



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

www.stannavon.org

860-673-9858

Reverend Alphonso Fontana, Pastor

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

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

DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland and Tim Healy

CHURCH OF SAINT ANN TRUSTEES

Kelly McCabe and Kathy Randall Gill

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MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Chip Janiszewski: chip.janiszewski@stannavon.com

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext.225



THE HOLY FAMILY

"Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." - Mt 2:14

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

©LPI

BAPTISM and MARRIAGES:

Please call the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext. 221.

Wedding dates should be scheduled at least 6 months ahead. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 12 noon 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:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Mondays 9:30 - 10:30am

Tuesdays 6 - 7:30pm

Rosary: 8:25am, daily

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tues.- Fri.

9:30-9:40am in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12noon

December 28, 2025



WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT ANN

If you are a resident in this area, we hope that you will considering joining our parish.
You can do so by stopping by or calling the Parish Office: 860-673-9858, ext.221.
You can also register online at: www.osuhub.com/stannavon/forms/join-st-ann-parish
If you are a visitor, we thank you for participating in worshiping with us and we hope to see you again!



MASS INTENTIONS

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SATURDAY, December 27, Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

4:00 Art Hennig, requested by the Hennig Family

SUNDAY, December 28,

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 Joseph Jr. and Jeremy Savidge and
Mike Gilotti, requested by the family

9:30 Jane B. Arciero, requested
Wendy, Tom & Clare Archer

11:00 Maria Jesus Lupi, requested by
the Menendez Family

MONDAY, December 29,

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

9:00 Eric Decker, requested by the Hennig Family

TUESDAY, December 30

9:00 Alice Kuzia, requested by her husband, John

WEDNESDAY, December 31, Saint Sylvester I, Pope

9:00 Joseph Jr. and Jeremy Savidge and
Mike Gilotti, requested by the family

4:00 For the parishioners of Saint Ann

THURSDAY, January 1, 2026, The Solemnity of Mary

9:00 Darrin LaDue, requested by Andrea Pizzuti

12:00 Kathleen Driscoll, requested by
the Driscoll Family

**FRIDAY, January 2, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

9:00 Art Hennig, requested by the Hennig Family

SATURDAY, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

4:00 Raymond Serranho, requested by Angie Fontana

SUNDAY, January 4, The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 For the parishioners of Saint Ann

9:30 Edwin J. Lysak II, requested the
Java for Jesus friends

11:00 Frank Gallo, requested by the family

To schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Office:
860-673-9858, ext. 221 or kris.martino@stannavon.com



Sanctuary Lamp Memorial

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for
the Greater honor and glory of God and:

In loving memory of:

Requested by:

Prayers for the living:

Requested by:



Altar Server Training

1st Wednesday of every month

6:30 -8:00 pm in the Church

Requirements:

Grades 3-12 * Received the Sacrament of Holy Communion

RSVP directly to Brian McDermott:

203-641-6560 or brianmcdermott359@gmail.com

**We pray for the safe
return of those currently
serving in our Military**



Contact the Parish Office to have your family members added.

LCDR Jack Hamel, USCG
LCDR Victoria Hamel, USCG
1LT Brian J. Heaven Jr., USArmy

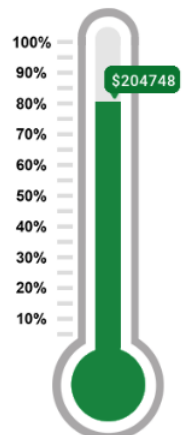
Capt. Matthew Mascoli, USMC
1LT Andrew Mascoli, USMC
ME3 Luke Hobbs, USCG

Annual Parish Collection



Thank you to the parishioners who have already made donations to our annual collection. Every parish household is asked to prayerfully consider a gift to assist the parish in meeting our annual operating expenditures and current parish improvement projects. If you did not receive a pledge card, please contact the parish office. Every gift is welcome and sincerely appreciated. *The participation of ALL parishioners is essential for the success of this effort. Thank you!*

We're up to 82% !



(as of 12/22/2025)

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN

SATURDAY, December 27

Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00am in Room 3 (*verify with leader*)

SUNDAY, December 28

Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM (*verify with leader*)

MONDAY, December 29

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am

MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: *will return next week*

Advent Reconciliation Service: 7pm in the church

Lectio Divina: 7:15pm in Room 3 (*verify with leader*)

TUESDAY, December 30

Foundations of Faith: *returns January 6th*

Walking With Purpose-Zoom: *returns January 6th*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 6:00-7:30pm

OCIA: 6pm in Room 3 (*verify with leader*)

Youth Ministry Prayer Night: 6:15pm in the Activity Room

WEDNESDAY, December 31

THURSDAY, January 1, 2026



FRIDAY, January 2

Lectio Divina: 9:45am via Zoom (*verify with leader*)

SATURDAY, January 3

Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00am in Room 3

SUNDAY, January 4

Lectio Divina: 10:30am in Room 3, and via ZOOM

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2025

TOTAL: \$1,422.50

Weekend of December 13/14, 2025

Weekly In-person: \$5,371.00

Weekly Online: \$2,667.50

Weekly TOTAL: \$8,048.50

Retired Religious Fund, in-person: \$3,285.00

Retired Religious Fund, online: \$75.00

Retired Religious Fund, TOTAL: \$3,360.00

Votive Candles and Sanctuary Lamp: \$278.00

Parish Annual Appeal: donations this week: \$8,086

Parish Annual Appeal TOTAL: \$193,423 (as of 12/15/25)

Other Online Donations:

Advent Plants: \$150.00, Christmas: \$250,

Military Services: \$20, Monthly: \$223,

Utilities: \$23, Youth Ministry: \$109

Weekend of December 20/21, 2025

Weekly In-person: \$7,079.25

Weekly Online: \$2,434.50

Weekly TOTAL: \$9,513.75

Monthly, in-person: \$2,361.20

Monthly, online: \$559.50

Monthly TOTAL: \$2,920.70

Votive Candles and Sanctuary Lamp: \$210.54

Parish Annual Appeal: donations this week: \$11,325

Parish Annual Appeal TOTAL: \$204,748 (as of 12/22/25)

Other Online Donations:

Christmas: \$1,075, Church Services: \$500,

Holy Days: \$5, Mission Co-op: \$28,

Retired Religious: \$105, Utilities: \$23,

Youth Ministry: \$84

Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: none

Are you in need of prayers?

Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group meets on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 pm in the Church to pray the rosary for those who are sick or in need of prayer. If you would like us to pray for your intentions or specific needs, please call the Parish Office at 860-673-9858. All are welcome to join our prayer ministry as we ask Our Lady's powerful intercession for God's healing.





JANUARY 1, 2026

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Masses will be at:

December 31st: 4pm Vigil

January 1st: 9am and 12 noon

JOIN US FOR...

LESSONS & CAROLS

A FESTIVE EVENING DEDICATED TO THE GREATEST EVENT,
THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST



**JANUARY 3,
2026**

5:30PM

hosted by St. Ann's Family Ministry



**The Holy
Eucharist**
DID YOU KNOW?

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family today. Did you ever consider that you too are a part of the family of God? By the grace of the Sacrament of Baptism, you become a child of God and an heir of Heaven. Original sin is washed from your soul and you are given an indwelling of grace, which means that the Blessed Trinity dwells within you.

Reflection: Your life of grace as a member of God's family needs to be continually nurtured by living a virtuous life. One of the greatest ways to continue to grow in grace and in virtue is to receive the Holy Eucharist frequently. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament pours out His living waters of grace to continue to strengthen and sanctify us as we travel through our daily lives. Without Him, we can do nothing.

Prayerfully consider making a New Year's resolution to grow more deeply in your love of Jesus Eucharistic in 2026.



Holiday Parish Office Hours

CLOSED:

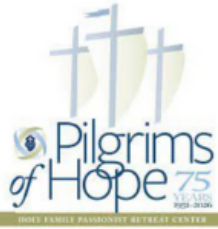
CHRISTMAS EVE - NEW YEAR'S DAY



Thank You

The Parish of St. Ann would like to express their deepest gratitude to Theresa Brighenti, who for years has been the donor of the liturgical Catholic calendars that our parishioners have been able to pick up each Christmas season!

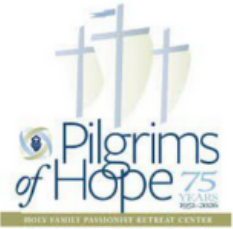
Thank you and God bless you, Theresa!



2026 Retreat

Women: Jan. 9-11th

Mens: Jan 16-18th



Are you interested in taking some time out for yourself? Do you want to feel God's presence in a deeper way? Well, here is a suggestion...Join us on a weekend retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT.

This year's retreat theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". Faith is a journey and we can never know exactly where it will take us. We have hope that it will lead us to something good.

On a retreat you will find physical and mental rest along with spiritual nourishment. The only requirement is that you show up with an open mind and an open heart, which will enable God to give you what you need.

Women's Retreat Contact: Eileen DiMauro ecdimauro@yahoo.com

Men's Retreat Contact: Paul Watson pgwatson33@gmail.com



New Year Blessing

Dear God,

As we face the beginning of the year ahead, fill our hearts with hopeful expectation for the ways You will work, move, inspire, heal, and provide. We join in gratitude for the grace You have shown us in the past, and the ways we will encounter it anew in the future.

Amen.

Do you have an IRA? Are you 70 ½ or older?

Maximize Your Year-End Gifts to the Church of St. Ann with a Donation From Your IRA

Starting in 2025 a new deduction was added for seniors.

Those who have an IRA and choose to donate by way of QCD's (qualified charitable distributions), would be eligible for a new additional deduction of \$4,000-\$6,000 per eligible senior.

QCD's allow savers 70.5 and older to donate pre-tax funds directly from traditional IRA's to eligible charities and owe no income tax on those withdrawals.

The Church of Saint Ann is a 501 (c)(3) organization that is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.

Please consult your own tax advisor before engaging in any transaction.



ST ANN'S SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT

TEEN NIGHT



"Dating as a Catholic Teen"

**FRIDAY
JAN. 9
6-8PM**

St. Carlo Acutis Activity Room
Mac & Cheese Dinner!!

RSVP!!



SPEAKERS
Caroline Mascoli &
Sean Murphy




save the date

Annual Used Book Sale

**February 20 & 21,
2026**

More details in future bulletins

Save Books to Donate!

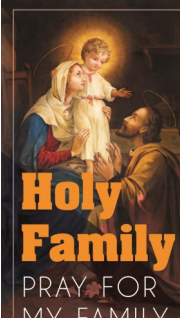



ADORATION

of the Blessed Sacrament

**Mondays
9:30-10:30 AM**

**Tuesdays
6:00 - 7:30 PM**



Holy Family

PRAY FOR
MY FAMILY

For the Kids...



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY JOSEPH BABY	SHEPHERDS JESUS ANGEL	LISTENED WONDERFUL NAMED
B	N	J
D	N	B
M	A	W
G	C	
F	A	N
U	E	O
R	I	O
K	T	
S	M	Y
L	I	S
T	E	N
E	D	
L	E	H
A	M	H
F	J	D
V	O	
P	D	A
A	N	G
E	L	P
E	S	F
I	L	R
B	V	P
Y	A	R
U	C	
J	O	S
E	P	H
A	G	F
N	B	
D	H	Y
W	T	E
K	W	U
J	M	
W	G	K
O	T	R
C	S	L
H	A	
E	I	M
R	C	D
U	P	E
D	R	
A	J	E
S	U	S
S	L	B
A	B	Y



GOSPEL

Mothers think their babies are pretty special, and Mary was no different. She probably kissed his nose, snuggled his little cheeks, and sang songs to him. But a lot of people thought her baby was special. Mary had more than just curious relatives showing up to visit. Angels praised God, and shepherds came running to see the baby, too. When it was time to name him Jesus, Mary knew he was the Savior.



PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for letting everyone know that Jesus was more than a special baby. He was the Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.



MISSION

If you were not safe, and if you had to move away in the middle of the night, list three small things you would want to bring along.



Nurturing Seedlings

Community for Young Parents

You are Invited! to

"Sprouts and Songs" Welcome Party
For our new ministry: Nurturing Seedlings
Featuring "Music With Ms. Jean"
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
11:00am-12:00pm
Saint Carlo Acutis Activity Room

Nurturing Seedlings, a community for young parents, provides five (5) sessions where parents will gather together as a community and receive real-time tools and skills to build and nurture their child's relationship with Jesus. Nurturing Seedlings is scheduled for:

Sundays, January 11, 2026 - February 8, 2026
* Make-up session if needed on 02/15/26.
11:30am-12:30pm
Saint Carlo Acutis Activity Room

Scan the QR code for more information or contact: Brooke Fitzgerald & Erin Kretz
Email: NurturingSeedlings.StAnn@gmail.com

We are looking forward to this exciting focus on parents and their little ones!

Senior High Prayer Night

Tuesday Nights Weekly | 6:15-7:30 PM
Open to Grades 9-12

STARTING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Meet at the St. Carlo Activity Room
(lower level of St. Ann's) for dinner,
discussion, and prayer in front of the
Holy Eucharist

Questions? Email caroline.mascoli@stannavon.com



RSVP!!



Branches on the Vine

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 2, 2026



From left to right, Luc A. Ouellette, Kasimier (Kaz) Marchut, and Sister Mary Lucille Banach gather in the foyer of St. Lucian's Residence, New Britain, with Sister Mary Janice Zdunczyk, director and member of the Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

ST. LUCIAN'S RESIDENCE COUNTS 100 YEARS OF SENIOR **LIVING WITH** **SPIRITUAL PERKS**

Monsignor Lucian Bojnowski, who served as a pastor to the Polish community in New Britain beginning in 1895, was an enterprising priest who dreamed of many ministries to uplift the locals. As pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, he founded a congregation of religious women, two grade schools, an academy, an orphanage and a home for the elderly.

One of his creations that continues to care for God's people to this day is St. Lucian's Residence, a residential senior living facility, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year (1925 to 2025).

"He had an incredible vision," Robert Skarba, administrator of St. Lucian's Residence, says of Monsignor Bojnowski. Today, that vision is summarized in St. Lucian's Residence logo with the tagline "comfort, care and compassion."

"The ministry of St. Lucian's is a priority of the Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception," says Sister Mary Janice Zdunczyk, a member of the congregation and director of St. Lucian's, who is in charge of providing that compassionate care. "It's our mission to support St. Lucian's financially, spiritually and socially."

Today, six sisters make their home at St. Lucian's Residence, a nonprofit residential senior living facility that welcomes people

age 65 and above. The sisters live on one floor of St. Lucian's Residence, while 15 lay people live on the floors below.

"I think our founder's purpose was to found a community with a faith dimension," Sister Mary Janice explains. "With that added spiritual dimension, the sisters are willing to share their community life with the lay people and vice versa."

"It's amazing how many residents join the sisters in prayer, holy hours and at various prayer services," Sister Mary Janice notes.

There is also a chapel, which draws the residents for daily Mass. Masses are celebrated by Father Lawrence Symolon, chaplain for the Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception. While this spiritual legacy is being carried on, some things have changed.

Located on Burritt Street, St. Lucian's Residence was built in 1925 and gained a new wing in 1986, followed by many upgrades. Residents enjoy private rooms but can mingle in sitting rooms on every floor, in the dining hall and in a large social activity room.

Activities include exercise classes, bingo, movies and holiday parties. Meals, assistance with medication, laundry and other services are also available, if needed.

Resident Kasimier (Kaz) Marchut, a former long-distance runner, takes advantage of the weekly exercise classes. He also loves to read. "I've read every book in the library," he says, of the small library with English and Polish titles. But he says the best thing about living at St. Lucian's is "having good friends."

Luc A. Ouellette spent his working life as a Catholic school teacher at St. Ann Jr. High School and Sacred Heart School in New Britain, teaching reading, French and religion. He says he arrived at St. Lucian's because "I needed some things done for me – laundry and food prep."

Ouellette loves everything about St. Lucian's: "The schedule for meals, the quiet time in the building, the activities planned for us, the daily Mass and the rosary on Wednesday after Mass and on Sunday afternoons."

Three years ago, Sister Mary Lucille Banach, one of the Daughters of Mary and a retired nurse, moved from Boston to become a resident. "The best is the socialization. There are people around to talk to – or not talk to," she says with a laugh.

- Story by Shelley Wolf





CHURCH OF SAINT ANN PARISH LIFE

December 2025, part 2



Thank you
Jim & Marie Speich

for doing such a beautiful job
decorating the rectory porch for
Christmas this year!



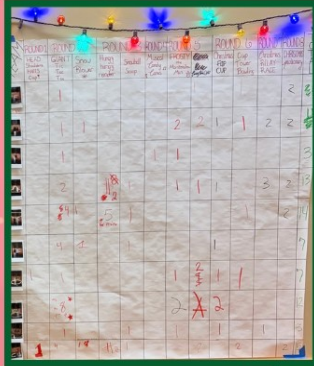
Youth Ministry Jr. High Christmas Party

On December 12th, our Jr. High Youth Ministry got together for dinner, decorated over 100 sugar and gingerbread cookies that were given to Gifts of Love, and played Christmas Jeopardy.



PARISH LIFE *(continued)*

Youth Ministry Sr. High Christmas Olympics



thank you
Janet Fischer

...and all those who helped
her, for decorating the
Gathering Space and church
so beautifully for Christmas!



Jr. High
Youth Ministry
Trip to Avon
Health Center



Karen Finocchio, Tina Deckers and Lisa Giaratana delivered 50 Outreach Gift Bags to ImmaCare Shelter! These were made possible by donations from our parishioners and decorated by the Interact Club at Avon High School. Each bag included essentials such as socks, snacks, gloves, hats, with thermals, sweatpants, & sweatshirts to help keep the ImmaCare guests warm.



Upcoming Events



01/7 & 14 WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM - 6PM

THE JOURNEY OF INTEGRATION | 2 WEEK SERIES

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center,
303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

There comes a time in each of our lives when the question comes "Is this all there is?" And so with that question comes the yearning to move deeper. You are invited to step into this journey. This means leaving the familiar, what we know, and searching out the least developed sides of ourselves. This search calls us to greater truth and reveals our buried treasures. This program will be two-fold: 1) invite you to explore where you are in your journey; and 2) begin to name some of the steps and tasks that will move you through this time in your life. There will be two 1.5-hour sessions.

Offering: \$75 | Register at www.holyfamilyretreat.org

Word of God Sunday | January 25, 2026

On the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the the Word of God Sunday, established by Pope Francis to deepen our love for Sacred Scripture.

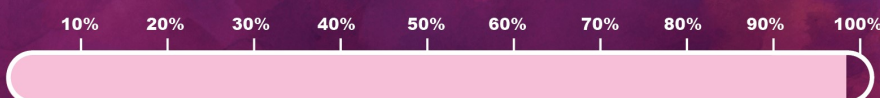
Grow in understanding of God's Word through the **New England Catholic Biblical School**. Scan the QR code to explore courses, resources, and opportunities for formation.





2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Only a few days left to get your gift in for the 2025 Appeal!



Total Goal: \$10M 98.27% as of 12/16/25

\$9,826,716.75 pledges from 29,370 generous donors



Help us reach our goal!

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal



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