



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

DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland: deacon.jeff@stannavon.com

Tim Healy: deacon.tim@stannavon.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

Russell Koch: russ.koch@stannavon.com

COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Tom McCabe: tom.mccabe@stannavon.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR (K - 8)

Valerie St. Jean: ext. 223 valerie.stjean@stannavon.com

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Rosemary Neamtz, MSW: ext. 226

rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com

REGISTRAR & CONFIRMATION ASSISTANT

Jennifer Soucy: ext.227 jennifer.soucy@stannavon.com

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

Ann DiStefano, MPS: ext. 228 ann.distefano@stannavon.com

RCIA DIRECTOR & LITURGY COORDINATOR

Maureen Fiedler: 860-995-4026

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 kris.martino@stannavon.com

BUILDING & CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

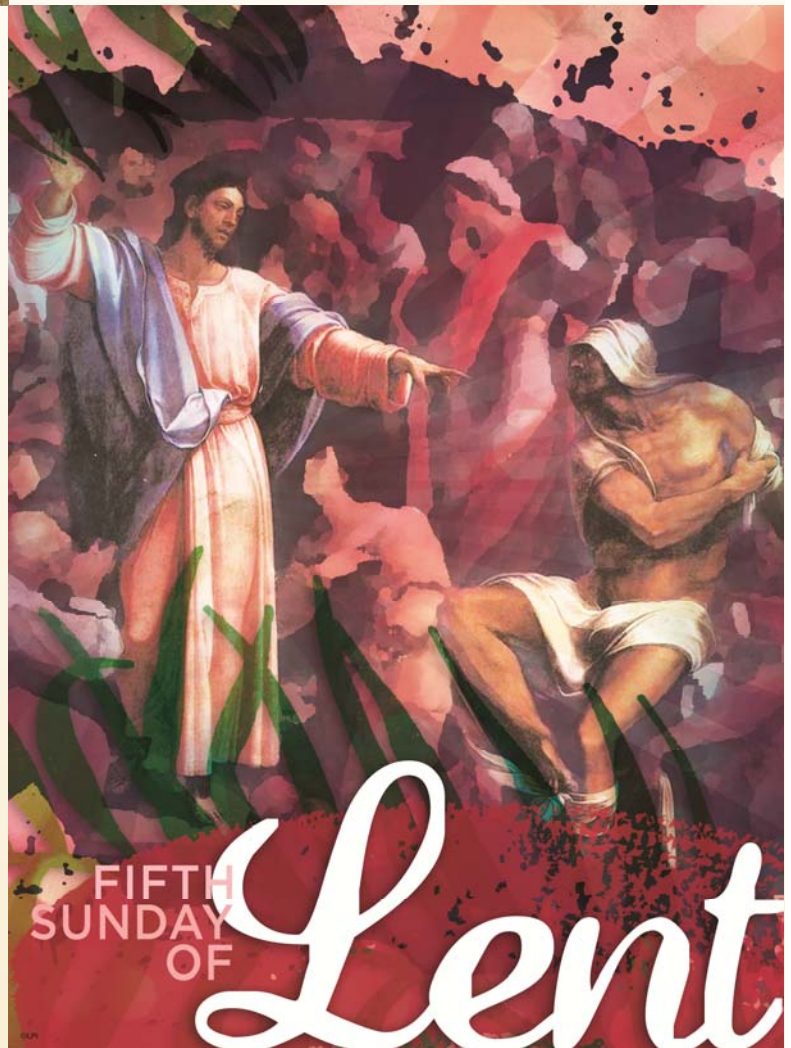
Call the Parish Office

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent

MONDAY, April 3

9:00 **Joseph Savidge, Jr. (11th Ann.),**
requested by the family

TUESDAY, April 4

9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, April 5

9:00 **Margaret Mary Payne,** *requested by Kathy and Chris Rohrs*

THURSDAY, April 6

9:00 **Special Intentions**

FRIDAY, April 7

9:00 **Special Intentions**

SATURDAY, April 8

4:00 **Kathleen Griffin Krul (20th Ann.),**
requested by her daughter and family

SUNDAY, April 9

7:30 **Frances Mitchell, Thomas Mitchell & Maria Kelly,** *requested by the Mitchell family*

9:30 **Christopher Hwang,** *requested by the family*

11:00 **Pietro DiTommaso,** *requested by his family*

Congratulations to

Fr. Joseph Cheah, Ph.D.

on being promoted to

Full Professor at the

University of St. Joseph.

Fr. Cheah is the Head of the

Religious Studies Department.



HEARTS & SOULS

Ministering to body, mind and spirit, the Health Ministry offers blood pressure screening, health counseling and referrals to our community of faith. Office hours are generally the 2nd Sunday of each month (NEXT Sunday) from 8:15-11am in the Sacristy (2nd door on the left as you enter the vestibule of the church). No appointment necessary.

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, April 3

Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle: 7:15pm in the church.
Enter through door on left side of church. All are welcome!

Lenten Confessions: 6-7pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

Prayer Banquet Lent Series: 7:15pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

TUESDAY, April 4

RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

Saint Ann Cares Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 1

WEDNESDAY, April 5

Acts of the Apostles Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 2 & 3 *(filled)*

THURSDAY, April 6

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

FRIDAY, April 7

Word Among Us Lenten Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3

Stations of the Cross: 7pm in the church

SATURDAY, April 8

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, April 9

Attention!

DATE CHANGE

for

2017 Bible Camp

Due to our
March
snowstorms
Bible Camp will
now be:
June 26-29




Prayer Shawl Ministry

.....

Monday,
April 3, 2017
7pm in Room 2

*All are welcome! We can also help teach you to knit!
For more information call
Pat: 860-673-3747
Tina: 860-674-1541*

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

March 26, 2017: \$7,623.71
Online Giving (week ending 3/29/17): \$2,759.00
Next weekend's 2nd collection:
Holy Father

**2017 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
 MOVED BY MERCY**



In these trying times, the need of our surrounding community grows and the assistance provided by the Appeal becomes all the more crucial. If you have not yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal will help continue the vital services, ministries and programs that help so many throughout our Archdiocese highlighting the Good Works of the Appeal.

ST. ANN CARES 

St. Ann Cares has decided on Mercy Housing, St. Agnes Home and FAVARH as this year's projects. Mercy Housing is a facility helping the homeless become independent. They provide skills and programs for the homeless to reach their goals with dignity and respect. St. Agnes Home provides housing and supportive services to parenting adolescent mothers and their infants. We will be doing some painting, carpentry and landscaping at these sites. FAVARH is a group home for the intellectually disabled. We will be building a ramp and



landscaping a walkway. Please join us on Saturday May 6th to help these great organizations.

For more information contact Steve Rose at rose_sp@sbcglobal.net or 860-250-5355.



2017 Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 10
 Lenten Confessions at 6pm - 7pm

Wednesday, April 12
 Tenebrae at 7:30 pm

Holy Thursday, April 13
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 pm
 Adoration until 10pm

Good Friday, April 14
 Morning Prayer at 9am
 Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3pm

Holy Saturday, April 15
 Morning Prayer at 9am
 Confessions at 10:00am - 11:00am
 Blessing of the Food at 12pm
 Easter Vigil at 8pm

Special Easter Sunday Schedule

7:30am, 8:45am, 10am and 11:30am

ADULT EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

Exciting opportunity to explore Scripture!

Join us for "**Making Sense of the Bible**," a NEW six-week 'Bible basics' course offered by the archdiocesan Catholic Biblical School (CBS), right here at St. Ann's! We'll meet Tuesday mornings, 9:30 -11:30am in Room 3, from April 18-May 23.

Our instructor will be CBS alum Joan Kennedy, MA Theology.

Topics include: **Where did the Bible come from? How do we read/interpret Scripture? The two(!) Creation accounts in Genesis. What is a 'covenant'? Exploring the Wisdom literature and the Psalms. A look at Matthew, Mark & Luke. Introducing the letters of St. Paul.**

Homework is minimal. Required texts: *The Catholic Study Bible*, Oxford, 2010; *The Bible Blueprint*, Joe Paprocki.

Register ASAP with Ann: ann.distefano@stannavon.com.

Come learn, share and grow!

Dear Parishioners,

This year there will be 59 candidates receiving the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist. They received their First Reconciliation on December 10, 2016, and are preparing for reception of the Blessed Sacrament in the Spring. Soon we will be putting out the Little Lambs for you to select a child and pray for them while they prepare for their sacrament.

Due to the overwhelming 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 on the tables 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. 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!



Yours in Christ, Father McHugh



Youth Ministry Easter Plant Sale Ends This Weekend!

April 1st & 2nd

Please help beautify our Church for Easter by supporting the Youth Ministry Easter Plant Sale. Plants are \$10 and can be purchased in honor of, or in memory of a loved one after Masses. The plants will decorate our altar for Easter.

Corporal Works of Mercy 2017

During this Lenten season, our Parish family Lenten commitment is to practice the corporal works of mercy, both individually and as a community. Donations should be placed in the labelled boxes in the Gathering Space. Anything you can donate is appreciated!

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own, and to take practical steps to alleviate it. - Pope Francis

This Weekend: Visit Those in Prison

Please help fund religious periodicals that are distributed to incarcerated persons in CT. These periodicals (Word Among Us) enrich faith, and the recipients are very grateful. See separate bulletin insert.

Next Weekend: Bury the Dead

Please reach out to family, friends, and neighbors who have lost a loved one, particularly a spouse, by inviting them to lunch, bringing them to Mass, or including them in social activities.

LENT 2017 *at the Church of Saint Ann*

"The Prayer Banquet" Lenten Reflection Series

Prior attendance is NOT required! Drop-ins are welcome!

PARISHWIDE PROGRAM:

Sunday, April 2nd, 12:00-1:30pm and Monday, April 3rd, 7:15-8:45pm, in Fr. Bennett Hall

The Prayer Diet -Finding a Healthy Balance. Overcoming obstacles to prayer. The latest prayer aids – online and other. What is Spiritual Direction? Prayer opportunities during Holy Week. And more! This is our final session - don't miss it!

PARENT PROGRAM:

(while the K-8 children are in Faith Formation)

Sunday, Apr 2nd 9-10:30am and 5:45-7:15pm, Room 228, Avon Middle School

Topic: "Putting it all together1" Setting goals to grow in prayer. The *Lectio Divina* prayer practice. And much more!

"PRAYER SHARING" INTERACTIVE DISPLAY:

Add your favorite way to pray to our display in the Gathering Space! Blank forms available near the display and at www.stannavon.org/lent-2017.

QUESTIONS?

Ann DiStefano: x.228 or ann.distefano@stannavon.com



Kids in Grades 4-8, Come join St. Ann's Youth Choir for Easter!

Youth Choir will sing at 11:30am Mass on Easter Sunday. Join us for rehearsals on Thursdays, 4:15pm in the Choir Loft..

Contact Choir Mom Ann DiStefano, ames.distefano@gmail.com; (860) 463-7495.



Thanks so much to everyone who donated to the Lenten Collection for the ImmaCare shelter. They want you to know how much this hugely successful collection was appreciated.

Two vans full of toiletries, linens, paper goods and much more were taken down. When the budget is tight, and it always is, it helps so much to not have to spend for these necessities.

Also, thanks to everyone who in any way supported the Flatbread Fundraiser held by St. Ann's food group to benefit ImmaCare. Over \$5000 dollars was raised because of truly great raffle prizes and very generous people who not only bought food and raffle tickets, but hopefully also had a fun evening! Every dollar goes directly to ImmaCare to help these guests not only survive, but to lead healthy, productive lives.

On behalf of the guests, staff, and Board- thanks for all of your delicious meals, support and prayers. Wishing you and your families a blessed Spring.



Lenten Confessions
Mondays during Lent: 6-7pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays During Lent: 7:00 pm

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

When I am driving throughout the United States, I enjoy seeing the billboards that dot the highways speaking for God. A couple of my favorites: "Life is short. Eternity is not. --God"; and "Let's meet at my house this Sunday, before the game. --God." God must have a pretty big advertising budget because he has billboards in pretty much every state!

One billboard I saw read, "You asked God for a sign, and here it is!" After a chuckle, I realized that we are always looking for a sign. We say we believe, but sometimes, we act like we just want to be sure.

In the Gospels, Jesus performs miracles and healings so that people would believe. The healing of Lazarus was surely a profound moment for all who were there. Jesus was able to show that he has power over even death itself, a foreshadowing to his resurrection that will occur in the not too distant future. For all who doubt, be assured that Jesus is the giver of life. He has given living water to the woman at the well, sight to the blind, and now has raised a man from the grave.

As Easter draws ever closer, how many more signs do you need? What else can Jesus do to convince you that his call on your life comes from the source of all life? As the US Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship lays out, we have been challenged, we are asked to choose, and then our lives will be transformed. May all the signs of God around us, even billboards on the side of the road, move us to choose a path of giving of ourselves like Jesus. -- Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

Say to Jesus as the apostles did: Lord, teach us to pray
- Jean Baptist de la Salle

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD. (Ez 37:14)

Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps 130)

Second Reading:

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you. (Rom 8:11)

Gospel:

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." (Jn 11:25-27)

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

Readings for the Week of April 2, 2017

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52-56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14--27:66 or 27:11-54



GOSPEL MEDITATION

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." As we draw near to the great feast of Easter, the Church gives us here some food for thought regarding the idea of resurrection and eternal life. Today's Gospel shares the story of a dead man who came to life again by the power of Jesus. Lazarus, who had been lying lifeless in a tomb for four days, "came out" of the tomb, burial cloths draped around his body, in a moment that must have been absolutely astonishing! This miracle could not have been explained by anything other than divine power over life and death.

It's important to consider that this story is not so much about Jesus' own resurrection but rather it is about OURS. Jesus uses the occasion of this restoration of his friend, Lazarus, to teach that we ALL can be raised to new life through the power of the Lord. Jesus tells us that we too can overcome death by believing in him: "everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Easter, of course, will confirm for us that death has no power over the God of life. But today, during these closing days of Lent, we are reminded that we can share in this source of life by believing in Jesus. So now is a perfect time to double-check our faith in him. Is it authentic? Do we really accept the supernatural reality of who Jesus is? Do we believe that he can conquer even the most frightening moment of human existence: death itself?

If we find ourselves falling short of faith in these things, let us turn to the Lord and ask that he will increase our faith so that, with Martha, we can truly say, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God."

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

As our season of Lent quickly draws to a close, we are reminded today that God's creative and life giving presence is always at work, bringing light out of darkness and new life out of death. The prophet Ezekiel reminds us that God's spirit is within us. Realizing this allows us to endure not only our eventual physical deaths but any difficulty, disappointment or crisis we may encounter. God's desire to bring all things into loving union with him is eternal.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Women's Retreat Weekend! Our Lady of Calvary, Farmington April 21-23, 2017

Women of St. Ann's! Give yourself a weekend! Sign up now for our parish retreat at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center in Farmington, CT on the weekend of April 21-23.

"Embracing Joy: Learning to Bear the Beams of Love" is this year's theme. For information, contact Chris Healy at 860-693-8562 or email sonesinger@gmail.com.

St. Bernard's Parish Community
7 Maple Street, Tariffville, Ct.
welcomes you to hear a dynamic presentation
by Bill Walsh:
"The Price and Promise of Easter"
Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

The presentation will be followed by fellowship and refreshments in the church hall.

Bill Walsh is a well-known speaker at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center and beyond. He is an Associate Retreat Director at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT.

ImmaCare Inc. Taste of the World

On Friday, April 28, 2017, ImmaCare Inc. will be hosting the fifth annual *Taste of the World—An International Food, Wine & Beer Tasting* to support the services and programs ImmaCare has provided to those experiencing homelessness in Hartford since 1981. Longtime supporter, former board member and steward of ImmaCare, George Slate, will accept The Partnership Award, and Renee DiNino, Director of Community Affairs & On Air Programming for iHeart Media will be the Special Guest Emcee. The evening will feature international cuisine including Cajun, Japanese, Brazilian, Italian and German. Harvest Fine Wine and Back East Brewing company will return to provide wine and beer, and new this year will be Two Roads Brewing Company. The evening will also include an eclectic selection of music and a silent auction. *Taste of the World* will be held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, from 6:30 pm–9:30 pm. The suggested cost for tickets is \$100 per person, the minimum ticket price is \$85 apiece. All proceeds will help ImmaCare continue to better serve those experiencing homelessness in Hartford. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit www.ImmaCare.org, www.Facebook.com/ImmaCare.CT or please contact Teresa Wierbicki, Director of Development: twierbicki@immacare.org, 860-724-4823 ext. 103.

Mothers & Babies Sewing Project for Haiti

90% of Jeremie was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, thus, the needs in Haiti are greater than ever. While we can not solve all their needs, we, as a group of dedicated volunteers, can continue with the Mothers and Babies Project and cut and sew baby beds, diapers, christening gowns, maternity dresses and other items so urgently needed on an ongoing basis. DIAPERS are the most urgent need

APRIL SPRING CUT & SEW DATES

Tuesday, April 11 @ 78 Bronson Rd. Avon 10-4
Tuesday, April 18 @ Sew Inspired 8 Wilcox St. Simsbury 10-4
Saturday, April 29 @ Sew Inspired 8 Wilcox St. Simsbury 10-4

For more information contact: Dr. Paula DeSilva
860-675-8215 or quiltingyourway@comcast.net

The Grotto Gift Shop...

located at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield, is now open daily Monday to Saturday from 10:30am to 4:00pm and on Sunday, 11:30am (after Mass) to 4:00pm. There are First Communion & Confirmation gifts in stock with more coming in daily. For further information, call 860-567-0891 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.

Read, Reap and Rise to New Life!

The plowman should plow in hope, and the thresher in hope of receiving a share. (1 Cor 9:10)

The Archdiocesan Catholic Biblical School (CBS) invites adults to engage the Word of God from the perspective of Catholic faith. Enrollment begins May 1. Contact the CBS office by August 15 to enroll. Classes begin in locations throughout the Archdiocese just after Labor Day.

For more information, check out our website www.CatholicEdAOHCT.org or contact us in the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis at 860-242-5573 or catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org.