



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

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Tom McCabe: tom.mccabe@stannavon.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR (K - 8)

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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):

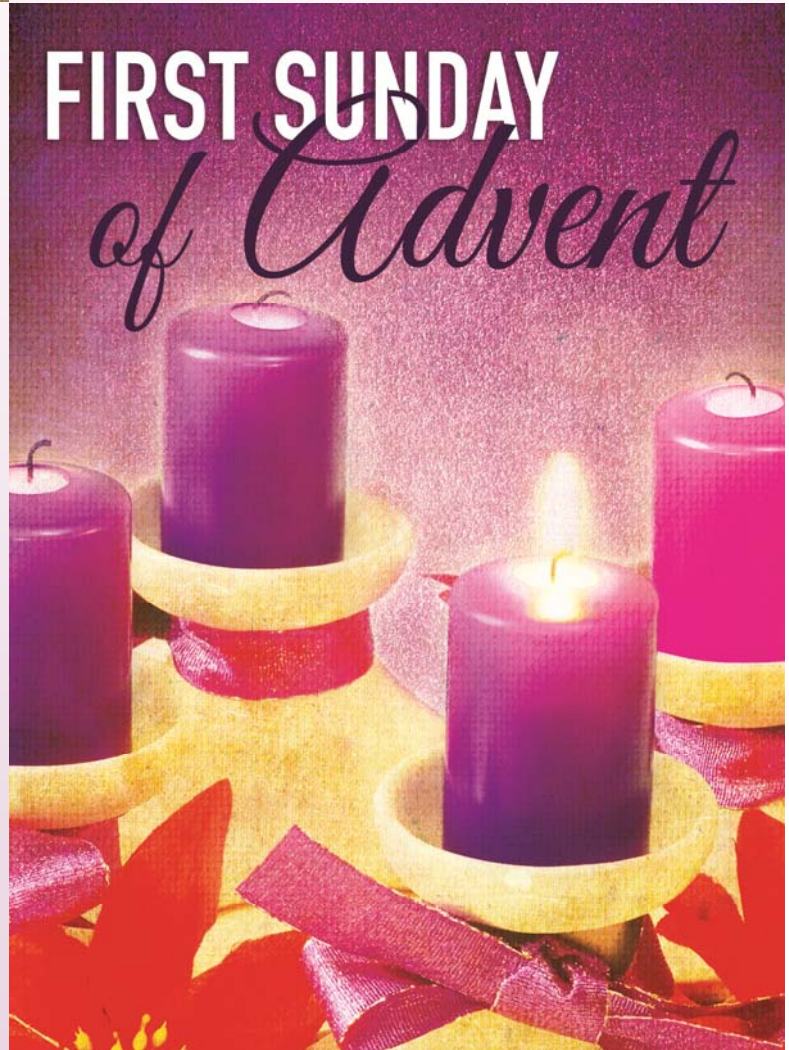
Call the Parish Office

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



**1st Sunday
Of Advent**

MONDAY, November 28
9:00 **Special Intentions**

TUESDAY, November 29
9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, November 30
9:00 **Special Intentions**

THURSDAY, December 1
9:00 **Special Intentions**

FRIDAY, December 2
9:00 **Special Intentions**

SATURDAY, December 3
4:00 **Marion Zalenski, requested by the family**

SUNDAY, December 4
7:30 **Special Intentions**
9:30 **John Curran, requested by the Frey Family**
11:00 **Francis Aiello, requested by Sandy, Leo and David Desrochers**

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, November 28

Advent Series: 9:30am in Room 3
M+M Moms: 12:30 in the Activity Room
Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle: 7:15pm in the church.
All are welcome! *(Enter through door on the left side of the church)*
Advent Series: 7:30pm in Room 3

TUESDAY, November 29

VIRTUS Training: 6pm in Fr. Bennett Hall
RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

WEDNESDAY, November 30

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

THURSDAY, December 1

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church
Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft
Youth Choir: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft
Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

FRIDAY, December 2

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: 4-5:45pm in the Choir Loft and Fr. Bennett Hall—FULL CAST Rehearsal

SATURDAY, December 3

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, December 4

Advent Series: 10:45am in Room 3
Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 2:30pm in the church



**YOUTH
MINISTRY
POINSETTIA
SALE**
*December 3/4 &
December 10/11*

Poinsettia sale time is here again! Please help us decorate our beautiful church for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Plants are \$10 each and will be used to decorate the church. They will be sold in the Gathering Space after Masses the weekends of Dec. 3/4 and 10/11.

WE HAVE OPLATEK
We will also be selling Oplatek, Polish Christmas wafers, during the plant sale.



*Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin
Mary*

December 8, 2016

Holy Day of Obligation

*Masses will be at:
9am, 12:10pm and 7pm*

VIRTUS –

Protecting God's Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Archdiocese of Hartford requires that all Archdiocesan employees and adult volunteers who deal with children on a regular basis attend this training session. For additional information please visit www.virtusonline.org

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions:

November 21, 2016

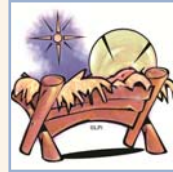
6:30 pm at Saint Catherine of Siena West Simsbury, CT
860-658-1642

September 7, 2016

Church of Saint Ann at 6PM
Registration contact, Valerie St. Jean at
860-673-9858 x223
or email: valerie.stjean@stannavon.com

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Friday, December 2nd from 4 - 5:45 pm
Full Cast Rehearsal - All Performers!



Please consult your rehearsal schedule or contact Susan Rietano Davey if you are unsure whether your child(ren) should attend, or if you have any questions - srietano@gmail.com.



Remember to pick the new updated **Ministry Booklet, "I Can Do That" form and Parish Contact Sheet** in the gathering space or on the table in the wing of the church. You can leave the completed "I Can Do That" form with Kris in the Parish office.



*Stay focused on Jesus this
Advent season!*

Advent Reflection Series for Small Groups

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 27, Join us for four 90-minute sessions based on the booklet, *The Word Among Us*. Small Groups will gather weekly at church or at home to discuss the scripture readings and reflections from the week and explore four of the names of Jesus: "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace." **Church-based Small Groups** will meet in Rooms 1 and 3 on Sundays at 10:45am, and Mondays at 9:30am and 7:15pm. Contact Ann DiStefano to sign up (contact info on front page of bulletin), or to register your **home-based Small Group**. All materials provided.

Online Reflection Series

"Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Advent," from the team who brought us *Rediscover Jesus!* Receive daily email messages featuring insightful video reflections, inspirational Christmas music, and practical tips for making Christmas more meaningful. Sign up via dynamiccatholic.com/advent.

Parish Reconciliation Evening - Monday, December 19th

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

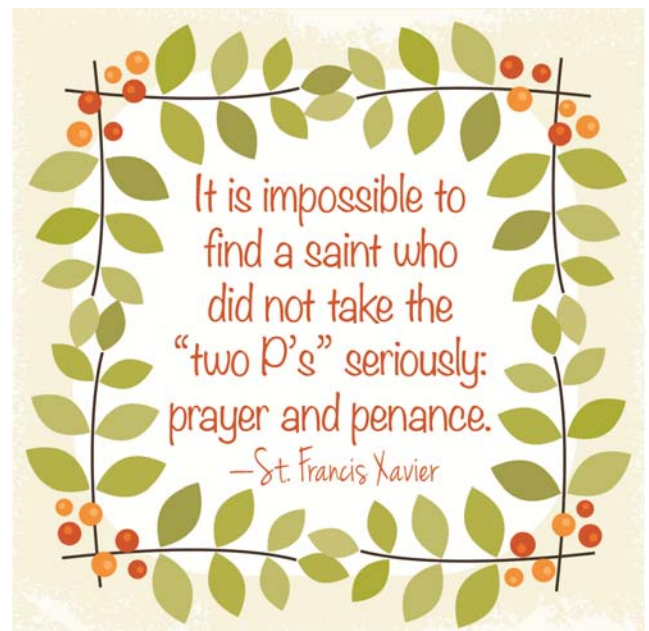
Divine Mercy Holy Hour



**Next Sunday,
December 4th**

2:30 - 3:30pm in the church

Come and experience God's transforming Love and Mercy!



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

November 20, 2016: \$7,452.00

November 20, 2016: will be reported next weekend


Online Giving: not available due to early bulletin submission

Next weekend's 2nd collection: Avon Special Needs

Annual Parish Collection

Church of Saint Ann

*We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many to our **Annual Parish Collection**. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your gift card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated. Thank you.*



Many Hartford area companies will soon begin their United Way Campaigns. Last year, many parishioners were generous in designating St. Ann's as the beneficiary of their United Way pledge, and for that I am most grateful. Please consider designating St. Ann's Church (United Way code #AG0723) for your United Way pledge. Thank you for your generosity. *-Fr. McHugh*



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 (2nd door on the left as you enter the vestibule of the church). No appointment necessary.

Marian Movement of Priests Prayer Cenacle Monday evenings in the church from 7:15-8:15pm

The MMP is for priests and laity who are devoted to Our Lady and her Rosary. The Prayer Cenacles are gatherings of prayer that consist of the Holy Rosary and Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. A Message from the MMP Book "To the Priests, Our Lady's Beloved Sons" is read at every Cenacle. We are praying for an outpouring of The Holy Spirit, and for Our Lady's intercession. For more information on the Marian Movement of Priests, please visit the official website at www.mmp-usa.net
Come and see, come pray with us. All are welcome.

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**.



Thank You!

The Knights of Columbus extend their heartfelt gratitude to all parishioners who made their annual Pie Sale a resounding success. In fact, twice as many pies were sold this year than last year! Our proceeds, as always, will be put back into the parish, including the youth programs.



- Your Knights of Columbus

Q & A

What significance does the Advent season have for our Christian faith journey?

Advent is a season of joyful anticipation and expectation. But for what specifically? Certainly not for the birth of the Christ Child-that occurred more than two thousand years ago. This season links us with all those who lived in the era of longing for the coming of the Messiah. But he has come and lived among us.

Then what are we joyfully anticipating and expecting?

Some are joyfully anticipating the many gifts that they will buy and share with others, along with the many gifts they will receive in return. Others enter into the overblown commercialism -decorating, partying, writing cards, and all the endless customs that go with the season.

What if the anticipation and expectation were to focus on how we can continue to make present the living Christ in each and every moment of our daily lives? Yes, Jesus came among us two thousand years ago. But how do we continue to make that presence real in our world? Jesus himself set the agenda for us. We are to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, freedom for those who are oppressed and abused. What would the Advent season look like if this, rather than materialism, was the main focus of our joyful anticipation and expectation? Try it and see what results. It may surprise all of us.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

This week we hear that ominous Gospel passage where Jesus tells us about people being taken from where they are and what they are doing when they least expect it, while others remain. This has been distorted by some for support into a spectacular idea of rapture, leading to many books and movies. A profitable genre has been created that sometimes preys on people's fears.

But in following Jesus Christ, there is no fear. What we are called to do is live each day as it were our last. Be mindful of all the opportunities around you to share love and the gifts God has given you. We will all be held accountable in the end, but it is not what we have done that will save us. Our salvation lies in the grace freely given to us by Jesus. When we choose to receive that gift and intentionally follow him, we are led to giving over our entire being totally to him.

This Advent, let's not allow ourselves to be caught up in all the craziness of the season, but instead give ourselves over to God to use for his glory. The Incarnation born in a manger is calling you. Have no fear!

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

CATHOLIC QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*Never be afraid to trust an
future to a known God.*

--Corrie ten Boom

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it.
(Is 2:2)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

The night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Rom 13:12)

Gospel:

"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." (Mt 24:43-44)

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

Readings for the Week of November 27, 2016

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 23/Mt 4:18-22
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus warned his followers to be ready for his return and the advent of the end-time. How are you preparing for the return of the Son of Man?

Isaiah 2:1-5

In what ways do you see our nation open to hearing and obeying God's word?

Romans 13:11-14

Paul cultivated a sense of urgency for the faith with the Christians in Rome. How can we do likewise in our faith communities?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Jesus doesn't tell us when he will come again; but he does tell us all we need to know. First, he leaves no doubt in our minds that he will in fact return--this isn't a question we have to debate. And secondly, he tells us what we need to do to be ready: stay awake! As long as we don't doze off while we're waiting, everything will be all right.

So our task is a relatively simple one. We are called to be on the lookout. We are supposed to be ready for the Lord when he appears. This is a straightforward instruction to be sure. But it does contain an inherent challenge: it's often much easier to hit the snooze button than to get up and at 'em. It's our task, however, to make sure we don't give in to the temptation to fall back asleep.

This is what the season of Advent helps us to do. It's like the Church's alarm clock, ringing with persistence in our ears: Wake up! Throw off the covers of apathy and distraction! Jesus is coming! Get up and get your house in order before he arrives!

What exactly this means will be different for all of us--the particular behaviors we need to change, the specific virtues we need to develop--all of this is unique to each individual. But our common goal is the same--to clean house in our hearts and make ourselves ready to welcome the Lord. Yes, his return at the end of time will be a momentous event, but even if we never experience it during our lifetime, Jesus still wants to come to us here and now, to dwell in our hearts through the presence of his Spirit. This Advent, let's be ready to welcome the Lord every minute of every day.

LIVE THE LITURGY

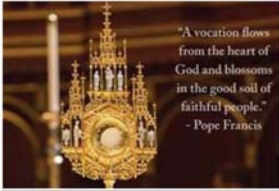
Gathering on this First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that we are called to be ever vigilant; living in expectation of the second coming of Christ. With the busyness of our lives, it is easy to gloss over these beautiful four weeks and preoccupy ourselves with other things. However, now is the time to stop, wait, listen, and prepare ourselves for Christ's unexpected coming.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

"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 everyone 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 Gubbiotti, 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.

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 860.760.9705 for more info.

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

St. Patrick's Parish Collinsville, CT

Annual Gingerbread Fair

December 3, 2016
10am—7pm
&
December 4, 2016
8am—12noon



Features will include unique hand-crafted items, gift baskets, a teacup auction, bake sale, and lunch café with specialty desserts.

Free admission

The Archdiocese of Hartford Catholic Biblical School
& The Office for Catholic Social Justice present

Bringing Laudate Si to Life During the Christmas Season and Beyond

Presented by **Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, PhD**
Executive Director, CREA
(Center for Reflection, Education and Action)

Sunday December 4, 2016 1:30-4:00pm
St. Thomas Seminary * 467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield CT

Our Christmas preparations offer the perfect opportunity to think about how our actions and life patterns impact the life of our common home, the earth. Drawing on a Bible-based spirituality, Sr. Ruth will lead us as we explore how we can live up to the challenges Pope Francis presents in *Laudate Si*.

Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/4TVsBuu8vCHBTuG12>
or call Jill Costa or BJ Daly Horell in the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis at 860-242-5573.