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
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stannchurchandshrine
Twitter: https://twitter.com/stannmetairie
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CHURCH HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 6:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday 6:00 am to 8:15 pm

WEEKEND EUCHARIST
Saturday: 7:30 am Mass
4:00 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday Masses:
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
Monday - Friday: 6:30 am & 8:45 am
Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
ending with Benediction
First Friday: 9:30 - 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday: 6:00 to 6:45 pm
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm
5:00 to 5:30 pm

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 Ray Bertin at 455-7071, ext. 226. 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.

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.

A CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD
This is for students in grades kindergarten, one, two and three and is held during the Sunday 9:30 am Mass.

ST. ANN CHURCH
AND NATIONAL SHRINE

Issue 41
October 9, 2016

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Mission Statement
St. Ann, a Roman Catholic Parish of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, is a faith family serving the needs of the parishioners and the wider community. Home to the National Shrine of St. Ann, we are committed to providing opportunities to all for worship and service, evangelization and education, stewardship and ministry. St. Ann Parish welcomes and invites all people to join us in proclaiming and living the Gospel values of Jesus Christ.
Reflection by Fr. Braud

The first reading this weekend from the Second Book of Kings shows us the healing of Naaman the leper. At the advice of Elisha the prophet, he plunges into the River Jordan seven times, and is miraculously healed. We should immediately think of the Sacrament of Baptism. By the waters of Baptism we are cleansed of our sins, both original sin and actual sin. Original sin is committed by generation, through no fault of our own. This is one reason why we baptize infants in the Catholic Church. Actual sins are those offenses done through commission on our own, through our most grievous fault. Baptism forgives all of these, which is why Baptism is the primary sacrament of forgiveness. The Sacrament of Confession becomes necessary for forgiveness only after we are baptized and have reached the age of reason. So adults who are baptized are washed of all of their sins, original and actual, infants only original since they have not reached the age of reason.

What Naaman experienced physically we experience spiritually when we receive the mercy and forgiveness of God. Our sin distorts and disfigures us, even more so than the physical disfigurement inflicted upon those suffering from leprosy. Leprosy, and other illnesses, only brings temporary pain and suffering, while sin can lead us to eternal pain and suffering.

The healing power of God’s mercy is also depicted well in literature, particularly in C.S. Lewis’ The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. There we see a character named Eustace Scrubb transformed into a dragon after he greedily hoarded treasure for himself. He eventually became transformed back to his original boy self through Aslan, a lion who rules Narnia and is the personification of Christ. He led Eustace to a special pool with healing powers the healing waters restored Eustace. The healing waters of mercy, especially are given to us through Baptism and Confession, restore us as sons and daughters of the Father. We inwardly become like dragons when we sin, but Christ restores us back when we seek and ask of His mercy to come upon us.

All the sacraments, though, restore us in some way. All of the sacraments mend the relationships we had with God and each other in the Garden, and were subsequently broken in the Fall. It is not random that Naaman was plunged 7 times in the Jordan. The number 7 is the number of the covenant in the Israelite understanding. There are also 7 sacraments in the Church. What we had and lost in the Garden is now recovered and restored by the Church and the 7 sacraments.

As an example of the restorative power of the sacraments let’s look at Matrimony. Before the Fall, Adam & Eve possessed original justice. A fruit of this was the unity that man and woman, for instance not realizing they were naked. Nakedness was a result of the Fall (Gen. 3:7). The Sacrament of Matrimony helps to restore this original unity that was lost, by promising lifelong love and fidelity until death.

May we exclaim with psalmist and “sing joyfully to the Lord” because by His mercy “he has done wondrous deeds.”

Reflection by Fr. Braud
October is Respect Life Month

CARING FOR LOVED ONES AT LIFE’S END

An old Irish proverb says, “It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.” Indeed, we are created to depend on one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life’s end, we may not know how best to “shelter” them. Here are some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them.

1. Invite God In:
   Pope Francis has said that “praying in difficult situations is like opening the door to the Lord, in order that he might enter.”

2. Listen:
   Try to discover your loved one’s values and how best to honor his or her wishes.

3. Inform Yourself:
   Be aware that wishes for refusing ordinary or proportionate treatment—or for pursuing assisted suicide—are usually rooted in fears of dependency.

4. Be Steadfast in Compassion:
   As Pope Francis reminds us, “Compassion means ‘suffer with.’”

5. Help Them Achieve Closure:
   Help your family member or friend define the unfinished personal projects, financial concerns, unresolved relationships, or other matters that occupy his or her mind.

6. Provide Opportunities for Resolution:
   Ira Byock, a hospice medical director, illustrates in his book The 4 most Important Things how saying “I love you,” “I’m sorry,” “I forgive you,” and “Thank you” can promote much-needed healing during the dying process.

7. Reminisce:
   Our appetites diminish as our bodies experience a decreased need for food and fluids when we near life’s end.

8. Provide a Peaceful Presence:
   There comes a time of natural withdrawal from surroundings when dying persons may lose interest in many activities that used to be enjoyable.

9. Show Tenderness:
   Those who are dying remain in need of the tenderness of personal human contact.

10. Bear Their Transition Patiently:
   Transition, the time immediately preceding death, may bring rapid physical changes, such as in breathing patterns, as well as changes in mental or emotional states.

Accompanying a loved one in his or her last days is enormously important work, but we do not need to fear our own limitations. Pope Francis tells us, “[God] comes to assist us in our weakness. And his help consists in helping us accept his presence and closeness to us. Day after day, touched by his compassion, we also can become compassionate toward other.”

More Information: www.usccb.org/Respect Life Program
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- The Ogden Museum of Southern Art
- Palm Tree Playground
- Pelican Pointe Car Wash
- Perks Coffee & Cafe
- Ponzetti’s Shoes
- Rock n’ Bowl/Ye Olde College Inn
- Romaguera Photography
- Sam’s Club
- Schumacher’s Shoes & Uniforms
- Sculpting Center of New Orleans
- Short Stop Poboys
- St. Ann Sewing Seams of Faith
- St. Mary’s Dominican High School
- Treme Yuen Cuisine of China
- Ursuline Academy
- VCA Causeway Animal Hospital
- Villere’s Florist
- Yonsei Martial Arts

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St. Ann Church and Shrine

Date: October 9, 2016

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

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