



# 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

Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

## CHURCH OF SAINT ANN TRUSTEES

Kelly McCabe and Kathy Randall Gill

## SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

Russell Koch: [russ.koch@stannavon.com](mailto:russ.koch@stannavon.com)

## DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K - 8)

ext. 223

## CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Rosemary Neamtz, MSW: ext. 226 [rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com](mailto:rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com)

## BOOKKEEPER/FAITH FORMATION REGISTRAR

Jennifer Soucy, CPA: ext.227 [jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com](mailto:jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com)

## DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

Ann DiStefano, MPS: ext. 228 [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto:ann.distefano@stannavon.com)

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mercedes Featherston: ext. 230

## PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 [kris.martino@stannavon.com](mailto:kris.martino@stannavon.com)

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Kerry Magrini: [kerry.magrini@stannavon.com](mailto:kerry.magrini@stannavon.com)

## MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Chip Janiszewski: [chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com](mailto:chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com)

## CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext.225



## 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,  
"Lord, help me." - Mt 15:25

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

## 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.

# MASS INTENTIONS



**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## MONDAY, August 21

**9:00** Richard Simpson, requested by  
Dick and Lorraine ZuWallack

## TUESDAY, August 22

**9:00** Juliet Sielski, requested by Lee Lester

## WEDNESDAY, August 23

**9:00** William Weldon, requested by  
the Weldon Family

## THURSDAY, August 24

**9:00** Michael Sumers, requested by  
Rosanne Harutunian

## FRIDAY, August 25

**9:00** Fermin Alambra, requested by  
John and Jean Henares

## SATURDAY, August 26

**4:00** Derek Stockwell (6th Ann.), requested by  
the family

## SUNDAY, August 27

**7:30** Linda and Salvatore Bonini, requested by  
the family

**9:30** John J. Murphy, requested by the  
Brian and Ann Beloin

**11:00** Gilda Tirro requested by  
Mary Ann & Steve Slomski

# 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 worshiping with us and we hope to see you again!*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN

### MONDAY, August 21

**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, August 22

### WEDNESDAY, August 23

### THURSDAY, August 24

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

### FRIDAY, August 25

### SATURDAY, August 26

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

### SUNDAY, August 27

**Lectio Divina:** 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM  
**RCIA Meetup:** after 9:30 and 11am Masses in Fr. Bennett Hall

The Parish of Saint Ann is happy to introduce  
our longtime parishioner,

# Mercedes Featherston

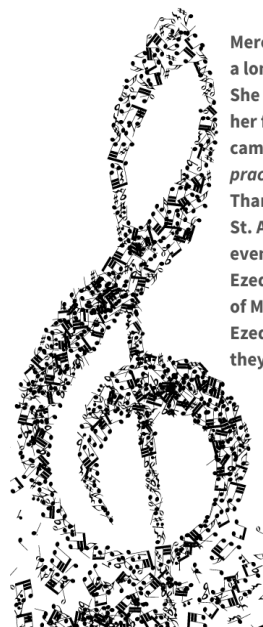
as our new Music Director

Mercedes Featherston and her husband, Ezequiel Menendez, have a long history at the Church of Saint Ann spanning over 3 decades! She mentioned that it's actually thanks to Saint Ann that she and her family are here in the United States. You see, she and Ezequiel came to Connecticut from Argentina back in the early 1990's on *practical training visas* that would only last for a year and a half. Thankfully, Fr. McCarthy offered Ezequiel the music director job at St. Ann in 1992. They were then able to get their green cards and eventually became citizens. Mercedes would often fill in for Ezequiel during his tenure at St. Ann and is now the Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Mercedes and Ezequiel raised their four children, now ages 19-29, in Avon where they made all of their sacraments at St. Ann.

We welcome Mercedes as the new Music Director and look forward to her beautiful playing and we are excited to see where she takes our Music Ministry! She sounds eager to restart the adult and children's choirs, so keep your eyes out for more information that should be coming soon.

## Bienvenida, Mercedes!

Kris Martino, Parish Office



## Not Catholic?



RCIA 2023

We'd love to help you explore the **peace, purpose, and belonging** found in a relationship with God, through the faith Jesus founded.

## "Curious about Catholicism" Meet Ups:

- **SUN, AUG 27, after 9:30 & 11am Masses at St. Ann Church, in Fr. Bennett Hall**
- **WED, SEPT 6, 5:30-7pm at First & Last Tavern, Avon**

Bring a friend, enjoy refreshments, and chat with us in an informal atmosphere. No pressure; no commitment.

Contact: [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto:ann.distefano@stannavon.com); 860-4637495



### *A letter from Seminarian Gregory Meyer*

Dear Parish Family of the Church of Saint Ann,

I have been honored to be assigned to this parish for the summer. My stay here has been filled with many blessings. Here are some of the things that I would like to share with you that have made my time memorable:

With Father Fontana, I helped serve at several funerals, a baptism, a confirmation, and a wedding in addition to the weekday and Sunday liturgies. I also have learned more about the priestly ministry by accompanying Father on various visits and appointments throughout the summer. I learned about the administration of the parish through attending several council meetings and interacting with our wonderful parish staff. I got to coordinate a procession of the Holy Eucharist in the feast of Corpus Christi, I also got to help with the lively summer Bible camp. I had the blessing of visiting the Catholic residents weekly at a nursing home in town. I even got to help with some catechesis for a few of our children in religious education. These have all been great opportunities for my formation to become a priest.

I go back to Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota at the end of this month to start my first year of the four years of Theology (also called Major Seminary). If you would like to reach me my address will be 2260 Summit Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105.

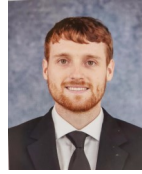
Please continue to pray for me as I will for you. May our blessed Lady and her mother Saint Ann protect us and intercede for us and bring us into greater union and fidelity to Her most beloved Son.

I hope to see you at some point down the road!

Pax Domini,

*Gregory Meyer*

Seminarian for the Archdiocese of Hartford



### *Parish Farewell to Seminarian, Gregory Meyer Sunday, August 20th After the 9:30am Mass Fr. Bennett Hall*

As the summer approaches its end, so does Seminarian Gregory's time at St. Ann. THIS Sunday August 20 is Seminarian Gregory's last day. There will be a lite reception following the following the 9:30am Mass. Please join us in wishing him well on his journey to priesthood.

## JESUS

THE WAY THE TRUTH,  
AND THE LIFE

### Join us this Fall for Jesus: The Way, The Truth and the Life

Most of us know a lot about Jesus. But how well do we actually know him? This **10-part Series** was filmed on location in the Holy Land, and gives us a new and fresh look at Jesus—who he is, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation.

**When:** Week of Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> – Week of Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Church of St. Ann: Fr. Bennett Hall  
on Wednesdays

**Time:** 9:30 am – 11:00 am

**Cost:** \$25.00 for Guide Book

**RSVP:** by September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Registration is required: (No Homework)**

Sign up in the Gathering Space or email Andrea Pizzuti at: [andrapizzuti333@gmail.com](mailto:andrapizzuti333@gmail.com). *Limited spaces remain!*



#### Please consider these suggested items:

- \*Backpacks \* Calculators \* Notebooks
- \*Pencils \* Dictionaries \* Rulers \*
- Pencil sharpeners \* Pens
- \* Notebook paper \* Markers etc.

## Tools For Schools Collection Through September 9/10

The leaves will soon be turning, air chilling, and school buses rolling... it's time for our annual Tools for Schools Collection. This collection is of great assistance to the Catholic Worker House, Hartford refugee families and the Avon Food Pantry families. Any/all NEW school supplies are welcomed. Backpacks are especially needed. Please place the items in the area marked "Tools for Schools" in the Gathering Space or bring down to church offices below Fr. Bennett Hall. May you be blessed for your generosity!



## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

**Weekly Collection for 8/13/23:** \$5,925.31

**Votive Candles:** \$193.51

**Online Giving (August 9-16, 2023)**

**Weekly:** \$2,802.00

**Next Weekend's 2nd Collection:** *Monthly*



## 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>

PASSING  
ON THE  
*faith*



## VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS NEEDED

**Grades:**  
**Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd,  
5th, 6th and 7th**

It is through caring, sharing and praying that our community has grown in love and support of one another. The success of our religious education program depends on the dedicated individuals in our parish willing to share their time, talents and faith with the future Church and our parish children.

*For more information or if you would like to be a catechist, please contact Julie Dombrowski at:  
[julie.dombrowski@stannavon.com](mailto:julie.dombrowski@stannavon.com)*

## 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.

Searching for and  
Maintaining Peace  
*A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart*  
Father Jacques Philippe



**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](mailto: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)

## Looking for a Used Car

**I am in the market  
for a used car. It  
can have over  
100,000 miles.**



If you can help me, I can be reached at  
[Fr.fontana@stannavon.com](mailto:Fr.fontana@stannavon.com) or (860) 673-9858, ext 231.



## The Holy Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

"There is no greater gift than God's gift of Himself to us in Holy Communion. And there is nothing more rewarding than taking advantage of that intimacy by uniting in fervent reflection and prayer with Him during the precious time immediately upon receiving His Body and Blood."  
TheVeilRemoved.com

**Reflection:** "If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament of the Eucharist, I'm sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude." St Teresa of Avila





# Worship & Meditation: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

All who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, then I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer (Is 56:6-7)

### Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps 67)

### Second Reading:

For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)

### Gospel:

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

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

"O woman, great is your faith!" The Canaanite woman stood firm in her belief that God would answer her — even when those closest to him tried to send her away, and even when Christ himself challenged her. She never wavered.

©LPi

## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuitively understands this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

- Father John Muir

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## Questions of the Week

### Reflect and Respond to Scripture

#### First Reading:

The Lord instructed the prophet Isaiah to be open to "foreigners" (nations other than Israel) for God's covenant with Israel is intended for all people. How welcoming are you to outsiders in your life?

#### Second Reading:

Paul believed that Israel's rejection of Jesus became a vehicle for God to reveal his mercy to all people, Jew and Gentile alike. Is there someone in your life who needs your mercy and forgiveness?

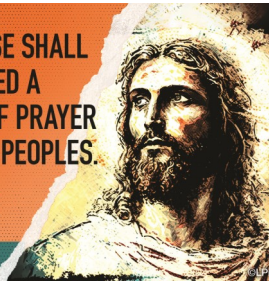
#### Gospel:

Jesus rewards the Canaanite woman for her great faith by granting the woman's request to heal her daughter. Who would you say has helped you grow in your faith?

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MY HOUSE SHALL  
BE CALLED A  
HOUSE OF PRAYER  
FOR ALL PEOPLES.

Isaiah 56:7



(PRACTICING)

# CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## The Prayers God Always Answers

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called "The Prayers God Will Always Answer." I remember my anticipation as I cracked the spine and turned to the first page.

I had been spending a lot of time asking God — begging God, actually — over and over again for some specific things that were not materializing. Frankly, it was beginning to feel a lot like that time I asked Santa Claus for a new house, only to wake up on Christmas morning to find ordinary, non-house-shaped presents under the tree — and a growing sense of suspicion that my faith had been ill-placed.

To the great disappointment of my pre-teen heart, my mother's book was not a directory of magical phrases God is

## Readings for the Week of August 20, 2023

### Sunday:

Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

### Monday:

Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

### Tuesday:

Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30

### Wednesday:

Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

### Thursday:

Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

### Friday:

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

### Saturday:

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12

### Next Sunday:

Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like "Forgive me" and "Help me." I tossed it aside, disappointed.

I marvel at the wisdom and the confidence of the Canaanite woman who persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored, and still she will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply.

Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, "No, it cannot be done for you as you wish," she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped him, because she knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and he's not the genie from "Aladdin." Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The story of the Canaanite woman is not a story about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers God always answers.

"Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O woman, great is your faith!'" — Matthew 15:28

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## THE BULLETIN BOARD

### Retrouvaille: Marriage Help Program (local) – September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

If communication in your marriage is a struggle, or things have become troubled, unloving or uncaring, the Retrouvaille the program can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to help you communicate better, resolve conflicts, and rediscover why you fell in love. The next local weekend is September 8-10, 2023.

For information, call confidentially 1-800-470-2230, email [helds4marriage@gmail.com](mailto:helds4marriage@gmail.com) or go to our website: [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for information & registration.

### 2023 Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, at  
Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, CT  
Purchase tickets at [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org) & at the door.

Doors will open at 7:30am. Ticket prices are \$45 for adults and \$20 for teens.

**We request that you purchase tickets in advance. Lunch is included, so advance sales are important.**

Our Catholic Men's Conference has a *unique format* that includes:  
Eucharistic Procession, Adoration, Inspiring Speakers,  
Confession, Lunch, Exhibitors, and Vigil Mass.

**We have a FIRST EVER PROCESSION OF THE SAINTS (Over 24 Relics in procession).**



**“The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.”**  
- Saint Augustine

Scan here to study those letters at the New England Catholic Biblical School.

**Starts August 1st**

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We'll receive \$1 for every purchase of this \$2.50 Community Bag at the Avon Big Y during the month of August.

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TRINITA RETREAT CENTER New Hartford, CT

#### Girl's Night Out ~ Women's Faith Sharing

This year we will be focusing on the Gospel of Luke. Our first session will look at The Persistent Woman – Luke 18:1-8. All women of the parish are invited!

**Thursday evenings: 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, 2/1, 3/7, and 4/4, 6:30pm-8:00pm**

#### Out of the Light: Creating Sacred Space for Self and Others

A series from Just Faith Ministries to help prepare people of faith for the life changing and world changing call of the Gospel. We'll be reading books about Christian spirituality, trying out new prayer and meditation practices, learning from spiritual teachers, and having honest conversations about the joys and struggles in our lives and our world.

**Wednesday Evenings: 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, and 10/25, 6:30pm-8:30pm**

Join Laurie Janecko, Program Director, for the above programs. Laurie has an MA from Boston College and 34 years' experience in education, faith formation, and youth & retreat ministry. She also has a strong interest in women's spirituality and social justice.

For more information or to register contact Trinita Retreat Center at 860-379-4329 or [trinita1923@gmail.com](mailto:trinita1923@gmail.com)

### Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools

#### 12th Annual FORE FACS Golf Classic and Dinner

**Ready to play one of CT's premier courses? Please join us!**

**Monday, August 28, 2023**

**TPC River Highlands  
Cromwell, CT**

9:30 Registration Begins  
Driving Range & Putting Green Open  
11:00 Box Lunch and Shotgun Start  
3:45 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres  
4:45 Dinner Buffet and Program

**Sign up today! Space is limited and foursomes fill up fast.**

Net proceeds benefit FACS, a local non-profit providing SCHOLARSHIPS to deserving students.



Scan QR code or contact FACS for registration brochure

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