



# 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)

Deborah Benson, MA, CAGS: ext. 223 [deborah.benson@stannavon.com](mailto:deborah.benson@stannavon.com)

## 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.234 [jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com](mailto:jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com)

## DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mercedes Featherston: ext. 230 [mercedes.featherston@stannavon.com](mailto:mercedes.featherston@stannavon.com)

## 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

## 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.



## THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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



**The Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph**

**SATURDAY, December 30**

**4:00** Alice Kuzia, requested by her friends

**SUNDAY, December 31,**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**7:30** Alice Kuzia, requested by

*Deacon Tim and Chris Healy*

**9:30** Nancy Boyd-Martin, requested by

*the Mascoli Family*

**11:00** Scott Gill, requested by the Keating Family

**Monday, January 1, The Solemnity of Mary**

**9:00** Special Intentions

**TUESDAY, January 2, Saints Basil the Great and  
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church**

**9:00** Arthur Hennig, requested by the family

**WEDNESDAY, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**9:00** Special Intentions

**THURSDAY, January 4, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

**9:00** Special Intentions

**FRIDAY, January 5, Saint John Neumann, Bishop**

**9:00** John Lenihan, requested by

*Tom and Marilyn Lenihan*

**SATURDAY, January 6, Saint Andre Bessette, Religious**

**4:00** Henry Hojnowski, requested by

*Russell and Diane Koch*

**SUNDAY, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord**

**7:30** Special Intentions

**9:30** Mike Rubino requested by

*Guy and Jane Ellen Peregrin*

**11:00** Fr. Maynard Kearns, requested by

*his sister, Julie*

# 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

**SATURDAY, December 30**

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

**SUNDAY, December 31**

**Adult Choir Rehearsal:** will resume January 14th

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

**MONDAY, January 1**

**TUESDAY, January 2**

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

**WEDNESDAY, January 3**

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

**THURSDAY, January 4**

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

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** will resume January 11th

**FRIDAY, January 5**

**Lectio Divina:** 9:45am via Zoom (check with leader)

**SATURDAY, January 6**

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

**SUNDAY, January 7**

**Adult Choir Rehearsal:** will resume January 14th

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

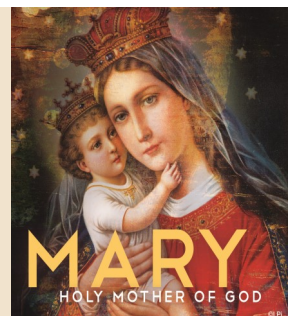
\*\*\* Please check with your ministry leaders whether or not meetings will happen this week. \*\*\*



**Monday, January 1, 2024**

***Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God***

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.  
(Will be celebrated at our 9:00am 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.

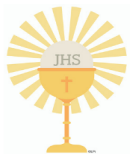
*Women's Retreat Dates: January 5-7, 2024*

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)



## The Holy Eucharist *DID YOU KNOW?*

Reflect upon the bonds of love which were shared by Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their humble home in Nazareth. The Holy Family is the model of what each of our families should strive to exemplify. Jesus' presence was a continuous source of grace for Mary and Joseph.

**Reflection:** . Our Lord's Eucharistic grace and presence is also available to each of our families. "Jesus is a living person always present among us. Love Jesus present in the Eucharist." St John Paul II

The Parish Office will be closed on  
Monday, January 1st  
and will re-open on  
Tuesday, January 2nd.



**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:** [andreapizzuti333@gmail.com](mailto:andreapizzuti333@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!

## "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.**



## WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

**Weekly Collection for 12/17/23:** \$5,020.10  
**Monthly:** \$2,548.00  
**Weekly Collection for 12/24/23:** *will be reported later*  
**Christmas:** *will be reported later*  
**Parish Charities:** *will be reported later*  
**Votive Candles for the week ending 12/17/23:** \$251.09  
**Votive Candles for the week ending 12/17/23:**  
*will be reported later*  
**2023 Annual Collection total as of 12/18/23:** \$157,542.00  
**Mission (Fr. Bill Garrott):** \$2,407.00

### Online Giving (Dec. 15-22, 2023)

**Weekly:** \$2,457.50  
**Monthly:** \$506.00  
**Christmas:** *will be reported later*  
**Parish Charities:** *will be reported later*

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



*We'd like to share some of our Faith Formation students' offerings of their time, talent and/or treasure.*

Name	Gave of their Time-Talent-Treasure
Cami	helped her dad , charity bike build & donated treasure
Kaylin	helped her dad clean the yard, helped build bikes for other kids & donated treasure
James L.	let a friend go before him, helped his sister with reading & donated treasure
Michael	Prays every night, reads books and the Bible & donated treasure
Rosie	made handmade cards
John R.	Was a wise man in the Christmas pageant
Brianna R.	Was Mary in the Christmas pageant
Oliuia	Danced at a nursing home
Andrew S.	Helped his mom with chores, told jokes & shared donated treasure

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. Thank you!



## Walking With Purpose Women's Bible Study

Ladies, Please Join Us And Strengthen Your Trust In God As You See His Plan Unfold Throughout Biblical History!

### Newcomers Welcome!!

**WE'LL MEET FROM JAN 16 & 17 THROUGH MAR 19 & 20**

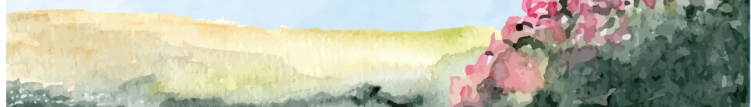
**CHOOSE TUESDAY 10:15 AM VIA ZOOM OR**

**WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM IN FATHER BENNETT HALL**

**COST \$22**

#### Contacts:

**Pat Wall (860)508-0947**  
**or Colleen Waterbury (203)913-8764**





# Worship & Meditation: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."  
The Lord took Abram outside and said,  
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.  
Just so," he added, "shall your descendant be."  
(Gn 3:4-5)

### Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

### Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,  
even though he was past the normal age  
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

### Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)  
strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:23)

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

God's timing is not always our timing.  
Sometimes, we have to wait years for the  
answer to our prayer. Never despair.  
Remember that God keeps His word.

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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— Father John Muir

## Questions of the Week

### Reflect and Respond to Scripture

#### First Reading:

Abraham and Sarah relied on their faith in the Lord as they struggled with family matters. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

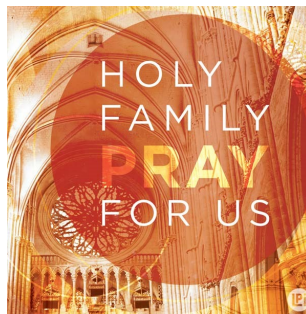
#### Second Reading:

Hebrews teaches us that at every challenge in his life, Abraham consistently trusted and obeyed God. When have you had to surrender complete trust to God?

#### Gospel:

In their purification ritual in the Jerusalem Temple, Mary and Joseph learn news from Simeon and Anna about their newborn baby, Jesus. In your family, how do you deal with startling or unsettling news? or questioning the faith?

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## (PRACTICING)

# CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot

## Readings for the Week of December 31, 2023

### Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/  
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5  
6,8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or  
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or  
2:22, 39-40

### Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/  
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

### Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Jn 1:19-28

### Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/  
Jn 1:29-34

### Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

### Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/  
Jn 1:43-51

### Saturday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/  
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,  
36, 38

### Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
(see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

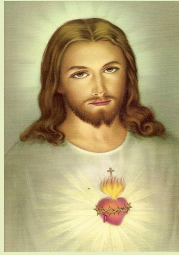
How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

*"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..."*

— Colossians 3:12

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## THE BULLETIN BOARD



### Divine Mercy Holy Hour

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**  
**2:30 – 3:30pm in the church**  
**Church of Saint Ann**

Please join us for this powerful devotion!

## PRO-LIFE PILGRIMAGE

### SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, January 18th:

6:00 a.m. Be at Franciscan Life Center,  
 271 Finch Ave, Meriden

Breakfast en route (not included in fee)

Lunch in Crystal City, VA  
 (not included in fee)

3:45 p.m. Bus leaves hotel promptly for  
 Basilica of the National Shrine  
 of the Immaculate Conception

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at the Basilica

#### Friday, January 19th:

8:00 a.m. Mass at hotel

Breakfast with Pro-Life Speaker

11:15 a.m. Bus departs for March

12:00 p.m. Speakers on the National Mall  
 and March to the U.S. Capitol  
 and U.S. Supreme Court

5:00 p.m. Bus departs for Connecticut

### COST AND REGISTRATION

Cost is \$125 per person for bus transportation and breakfast at hotel.  
 Payment is due by January 5th, 2024 and no refunds after this date.

Hotel costs and other meals are not included.

A block of rooms is being held for our group at the Hilton Arlington  
 National Landing. You are responsible for your hotel reservation. For the  
discounted rate, please reserve by December 29th, 2023.

Call Respect Life Ministry at (203)694-4189 or (203)213-5079 for guidelines  
 in making reservations and to obtain the group code.



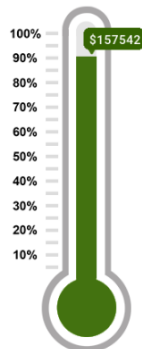
**Wishing you**  
*a blessed*  
**New Year**

## Annual Parish Collection

*Church of Saint Ann*

We're so very grateful to those who have helped us reach 90 percent of our Annual Collection goal! If you have yet to do so already, please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to help us reach 100% of our goal by the end of the year. If you would like a pledge form or would like to make an online donation, please check our website: [www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org) or call the parish office. Thank you!

as of 12/18/23:



## 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





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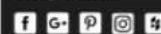
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