the highest.) are the words sung by the choirs of angels to welcome the birth of the Infant Jesus. (Luke 2: 14) May we give joyful praise and thanksgiving together with the angels for the gift of our salvation: our Infant King.

<u>Reflection</u>: The ANGELS PROCLAIMED GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY! Today we find Him not in the manger, but in every tabernacle throughout the world. May the Infant Jesus always bring you an abundance of His peace and joy, as you receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. A Blessed Christmas to all!



## Early Bulletin Submission Deadlines for December

For Weekend of:	Submission Deadline is:	Need to upload to Publisher on:
-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

# save the date

# SAVE YOUR BOOKS!!!

Annual Used Book Sale Fri-Sat January 27-28

> Volunteers Needed Details upcoming



## DECEMBER 18, 2022 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP** Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

#### St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example. - *Tracy Earl Welliver, MT* 

## WEEKLY READINGS

#### Readings for the week of December 18, 2022

Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/
	Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday:	<i>Vigil</i> : 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
	Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
	Dawn: ls 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
	Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/
	Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Is 7:3-4)

#### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

#### Second Reading:

The gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power. (Rom 1:15)

#### Gospel:

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. (Mt 1:20)

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## **INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK** Live the Liturgy

"God is with us." This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!

#### ©LPi

## **GOSPEL MEDITATION** Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©LPi

## 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.)

## SAVE THE DATE ! May 21, 2023

Are you a graduate of one of the 21 New Haven Catholic elementary schools? Are you interested in the future of Catholic education in New Haven? Then this event is for you... Save-thedate for the Legacy Brunch: Celebrating the History of Catholic Elementary Education in New Haven. Sunday, May 21, 2023. This is an opportunity for Catholic school alumni and supporters to come together, share memories, see old classmates and celebrate all that has been and will be! Tickets for the brunch at Anthony's Ocean View are \$50 and will go on sale on January 15, 2023. Proceeds will benefit All Saints Catholic Academy. We warmly welcome you to join us beforehand for the celebration of Sunday Mass by Archbishop Blair at St. Bernadette's Church at 10:30am. For more information please call 203-777-5352 or visit www.AllSaintsNewHaven.org/ LegacyBrunch and the see the list of the 21 schools that once flourished in New Haven and the dates that they were founded.

## 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

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



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



Join us, all are welcome! Free, family friendly event, Following the concert, everyone is invited for a wine, cheese and dessert reception in the Parish Hall. S1. Patrick's Parish 1, 7 Burlington Avenue, 1, Collinsville, Connecticut



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