



# Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road \* Avon, Connecticut \* 06001

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

860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor

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## DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

## CHURCH OF SAINT ANN TRUSTEES

Kelly McCabe and Kathy Randall Gill

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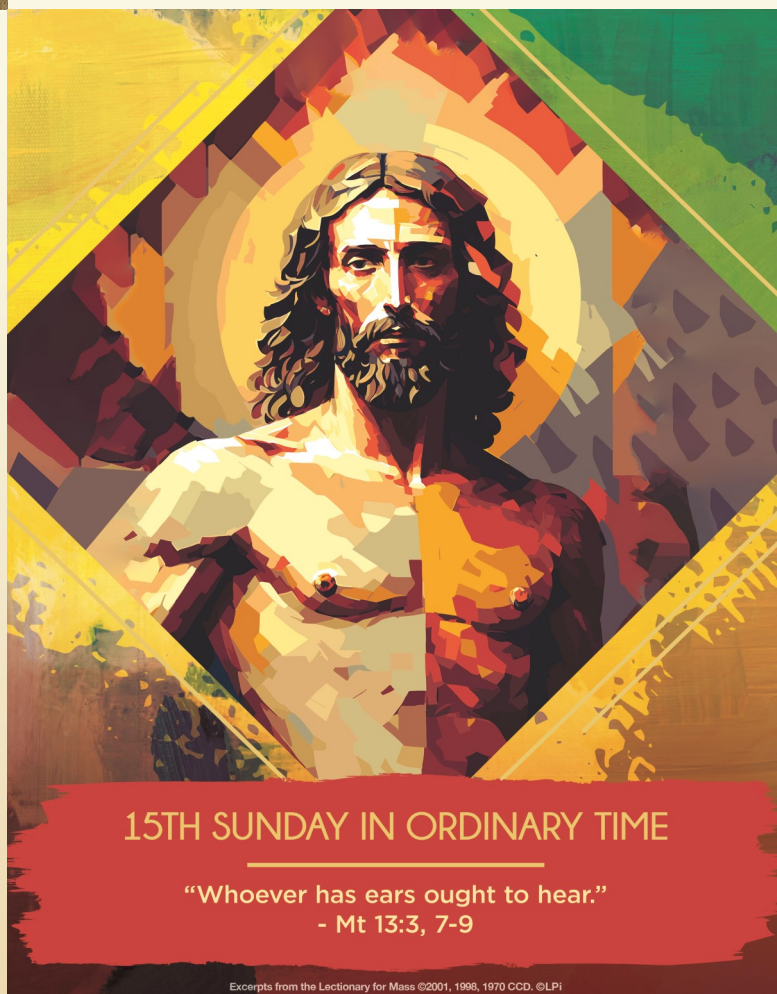
## BAPTISM and MARRIAGES:

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.



## 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”  
- Mt 13:3, 7-9

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

# MASS INTENTIONS



**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## MONDAY, July 17

**9:00** Richard Simpson, *requested by the St. Ann Eucharistic Ministers*

## TUESDAY, July 18

**9:00** Edwin Lysak, *requested by Marcia and family*

## WEDNESDAY, July 19

**9:00** Stefania Osiecki (1st Ann), *requested by the Osiecki Family*

## THURSDAY, July 20

**9:00** Juliet Sielski, *requested by the St. Ann Thursday Holy Hour group*

## FRIDAY, July 21

**9:00** Dorothy LaRosa, *requested by her husband, Michael*

## SATURDAY, July 22

**4:00** Samuel Olson, *requested by Mom, Dad, Eric and Eric and Nathan*

## SUNDAY, July 23

**7:30** Lorraine Wilson(2nd Ann.) *requested by the Connors Family*

**9:30** Jack Kevin O'Leary, *requested by the Wojewoda Family*

**11:00** Michael D. Gentile, *requested by Mr. and Mrs. James A. Samia*

# JUST FOR KIDS!



**Has your child, or a child you know, missed celebrating the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or First Eucharist? Rest assured: it is never too late!**

This summer, St Ann's is offering a sacramental preparation program for children grade 3 – 8. This program is specially designed to teach children what they've missed, celebrate the sacrament(s) and prepare them to participate in our faith formation program, with their peers, September 2023.

For more information and to register, contact Valerie St. Jean, Director of K-8 Faith Formation [valerie.stjean@stannavon.com](mailto:valerie.stjean@stannavon.com) 860-673-9858

# 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 parish. You can do so by stopping by or calling the Parish Office (860-673-9858, ext.221).

You can also register online at:

[www.stannavon.org/register-at-st-ann](http://www.stannavon.org/register-at-st-ann)

*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, July 17

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 9:30-10:30am in the church  
**MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group:** 7:15pm in the church (all welcome)

### TUESDAY, July 18

### WEDNESDAY, July 19

**Book Discussion for Deacon Tim's book:** 9:30 am in Fr. Bennett Hall

### THURSDAY, July 20

**Holy Hour:** 12 noon in the church

### FRIDAY, July 21

### SATURDAY, July 22

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

### SUNDAY, July 23

**Lectio Divina:** 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

**Sendoff for Valerie St. Jean:** after 9:30am Mass Fr. Bennett Hall



## Feast of Saint Ann July 26th

We celebrate the feast day of our patroness Saint Anne this coming July 26, so please join us in a novena in her honor. The novena traditionally starts on July 17th and ends July 25th. As you know, Saint Anne is a powerful saint, the mother of The Blessed Virgin Mary and Grandmother of Jesus. She is also the patron saint of mothers, grandmothers, unmarried women, pregnant women, as well as of relationships.

Please join us after the weekday mass beginning July 17th in praying this novena for your special intentions. We will provide the novena pray for each day along with the meditations. The material will also be available for you to do on your own if you are unable to participate at our church.

We are planning to add the novena to the parish website, [www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org), for you to say from the convenience of your home. (It will be located under the "About" tab and then click "Patron Saint")

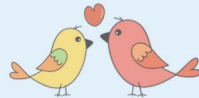




*Thanks & Blessings  
for  
Valerie St. Jean*

**Sunday, July 23rd  
after 9:30am Mass  
in Fr. Bennett Hall**

*Come thank Valerie for having shared  
the love of God with  
St. Ann children and parents as our Director  
of K-8 Faith Formation,  
and wish her well in her new position as  
Coordinator of Adult & Family Life  
Ministries for the Archdiocese of Hartford*



**Fr. Fontana will be  
celebrating the live  
TV Mass on Tuesday,  
July 18th at 10:00am.**

The television Mass is broadcast  
on Comcast - WCCT-TV &  
My TV 1059.

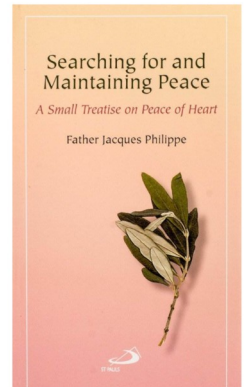
## MARRIAGE BANNES



**Hsa Ku Goe and  
Nicholas Alexander Klatt**

## Good Summer Read

We live in a day and age characterized by an extraordinary amount of agitation and lack of peace. What must we do to overcome the moments of fear and distress which assail us all too often in our lives? How can we learn to place all our confidence in God and abandon ourselves into His loving care? This is what is taught in this simple, yet profound little treatise on peace of heart.



**Join Us To Discuss!**

**Wednesday, August 30th  
7pm**

**in the Activity Room  
(under the church wing)**

**RSVP**

**Nancy Casey: 860-673-3141  
nancekc@gmail.com**

Books will be available for \$8.00  
in the Parish Office.  
(Please note the office will not have change.)  
You can also pay online at:  
[www.stannavon.org/book-discussions-1](http://www.stannavon.org/book-discussions-1)



**The Holy  
Eucharist  
DID YOU KNOW?**

Today's Gospel is about bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. We, the lay people, have the job of being the good seed which brings the Word of God into the world in whatever capacity that we find ourselves. God is an equal opportunity employer. We are all called to become the image of God in the world.

St. Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein, a Jewish Convert, Philosophy professor, Carmelite Nun and martyr of Auschwitz) wrote, "In order to be an image of God, the spirit must turn to what is eternal, hold it in spirit, keep it in memory, and by loving it, embrace it in the will."

**Reflection:** It is the graces that we receive in Holy Communion which enables us to go out and to bring Christ into the world. During these trying times, we need these graces more than ever. As Flannery O'Connor wrote in her book, "The Habit of Being", "You have to push as hard as the age that pushes against you." Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament strengthens us to do this.

## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 7/2/23: \$4,683.00

Mission Cooperative Appeal: \$4,290.75

Weekly Collection for 7/9/23: \$4,797.00

Votive Candles: 7/2: \$ 316.02    7/9: \$160.00

Online Giving (July 3-12, 2023)

Weekly: \$3,236.00

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *Parish Special Needs*

## IRA Charitable Rollover

**Do you have an IRA? Are you 70 ½ or older?**

Did you know you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to the parish from your IRA? Church of St. Ann is a 501(c)(3) organization that is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.

### Benefits:

- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.
- Avoid taxes on transfers up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the parish.
- Know you are contributing to a worthy cause.



### How does it work?

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to the parish (we have a sample letter).
- Your IRA funds will be mailed directly to the parish.
- Let us know if the funds are for a specific purpose (i.e. Parish Annual Appeal, Weekly, Monthly, etc.)

\*\*\* Please consult your own tax advisor before engaging in any transaction. \*\*\*



## LOST at St. Ann

I am missing a small black three ring binder with this picture on the front. It was accidentally left behind during Friday Mass 2-3 weeks ago. It has custom printed 5 x 7 prayer cards in it and a Divine Mercy Rosary in the pockets. Please contact me

at:andrepizzuti333@gmail.com or return to Kris Martino in the Parish office. Thank you.



## 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**

For registration details and inspiring testimonials, visit:

<https://www.stannavon.org/lectio-divina-live>

## Why Do We Do That

**Catholic Life Explained**

### Question:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

### Answer:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

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# Worship & Meditation: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The rain and snow come down  
and do not return there  
till they have watered the earth,  
making it fertile and fruitful. (Is 55:10)

### Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a  
fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

### Second Reading:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time  
are as nothing  
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.  
For creation awaits with eager expectation  
the revelation of the children of God. (Rom 8:18-19)

### Gospel:

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:  
"A sower went out to sow. (Mt 13:3)

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.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We are all sowers in the field. Our time, our money, our attention: these finite resources are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that will bear fruit for the kingdom?  
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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a *relationship*, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

- Father John Muir

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## Questions of the Week

### Reflect and Respond to Scripture

#### First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. How might you help friends or family trust more in God?

#### Second Reading:

Paul sees creation itself sharing in the redemption and future glory that awaits all believers — "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God." What do you imagine earth would look like filled with God's glory, absent any "corruption?"

#### Gospel:

Over the next few Sundays, we will be hearing many parables from Jesus. Today's parable of the sower and the seeds speaks to how people react differently to the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. How would you describe your reaction to Jesus's parables of the kingdom?

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## Readings for the Week of July 16, 2023

### Sunday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14  
(Luke 8:8)/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

### Monday:

Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/  
Mt 10:34—11:1

### Tuesday:

Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/  
Mt 11:20-24

### Wednesday:

Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/  
Mt 11:25-27

### Thursday:

Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9,  
24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30

### Friday:

Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15  
and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8

### Saturday:

Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2,  
3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

### Next Sunday:

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10,  
15-16 (5a)/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43  
or 13:24-30

(PRACTICING)

## CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not

share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that *it's all about the soil*.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

*"...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." — Isaiah 55:11*

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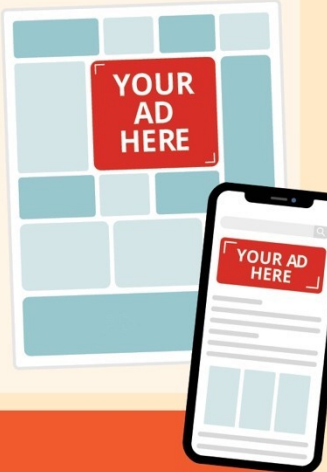
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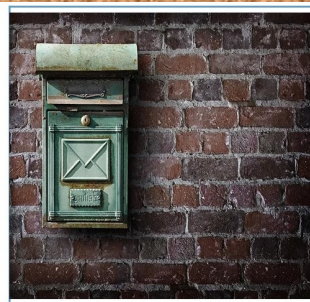
**Digital advertising** allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on [ParishesOnline.com](http://ParishesOnline.com) — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!




### QUILTS2HEAL SEW DAY Thursday, July 20, 9:00-3:00 Fr. Bennett Hall

Quilts2Heal has created and distributed over 2,300 quilts to those in need of comfort and healing.

**NO SEWING EXPERIENCE needed!** There are many tasks - cutting and ironing fabrics, pinning and sandwiching quilts need many helping hands. Come for an hour, or come for the day. Pick up a kit or two to sew at home. Contact: Paula DeSilva, 860.306.7000 [quilts2heal@comcast.net](mailto:quilts2heal@comcast.net)



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— Saint Augustine



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