

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



"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me." - Mt 5:11

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

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



January 29, 2023



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY, January 30 9:00 Hella Bielefeld, requested by the family

TUESDAY, January 31 9:00 Rose Penzone

WEDNESDAY, February 1 9:00 Herta Droste, requested by the family

THURSDAY, February 29:00Richard Cialfi, requested by his wife, Dottie

FRIDAY, February 3
9:00 Pope Benedict XVI (month's mind), requested by St. Ann Parish

SATURDAY, February 4 4:00 Lewis Affelder, requested by the family

SUNDAY, February 5

- 7:30 Special Intentions 9:30 Wasyl Cymbal, requested by the Fedorciw Family
- **11:00 Claire Galiette (5th Ann.),** requested by *her family*

ADULTS: were you baptized and received First Communion, but were never Confirmed?

We have a program just for you!

St. Ann Spring 2023 Adult Confirmation Prep Program

- + Dates: Thursdays, 7:15pm, beginning Feb, 16, 2023
 9 sessions, skipping Apr 6 (Holy Thurs)
- + Fee: \$30
- + To Register: <u>https://www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/adult-confirmation-spring-2023</u>
- Questions: ann.distefano@stannavon.com; 860-673-9858, x228

The Confirmation ceremony will take place Tues, May 9, 7pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford





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, January 30

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) Divine Design: 6:30pm in Fr. Bennett Hall Lectio Divina, Live! 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

TUESDAY, January 31

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, February 1

James Bible Study: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall RCIA: 1pm in Room 3 WWP Touching the Divine: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

THURSDAY, February 2

Step by Step: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall **Holy Hour:** 12 noon in the church **Acts Bible Study:** 6:30pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

FRIDAY, February3 Lectio Divina, Live!: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, February 4 Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3

SUNDAY, February 5 Lectio Divina, Live!: 10:30am in Room 3 and via Zoom



Buy a \$2.50 Big Y reusable community bag & Big Y sill send us \$1 (ends Tuesday)

Treat yourself to a Big Y community grocery bag through Tues., January 31st. For every community bag purchased, our Food Pantry Garden will receive \$1. The planting season is just around the corner!

Pause. Breathe. Pray.[™] & ALIGN WITH YOUR DIVINE DESIGN With Shawn Elizabeth George* A6-week stretch & strengthening class plus Bible study of Proverbs Every day we are inundated with messages about what our bodies should look and feel like, especially at the start of the year. Have you ever paused to consider what your loving God wants you to have on your mind, or what He has to say about your body? Come find out, and get renewed - body, mind, and Spirit! Dates: Mondays, beginning Jan 23 (skipping Feb 20). Time: 7-8:30pm Location: St. Ann Church, 289 Arch Rd, Avon (meeting rooms listed by date at https://www.stannavon.org/divine-design) Format: Mingle; Pause. Breathe. Pray.[™] practice; Bible study discussion Fee: \$40 (includes book).

- **Register:** email ann.distefano@stannavon.com or visit https://www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/align-with-yourdivine-design-2023
- Attire: Dress comfortably to stretch/strengthen
- Bring: Yoga mat, block and strap, if you have them
- Waiver: Please complete the exercise waiver when you register online, or in person 15 min before first class. A minimum of 12 participants is required to run this program *https://www.shawnelizabethgeorge.com/

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Hugs from the Heart

Pro-Life Ministry is sponsoring their Valentine's Day "*Hugs from the Heart*" Outreach to Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center in Torrington.

Huggies or any brand of diapers will help them immensely. All sizes, but especially size 6 are desperately needed. They could also use newborn 24 month, and 2T size clothes, baby lotions/wipes, or gift cards would also be greatly appreciated.

Please place the above items in the baby boxes found in the Gathering Space on or before the weekend of February 11th and 12th.

Thank you in advance for helping to support moms and their babies!

God Has a Personal Message For You!



Join us for the popular *Lectio Divina* way of praying scripture, where you listen for what God is saying to you in the Gospel for the coming Sunday. It's also a great way to connect with others, and engage more fully in Mass.

Friendly groups meet via Zoom & in person.

Newcomers welcome!

Sundays at 10:30am both in Room 3 & via Zoom Starting January 8th

Mondays at 7:15pm in Rm 3 and via Zoom Starting January 9th

Fridays at 9:45am via Zoom Starting January 6th

For registration details and inspiring testimonials, visit: https://www.stannavon.org/lectio-divina-live

FAITH REFRESHER

Dive a little deeper in your understanding of how we as Catholics:

+ ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE in the Sacraments + LIVE OUT LOVE through Virtues and Service

OFFERED TWO TIMES:

DAYS Jan 12-Mar 23 THURS, 9:30-11am Fr. Bennett Hall

EVENINGS Mar 28-May 30 TUES, 7-8:30pm Room 3

Cost: \$20 (assistance is available) Register: www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/faithrefresher-2023 Resource: "Symbolon II" via FORMED.org

Questions: andreapizzutti333@gmail.com

Adult Enrichment + Church of St. Ann, Avon CT

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 1/22/23: \$5,343.25 Online Giving (Jan.18-25, 2023): \$2,507.50 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *snow removal*



We read The Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12 for our Gospel today. These are Our Lord's teachings on how to both be happy in this life and in the next. If you are seeking peace, live the Beatitudes. One of them deals with meekness. Meekness in this sense is synonymous with humility. In order to believe that Jesus is truly present to us in the Holy Eucharist and is not just a symbol, we must cultivate the virtue of humility.

<u>Reflection:</u> Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine own. Let us see You in your profound humility in the fragility of the small, white consecrated Host. We know that St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the "Lauda Sion Salvatorem" in the 13th century to celebrate that every particle of the consecrated Host and every drop in the consecrated chalice contains the TOTAL presence of Christ. During that time period many erroneous ideas about the Holy Eucharist were rampant. Does that echo again in today's world?

415 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Knights of Columbus INVITE St. Ann parishioners and friends to join them for friendship and food at our "Pre-Super Bowl" Parish Social after the 4 PM Mass on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Even if you aren't attending Saturday Mass, you are welcome to join us at 5PM – the more the merrier! There will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space starting the weekend of Feb. 4/5 to bring snacks.

Contact Ministries Coordinator, Chip Janiszewski at Chip.Janiszewski@StAnnAvon.com or by phone/text at 860-673-4006 for more information.



Little Lambs

Upcoming Little Lambs dates: Sundays, 2/12 and 2/19 at the 9:30am Mass. All children are welcome to join us for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Father will call them up after the Opening Prayer.

> No need to sign up ahead. Older siblings and Caregivers welcome too.

Any questions, please call: Colleen Waterbury: mcwaterbu@comcast.net Heather Hoffman: heather-hoffman@sbcglobal.net

with heartfelt gratitude...

Thank you to all donors, volunteers, and attendees for sharing your specialty dishes and joyful dining with our St. Ann community at the International Pot Luck meal! Your good will and generosity are so very appreciated!



Social Outreach Ministry and Chip Janiszewski, Ministry Coordinator

JANUARY 29TH, 2023 - 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Practicing) Catholic, Recognize Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments, by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Humble of the Earth

When I think of the Beatitudes, I think of collectible coffee mugs emblazoned with the words *Blessed are the peacemakers*, with little pastel flowers stenciled in the white spaces of the lettering. I think of greeting cards and decorative wall hangings.

Why? These are the Beatitudes, for heaven's sake — revolutionary and radical. An uncompromising impeachment of worldly values. They are the opposite of banal.

But I cringed from my head to my toes when I read my first draft of this reflection, a retelling of a time in my life when I decided to embrace humility and meekness. I realized that the Beatitudes aren't something I can tell you about. Poverty of spirit, the hunger for righteousness, the gladness God gives to the downtrodden — these are concepts that must be animated within us. They must be lived. So instead of telling you my story, I want you to tell yours.

I invite you to think of a time when you were vulnerable. When you were discouraged or humbled or felt like a failure. A time when you were cut low. The loss of a job, perhaps, or the rejection of a loved one. The abrupt end of some road that you felt sure would be long and prosperous.

Resentment, envy, and vengefulness flourish in moments like this. Did you experience those feelings? Did you embrace them? Did you want to?

What did the world tell you this moment should mean?

What does Christ tell you it should mean? Have you figured it out, or are you still working on it?

God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong. — 1 Corinthians 1:27



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK Live the Liturgy

Every day, God offers each of us countless opportunities to embody the Beatitudes. Blink and you might miss them. Where is God inviting you to poverty of spirit? Where does he beg you to hunger for righteousness? How does he ask you to make peace?

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of January 29, 2023

Sunday:	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (Matthew 5:3)/
	1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday:	Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Friday:	Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly. (Zep 3:12)

Psalm:

Blessed the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (Ps 146) Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong. (1 Cor 1:27)

Gospel:

"Blessed are the poor in sprit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my parents' bedroom there were on the wall two photos of my mom and dad from their early adulthoods. The photo of my mother entranced me when I was a boy. I loved looking at it, even though I saw her in daily life. Something about that picture captured her perfectly. It was an image of the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength that enveloped me from the start of my life. It was an icon of the woman who fed, taught, and encouraged me. I felt a deep pride that I came from such beauty.

The beatitudes of Jesus are a kind of self-portrait. But it is a strange picture. At first, the blessings of being poor, mourning, and hungering and thirsting for righteousness may seem bizarre or, worse, a religious delusion. Who wants to look like *that*? But if we look again, we begin to see the characteristics of Jesus' form. He becomes poor and fills it with his riches for us, he weeps and mourns for us, and fills it with his joy, he hungers and thirsts for us to be righteous, and so satisfies us. And so on. It's the way he appears on the cross.

Perhaps we should put on our bedroom room walls the words of the beatitudes next to a crucifix of the Lord Jesus. Then we can do what the beatitudes are designed for, to gaze at the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength of the one who is our origin, and who is with us every day. And little by little, we'll start to look like him.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Archdiocese of Hartford's High School Collection:

THANK YOU!

WE ARE GRATEFUL! Catholic high school students in the Archdiocese of Hartford send their deepest gratitude and thanks to all who participated in the 2023 Catholic High School Collection. Your support will further enhance the outstanding educational experience our secondary schools offer and help students prepare for leadership roles and active lives of faith as they move forward. Thank you for your generosity.

If you'd like to make an online donation, you can do so at: www.catholicedaohct.org/catholic-schools/highschool-collection January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

God of Light, we pray for all the people – men, women and children – hidden in the darkness of modern day slavery. Help us shine Your light into the homes, streets, factories and brothels in our own neighborhoods and around the world where people are enslaved. The darkness is as light to you, O Lord. No person in any corner of the world is hidden from Your sight. Help us shine Your light. Amen.

(Source: Catholic Relief Services.)

For additional prayer resources visit: http:// www.catholicsocialjustice.org/humantrafficking.html

SUPPORT OCAL ADVERTISERS

If you'd like to make a one-time donation to the Church of Saint Ann, just scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone. Thank you!



Evening for Couples: The Power of Gratitude

Tuesday, January 31, 7-8:30. St. Mary's Star of the Sea. You will be thankful that you did.

Gratitude is powerful. Grateful couples are healthier, happier, more spiritual, and more loving. In a one and a half-hour session, you will be introduced to the whys and hows of couple gratitude. You will be given a take-home guide that will start you on your way to a more grateful relationship.

There is no cost to attend, just a desire to spend time enriching your relationship and join other couples in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Light refreshments will be available, also at no cost.

Registration is recommended but not required. Leave an acceptance message for Tom and Joan containing your name and parish at joantomgun@sbcglobal.net or 860-673-3647

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a variety of in -person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. 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://wwmectw.org/.

What better gift can you give your spouse for Christmas than to tell them you want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience together: Feb 3-5, 2023 in Huntington, NY Mar 10-12, 2023 in Upton, MA Jun 23-25, 2023 in Huntington, NY





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St. Ann, Avon, CT