

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

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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

# <section-header>

## **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 April 7, 2024

Sunday of

**Divine Mercy** 



#### SATURDAY, April 6, Saturday within the Octave of Easter

**4:00 Patricia Poland,** requested by her forever friend, Annie Checovetes

#### SUNDAY, April 7, Sunday of Divine Mercy

- 7:30 Special Intentions
- **9:30** Joseph and Marie Joyce, requested by Tom and Pate Heavren
- **11:00** Marvin Blakley, Sr., requested by the Valley Family

#### MONDAY, April 8, The Annunciation of the Lord

9:00 Paul Kimball, requested by Margaret Osiecki

#### TUESDAY, April 9, Easter Weekday

9:00 Sandra Gomes requested by the Gomes and Speck Families

#### WEDNESDAY, April 10, Easter Weekday

9:00 Special Intentions

**THURSDAY, April 11,** Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr9:00Jimena Carmona, requested by Alicia Carmona

FRIDAY, April 12, Easter Weekday9:00 Brent Rydin, requested by his mom and dad

#### SATURDAY, April 13, Easter Weekday,

Saint Martin I, Pope & Martyr

**4:00** Daniel Bauman , requested by Faith and Jim Weiss

#### SUNDAY, April 14, Third Sunday of Easter

- 7:30 Terry Moody, requested by his wife, Connie
- 9:30 Joseph Thomas Duffy, requested by Joanie and Roman Fedorciw
- **11:00** Walter and Mildred Newman, requested by Bill and Janet Newman

To schedule a Mass Intention, please call or email Kris in the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext. 221 or kris.martino@stannavon.com Suggested Donations: \$30 Weekends, \$25 Weekdays



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, April 6

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

#### SUNDAY, April 7

Adult Choir Rehearsal: 8:20am in the Choir Loft Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 2:30pm in the church

#### MONDAY, April 8

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church Faith Study for Moms: will return next week Lectio Divina: 7:15pm in Room 3 and via Zoom MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church (all welcome)

#### TUESDAY, April 9

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

#### WEDNESDAY, April 10

*The Bible and the Virgin Mary* **Bible Study:** 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall **OCIA:** 6:30pm in Room 3

#### THURSDAY, April 11

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church Children's Choir Rehearsal: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft Adult Confirmation Prep: 4:30-6pm in Room 3 "The Chosen" Watch Party: 7pm in Room 3

#### FRIDAY, April 12

Lectio Divina: 9:45am via Zoom

#### SATURDAY, April 13

Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3 Food Packing for Haiti: 9am—1pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

#### SUNDAY, April 14

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





## Food Packing for Haiti Saturday, April 13th 9am - 12 noon in Fr. Bennett Hall

Come for the whole 3 hours or for as much time as you can donate! If you can help us out please contact Mary Lou Connors at: rconnors74@comcast.net or call the Parish Office at 860-673-9858, ext. 221.



Congratulations and blessings to our 11 candidates who were initiated/received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, and to their sponsors!



Katie Damon Drew Damon Paisley Damon Parker Damon Kristen Dombkowski Jinju Jalahan Jeff Landsberg Bobby Mineo Luis Molina Ksenyia Nosenko William Renjit

Some people come to us who have never been baptized; others were baptized Christian, and want to become Catholic; and others were baptized Catholic but never received the other sacraments. We welcome all! To learn more about our process of growing closer to God through the Catholic faith – OCIA – Contact: ann.distefano@stannavon.com.



# Divine Mercy Sunday April 7, 2023

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated here at St. Ann this Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> with a Holy Hour from 2:30– 3:30pm. *Please join us to honor our Lord's request that the Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Divine Mercy. He promised that the floodgates of heaven would open and extraordinary graces would be poured out among us.* 





#### WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 3/31/24: \$9,152.00 Holy Land/Good Friday: \$1,114.00 Easter: \$6,950.00 Votive Candles for the week ending 3/31/24: \$327.00

Online Giving (March 25-April 3, 2024) Weekly: \$3,578.00 Holy Land/Good Friday: \$90.00 Easter: \$423.00

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: none



On behalf of Avon's VFW Post 3272, Commander Dcn. Tim Healy wishes to thank and praise all of the parishioners of St. Ann who have contributed their love

and support for the Afghan refugee family that the Post is co -sponsoring. The project has involved the entire community, melding the efforts of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular people to make it a reality. It's a beautiful, real-life expression of the law of love of God and love of neighbor that Jesus taught us are the two greatest commandments.

The family arrived the week before Easter and is busily learning to live in America. Nasir and his wife Freshta have four children: three girls and a boy, all under age 12. Having served as an interpreter for the US Army, Marines, CIA and other agencies, Nasir speaks English well. He has related hair -raising stories to Dcn. Tim about his family's experiences during the conflict and in the process of escaping from the Taliban's Afghanistan. The plan is to accompany the family until they can operate independently. This has involved finding housing and employment taking care of the myriad details that accompany arrival in America, getting the children registered for school, connecting them with resources to learn English, getting medical checkups, and buying food, clothing, necessary technology and other essentials. The first three months after arrival are quite busy. Typically, a resettlement effort lasts about a year. Some of us will remain the family's friends forever.

Jesus taught us that whatever we do for the least of our brethren, we did for Him. St. Ann does that in so many ways! Thank you for helping with this one. You are indeed God's good and faithful servants!

#### DO 2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal THIS MEMORY



It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds received are being used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports the ministries and programs indicated in the

2024 Appeal literature! Organizations such as ARC of the Farmington Valley, Little Sisters of the Poor and CT Foodshare received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in the lives of our local neighbors. Please visit the Appeal website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org to learn more and make your gift today.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at: https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

Divine Mercy Sunday is a celebration of God's greatest attribute: His Mercy. Each of us needs mercy but we cannot expect God's mercy to be with us unless we are merciful to others through acts of forgiveness, charity or compassion.

Reflection: Never was Mercy ever needed more in our world than today. Embrace living mercy and the Divine Mercy of God will be yours. Union with the living Mercy, Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, is the surest way to accomplish this. "O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance as a font of mercy for us: I trust in You." (St.Faustina)

Jesus, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

#### We pray for the safe return of those currently serving in our Military Contact the Parish Office to have your family members added.

LCDR Jack Hamel, USCG LT Victoria Hamel, USCG 1LT Sean Neagle, USArmy



1LT Brian J. Heavren Jr., USArmy Capt. Matthew Mascoli, USMC 1LT Andrew Mascoli, USMC

#### It's That Time of Year Again...

If you are a registered parishioner using envelopes or online giving, and would like a copy of our records of your weekly envelope contributions, please e-mail Kris in the Parish Office:

kris.martino@stannavon.com or call 860-673-9858, ext. 221. Note: Contributions to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are mailed separately from the Archdiocese.





#### Dear Parishioners.

This year there will be 43 candidates receiving the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist. They recently received their First Reconciliation and are currently preparing for reception of the Blessed Sacrament this Spring. We will be putting out the "Little Lambs" in the near future so that you can pray for all candidates as they prepare for their sacrament.

Due to the many years of positive response, we would like to continue to gift each child with a First Communion Bible. We are asking that you sponsor any child or children, with this gift anonymously and it will be presented to them on their First Communion Day. In return, we will be asking the children to pray for the person who gave it to them every time they read their Bible.

The Bibles are reasonably priced and if you are interested in being part of this beautiful event, please pick up a form in the Gathering Space and return it with your payment of \$15.00 per Bible (made out to Church of St. Ann). Please mail to the church in an envelope clearly marked "for First Communion Bible" or drop it off at the Parish Offices. You may also order online at our website: stannavon.com. How pleased Jesus must be to know that both the children of this year's First Eucharist class and the adults of our Parish are praying for each other!

Thank you so much for your consideration and for your prayerful support of these beautiful children!

To order & pay online, please go to: www.osvhub.com/stannavon/forms/first-holy-communion-bible-gift

# Worship & Meditation: Sunday of Divine Mercy

# **Gospel Meditation**

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A protestant pastor friend of mine was invited to meet Pope Francis with a group of other pastors. He noticed the Pope's chair was especially ornate and set at the head of the group. He somewhat playfully said, "Holy Father, why do you get that special chair?" The group chuckled nervously at my friend's audacious chide.

The following year, the group was invited to return. They entered the room to find only simple chairs placed in a circle. Pope Francis entered, sat down in one of the humble chairs and, looking directly at my friend, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, "What do you think of my chair now?" My friend was stunned that the Pope remembered his concerns — and took the time to answer them.

Thomas the apostle was certainly stunned by the Risen Jesus displaying his wounds in person. But he also must have been equally shocked that Jesus knew and answered his particular questions, worries, and even demands related to his faith. How humbled ---and perhaps a bit terrified — he must have been to realize God remembers his concerns and cares enough to answer them.

What questions or demands about Jesus do you find in your heart? Like Thomas, will you be bold enough to voice them this week? How wonderful to know that if we do so, God will remember and respond even to our most audacious desires.

— Father John Muir

# Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We find unfathomable mercy and everlasting love in the wounds of Christ - even when we are skeptical, even when we carry doubt. God meets us there in the confusion. He reaches for our hand and places them at his side. We just have to call his name. ©LPi

> Thomas knows the man before him is either a fraud, preying on the hopes and anxieties of the traumatized disciples, or he is the Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplisher of impossible things. But where to look, to tell the difference?

Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, he demanded to know where his deception had failed. "You have no wounds," she told him simply.

Could we have accepted a savior who did not bleed? I don't think we could, because sooner or later, we would all stand before him and say, "Here is where the world hurt me. Here, and here, and here. What about you?" Christ can point to his hands, his feet, his side. "Here, and here, and here," he can say. "And I overcame them all."

It's the wounds, you see. The truth is in the wounds.

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" - John 20:28

©LPi











# Written in the Wounds

For all the condemnation Thomas the Doubter has received in 2000 years of homilies, I think there's something to admire in him.

Thomas is not unique. We all waver at some point, overcome by hesitation, distracted by the clamor of the world which seeks at every turn to shout above the whisper of the divine.

Thomas knows what he saw on Good Friday: his friend nailed to a cross, a sword driven through his body. He saw the blood and the water. He saw these things with his own eyes, eyes given to him by God, eyes which have never failed him before. And God doesn't ask us to suspend reality to believe in Him. He only asks us to be discerning about how that reality is interpreted in our hearts.

## THE BULLETIN BOARD



#### MERCY BY THE SEA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER



Poetry, Poignancy and Possibility With Antoinette Brim-Bell, Connecticut's 8th Poet Laureate

For the fourth consecutive year, Mercy by the Sea will celebrate National Poetry Month. This year's featured poet is Antoinette Brim-Bell, Connecticut's 8th State Poet Laureate. She is the author of three full-length poetry collections: These Women You Gave Me, Icarus in Love, and Psalm of the Sunflower. This onsite program will include readings of select poems by Brim-Bell who will touch upon her writing process, inspirations and challenges. She will engage with participants through a question and answer session, book signing and at a beverage service/reception.

#### Register at:

www.mercybythesea.org/programs-and-retreats/ upcoming-programs/poetry-poignancy-andpossibility/

# **Cabrini Movie**

HE WORLD IS TOO SMALL



Head to the theaters to see this powerful biopic movie being released nationally March 8, 2024 about the life and ministry St Frances Cabrini, first American citizen to be named a saint and the Patron Saint of immigrants. Over the course of 34 years she established an astonishing 67 hospitals, orphanages, and schools. Her energy was fueled by an intense focus on serving Jesus in whatever he asked of her.

## The 2025 Jubilee Tour **Only happens every** 25 years!



Join us for the experience of a lifetime for the 2025 Jubilee Year of the

Catholic Church in Rome, Occurring only once every 25 years, the 27th Jubilee Year in 2025 promises to be a time of grace for thousands of pilgrims and the world's faithful. Choose from 20 different tour dates ranging from January to October 2025. The Holy Door will be open! Land starting at only \$2099 per person (based on double occupancy)

Call Catholic Cruises and Tours for more information at 1-860-399-1785

# Explore The Shroud

At the Intersection of Faith and Science

April 13th, 2024 12:00 - 3:30pm Albertus Magnus College - Behan Community Room Hubert Campus Center

Presented by The New England Catholic Biblical School



Cheryl H. White, Ph.D. Renowned Shroud of Turin expert, will explain why this is the most studied artifact in the world - a cloth that bears the mysterious image of a man who mysterious image of a man wno has been scourged, crucified, capped with thorns, and pierced in the right side. This presentation will cover many approaches, from theological to historical to scientific and formation.



Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. Jesuit scholar, author, teacher, founder of the Magis Center founder of the Magis Center, and popular EWTN television host, Fr. Robert Spitzer will address four topics: the debunking of the 1988 carbon debunking of the 1988 carbon 14 test, the prolific presence of real blood on the Shroud, the remarkable parallels between the portrayal of the crucified man on the Shroud and the goasion and death, and the formation of the Shroud's image and the evidence of Jesus' resurrection in glory.



