



# Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road \* Avon, Connecticut \* 06001

860-673-9858

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

[www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org)

## WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

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

Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

## DEACONS

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

## OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 [kris.martino@stannavon.com](mailto:kris.martino@stannavon.com)

## CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

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## 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

# MASS INTENTIONS



## 3rd Sunday Of Advent

### MONDAY, December 18

9:00 **Hyong-Seok Kim**, requested by his daughter

### TUESDAY, December 19

9:00 **Donald Kubik**, requested by his wife, Ruth and family

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

9:00 **Jonathan Michael Gilotti**, requested by his mom and dad

### THURSDAY, December 21

9:00 **Pietro DiTommaso**, requested by the DiTommaso Family

### FRIDAY, December 22

9:00 **Thomas Penzone**, requested by Rosanne and Mark Harutunian

### SATURDAY, December 23

4:00 **Camille & Peter Angelina and Michael Nay**, requested by the family

### SUNDAY, December 24

#### 4th Sunday of Advent:

8:00 Special Intention

10:00 Special Intention

#### Christmas Eve Masses:

3:00 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated

6:00 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated

9:00 For all those in whose memory or honor the altar plants have been donated

# 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, December 18

**MMP Cenacle:** will resume January 8th

**Advent Reflections:** 7:15pm in Rooms 1 & 3

### TUESDAY, December 19

**M+M Moms:** 10am in the Activity Room

**RCIA:** 7pm in Rm. 3

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

**Psalms Bible Study:** 9:30am in Rooms 2 & 3

**Knights of Columbus Meeting:** 7pm in Room 2

**Matthew Bible Study:** 7:15pm in Room 3

### THURSDAY, December 21

**Advent Reflections:** 9:30am in the Activity Room

**Holy Hour:** 12 noon in the church

**Adult Confirmation:** 7pm in Room 3

**Traditional Choir:** 2pm in the Choir Loft

**Children's Choir:** 4:15pm in the Choir Loft

**Folk/Contemporary Choir:** 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

### FRIDAY, December 22

**Matthew Bible Study:** 9:30am in Room 3

### SATURDAY, December 23

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

### SUNDAY, December 24

See special Mass Schedule for today!

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour**  
THIS Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 - 3:30pm in the church



Our Lord told St. Faustina, "For the soul that trusts much will be given." Please join us as we place our trust in Jesus!



## Christmas Schedule

Advent Penance Service: Monday, December 18th at 7pm

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 4th Sunday of Advent  
8am and 10am

**Christmas Eve**  
3pm, 6pm and 9pm

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas**  
8am and 10am

Monday, January 1st - Solemnity of Mary: not a Holy Day of Obligation this year- regular Mass schedule applies





## Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 19th at 7pm.

Give yourself the gift of forgiveness and peace as you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

## How We Can Help the Homeless During the Holidays...

Once again we will be collecting socks, gloves, and hats to make gift bags for the men at ImmaCare shelter. Also, Chapsticks and toiletries. Hopefully, we will get enough to also have some distributed to those men and women who remain outside until the weather becomes life threatening. Please drop off any donations in the kitchen & label for Immacare. Our thanks & wishes for a blessed holiday season.




### Gifts for those in Convalescent Homes

Once again St. Ann's would like to remember those in Convalescent Homes for the holiday with:

**Ladies/Gentlemen:** Small blankets, combs, nail clippers, picture frames, sweat pants & tops, eyeglass holders, sweaters (prefer button front style), writing paper, envelopes & stamps, large faced watches & clocks, slippers, socks, bathrobes, PJs, hats, bird feeders that attach to windows, large-face playing cards, wall decorations, wicker baskets for odds and ends, and artificial flower/plant arrangements

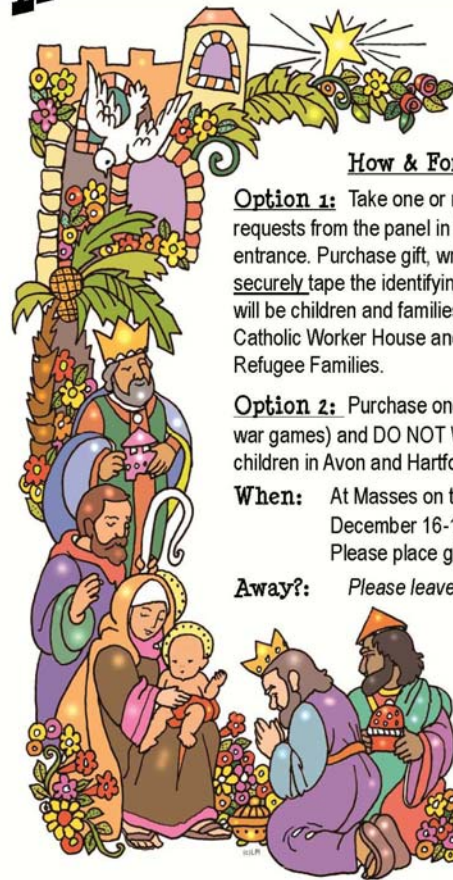
**Ladies:** Costume jewelry, pins, necklaces earrings, hair picks, perfume, powder, cosmetic bags, emery boards, nail polish, nightgowns, knee-highs, bed jackets & easy to open pocketbooks

**Gentlemen:** Flannel shirts, after-shave lotion.

Please mark each package for size, ladies or men. Please place in box in the Gathering Space From Sunday, Dec. 10th through Dec. 17th Questions? Call Ida Maillet: 860-673-4861

## Annual Toy/Gift Collection

Weekend of December 16/17



### How & For Whom:

**Option 1:** Take one or more paper Christmas gift requests from the panel in the Gathering Space & side entrance. Purchase gift, wrap in Christmas paper and securely tape the identifying tag to the gift. Recipients will be children and families at Family Life Education, Catholic Worker House and Catholic Charities Refugee Families.

**Option 2:** Purchase one or more gifts (please, no war games) and DO NOT WRAP. Recipients will be children in Avon and Hartford.

**When:** At Masses on the weekend of December 16-17, 2017

Please place gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall

**Away?:** Please leave gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall.

God Bless You  
For Your  
Generosity

Sponsored by the  
Social Justice  
Committee

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make the Advent Reflection Series such a blessing for our parishioners:

- Fr. McHugh, for generously providing the booklets
- Mark Hamel, for creating the discussion guide and facilitating a Small Group
- Ann DiStefano, Karen Edgar, Mary Healey, Chip Janiszewski and Jim Serruta, for facilitating Small Groups
- The dozens of participants who gathered to share their faith together.

If you read and reflected on the booklet in a group OR on your own, and it depend your experience of Advent/Christmas, please let Ann know: [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto:ann.distefano@stannavon.com); (860) 673-9858, x228.

### Want to give Small Groups a try?

*Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures* will resume the week of January 7<sup>th</sup>

We meet weekly for 90 minutes to read and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Scriptures, so that we may grow in our relationship with God, build community, and enhance our experience of Mass.

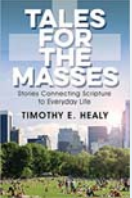
Join us at one of these convenient times: Sundays, 10:30am, Room 3  
Mondays, 7:15pm, Room 3

Contact Ann above to register, or simply DROP IN to check it out. All materials are provided, but bring your Bible if you like.



**WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME**

**December 10, 2017:** not available at time of upload  
**Next weekend's 2<sup>nd</sup> collection:** none  
*(Christmas & Parish Charities on Dec. 24/25)*



*Deacon Tim's New Book!*

Deacon Tim's book of homily stories has just been published by CSS Publications. If you've enjoyed his homilies you'll likely enjoy this collection of stories, taken from his homilies over the last sixteen years. If you can't stand his homilies, Deacon Tim suggests you consider buying a copy for someone you don't like, just to annoy them. Who knows – they might be converted! You can find the volume on Amazon.com, directly from the publisher at: <http://store.csspub.com/prod-0788028464.htm> or you can just ask Deacon Tim to get one for you (less expensive).

**December Bulletin Announcement Deadlines**

Sunday Bulletin:	Announcement Deadline:	Bulletin Upload Date:
<del>December 17</del>	<del>Friday, 12/8</del>	<del>December 12</del>
<del>December 24</del>	<del>Tuesday, 12/12</del>	<del>December 18</del>
December 31	Monday, 12/18	December 22

**CENACLES  
of the Marian Movement of Priests**



**Question:** Is the cenacle primarily for priests?  
**Answer:** No. In Message #34 (1-17-74), Our introduces this question, "Why do I want them to come together in cenacle with me?" In this message she addresses herself to the priests, but what she tells them is also applicable to the laity. She wants all her children—priests, religious, laity, families, to gather together with her in cenacles of prayer, to pray with her and to learn how to love one another. Also, the cenacle helps us to deepen our understanding and live the obligations we have undertaken through our consecration to her

Immaculate Heart. We refer you to the message dated Nov. 1, 1973, "my Faithful Cohort." (#25)  
*Excerpt from Cenacles of the Marian Movement of Priests Purpose/Guide*  
**Our cenacle meets every Monday at 7:15pm in the church.  
Come pray the Rosary with us.**



**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 from 8:15-11am in the Sacristy ( 2<sup>nd</sup> door on the left as you enter the vestibule of the church). No appointment necessary.

**Communion For Shut-Ins**

The Eucharistic ministers would be happy to bring Communion to those in our parish who are unable to come to church. Please call the Parish Office and leave your name and address if you wish to receive Communion **860-673-9858.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale  
January 12-14, 2018**

All proceeds go to Catholic High School Student Scholarships.

*Please donate books in good condition during the following book sale collection dates/times:*

- Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>: between 9:30 AM - 6 PM
- Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>: between 9:30 AM - 6 PM
- Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>: between 9:30 - 11:30 AM

**Please donate:** best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, religious, classics, biographies, self-help books, vintage books, cookbooks, collectibles, large print, children's books, young readers, memoirs, books-on-CD, music CDs, movies on DVD, and (new this year) record albums.

**Please do NOT donate:** encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, VHS movies, records, or cassette tapes.

In addition to books, please donate sturdy computer paper boxes and box tops.

**January 2018 Book Sale dates:**

- Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>: 5-7:30pm- \$5 adult admission
  - Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>: 9am- 6pm (no admission fee)
  - Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>: 8am- 12:30pm (no admission fee)
- SUPER SALE: From 5-6pm on Saturday and during all Sunday hours, you can choose 20 books for \$5**

**Volunteers are needed for sorting books**

To volunteer at the January 2018 Book Sale, please contact Nancy Casey (860.673.3141) [nancekc@gmail.com](mailto:nancekc@gmail.com) or Constance Rotondo (860.404.0204) [constance.rotondo@comcast.net](mailto:constance.rotondo@comcast.net)

**Calling All Artists!**

- WHO:** Artists of all ages
- WHAT:** Your art work as a donation to the 9th Annual St. Ann Art Show and Sale
- HOW:** Use contact information below. All mediums accepted: watercolor, acrylic, oil, pencil, collage, photography, sculpture, artisan crafts, fabric art, etc.
- WHEN:** Donations happily accepted, preferably by January 26, 2018
- CONTACT:**  
Inez Failace: 860.673.5579 or [failace1@comcast.net](mailto:failace1@comcast.net)  
Meg Kundahl: 860.521.1051 or [mkfk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkfk@sbcglobal.net)

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

*In 1531, Our Lady appeared to a simple Aztec Indian who had converted to the Catholic faith, Juan Diego. Three days later, at Juan Diego's request, Mary provided a sign in the form of roses and an image on his cloak so that all would believe that what he claimed to have seen was true. Today, Christians revere Our Lady of Guadalupe all throughout the world.*

*Some will believe without seeing but many will need some evidence before they take a leap of faith. In stewardship, we are called to cultivate our gifts and grow them to an increase. Many people will claim that they are living a stewardship way of life, but it will be through the abundance of fruits in their lives that people will come to believe. Evidence of generosity, compassion, love, and gratitude will sway others. Some will seek to live their lives in a similar fashion.*

*During this Advent season, we have the opportunity to provide evidence of our commitment to Christ by our actions. We must not let this season become about commercialism and material gifts. This season is about preparing our hearts to allow Jesus to touch us more profoundly in the experience of Christmas. Maybe our acts of kindness and generosity will help someone else's heart soften for Jesus. That is when real miracles can occur, just like roses growing in the winter.*  
Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

## QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken  
in all of us memories of goodness  
and thus open doors of home*  
- Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### First Reading:

Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and they shall be his people, and he will dwell among you, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. (Zec 2:15)

### Or:

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (Rev 12:1)

### Psalm:

You are the highest honor of our race. (Jdt 13)

### Gospel:

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:30-31)

### Or:

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:41b-42)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,  
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## WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/  
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25  
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/  
Lk 1:5-25  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/  
Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21  
[1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/  
Lk 1:46-56  
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14  
[cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66  
Next Sunday: Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/  
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" These words, expressed by Elizabeth at the moment of the Visitation, must have resonated with Juan Diego. A simple man, this peasant saint never would have expected to be chosen by Our Lady for the mission and miracles she shared with him. "How has this happened to me?" he surely wondered as he gazed down and beheld the miraculous image of Mary that appeared on his "tilma" in the presence of the bishop.

It's wonderful to think how often God chooses to work through those who seem lowly. Mary herself was a simple young girl entrusted with the most sublime vocation to be the Mother of God. The Son of God was born in the poverty of a stable. Juan Diego, and so many others to whom God allowed Mary to communicate in a special way--St. Bernadette at Lourdes; Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta at Fatima; St. Catherine Labouré in France--were all simple people with no pretenses of power or prestige in the eyes of the world.

This can be a source of comfort for us. No matter what our worldly status, all of us share in the poverty of sin. We all struggle at times with being slaves to our own bad habits and vices. On the spiritual level, very few of us resemble kings or conquerors. Yet we have cause for hope. God chooses the lowly to share in his work. And he gives all of us the gift of his Mother to accompany us along the way. Indeed, it's not just the canonized saints with whom Mary wishes to cooperate. She stands as Blessed Mother to us all, inviting us even in the midst of our own weakness to trust in the power of her Son.

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe calls us to see not only the abiding presence of the Virgin Mary with us throughout history but also as a powerful symbol of Mexican faith, identity, and mission. She stands before all of us as a symbol of motherhood, of fidelity, social justice, and peace and equality for women. She gives voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless. Through her intercession, we are reminded that God is with us. She is a concrete image of what God can do and guides us in embracing our call and mission as disciples of her Son.



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## The Men of Saint Ann's

### Annual Men's Retreat January 19 - 21, 2018

At Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center  
West Hartford

Join Us for a focus on: "Grace  
Enough"

Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God's grace in our lives. In an age of division, tension and change, *Grace Enough* will explore the many ways God's presence empowers us and supports us through every step of life's journey. Discover anew how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Together we'll reflect on how living in God's grace guides us to make wise choices, leading to true happiness and peace.

The retreat begins with a buffet dinner from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Friday evening and concludes with the celebration of Sunday Eucharist at 10:45 a.m., followed by an optional hot brunch at noon. Families of retreatants are most welcome to attend the Sunday mass and brunch at no extra charge.

For more information go to the  
Holy Family Retreat Center website:

<https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>

Click on Retreats, then Themed Retreats

Call or Email us:

Paul Watson: 860-922-0812 or [Pgwatson33@gmail.com](mailto:Pgwatson33@gmail.com)

Bob Yurch: 860-675-1366 or [byurch@fiainc.com](mailto:byurch@fiainc.com)



Knights of Columbus Meeting  
Wednesday, December 20th  
at 7-8:30pm  
Room 2 (under Fr. Bennett Hall)

### DAILY ADVENT CHALLENGE

Sometime today, find an extra  
15 minutes of quiet time to  
just rest in God's presence.  
Don't speak. Just place  
yourself in God's care and let  
God touch your heart.



### Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, Grotto Gift Shop

Beginning Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> until December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Grotto Gift Shop at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield will be open from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Saturday & Sunday, 11:30 am (after Mass) until 4:00 pm. The Shrine is located on 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield, CT.

There is a varied selection of Advent wreaths and candles along with many new Christmas ornaments, cards & Fontanini Nativity sets. Also, unique gifts and books are available for all occasions, particularly baby & children's items.

