ST. ANN CHURCH AND NATIONAL SHRINE
4940 Meadowdale St., Metairie, LA 70006
504-455-7071 - Fax 504-455-7076
Website: stannchurchandshrine.org - Email: stannmet@bellsouth.net

CHURCH HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday 6:00 am to 8:15 pm

Pastor
Rev. Billy O’Riordan
455-7071, ext. 223

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Travis J. Clark, ext. 224

Deacons
Mr. Philip Doolen, ext. 231
Mr. Raymond Bertin, Facilities Manager, ext. 226
Mr. Tom Fox, ext. 257

Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Mr. David Wilson, ext. 225
e-mail: stannerled@bellsouth.net

Director of Liturgical Music
Trish Foti Genco, 559-8637
e-mail: tfotigenco.com

Office Manager
Mrs. Mary Quaid, ext. 221

Church Secretaries
Mrs. Linda Ehrhardt, ext. 222
Mrs. Beverly Musso, ext. 222

St. Ann School - 455-8383
Mrs. Susan Kropog, Principal
www.stannschool.org

WEBSITE POLICY
The parish bulletin is published on the parish website on the internet. Any person who does not want his or her name or picture in the bulletin or on the internet, please notify the Parish Office immediately in writing.

BAPTISM
Baptisms are celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. Please call the Church Office at least three months before the anticipated date of birth. To schedule an interview and date for Pre-Baptism Seminar, call Deacon Phil Doolen at 455-7071, ext. 231. The celebration of infant Baptism will be arranged during the interview process.

MATRIMONY
The prospective bride or groom must contact one of the parish priests or deacons at least 6 months in advance.

FUNERALS
Families should contact the Church Office before making any arrangements with the funeral home.

VISITATION OF THE SICK
Please notify the Church Office when someone is in the hospital or sick at home and unable to attend Mass.

ROSARY GROUPS
1st Saturday of each month following the 7:30 am Mass in Church.
Every Saturday 3:20 pm-3:40 pm, before the 4:00 pm Mass in Church.
Rosary & Divine Mercy, every Wednesday 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the St. Ann Room.

NOVENA TO ST. ANN
Every Tuesday after the 8:45 am and 7:00 pm Masses. Twice a year a solemn nine day novena is held at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, consisting of Mass, homily and novena prayers. July 18th through 26th (Feast of St. Ann) and the Thursday after Ash Wednesday through Friday of the first week of Lent.

“LITTLE CHURCH”
“Little Church” is a babysitting service which is available every Sunday during the 9:30 am Mass for children ages 1 to 5 years old. Please bring your children to the Parish Ministry Center, behind the church.
One of God's favorite ways to describe himself is by saying he is like a good shepherd. Jesus did so more than once, as he does in John's Gospel from Sunday. In the Old Testament, the comparison is everywhere. God chose shepherds to be the Patriarchs, he chose shepherds to be Israel's first kings, the prophets ceaselessly speak of Israel as a flock and God as their shepherd, the image returns again and again in the Book of Psalms, as in the beautiful expression from Psalm 100: “Know that the Lord is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends.” We are used to this image, but even so, the Church likes to remind us of it, frequently. Why is that, what is it about this image that God likes so much? It is interesting to note that among world religions, this image is unique to Judaism and Christianity.

Even though most primitive religions are polytheistic, they usually express some inkling that behind all the powers of the universe there is one supreme god. Usually this god is associated with the sky, or the sea, or the mountain - with some natural phenomenon that the culture depends on. In none of these instances, however, is god seen as a divine shepherd of humankind. Comparing God to a good shepherd can only happen in a religion that recognizes a special connection between the human person and God; for instance, that man is created in the image of God. Only then does the comparison make sense, because a God who is a good shepherd is a God who walks with his people and cares about their every joy and sorrow. That, Jesus tells us, is what our God is like.

Unfortunately, life in today’s world is noisy, and it is not always easy for us to hear the voice of our good shepherd. We are bombarded with so many other voices, so many images, so many ideas. Christ knows this, yet he still tells us, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” What gives Christ so much confidence in our ability to stay close to him and avoid the traps set by poachers and wolves? It is prayer, much confidence in our ability to stay close to him and follow along. No matter how noisy, dark, or stormy it gets, he knows how to make his voice heard in our hearts. We can always tune into it; that’s the gift of prayer. The server never goes down, the reception never goes bad: as soon as we turn the attention of our hearts to him, so he can guide us to the meaningful life we long for. The sheep who wanders away and gets stuck in a ravine or attacked by wolves cannot blame the shepherd. Just so, when our lives don’t fill us with the meaning we long for, before blaming Jesus it would be a good idea to take an honest look at our prayer lives; do we pray? How do we pray? Do we strive to pray better? As Jesus renews his commitment as our good shepherd this week, let’s renew our commitment to be his good sheep, to give daily prayer the place it ought to have in our lives.

Reflection by Fr. Travis
Have a Generous

As you make your way through the Bible, you discover a God both gracious and compassionate. As we choose to follow Him, He beckons us to follow His example and be kind and openhearted ourselves.

We continue to look at Bible verses that give us a glimpse into the generosity that God wants us

6. Proverbs 19:17 Lending to the Lord

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”

Can you imagine being in the Lord’s debt? How much more would you give to the poor if you knew that God himself planned to pay you back? True, altruistic generosity requires a certain amount of faith.

World Day of Vocations

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

- Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.
- Keep our parish priests in your prayers throughout the week.
- Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.
- Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God’s call.

School News

The second grade students celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday. Please pray for them. The Home and School Installation Dinner was last Monday evening. We thank the many St. Ann moms who donate their time and talent to our school. The St. Ann School Book Fair continues this week. Please support our school by making a purchase at Barnes and Nobles and give the code 11813979.
Monday, April 18, 2016  Gatekeeper
On Sunday, we also heard about the Good Shepherd. The metaphor presented today is that Jesus is the gate for the sheep. He will care for his flock, making sure that they pasture in good fields and are protected from thieves. Do you hear the sound of the Shepherd’s voice? How do you respond to his call? Keep in prayer our priests and bishops, our earthly shepherds. May they remain close to the Good Shepherd. Today’s Readings: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 42:2–3; 43:3, 4; John 10:1–10.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016  Preaching
The story in Acts continues to illustrate how the disciples of Jesus went to the ends of the earth preaching the Gospel. Their preaching introduced many, including the Gentiles, to Jesus the Savior. The story of the early Church invites us to consider how we set out to share the Good News. If we have been transformed in the waters of rebirth and unite ourselves to Christ, are not our hearts on fire with God’s love? Consider befriending a missionary, either through a local church or college, and begin writing to them and encouraging them in their work. 

Wednesday, April 20, 2016  Light
Jesus is the Word made flesh. At Mass when we listen to the Scriptures, our hearts are illuminated. Now, recall the Rite of Baptism. Each of us received the Light of Christ as a sign of his light within us. We are charged to share this light, the Word of God, with all those in darkness. As disciples, let us illuminate the hearts of others by sharing God’s love and joy. Try making a candle this week and use it for prayer. Today’s Readings: Acts 12:24 —13:5a; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6 and 8; John 12:44–50.

Thursday, April 21, 2016  Praise
For many, Easter is over, but for the Christian community, it continues until Pentecost. It can be difficult to sustain Easter joy for all fifty days. The psalm today provides us a text that reminds us of God’s faithfulness; by sending his Son, we were saved. Let us forever sing the praise of our God for he has truly done marvelous things for us. Find your favorite song of praise and sing it loudly. Let the joy and awe of our God fill you. Today’s Readings: Acts 13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25 and 27; John 13:16–20.

Friday, April 22, 2016  Relationship
The Gospel today invites us to reflect deeply on our relationship with Jesus. Jesus insists on faith and hope. We must believe in him to have access to the Father. Through his Death and Resurrection, he will prepare a place for us. This is a sign of his permanent commitment to us. He will come back to rule over all creation. Take a moment today to journal about what troubles you in your faith life. Today’s Readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11ab; John 14:1–6.

Saturday, April 23, 2016  Friendship
What is the best way to get to know someone? Usually, as we form a relationship, we spend time telling stories and sharing life events, which leads to some type of bond. In the Gospel, Jesus is clear that to know him is to know God. Jesus’ actions and words reveal God to us and lead us to deeper communion with God. In turn, we follow him and continue his work in the power of the Spirit. Take a moment today to reconnect with an old friend. Today’s Readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3c–d; John 14:7–14.

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**St. Ann Parish Spring Crawfish and Seafood Dinner**
Saturday, April 23, 2016
5:00 PM until

Ready for some good crawfish and seafood? St. Ann Men’s Club invites you to join us for a spring crawfish and seafood dinner held rain or shine in the school cafeteria, Saturday, April 23, 5pm until. Our menu will consist of:

- **Crawfish Dinner**
  - 2lbs boiled crawfish, potato and corn
  - $10
- **Fish and Shrimp Combo**
  - Fried Fish and shrimp, Cajun potatoes and corn
  - $10
- **Fish or Shrimp Dinner**
  - Fried fish or shrimp, Cajun potatoes and corn
  - $8
- **Dine-in or take-out**, it is your choice! Drinks will be available for purchase as well.

Why wait in-line to purchase meal tickets? Choose our pre-sale option. Complete the form below and place it in an envelope with a check payable to the St. Ann Men’s Club and deliver it to the school or church office before noon on Tuesday, April 19. You also have the option of ordering on line at https://www.signupforms.com/registrations/7318

Thanks.

**NAME: ___________________________**

**PHONE: ___________________________**

**EMAIL OR ADDRESS ___________________________**

**TOTAL (Check payable to St. Ann Men’s Club)**

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Please return with your check, made payable to St. Ann Men’s Club no later than noon
**Tuesday, April 19**

Thanks for writing your last name, oldest child’s homeroom, if applicable and c/o St. Ann Men’s Club on the front of the envelope!
Information Page

St. Ann Church and Shrine

024225

Date: April 17, 2016

Contact: Linda Ehrhardt (504)455-7071 ext. 222

Publisher 2010, Acrobat 10 standard

Special Instructions: