



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

860-673-9858

Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor

www.stannavon.org

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

Rev. Joseph P. Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

OFFICE MANAGER

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BUILDING & CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

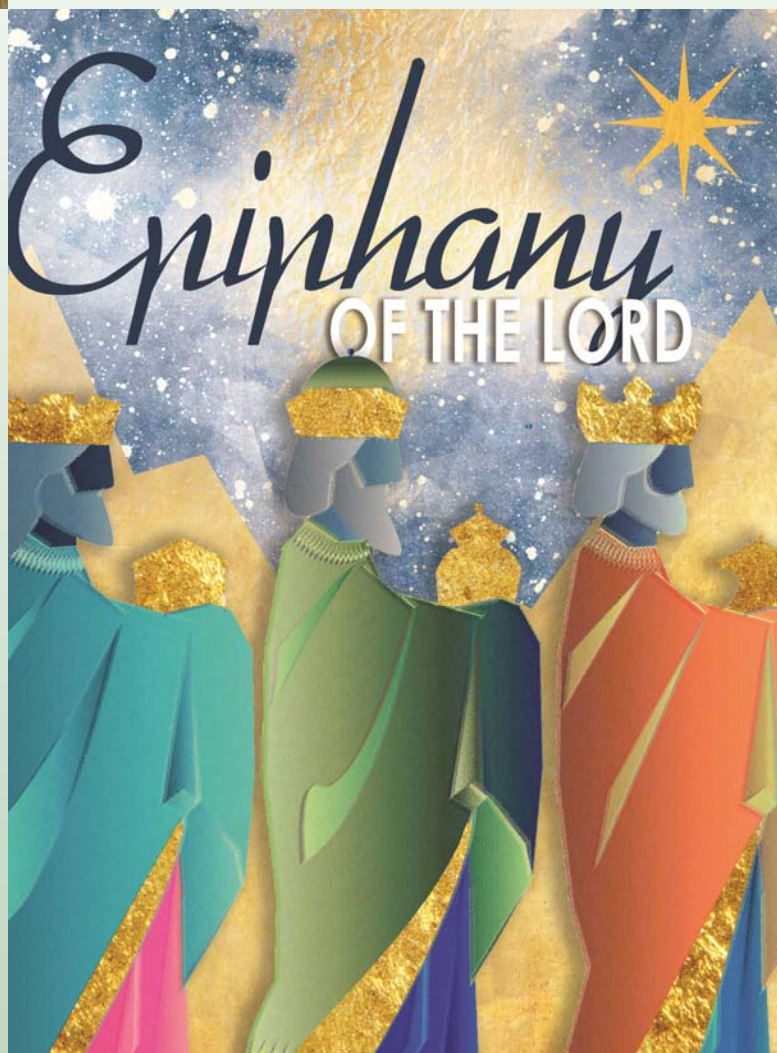
Call the Parish Office

MARRIAGES

Please set the date with the priest or deacon at least six months prior to the wedding. 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 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:

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

Chaplet: following daily Mass

Holy Hour

Thursday: 12:00 Noon



The Epiphany of the Lord

MONDAY, January 9
9:00 Special Intentions

TUESDAY, January 10
9:00 Special Intentions

WEDNESDAY, January 11
9:00 Special Intentions

THURSDAY, January 12
9:00 Special Intentions

FRIDAY, January 13
9:00 Carol Cunningham, *requested by the family*

SATURDAY, January 14
4:00 Fr. Maynard Kearns, *requested by his sister*

SUNDAY, January 15
7:30 Special Intentions
9:30 Cindy Capeci, *requested by Nan McHugh and family*
11:00 Marvin Blakley, *requested by the family*

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 office manager. You may call 860-673-9858 or stop by the parish office to register. 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'S

MONDAY, January 9
Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle: 7:15pm in the church. All are welcome!
Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

TUESDAY, January 10
RCIA: 7pm in Room 3 (per leader)
Social Justice Committee Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, January 11
Lectio Divina: will return in January
Re-Employment Support Group: 7 pm. in the Activity Room

THURSDAY, January 12
Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church
Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft (per director)
Youth Choir: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft (per leader)
Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft (per director)

FRIDAY, January 13

SATURDAY, January 14
Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, January 15
Quest: 10:30 am in Room 3



Ninth Annual Used Book Sale
In Fr. Bennett Hall

All proceeds go toward Catholic High School Student Scholarships



Sale Dates/Times

Friday, January 6th, 2016
5pm - 8pm
\$5 adult admission (Friday only)

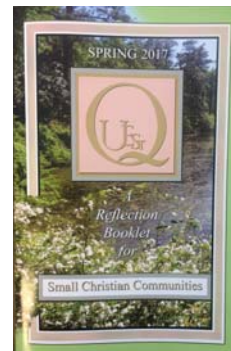
Saturday, January 7th
9am - 6pm

Sunday, January 8th
8am - 12:30pm

Are You Ready to Encounter the Sunday Scriptures in a Life-changing Way?

Join St. Ann's Adult Small Groups for prayer, fellowship and a lively discussion of how God's word in the Sunday scriptures applies to your life. Our resource is the **Quest** reflection book. Dates are Jan 15-Feb 24. Choose one of three convenient meeting times: **Sunday's, 10:30am; Mondays, 7:15pm or Fridays, 9:30am.** We meet in Rooms 1 and 3, lower level of FB Hall. Register with Ann ASAP: ann.distefano@stannavon.com; (860) 673-9858, x. 228. Books are \$6.

All are welcome!
No Bible study experience required.
Want to form your own at-home Small Group instead? Contact Ann.



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

December 25, 2016: \$15,746.02
 January 1, 2017: \$ 7,632.37
 Online Giving (week ending 1/4/17): \$ 4,704.00
 Next weekend's 2nd collection: *Monthly*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come be a part of our ministry!

Upcoming Meeting:
 Monday, January 9th
 7-8:30pm
 in Room 2

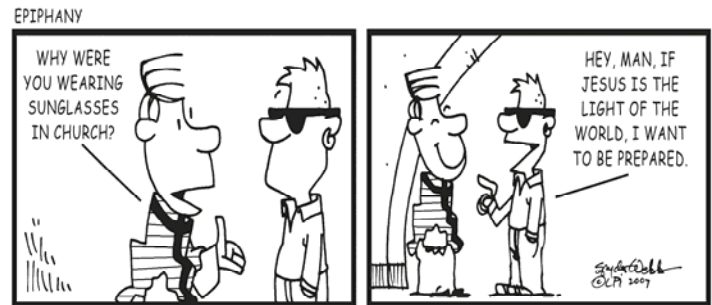


All are welcome... including brand new knitters!
 For more information call
 Pat: 860-673-3747
 Tina: 860-674-1541

Divine Mercy Holy Hour




**THIS Sunday
 January 8th**
 2:30 - 3:30pm in the church
 Come and experience God's transforming Love and Mercy!




Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in the recent Social Justice Committee Bertucci's Dining for Dollars fundraising events for the Haitian and Italian earthquake relief efforts! Proceeds from these two DfD events reached \$183 for Haiti and \$305 for Italy. Thank you very much for your participation!



How We Can Help the Homeless During the Winter...

We would appreciate donations of warm sox, hats, or gloves to go into gift bags for the guests of the Immacare shelter and the No-Freeze emergency shelter. For many this will be the only gift they get- and the items are greatly needed!

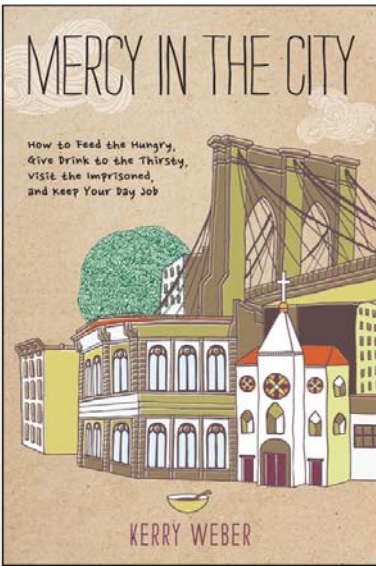
Also- if you have blankets or sleeping bags, or men's coats, we are trying to round up those items for both shelters. They don't have to be new- just warm and clean!

Thanks so much. All items can be left in church kitchen and please mark them "Immacare".

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

Marthas + Marys Book Discussion



**MERCY
IN THE CITY**
BY: KERRY WEBER

Tuesday
February 21st
7pm



Snow Date
February 28th

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For the Children...

Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Jesus	baptized	dove
Galilee	John	voice
Jordan	water	heaven

esJsu J e s u s

ohJn _____

hevane _____

laGilee _____

wetra _____

rodJan _____

devo _____

batidpez _____

vocie _____

©LPI

Questions of the Week Reflect and Respond to Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Why do you think the leadership and the people in Jerusalem were "greatly troubled" at news of "the newborn king of the Jews"?

Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah announced this prophecy in the aftermath of Israel's seventy-year exile in Babylon, around 500 BC. How do you imagine the Israelites reacted to his vision?

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul startled many of his Jewish contemporaries with the revelation that the Gentile believers in Christ were "coheirs" and "copartners" in the promises God made to Israel. Who would you consider today outsiders to the faith?



Epiphany of the Lord

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." The Magi were men of great faith. Their worldly position and power could have made them scoff at the sight of this humble infant. Their treasury of wealth could have blinded them to the true value of this child king. But instead these men placed themselves at the feet of Jesus in a gesture of complete submission. Then, as a sign of their devotion, they "opened their treasures" and offered this baby costly and precious gifts. Only a deep and sincere faith could justify such a surprising scene.

Real faith often runs contrary to worldly wisdom. Without the firm belief that Jesus was the Messiah, it would seem absurd to travel all those miles and part with all that gold, much less to bow down in the presence of a poor child. But the eyes of faith can see much more than the eyes of the world alone. The Magi understood that all the prestige and possessions of the earth are nothing in comparison to the kingdom of heaven. They wanted to use their worldly wealth to give glory to the King of Kings, rather than for their own glory.



JANUARY 8, 2017 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

The story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, the newborn King, is a great one, isn't it? They had a great big star in the sky to lead the way. I am no Boy Scout, so I am not sure how well I would do following a star like that. But the important point here is that God led them to the manger. The manger was a place that unless God specifically showed you this was where the Christ Child was born you wouldn't have believed it. You would have passed on by.

In our lives, there are no big stars in the sky leading us where we need to go. It isn't so easy sometimes discerning where God is leading us. We may seek to use our gifts wisely, but in what manner and to what end is not always clear.

This is where prayer can make a huge difference. If we seek to cultivate a prayer life where we are mindful of the presence of God throughout our day, then the call is easier to discern. We can help the process by intentionally offering to God in the morning the entirety of the day to come: all our actions, all our time, and all our decisions. In the evening, we can examine the past hours of the day and reflect on when we responded well to Christ's call and when we fell short. Then we resolve to begin again tomorrow, inviting Christ to be with us every step of the way. God may not offer a star in the sky to lead us, but if we invite us on our journey each day, the path will be much clearer.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

Prayer is to our soul what rain is to the soil.

--St. John Vianney

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
(Is 60:3)

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:

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.
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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29/Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6
and 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



GOSPEL MEDITATION

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." In our day and age, the star of Christmas has become a kind of decorative symbol that adorns manger scenes and Christmas trees. It suggests something good and bright and holy, a visual indicator that the "Light of the world" has appeared. But today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we recall that originally, this star was not just a pretty symbolic ornament. This star was a sign from God that intervened in the operations of the physical universe. The Magi understood that this star was sent from God to indicate where his Son would be born.

Of course it should not surprise us in this season of all seasons that God should choose to order the universe according to his purposes. Jesus has just been born of a virgin! God has just taken on human flesh. These events in themselves are extraordinary divine interventions--miracles that defy the standard operation of things. Why shouldn't God choose to send a luminous star where he wants it, when he wants it? Why shouldn't he reveal his plan through the things that he created in the first place?


The beauty of today's feast is found, in part, in the fact that the Magi were able to recognize this sign from God. They waited for it, they saw it, and they rejoiced in it: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." We too should be overjoyed in this season of God's special revelation to us. We may need the eyes to recognize it, but truly we have waited for a Savior, we have seen his appearance at Christmas, and now it is time to celebrate! God is at work in our physical world. He has come here, now to save us. This is cause for rejoicing!

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

Today's feast of the Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came into the world for all, not just a select group of people. Into all nations a light has come and today we reflect on the wonderful gift Jesus gives us in light. If we journey with him, there is always hope and the darkness of confusion, ignorance, sin, and even death is dispelled. God is with us and knows every aspect of what it means to be truly human.

THE BULLETIN BOARD



All high school students are invited to join us for an exciting one-day Catholic Youth Rally with engaging worship, music, speakers, and faith-filled fellowship with Teens from around the Archdiocese!

Sunday * April 30, 2017
1:00-8:00 pm
Cathedral of St. Joseph * Hartford, CT
Tickets: \$25.00

For registration forms, please see your parish youth minister or visit the Vocation Office website, www.hartfordpriest.com. Forms and payment are due by April 18, 2017. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to grow in faith and celebrate the new Easter life we have in Jesus Christ!

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center West Hartford, CT

Retreat Theme: The Light of Simplicity - Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection as we explore the simple and transformative message at the heart of Jesus' teaching. Discover how simplicity can shine a light on what is truly essential and important in our lives. Be renewed and inspired by the paradox of simplicity and the gift of faith.

The retreat includes: home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time, and workshops. The retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening and concludes with Sunday brunch at noon.

www.holyfamilyretreat.org/lightofsimplicity or call Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT at 860.760.9705 for more info.

Men's Retreat Date: January 20-22, 2017
Women's Retreat Dates: January, March, April and June

10th Annual Archdiocesan Marriage Enrichment Celebration

Saturday February 4th, 2017
5:00-9:00 p.m.
Mary Our Queen Church
248 Savage St.
Plantville, CT

Come celebrate our Sacrament with other married couples for Mass, prayer, and a good deal of laughter focusing on the theme:

**"Weddings, Wings and Miraculous Times:
Jesus' Gift at Cana".**

The cost is **\$25.00** per couple and includes dinner and a wine tasting.

To register contact
 Tom and Donna Finn
 at 860-621-7858
 or email: djfinnwap1@archdiocese-hartford.net
 Please R.S.V.P. by Jan. 29, 2017.

sponsored by the Office of Family Life and Catholic Engaged Encounter.



Northwest Catholic High School

Northwest Catholic will offer its Entrance Exam to 8th and 9th graders on January 23rd am. An application will serve as your registration for the exam.


There will be an Information Session for prospective families, who were unable to attend the November Open House, on February 2nd at 7pm at Northwest Catholic.

For more information go to: NorthwestCatholic.org/Admissions

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest." (Matthew 9)

Come and Pray

Winter Holy Hours for
 Vocations to the Priesthood





"A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people." - Pope Francis

The Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites every one to come and pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese at three special Holy Hours this Winter, celebrated by Fr. Jeff Gabbiani, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. Each Holy Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a light "coffee-and" reception so we have the chance to meet one another. Please join us!

Monday, December 19th * 7:00 p.m.
 St. Rita Church
 1620 Whitney Ave. in Hamden

Wednesday, January 11th * 7:00 p.m.
 St. Margaret Church
 24 Academy St. in Madison

Thursday, February 9th * 7:00 p.m.
 St. Pius X Church
 525 Woodtick Road in Wolcott

Please consider joining the St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society. Information can be found on our website, www.hartfordpriest.com.