



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

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

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rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com

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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):

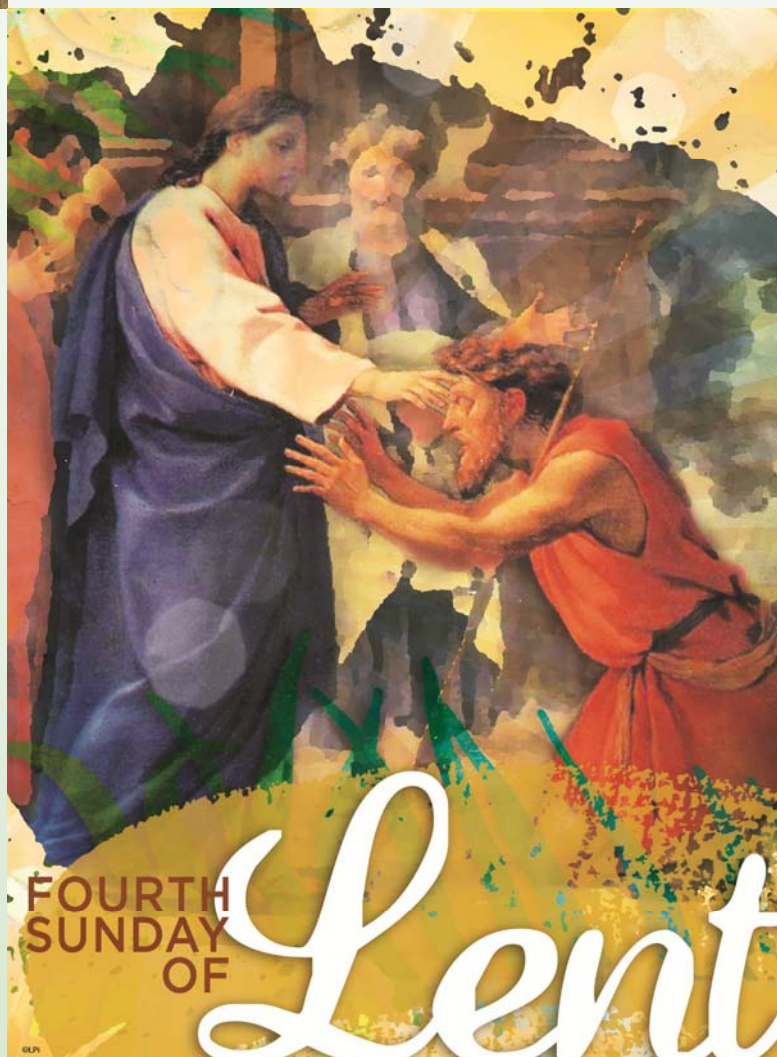
Call the Parish Office

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



**Fourth Sunday
of Lent**

MONDAY, March 27
9:00 **Special Intentions**

TUESDAY, March 28
9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, March 29
9:00 **Joseph Klish**, requested by
Barbara & Gino Calderone

THURSDAY, March 30
9:00 **John O'Neill**, requested by *Heidi O'Neill*

FRIDAY, March 31
9:00 **Edwin Lysak (4th Ann.)**, requested by
the family

SATURDAY, April 1
4:00 **Alice DiMartino**, requested by
the Anderson Family

SUNDAY, April 2
7:30 **Thomas Michael McLaughlin**, requested
by the family
9:30 **Jack Tromza**, requested by *Mary Jane Jeter*
11:00 **John O'Neill**, requested by
the St. Ann Social Justice Committee

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, March 27

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

TUESDAY, March 28

RCIA: 7pm in Room 3
Saint Ann Cares Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 1

WEDNESDAY, March 29

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

THURSDAY, March 30

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, March 31

Word Among Us Lenten Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3
Lenten Pasta Dinner: 5:30pm in Fr. Bennett Hall
Stations of the Cross: 7pm in the church

SATURDAY, April 1

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, April 2

Prayer Banquet Lent Series: 12 noon in Fr. Bennett Hall
Euthanasia Deception Documentary: 3pm in Fr. Bennett Hall



**St. Joseph Medal Awarded to
Dorothy Cialfi**

I am delighted to announce that **Dorothy Cialfi** is the recipient of this year's St. Joseph Medal. The medal is given each year to individuals who have gratuitously offered their time and talent to the work of their parish community. The medal was presented to Dorothy by Archbishop Blair at a ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on March 19, 2017. We thank Dorothy for her faithful and dedicated service to the Parish of St. Ann!

Congratulations Dorothy!
Fr. McHugh



**DATE CHANGE
for
2017 Bible Camp**

Due to our March snowstorms
Bible Camp will now be:

June 26-29

9:30-12:30

PreK-Grade 4 (completed)



Registration form is on our website and outside the Faith Formation Office.

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

March 19, 2017: \$6,684.78
 Online Giving (week ending 3/15/17): \$2,571.00
 Next weekend's 2nd collection:
none

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.



The Culture of Life has a New Enemy

Euthanasia Deception documentary is a dire warning about what we are facing in Connecticut with two Assisted Suicide Bills in this Legislative session.

This 52 minute movie is a "must see". It will be shown at the Church of Saint Ann, Avon on Sunday, April 2nd at 3pm in Fr. Bennett Hall. Please join us!

- WHO:** *Artists of all ages*
- WHAT:** Your art work as a donation to the 8th Annual St. Ann Art Show & Sale
- HOW:** Use contact information below.
All mediums accepted: watercolor, acrylic, oil, pencil, collage, photography, sculpture, artisan crafts, fabric art, etc.
- WHEN:** Receiving or picking up donations the week of March 20-24 but, of course, late gifts will be happily accepted.

CONTACT:
 Inez Faillace: 860.673.5579
 or faillacel@comcast.net
 Meg Kundahl: 860.521.1051
 or mkfk@sbcglobal.net



CEMETERY CLEANUP NOTICE

All graves must be cleared of all decorations prior to April 1st for Spring Cleanup.

We will not be responsible for items left on the graves after this date.

2017 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL MOVED BY MERCY



The Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports many important ministries and programs. Gifts are allocated towards religious education programs, youth ministries, local charities, the education of our seminarians, our retired clergy, our Catholic schools, and the many ministries provided by the Archdiocese. If you have not made a gift, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or one-time gift. Join us, your parish community, and be **Moved by Mercy**, to share your blessings.

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 Starts This Weekend!

March 25/26 & April 1/2

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: Clothe the Naked

Collection for Hartford Catholic Worker Youth Outreach.

- Socks for children & adults (children ages 5-18 & adults)
- Underwear Children's pajamas
- (boxer type for boys & men) Shirts and Pants
- T Shirts

LENT 2017 +++++ at the Church of Saint Ann

"The Prayer Banquet" Lenten Reflection Series

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

PARISHWIDE PROGRAM:

Sundays, 12:00-1:30pm and Mondays, 7:15-8:45pm, in Fr. Bennett Hall

THIS WEEK (Mar 26th & 27th): *Digging In* - Exploring traditional prayers. Where do our rote prayers come from and how do we find fresh inspiration in the familiar?

NEXT WEEK (Apr 2nd & 3rd): *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!

PARENT PROGRAM:

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

Sunday, Apr 2nd 9-10:30am and 5:45-7:15pm, Room 228, AMS. Topic: "Putting it all together." 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



Lenten Confessions
Mondays during Lent: 6-7pm

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

Next 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.



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.

Lenten Pasta Dinner

The **Men of St Ann** will be serving Pasta Dinners during Lent again this year. There will be both Marinara Sauce and Clam Sauce. Come and enjoy!
Upcoming date:

March 31st

5:30 ~ 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

Come alone or bring the family!

Adults: \$5
Kids under 18: \$3
Family Max: \$15



Why not feed your soul as well?
Come to **Stations of the Cross** at 7pm following the Pasta Supper.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Talking about discipleship and truly being a disciple are two very different things. It is easier to know what we should do than to carry out. Many saints from our tradition have had much to say about this struggle to do what they know they must do, and not do that which they know they shouldn't. It is part of being human.

Without God, we have no chance to overcome this predicament. Without God, our actions can ring hollow, or often we are too immobilized to act at all. Without God, we suffer with blindness to the truth of what is important and eternal.

The story in John 9 of Jesus healing the blind man is about more than a physical healing and just one man. It is about how each of us can find healing of our blindness by turning to Jesus Christ. Are you someone that has been saying, "I don't understand all this talk of discipleship and stewardship; what's the big deal?" We all have a blindness that needs to be healed, and the body of Christ needs you so that God's presence in our world can be seen in a more profound manner. The reality is that God heals the blindness of those who seek him so that, in turn, they may be vehicles by which others may see as well.

This Lent, you are invited to bring your blindness to Jesus. All the written reflections in the world will not give you new eyes. Those eyes can only be found in Jesus. --Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

If your eye is simple all of your body will be too.
- St. Francis de Sales

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart."
(1 Sm 16:7)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. (Eph 5:8)

Gospel:

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.
(Jn 9:35-38)

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

Readings for the Week of March 26, 2017

- Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-15, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12/Jn 7:40-53
- Next 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



GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." The prevailing theology of Jesus' time led people to believe that any kind of disability was a punishment from God. So Jesus' disciples assumed that the man born blind suffered that affliction because of someone's sin: either his parents' or his own. But Jesus sets the record straight. Not only did he reject the idea that the blindness was a punishment for sin; he also went so far as to suggest that this very trial was an opportunity for God's glory to be revealed.

And sure enough, it was. Jesus worked a miracle of healing for the man who followed his directions and "came back able to see." So it was that the "works of God" became "visible" through a man who was blind! But, ironically, not everyone had the eyes to see the miracle. The Gospel tells us that "there was a division among them" as they debated whether this remarkable healing was really an act of God.

Jesus stated that he came "so that those who do not see might see." And so, who are we? Are we blinded by our own expectations of how God is supposed to work? Are we so caught up in our own vision of what we wish would happen that we fail to appreciate what is actually unfolding before our very eyes? It is so easy to perceive trials, disabilities, sickness, and misfortune as a curse or the result of being abandoned by God. But today's Gospel suggests another reality. In the midst of these very difficulties, God wants to reveal himself, to show his love and mercy. It may not always be in the exact way we expect, but without a doubt, even in these challenging realms, God is always at work.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

Today is Laetare Sunday, or Rejoicing Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the midpoint of our Lenten observances. In the midst of our season of penance, today provides an opportunity to express our joy as we journey along to Easter.

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.

Fish & Chips/Mac & Cheese Dinner KoC Hall in Unionville on Friday, March 31st

Come and have a great family Friday night out March 3rd and March 31st sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. A fish and chips dinner or mac & cheese with cole-slaw, drink, coffee, and dessert will be served. The event is being held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 301 New Britain Ave. in Unionville. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and children 6 and younger are free. Tickets available at the Council home from 4-7pm week days or by calling Bob 860-673-3404, Maury 860-677-2922 or Gary 860-676-0652. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Take outs will be available. Come one come all and enjoy!

Religious Education Director Search:

St. Mary's Parish in Simsbury is actively searching for a Director of Religious Education. For more information, contact the Business Manager, Mr. William Heiden (860 658 7627) at businessmanager@stmarysimsbury.org

The Conversation Project

A workshop dedicated to helping people talk about end-of-life wishes.

Give your loved ones the confidence they need to make important medical decisions in the event you're not able to make them for yourself.

the conversation project

The Conversation Project is a national initiative created to encourage people to talk with their families and their health providers about their wishes for care if they become seriously ill.

April 18, 2017 • 12:00 p.m.
Hop Meadow Country Club
85 Firetown Road, Simsbury



WORKSHOP FACILITATORS:
James Cox-Chapman, MD, a specialist in geriatric medicine with ProHealth Physicians
Kevin Baran, MD, MPH, HMDC,
Hospice Medical Director, McLean Home Care & Hospice

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
The Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission
The Simsbury Senior Center

Space is Limited • RSVP required Call 860-658-3723 Lunch will be provided