

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

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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.

Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001 www.stannavon.org 860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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



The Epiphany of the Lord



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 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, January 6 Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3

SUNDAY, January 7

Adult Choir Rehearsal: will resume January 14th Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

MONDAY, January 8

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church Lectio Divina: 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church (all welcome)

TUESDAY, January 9

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 6 -7:30pm in the church Social Outreach Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, January 10

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall **RCIA:** 6:30pm in Room 3 **Family Ministry Meeting:** 7pm in the Activity Room

THURSDAY, January 11

Making Sense Out of Suffering Book Study: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church Children's Choir Rehearsal: will resume January 11th

FRIDAY, January 12

Lectio Divina: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, January 13 Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3

SUNDAY, January 14 Adult Choir Rehearsal: will resume January 14th Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

Divine Mercy Holy Hour



Next Sunday, January 14, 2024 2:30 - 3:30pm in the church

Please join us to implore God's Mercy upon us and the whole world.

 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

Monday, January 8, The Baptism of the Lord

9:00 For the intentions of Deacon Tim and Chris Healy (Living)

TUESDAY, January 9

9:00 James Heary, requested by Robert & Diana Paturzo

WEDNESDAY, January 10

9:00 For the intentions of the Pinzino Family (Living) requested by Wojewoda Family

THURSDAY, January 11

9:00 John Patrick Manning, requested by John and Maria Manning

FRIDAY, January 12 9:00 Frank Scalzo, Jr., requested by the Pizzuti Family

SATURDAY, January 13,

Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM 4:00 Robert Ahern, requested by Brian and Ann Beloin

SUNDAY, January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 Dorothy LaRosa, requested by her husband, Michael
- 9:30 Josepha & Antony Poprawa, requested by the Osiecki Family
- **11:00** Maria Consuegra, requested by her friends







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



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

At St. Ann Church in Fr. Bennett Hall on Wednesday Mornings <u>Dates:</u> January 10th, 24th and 31st (Snow Date – February 7th) <u>Time:</u> 9:30 am – 11:00 am <u>RSVP:</u> 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 athiests 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, <u>terry@frankpendergastinc.com</u> Cost: \$20.

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 12/24/23: \$5,859.00 Weekly Collection for 12/31/23: \$7,390.00 Christmas: \$10,795.50 Parish Charities: \$2,600.00 Solemnity of Mary: \$468.50 Votive Candles for the week ending 12/17/23: \$251.09 Votive Candles for the week ending 12/24/23: \$513.54 Votive Candles for the week ending 12/31/23: \$93.01 2023 Annual Collection total as of 1/2/2024: \$175,779.00

Online Giving (Dec. 22, 2023-Jan. 3, 2024) Weekly: \$5,363.00 Christmas: \$4,660.00 Parish Charities: \$125.00 Solemnity of Mary: \$35.00 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: Fuel



The Holy Eucharist DID ΥΟU ΚΝΟΨ?

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. As the Wisemen recognized His star in the East and traveled a great distance to find and adore the Infant Jesus, so we too should make a Faith journey to recognize that same Jesus hidden under the guise of consecrated Bread in the Sacred Host of Holy Communion.

Reflection: Christ gives us the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to sanctify us. We literally receive Him into our bodies and souls. Our Lord could not give us more love than to unite Himself with us in this most intimate manner.



All skill levels are welcome! For information call Tina at 860-331-1673 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

<u>Types of books (in good condition) to donate:</u> 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!

nlySay

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 teh 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

Men's Petreat Dates: January 12–14, 2024 Contact: Paul Watson at pgwatson33@gmail.com For more information & additional retreat date options, go to: holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats



Worship & Meditation: The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Your light has come,

the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1) **Psalm:**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72) **Second Reading:**

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed

to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same

body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising

and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I *truly* at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, **"They were overjoyed at seeing the star."** This star will bring them *home*, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— Father John Muir

Questions of the

Week Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Isaiah foresaw a future when the Lord would use Israel as His instrument to shine His glory into the world. What could you do this week to show God's glory to others?

Second Reading:

Paul met a lot of resistance when he spoke of God's "revelation" that Gentiles are "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to outsiders?

Gospel:

In the story of the magi's visit, we see the prophecies of Isaiah (our first reading) fulfilled with the treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to the Holy Family. What gift do you give to the Lord?





Step Into the Light

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 know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know,

Readings for the Week of January 7, 2024

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

Monday:

Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/ 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42

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 ©LPi

THE BULLETIN BOARD

"Gimme 5" **Exploring the Issues of Food Insecurity and Donations**



- Why: Join us for a "Fundraising" and fun session learn how to maximize Food Pantry donations, the struggle of food insecurity and best of all make some new friends.
- What: Bring \$5, 5 food items for donation &/or 5 friends or any combination of the 3
- Where: St. Patrick's Church, 7 Burlington Ave, Collinsville Sunday, January 21st at 11:30am OR . When: Wednesday, January 24th at 5:30pm
- Who: All food pantry donors, volunteers & clients are encouraged to come for an interactive discussion & hands on activities.
- Presented by: Teresa Dotson, RD Hunger Action team volunteer & St. Patrick's parishioner

Coffee & treats will be served All proceeds will benefit the Canton & Burlington Food Pantries.





PRO-LIFE PILGRIMAGE

SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 18th:

6:00 a.m. Be at Franciscan Life Center, 8:00 a.m. Mass at hotel 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:

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 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.

NDURF

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 or 860-242-5573, x2678





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St. Ann, Avon, CT