



# 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)

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## CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

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## BOOKKEEPER/FAITH FORMATION REGISTRAR

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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## PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

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## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

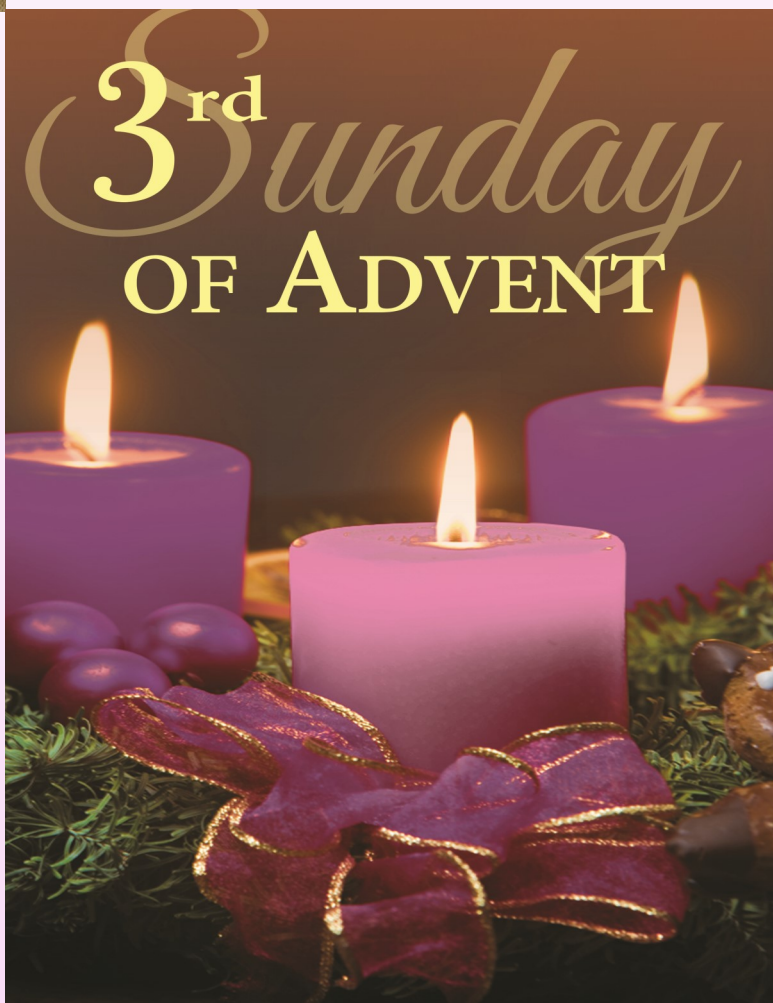
Kerry Magrini: [kerry.magrini@stannavon.com](mailto:kerry.magrini@stannavon.com)

## MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

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

## CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext.225



## 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

## Third Sunday of Advent

### SATURDAY, December 16

**4:00** Dan Scapellati, requested by  
the Scapellati Family

### SUNDAY, December 17, *Third Sunday of Advent*

**7:30** Special Intentions

**9:30** Dorothy LaRosa, requested by  
her husband, Michael

**11:00** Jozef and Stafania Osiecki, requested by  
the Osiecki Family

### MONDAY, December 18

**9:00** For the intentions of Tom Reno (Living),  
requested by Cindy Reno Waldeck

### TUESDAY, December 19

**9:00** Paul Argay, requested by the Waldeck Family

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

**9:00** Josef Osiecki, requested by the Waldeck Family

### THURSDAY, December 21,

*Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

**9:00** David K. Matthes, requested by Ann and family

### FRIDAY, December 22

**9:00** Thomas Penzone, requested by  
Rosanne Harutunian

### SATURDAY, December 23, *Saint John of Kanty, Priest*

**4:00** Camille/Peter Angelina & Michael/Devon Nay,  
requested by the Angelina Family

### SUNDAY, December 24,

*Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve*

**7:30** For the intentions of the parishioners of Saint Ann

**9:30** For the intentions of the parishioners of Saint Ann

**11:00** For the intentions of the parishioners of Saint Ann

### Christmas Eve Masses

**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

### Monday, 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



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

### SATURDAY, December 16

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

**Christmas Pageant:** 6pm in the church

### SUNDAY, December 17

**Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 8:20am in the Choir Loft

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

### MONDAY, December 18

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 9:30-10:30am in the church

**Lectio Divina:** 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom

**MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group:** 7:15pm in the church (all welcome)

### TUESDAY, December 19

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 6 -7:30pm in the church

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

**RCIA:** 6:30pm in Room 3

**Knights of Columbus:** 7pm in Room 2

### THURSDAY, December 21

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

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** 4:15pm in the Choir Loft

### FRIDAY, December 22

**Lectio Divina:** 9:45am via Zoom

### SATURDAY, December 23

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

### SUNDAY, December 24

**Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 8:20am in the Choir Loft

**Lectio Divina:** (check w/leader) 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

\*\*\* Please check with your ministry leaders whether or not meetings will happen this week and next. \*\*\*



## Annual Toy/Gift Collection

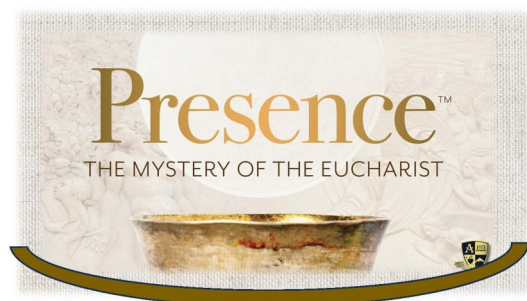
Please remember to drop off your donations this  
weekend: December 16/17, 2023

God Bless You For Your Generosity

Sponsored by: St. Ann's Social Outreach Ministry







Join us in January for this **FREE 3-Part Series on the Eucharist**

At St. Ann Church in Fr. Bennett Hall on Wednesday Mornings

**Dates:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (Snow Date – February 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Time:** 9:30 am – 11:00 am

**RSVP:** [andreapizuti333@gmail.com](mailto:andreapizuti333@gmail.com)

Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members.

It is the crescendo of the entire story of Salvation!

## How We Can Help the Homeless During the Holidays...

Following an over 35 year tradition, we will again be putting together Christmas gift bags for the guests at ImmaCare shelter. At a time that is particularly tough for so many of the men, these gifts reinforce this is a ministry of love. With winter coming, we always like to include warm gloves, socks, hats and scarves. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and chapsticks are welcome items. Hopefully enough will be donated that gift bags can be distributed to the people who, unable to find shelter, remain outdoors. Please leave any donations in the ImmaCare box in the kitchen before Dec 15.

**Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas!**



## Thank You!

The warm clothing drive for the "House of Bread" was a wonderful success. Many thanks to the parishioners of St. Ann's for their generous support and kind donations of both new and gently used warm articles of clothing. Almost each day, the clothing found its way into the hands of those who could really use it. Your act of kindness went a very long way in making some people who might otherwise had great difficulty with the cold weather, easier and certainly a lot warmer. Thank you very much! May God Bless you and your families.



## 2023 Christmas Mass Schedule

Please note we will have our regular Sunday Mass schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

4:00pm  
6:00pm  
10:00pm

### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

8:00am  
10:00am

### Solemnity of Mary

Monday, January 1, 2022

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.  
It will be celebrated at our  
9am daily Mass)



Will you need some rest after the Christmas holiday?

Please join us on a weekend retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. This year's retreat theme is "only Say the Word...", which is based on the belief that God can and will heal us and all of creation. During this retreat, we will explore where healing is needed in us and in the world.

**Women's Retreat Dates: January 5-7, 2024**

Contact: Eileen DiMauro at [ecdimauro@yahoo.com](mailto:ecdimauro@yahoo.com)

**Men's Retreat Dates: January 12-14, 2024**

Contact: Paul Watson at [pgwatson33@gmail.com](mailto:pgwatson33@gmail.com)

For more information & additional retreat date options, go to:

[holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats](http://holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats)



## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

**Weekly Collection for 12/10/23:** \$4,420.00

**Immaculate Conception:** \$1,100.50

**Retired Religious Fund:** \$2,179.00

**Votive Candles for the week:** \$242.10

### Online Giving (Dec. 5-11, 2023)

**Weekly:** \$2,452.50

**Immaculate Conception:** \$120.00

**Retired Religious Fund:** \$115.00

**Next Weekend's 2nd Collection:** none

**Sunday PM:** (Christmas/Parish Charities)



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

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near." This is our entrance antiphon today and we should note that our priest is wearing rose colored vestments to reflect the joyful nearness of the coming of Jesus' birth.

**Reflection:** One of the Advent names of Jesus is EMMANUEL. Emmanuel literally means "God is with us." God is never more with us today than through His Presence in the Holy Eucharist. When you receive Holy Communion, are you aware that you are literally not only touching God, but receiving Him into the very depths of your being? In today's Gospel St. John the Baptist says, "I am not worthy to untie his sandal straps." How far more unworthy are we to receive Jesus into our very selves?

## "Making Sense Out of Suffering" BOOK STUDY

Have you ever wondered: Why would a good and generous God allow suffering? Why are we – especially the innocent – plagued by apparently pointless and random pain? These are certainly questions that our children ask, and that atheists throw in our faces. Dr. Peter Kreeft has undertaken a real and honest quest inside this difficult topic in his book, *Making Sense Out of Suffering*. In it, he asks the challenging questions, and, drawing from his deep well of wisdom, experience and observation as a professor of religion and philosophy, wrestles with them in ways that are both engaging and convincing.

Join us for a study of this important book on Thursdays from 9:30am-11am in Room 3, January 11-Feb 8. Register by December 28. Contact: Terry Pendergast, [terry@frankpendergastinc.com](mailto:terry@frankpendergastinc.com) Cost: \$20.



The Saint Ann Scholarship Committee presents their

## 2024 Annual Used Book Sale

-proceeds go to Catholic High School Student scholarships-

**Friday, January 19th**

**5:00pm - 7:30 pm (\$5 adult admission)**

**Saturday, January 20th**

**9:00am - 2:00 pm (no admission fee)**

Snow dates: January 26/27

**Please donate books on:**

**Wednesday & Thursday, January 17/18**

**9:30am - 4pm**

**Friday, January 19:**

**9:30 - 11:30am**

Types of books (in good condition) to donate:

best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, religious, classics, biographies, memoirs, self-help books, vintage books, cookbooks, politics, children's books, young readers, CDs, puzzles, vinyl records, etc.

PLEASE NO: textbooks, reference books, encyclopedias

**Volunteers are needed for collection & sale week.**

To volunteer, please contact Meg Kundahl, 860-521-1051, [mkfk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkfk@sbcglobal.net). Thank you!





# Worship & Meditation: Third Sunday of Advent

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,  
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

### Psalms:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

### Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy  
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,  
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

### Gospel:

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you  
whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming  
after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to  
untie." (Jn 1:23)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

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## Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: **"There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— Father John Muir

## Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

Isaiah rejoices over God's call in his life and the promise of restoration for all nations. As we continue in the season of Advent, what has brought some joy to you or your family?

### Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be people of prayer and joy, open to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Is there anything recently that has brought you joy?

### Gospel:

John presents the religious leaders of Jerusalem as puzzled and uncertain as to who John the Baptist was. How do you approach friends or family in your life who are confused or questioning the faith?

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(PRACTICING)

# CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the "men in white coats" came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was

## Readings for the Week of December 17, 2023

### Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### Monday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

### Tuesday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

### Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

### Thursday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

### Friday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

### Saturday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

### Next Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, "It's okay. I see it, too."

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." — John 1:8*

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## THE BULLETIN BOARD

An evening of  
*Peace, Joy and Hopeful Anticipation*

# Christmas Music Concert




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

**Thursday, December 21st, 7PM**  
Featuring the Casey sisters and other prominent musicians  
Vocal, Jazz & Instrumental Arrangements

Join us! Free, family-friendly event, all are welcome.  
Following the concert, everyone is invited for a wine,  
cheese and dessert reception in the Parish Hall.



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# ENDURE

**Join the Endure Initiative 2024:** Endure is a post wedding, marriage enrichment initiative, geared towards empowering couples with proven strategies and key marriage skills. Endure is **NOT** a program, it is a process designed to strengthen a couple's relationship, create deeper understanding of the sacramentality of marriage, establish lasting connections with other couples and increase involvement in the parish community.

Whether you are a newlywed or married for many years, Endure is for you. Workshop sessions will held Saturdays in February and March via Zoom.

For more information, contact Valerie St. Jean, Coordinator of Adult and Family Life Ministries,  
[Valerie.stjean@aohct.org](mailto:Valerie.stjean@aohct.org) or 860-242-5573, x2678

### St. Ann/Avon Early Deadlines for all December Bulletin Submissions

Every year during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays season our bulletin publisher has early upload deadlines for our bulletins. Therefore, your bulletin submissions are needed much earlier than is typical. Please note the deadlines below. Thank you!

Submission Deadline...	...For This Weekend's Bulletin
<del>Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>-- December 9/10 --</del>
<del>Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>-- December 16/17 --</del>
<del>Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>-- December 23/24 --</del>
<b>Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 30/31</b>



## BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

### Retirement Fund for Religious Collection: December 9/10

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit: [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).





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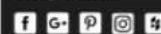
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04-0700





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