



# Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road \* Avon, Connecticut \* 06001

[www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org)

860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor

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

**DEACONS**  
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**CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT**  
Mike Gould: ext. 225

## BAPTISM and MARRIAGES:

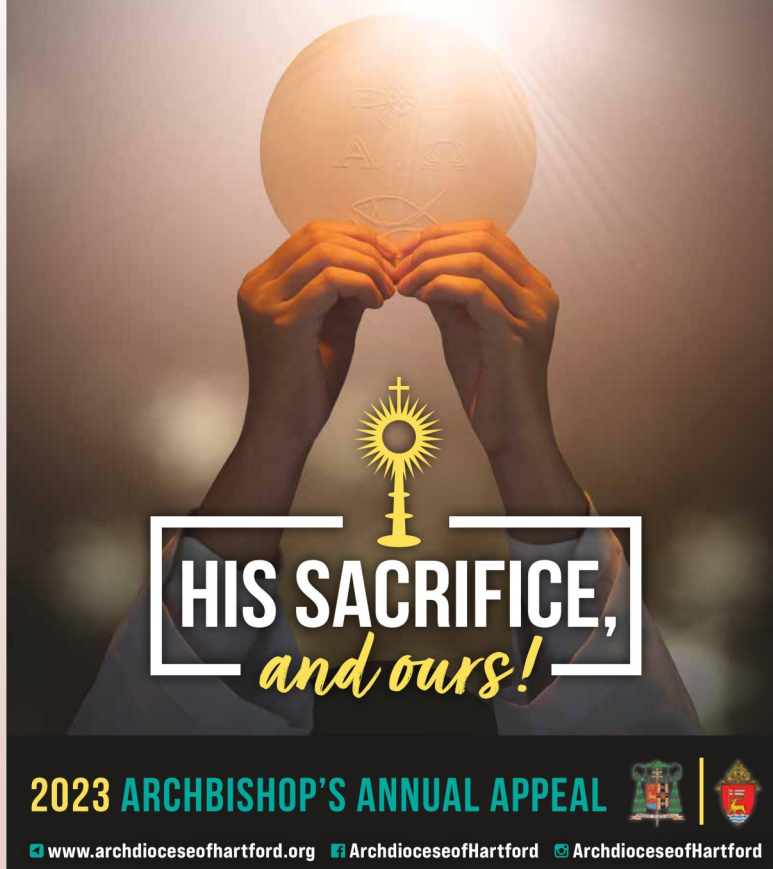
Please call the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext. 221  
Please schedule marriage dates at least 6 months ahead. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass or on Sundays.

## 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.

**KICKOFF WEEKEND: FEB. 25-26, 2023**



## 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



## First Sunday of Lent

### MONDAY, February 27

9:00 Jack Kevin O'Leary, requested by  
the Wojewoda Family

### TUESDAY, February 28

9:00 Alessandra Smolinski & Cora Sopelak,  
requested by the Sopelak Family

### WEDNESDAY, March 1

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

### THURSDAY, March 2

9:00 William Omberg, requested by  
Rob and Diane Earley

### FRIDAY, March 3

9:00 Harrison Waterbury, requested by  
the Waterbury Family

### SATURDAY, March 4

4:00 Austin James Tangen, requested by  
John and Maria Manning

### SUNDAY, March 5

7:30 Fr. John Lavorgna, requested by Fr. Fontana

9:30 For blessings upon our Confirmation  
candidates

11:00 Nancy Ward Callahan, requested by  
the Downey Family

## COME SING in the LOFT!!



## Join our Holy Week Choir!

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

St. Ann's Music Ministry invites you to "Join Us In SONG" for  
any or all of our Holy Week events: Wednesday's  
Tenebrae Service, Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday Service  
and the Easter Vigil. We will be scheduling rehearsals soon.

Please reach out to our Director of Music, Tom Stockton at 860-  
673-9858, ext. 230 or [ttstockton@earthlink.net](mailto:ttstockton@earthlink.net), and/or our  
Ministries Coordinator (and long time Choir Member), Chip  
Janiszewski at 860-673-4006 or  
[chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com](mailto:chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com) for more information.



*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, February 27

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, February 28

WWP Touching the Divine: 10:15am via Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, March 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, March 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

Adult Confirmation: 7:15pm in Room 1

### FRIDAY, March 3

Kingdom of Happiness: 9:45am via Zoom

Stations of the Cross: 7pm in the church

### SATURDAY, March 4

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

### SUNDAY, March 5

Kingdom of Happiness: 10:30am in Room 3 and via Zoom



## LENTEN CONFESSIONS

**Mondays during Lent: 6:00pm**

## Stations of the Cross

**Fridays during Lent: 7:00 pm**



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

During this Lenten season, our Parish family Lenten commitment is to practice the corporal works of mercy, both individually and as a community. Donations should be placed in the labelled boxes in the Gathering Space. Anything you can donate is appreciated!

THIS WEEKEND: FEBRUARY 25/26

### Feed the Hungry Give Drink to the Thirsty

Food collection for the Avon Food Pantry and the Catholic Worker food pantry.

NEXT WEEKEND: MARCH 4/5

### Visit the Sick

Collection of health aids for Helping Haitian Children at the Carrefour Clinic in Haiti:

Vitamins: Children & Adult  
(no gummy vitamins)

Cough/Cold/Sinus medicines

Bacitracin Ointment

Bengay/muscle rub

Antifungal ointment

Tylenol/Aleve/Ibuprofen

Anti-bacterial soap (Dial)

Hemorrhoid cream

Tums

Toothpaste

Toothpaste

Artificial tears

Eucerin cream

Pepto-Bismol

Calamine lotion

Cortisone cream

Wound cleanser

Ace bandages (wraps)



Searching for happiness for yourself, within your family, at work? Come discover Jesus' plan for real, lasting joy & satisfaction.

# KINGDOM OF HAPPINESS

## Lent Reflection Series

Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life

In this 8-part program, you'll learn how the Beatitudes are much more than nice sayings; they are the path to true joy charted by Christ himself. You'll also identify the false promises of happiness that leave us feeling empty.

Featuring insightful teachings by Fr. Jeffrey Kirby and inspiring video-profiles of everyday heroes living happy, satisfying lives.

Meeting Feb 24 – April 28

- Sunday Mornings, 10:30am-12pm in Room 3 and via Zoom
- Wednesday Evenings, 7:00-8:30pm in Room 3
- Friday Mornings, 9:45-11:15am via Zoom

Materials fee: \$23 (checks payable to Church of St. Ann, please)  
RSVP by Feb 19: [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto:ann.distefano@stannavon.com), 860-673-9858

Church of Saint Ann presents:

## Anti-Asian Racism: Myths, Stereotypes and Catholic Social Teaching

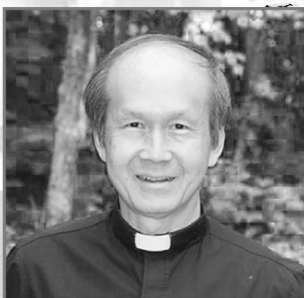
Sunday, March 26, 2023, Noon  
Church of Saint Ann, Father Bennett Hall

### ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

Myths, Stereotypes, and Catholic Social Teaching



Joseph Cheah



Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D, M.A. & M.Div.

FREE books to the first 10 registrants!

To purchase book call 1-800-258-5838, use promo code "MAD".

Light refreshments served. Registration free but required.

To register email: [AnnDiStefano@stannavon.com](mailto:AnnDiStefano@stannavon.com)

RSVP by March 20



On Sunday, March 5, 2023 the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a relic of Blessed Michael McGivney at the 11:00am Mass and will be displayed after Mass for personal veneration and prayer.

**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: <https://www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/adult-confirmation-spring-2023>
- + Questions: [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto: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

## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

**Weekly Collection for 2/19/23:** will be reported next weekend

**Online Giving (Feb.15-22, 2023):** \$2,487.50

**Next Weekend's 2nd Collection:** *St. Ann Cares*



**Have you ever wondered why we do what we do or believe what we believe in our Catholic Faith?**

**Join us to find out!**

**Registration Begins Now**

**When:** Tuesday's from March 28 - May 30th

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Where:** St. Ann Church Room 3

**Cost:** \$20 *(includes workbook)*

**For more information contact:**  
**andrapizzuti333@gmail.com**

**For online sign up:**

[www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/faith-refresher-2023](http://www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/faith-refresher-2023)



**The Holy Eucharist**  
*DID YOU KNOW?*

### This week's theme: Overcoming the Trials of Life

Today we begin our journey into Lent. Our readings take us with Jesus for 40 days into the desert. (Matthew 4: 1-11) Here Jesus is tempted by Satan. Christ teaches us how to overcome temptations as He suffered the physical trials of hunger and thirst. In obedience and fidelity to His heavenly Father, Jesus demonstrates how we too can persevere through the trials and temptations of life. We must depend totally on God.

**Reflection:** There is a little-known saint who demonstrates how the Holy Eucharist can assist us to overcome temptations during great trials. St. Alice of Schaerbeek was a young woman who suffered from leprosy. She was confined for life to a small hut for fear that others would contract her disease. How did she overcome the many temptations which must have afflicted her during her life? These are her words, "The Eucharist removes my pains, my cares.... (It) warms, cheers, soothes, contents and renews my whole being." Why not make a commitment this Lent to spend some time in prayer before Jesus in His Sacrament of Divine Love? There is no better way to grow closer to Him this Lent than to spend time with Him.

## Forward with Faith Update

The Forward with Faith Campaign strives to build the strong financial foundation necessary to address our future needs and strengthen our parishes, schools, faith formation programs, and social service ministries. We have spent \$223,000 of the \$375,000 we will receive. Below are some of the items your generosity has brought to our parish.

### Tech

- New speaker system for Church
- New Wi-fi network for Father Bennett Hall and Activity Room
- New Computers for office staff
- New server and back up components
- New software and email host for higher security
- Chromebooks for online Faith Formation and Bible Studies

### Building

- New Hymnals
- Upgrades to the air filtration system
- New copy machine
- New TVs and DVD players for all meeting rooms

### Communication/Faith Formation

- Fr. Fontana Text messaging and voicemail platform
- Formed
- Social Media position
- Bus to Synod
- Guest Speakers

### Scholarships for students

*Thank you to all who supported this campaign.*



**HIS SACRIFICE,**  
*and ours!*

This weekend marks the start of the 2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal in our parish. If you haven't already, you will soon receive a letter from Archbishop Blair seeking your support. As Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford we can have a profound impact on our local communities not only in the spiritual realm, but intimately connected to it, the realm of social services and many charities and outreach services performed by, or with help from, our Church.

To view some of the wonderful things accomplished through your generosity, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is continuing the web-series called, **The Annual Appeal at Work**. The season premiere will be airing on Thursday, March 2nd on all Archdiocesan Social Media sites as well as the Archbishop's Annual Appeal webpage. New episodes will air the first week of each month, for the rest of 2023. Each episode will highlight some of the wonderful ministries supported by the 2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, **His Sacrifice, and ours!** If you go to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal Website, <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/> you will find a link for each episode. Please tune in Thursday, March 2nd for the season premiere.

*All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>*  
*No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.*

## Connecticut March For Life: 3-22-23

*Life is a Gift, God's precious Gift*

**12 noon: Rally at the Capitol**

**1pm: March for Life around Bushnell Park**

**A bus will leave St. Ann's parking lot around 10:15am and return to St. Ann around 3pm**

**No cost for the bus (40 seats available)**

**Let's fill the bus and together stand for life!**



Please help us turn Connecticut into a state that protects the unborn and rejects euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide for our sick and dying. We need everyone's help to make Connecticut a state that shows respect and compassion for life. *Please sign up on the poster in the Gathering Space. More details can be found on the poster. Thank you.*

## FEBRUARY 26TH, 2023 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

#### Formed and Fallen

There is a version of myself that walks into church on Ash Wednesday and a version of myself that walks into church on Good Friday. Aside from having the same face, these women bear very little resemblance to one another.

Ash Wednesday Me is fired up. She's ready to go. She's got a stomach full of *pączki*, a forehead full of ashes, an oven full of fasting bread and a whole list of Lenten resolutions. She's got a plan for the next 40 days and she's ready to be transformed.

Good Friday Me is tired. She's lumbering into church dragging six weeks of failure and unfulfilled expectations behind her. Nothing went the way it was supposed to (again). She didn't accomplish what she wanted (again) and she doesn't want to dwell on it (again).

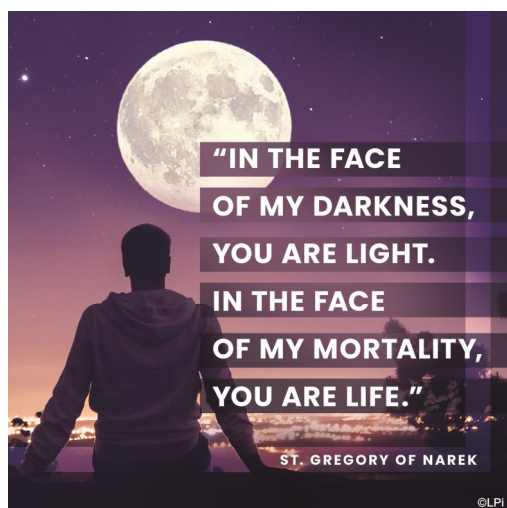
If Satan offered both versions of myself the same deal he offered Christ — *submit to me, and you will have the whole world* — I have to wonder: which one of these creatures, formed and fallen, would be strong enough to defy him? Would either?

I can't say that the chipper, optimistic woman on Ash Wednesday has more strength than the tired woman on Good Friday. To each of these women Satan offers an easy way out. But to each, too, Christ offers an abundance of grace and the gift of justification.

This Lent, I know that I will be tested. I know that I will fail in many ways. I know that my intentions and my best efforts will not be enough.

But I bring them to the altar anyway, and I leave them there as an offering. And I know that Easter morning will dawn, and the tomb will be empty.

*"The gift is not like the transgression." — Romans 5:15*



### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

#### Live the Liturgy

We worship a God who understands human limitation. A God who has felt the pangs of fasting and the enticements of the tempter. Our God, hungry and tired and weakened, has stared into the face of the devil and said: "I am stronger than you."

©LPi

### WEEKLY READINGS

#### Readings for the week of February 26, 2023

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19  
Mt 4:1-11  
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22)/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

### SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

#### Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

#### Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

#### Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and we hear this: **"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry."** Seems like a questionable battle preparation plan. When I fast, I usually feel grouchy at best, and at worst, like I might pass out from longing for a hamburger. Isn't it better to be well-fed and fully hydrated, especially to face spiritual struggles? Why fast?

This might help. The origin of the word "fast" means to "hold firmly." We still use it that way when we say, "I held fast to my original decision." We human beings are a bundle of desires which vie for our attention: food, drink, comfort, safety, sex, laughter, beauty, and so on. If we can't manage to have firm grip on them, in short order they'll have a firm grip on us. By fasting from our lower desires, we learn to firmly grip on to what is greater. Fasting leads to us to a firmer hold on our body and mind.

Jesus fasts for us. He's showing us that his grace can help us regain this firm hold of our lives, which makes it more difficult for the devil to tempt us. But take it one more step. Fasting also teaches us to finally hold fast to Jesus, the Word of God in flesh. **"Man does not live by bread alone,"** he says, **"But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."** Jesus' fasting reveals his fast hold to the Father in everything. May our fasting help us to grasp ourselves more firmly, and then to hold fast to Jesus alone.

— Father John Muir

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# THE BULLETIN BOARD




**Unlocking the Power of  
Praying the Psalms**

Lenten Scripture Retreat:  
Saturday, March 25th 8:45-2:15pm

For More Information and to Register:



*The Foundation for the  
Advancement of Catholic Schools*  
*invites you to the*  
**23rd ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST**



**Please join us!**

**Friday, March 17, 2023, 7:30 a.m. Breakfast**  
Hartford Marriott Downtown

Net Proceeds benefit FACS which provides scholarships to  
students attending Catholic schools.  
Call 860.325.5096 or visit [FACSHartford.org/st-patrick/](https://FACSHartford.org/st-patrick/)  
for sponsorship and tickets

Emcee, Irene O'Connor  
WFSB Reporter & Anchor

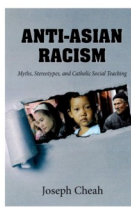

Guest Speaker  
Staff SGT (Ret.) Johnny Joey Jones

*The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry  
of the Archdiocese of Hartford presents*

**Anti-Asian Racism:  
Myths, Stereotypes, and Catholic  
Social Teaching**

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom





Join us for A Conversation with  
the author:  
Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM

Registration is free but required  
To Register go to [catholicsocialjustice.org](https://catholicsocialjustice.org)

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If you wish to purchase the book contact  
Orbis Books, 1-800-258-5838 and mention  
the promotion code "MAD"



**Do you receive  
St. Ann's weekly  
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in your email?  
If not, scan this**


**Calling all Pet Lovers!**

Aid a Pet, CT's only pet food pantry which operates out of Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, is seeking monetary and pet food donations. The pet food pantry distributes pet food to low-income Hartford residents on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-1 p.m.

It also helps low-income Hartford residents with basic veterinary care. Aid a Pet is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

**Monetary donations can be mailed to:**  
Aid a Pet, P.O. Box 503, South Glastonbury CT 06073

**Pet food donations can be shipped to:** Aid a Pet  
C/O Thomas Dente, 77 Bielefield Rd., Middletown CT 06457



*Aid a Pet also has many volunteer opportunities - a wonderful way for high school students to fulfill community service hours. For further info please check out the Aid a Pet Facebook page or call/text (860) 834-2034.*

**Scones**  
For Sale  
Sales ends March 13th

**March 17th**

**Drive-Thru**

**Pick up - 10am - 4pm**

Order Online <https://LSPScones23.givesmart.com>  
Or Call 860-265-1872 to pre-order





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