

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

DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K - 8) Deborah Benson, MA, CAGS: ext. 223 deborah.benson@stannavon.com

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR Rosemary Neamtz, MSW: ext. 226 rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com

CHURCH ACCOUNTANT Jennifer Soucy, CPA: ext.234 jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION Ann DiStefano, MPS: ext. 228 ann.distefano@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Mercedes Featherston: ext. 230 mercedes.featherston@stannavon.com

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER Kris Martino: ext. 221 kris.martino@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Kerry Magrini: kerry.magrini@stannavon.com

MINISTRIES COORDINATOR Chip Janiszewski: 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.

Church of Saint Ann

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

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor



His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. - Mk 1:28

pts 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 Tuesdays 6 - 7:30pm 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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, January 27, Saint Angela Merici, Virgin; BVM
4:00 Billy Martinez, requested by his mom

SUNDAY, January 28, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 Thomas and Ella Heavren, requested by Tom and Pat Heavren
 9:30 Alice Kuzia, requested by
- St. Ann's Eucharistic Ministers
- **11:00** Alice Kuzia, requested by Tom and Marilyn Lenihan

Monday, January 29

9:00 Henrietta Angelina, requested by the Lobo and Dias Families

TUESDAY, January 30

9:00 Bob and Connie Theroux, requested by the Theroux Family

WEDNESDAY, January 31, Saint John Bosco, Priest

9:00 Rose Penzone, requested by Rosanne Harutunian

THURSDAY, February 1 9:00 Hera Droste, requested by the family

FRIDAY, February 2, The Presentation of the Lord9:00 Richard Cialfi, requested by his wife, Dottie

SATURDAY, February 3, Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop; BVM

4:00 Michael Joseph Oleskewicz (4th Ann.), requested by his loving family

SUNDAY, February 4, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **7:30** Peter Merritt, requested by the Carello Family
- 9:30 Stefania and Jozeph Osiecki, requested by the Osiecki Family
- **11:00** Anna L. Amato (2nd Ann.), requested by the family



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

SUNDAY, January 28

Adult Choir Rehearsal: 8:20am in the Choir Loft Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

MONDAY, January 29

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

WEDNESDAY, January 31

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall RCIA: 6:30pm in Room 3 Walking With Purpose: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

THURSDAY, February 1

Making Sense Out of Suffering Book Study: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church Children's Choir Rehearsal: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft

FRIDAY, February 2

Lectio Divina: 9:45am via Zoom

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

SUNDAY, February 4 Adult Choir Rehearsal: 8:20am in the Choir Loft Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

Adults: were you baptized and received First Communion but were never Confirmed? We have a program just for you!



St. Ann's Spring 2024 Adult Confirmation Prep Program 9 sessions from February 22-April 25 (skipping Holy Thursday) Thursdays from 4:30-6pm in Room 3 (below Fr. Bennett Hall \$30 (register at: **osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/adult-confirmation-2024**) Questions: ann.distefano@stannavon.com, 860-673-9858, x.228

The Confirmation ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 14th at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.



THE BIBLE and the VIRGIN MARY

This dynamic 12-Part video series beautifully explains the Catholic truths about Our Lady. We will learn how the Blessed Virgin Mary has been part of God's plan to bring salvation to the world since the beginning of time.

DATE: February 14 - May 8th, 2024 TIME: 9:30 - 11:00 am PLACE: St. Ann (Fr. Bennett Hall) COST: \$20 Workbook

RSVP: andreapizzuti333@gmail.com

"POTLUCK" International Food Feast

Saturday, February 10th 5:00pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

Kick off 2024 by joining your parish family as we CELEEBRATE DIVERSITY in FOOD!

Sign up to bring your favorite ethnic dish to share, or just come and enjoy!

Hosted by our Social Outreach Ministry





You can sign up on the poster in the Gathering Space to bring a dish or by contact Kris in the Parish Office (860-673-9858, x221) or kris.martino@stannavon.com Please leave: your name, dish bringing & phone #

" half tins available for hot dish transport by poster

You can drop off your dish in the kitchen area of Fr. Bennett Hall anytime after 11am on Saturday, Feb. 10th

A Miracle Happens at Every Mass How do we make it our own?

It's all about Presence THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

• "I don't know how some people have the strength to meet their challenges. I wouldn't have it in me."

- "I connect with God through nature, Bible study, personal prayer... I don't really need Mass."
- "I find it hard to believe the bread and wine actually transform into Jesus."
- "It's boring to repeat the same prayers and rituals each Sunday; we need to change things up."

If this sounds familiar, don't miss this FREE 3-part series! Wed, Jan 24, 31; Feb 7 9:30-11am Parish Hall

RSVP: Eileen: ecdimauro@yahoo.com

St. Ann, Avon celebrates the National Eucharistic Revival

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Upcoming Pro-Life Events

Archbishop Reverend William E. Lori, Chairman of the USCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities urges us to Build a Culture of Life in a Post-Roe World." We proclaim "a vision for our society that upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable-a society in which the legal protection of human life is accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children" We recommitted our committees to work to make this vision a reality. And we urge our dioceses, parishes, and Catholic agencies and institutions to do likewise.

 February 10th/11th: Helping Moms in Need Valentine's Day Fundraiser HUGS FROM THE HEART to support Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center in Torrington. Date and details in a future bulletin.



Connecticut March For Life Wednesday, March 20, 2024 12pm: Rally at the Capitol 1pm: March for Life around Bushnell Park *More details to follow*

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 1/21/24: \$8,578.63 Archdiocesan Catholic High Schools: \$1,497.00 Votive Candles for the week ending 1/21/24: \$308.00

Online Giving (Jan. 17-24, 2024) Weekly: \$2,477.50 Archdiocesan Catholic High Schools \$60.00 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: snow removal





We are not called to leave the Mass and to be the same as we previously were before attending Mass. We are sent out to bring that prayerful, intimate experience of the presence of Jesus, that we have just received in the Holy Eucharist, out into the world.

<u>Reflection</u>: The experience of receiving Christ in Holy Communion should change our lives and our world. Remain in the Presence and see how He changes everything.

The Council Connection

The Parish Council is beginning 2024 with three new members. Tina Dibble, Janet Fischer and Jayne O'Donnell will join Carole Anderson, Bill Bachhuber, Nelson Bondhus, Carla DuBois, JoEllen Oakes, Jane Ellen Peregrin, Eileen Sibson and Dianne Simpson.

The Suggestion/Comment box in the Gathering space continues to receive topics of interest to many parishioners. The expressed thoughts and ideas are discussed with Fr. Fontana and the Parish Council. As needed, they are addressed with the appropriate personnel or referred to available resources. Please know that your suggestions and comments are being heard. We appreciate the time that you take to share them with us.

Beautiful Eucharist Book Discussion



Tuesday, February 6, 2024 9:30-10:30am in Room 3 OR 7-8pm via Zoom RSVP: <u>ann.distefano@stannavon.com</u> or 860-673-9858, x228

At Christmas, Father Al gifted us the simple yet powerful book, Beautiful Eucharist, a collection of writings from saints to everyday people on encountering Jesus in Communion. Come offer your impressions and share which stories resonated with you.



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
Margaret B.	Donated some treasure for Christmas offering.
Aua F.	She is a teacher's helper at school and donated treasure.
Aiden F.	Donated his clothes and some treasure.
Noah D.	Donated treasure
Brianna R.	Made cookies for her family
Olivia R.	Helped her parents clean the yard.
James L.	Invited his sister to play with him & his friends when her friend couldn't come over and donated treasure.
Rosie L.	Helped her little sister with reading and donated treasure.
John	Helped take down the Christmas items.
Sammy S.	Helped his mom do yard work.
Peter	Prayed and donated treasure.
Amiyah	Went to church and donated treasure.

Worship & Meditation: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,

he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out. (Jon 3:10) Psalm:

Teach me your ways, O Lord. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

For the world in its present form is passing away. (1 Cor 7:31)

Gospel:

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment.

The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:14-15)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let's invite him into our hearts, asking him to cleanse the darkness he finds there.

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Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Encourage Deeper Onderstanding of scriptore

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie "Nefarious" features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, **"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"** Notice the plural, *us.* The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, **"Quiet! Come out of him!"** Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — *him* — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

- Father John Muir

Questions of the

Week Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Moses taught the Israelites that God would raise up a prophet like him to teach them the Lord's commands. But he also forewarned about false prophets. How can we avoid listening to false prophetic voices?

Second Reading:

Paul expresses his desire for the Corinthian believers to be free of anxiety so they can focus their attention and energies on Jesus. What distracts you from the Lord?

Gospel:

Mark informs us that early in Jesus's public ministry his "fame spread" quickly throughout Galilee because of his powerful deeds, such as the healing of the demon-possessed man in today's reading. Is there something or someone in your life that you pray Jesus would heal?

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A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints. POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



What Have you to Do with Me, Jesus of Nazareth

Inevitably, when we read the story of the Garden of Eden, my children try to imagine what life would be like if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God.

"Would we have to go to school?" they ask me. "Would we get sick? Could we eat whatever we want? Would we get older?"

I tell them the only thing I know for sure about a world without sin is that we would be happier. I can see confusion in their faces — *Why? How?* — but I have none of the concrete answers they want. I don't know how to describe a happiness untouched by sin.

The moment sin entered the world, a chasm erupted between God and mankind. There is now a space between humanity and the divine, a cavernous and seemingly impassable void into which God calls for us, unendingly. And be-

Readings for the Week of January 28, 2024

Sunday:

Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/ 1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Monday:

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday:

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/ Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/ Mk 6:1-6

Thursday:

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday:

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Saturday:

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday:

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Þs 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/ Mk 1:29-39

cause we are lost in the dark, and miserable, instead of following his voice when we hear it, instead we reply: "What do you want?"

"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also my words. Far, far more often than I care to admit, when God is reaching for me, I look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When I am grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms me, again and again I forget that I already know the solution.

The tragedy of original sin is not that we live in a world where we cannot eat what we want, where we age, and where we become sick and die. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: "What do you want with me?"

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." — Psalm 95:7

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

IORTHWEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Northwest Catholic High School is now accepting applications for the 2024-25 academic year! We educate the whole person, mind, body, spirit, and imagination. Discover the depth and breadth of a Northwest Catholic education by scheduling a tour at www.northwestcatholic.org/admissions.

Please save the date for some more fun admissions events:

April 3, 2024: 7th Grade Experience Day •

April 21, 2024: Spring Open House

For any inquiries, please reach out to Amy Mandrola, Director of Admissions, at 860-236-4221 ext. 140 or at amandrola@nwcath.org.

St. Paul Catholic High School Bristol. CT Placement Exam Information

St. Paul Catholic High School has scheduled a date for prospective students going into 9th or 10th grade to take the Placement Exam on Saturday,

February 10 at 8:00am.

The Placement Exam is a standardized test that incoming students take which evaluates their performance levels in math, language and reading.

To register, visit spchs.com/placementexam.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK





www.NewEnglandCatholicBiblicalSchool.com 860-242-5573

COME VISIT AN IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL CLASS AND SEE HOW STUDYING ALL 73 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

ENDURF

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,





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St. Ann, Avon, CT