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
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/stannchurch

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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Reflection by Fr. Braud

4th Week of Advent, Year A

The Christian life is one that grows closer to Our Lord through Mary, our Blessed Mother. Throughout the centuries many of the saints have emphasized the importance of fostering a love and devotion for her. We saw this in our own time with the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. His time as pope was one that had Mary at the center of everything. We can see this in his coat of arms, and also his papal motto Totus Tuus, which comes from the marian consecration of St. Louis de Montfort, and implies that we are totally hers, as well as Our Lord’s.

All of the liturgical seasons note some particular aspect of Our Lady, for instance during Lent we see how she suffered spiritually while her Son suffered physically, and so devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows become popular in the Lenten Season. If there is one season that is marian it is Advent. In many ways Advent is a marian season. What we are to foster spiritually during Advent she took on physically as well. Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation. Mary did this physically as well, as she patiently carried Christ in her womb, awaiting His arrival both to her family, and also the human family.

Some of you may have noticed that on the back of my chasuble there is a fleur-de-lis. In this part of the world, when we see the fleur-de-lis we think of a football team. We also might be reminded of the french heritage and french culture that is still remnant here. If one knows their history they may also think of french royalty, as the kings and queens of France adopted the fleur-de-lis as their symbol. I have a fleur-de-lis, not for these reasons, but because it is also a symbol of the Trinity, since there are three parts to it. It is also a symbol of Our Lady. This is so because “fleur-de-lis” means “lily flower” in French, and lilies have always been a symbol of purity in the Church. Since Our Lady is most pure by virtue of her immaculate conception, which we celebrated this past week, the fleur-de-lis represents her as well. This is why there is a fleur-de-lis on my purple chasuble, to remind us of the role Our Lady plays in our spiritual life.

During Advent we are to make room for Christ. As we tend to clean our homes to prepare for Christmas decorations, we are to also do this spiritually, to make room for Him when He comes into our hearts. Our Lady did this perfectly, as being conceived immaculately without sin, her heart was completely receptive to Christ and the Holy Spirit. She did this so perfectly, that she conceived of the Holy Spirit at the annunciation, and received Christ in her whole being, body and soul. What happens to her visibly is a sign of what is going on invisibly. What is going on inside her invisibly is supposed to happen to us as well.

And so Our Lady is the perfect Christian disciple, and is a model for us all to follow after. If we ever wonder what it looks like to follow Jesus, look at Our Lady and meditate on her life, particularly in the Rosary. May Our Lady help prepare this last week of Advent to “prepare him room” in our hearts and in our families. “Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

Reflection by Fr. Braud

Mass Intentions

Sunday December 18
4:00 pm Vigil Dennis Hebert, Raymond Olliver, Alice Kelly, Ashley Code, McCleland & Gardner Families, Joseph Bischone, Sr., Souls in Purgatory, Iris Fitzpatrick, In Thanksgiving to Perpetual Help (Eleanor Sarrat), George Hoffman
8:00 am Parishioners
9:30 am Russell Howley
11:00 am Harry A. P. Smith, Theresa Cusachs, Ashley Code, Julie Calongne, Juliet Carrige, Elizabeth Cacamo, Tony Smith, Gerard Virgadamo, Joseph Bischone, Sr., Adelia Frances “Dee” Wolff
5:00 pm Donald Loisel

Monday December 19
6:30 am Barbara Carriere (S.I.)
8:45 am Ashley Code

Tuesday December 20
6:30 am Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Alexander
8:45 am Eugene Hickey
7:00 pm Garry Deckelman (S.I.)

Wednesday December 21
6:30 am Elizabeth Cacamo
8:45 am Msgr. W. Wendell Sontheimer

Thursday December 22
6:30 am Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Alexander
8:45 am Catherine Van Huevel

Friday December 23
6:30 am Lois Lagarde
8:45 am Harry A. P. Smith

Respect Life Focus for December- Violence

Choose 9 days during the month of December to pray this prayer: “Let us pray, God have mercy on us in the United States and throughout the world as we refuse to follow your command of peace. Give your blessing to those who have died, their families, and to those who protect us through law enforcement.

Lord Jesus we weep with you. Please use our prayers, hearts, and hands to build peace in our families and in our world. Wherever in my heart there is a hint of violence and revenge, mercifully help me have a change of heart. Lord, let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Amen.” - Archbishop Aymond

Math Teacher needed at Dominican High School

St. Mary’s Dominican High School has an opening for a long-term substitute certified math teacher in Algebra II honors and Advanced Math. The position is a replacement for a faculty member on leave. The anticipated length of time is between 7 and 12 weeks starting early February. For details please call Ashley Reso 518-5059 or e-mail areso@stmarysdominican.org.
### Parish Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>9:30 AM MEN’S CLUB BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IN CAFETERIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>7 PM BAPTISMAL SEMINAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>9:15 AM ADORATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>7:30 PM BOY SCOUTS/CAFETERIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>SCHOOL HAS A HALF DAY AND WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 5TH</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>PARISH OFFICE HAS A HALF DAY AND WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 23 AND 26 FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/23</td>
<td>9:30 AM ADULT CATECHISM/ST. RAYMOND</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/23</td>
<td>9:30 AM CHRISTMAS DECORATING IN CHURCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>7 PM PASTORAL COUNCIL/CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AT FR. BILLY’S</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>CHRISTMAS EVE Masses ARE: 4 PM, 6PM VIGIL AND 10 PM CANDLELIGHT MASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD MASSES ARE: 8 &amp; 10 AM</td>
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### St. Ann Parish Christmas Breakfast

**Sunday, December 18**

9:00 am to Noon • St. Ann Cafeteria

St. Ann family and friends are invited to join the St. Ann Men’s Club to ring in the Christmas holidays! For those who choose, we will be serving a traditional breakfast of scrambled eggs, grits, sausage and biscuit for a $3 donation. In addition, we will have crafts and fun for the children along with a special visit from St Nicholas. All proceeds and additional donations collected will go to support St. Ann’s St. Anthony Ministry. For more information, please contact the St. Ann Men’s Club at: StAnnMensClub@gmail.com or check out our website at www.stannmensclub.org.

### School News

**Wednesday, December 23, 2016**

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Archdiocesan Spirituality Center

"You have created us for Yourself O God and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you."

Augustine of Hippo (354–430), in Confessions

Join Archdiocesan Spirituality Assistant Director, Sr. Gloria Murillo, STJ, to learn the importance of reflecting on your everyday life experiences; how to pray with your everyday life experiences; to recognize God in those experiences and to learn a method for reflection on the action of God in your life. Wednesday, December 23, 2016, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center 2501 Maine Avenue, Metairie. Register on the web http://asc.arch-no.org, email archspirctr@arch-no.org or telephone (504) 861-3254. Cost $25.00 (adjustments can be made).

### Faith and Marriage

**Faith and Marriage**

*an Apostolate of the Willwoods Community*

**Married Couples Retreat**

Would you like to break away with your spouse and spend quality time enriching your marriage? Then join us on our January 14th - 15th Married Couples Retreats at the St. Augustine Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis!

**St. Augustine Retreat Center**

Bay St. Louis, Ms

January 14th - 15th, 2017

www.Willwoods.org
HOW TO REGISTER

• Go to Formed.org
• Enter our PARISH CODE XX87MF on the homepage
• Create a personal account with your user name/email and password
• Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

In the future, log in by going directly to Formed.org and entering your user name/email and password.

IMPORTANT
DO NOT sign up as an individual - the parish access code provides more content than the individual subscription.
DECEMBER FEATURED AUDIOs

Prepare the Way of the King
Dr. Scott Hahn
47 minute Audio
Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today, reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

The Healing Power of Confession
Dr. Scott Hahn
74 minute Audio
Dr. Scott Hahn presents the historical and biblical origins of the Sacrament of Penance. He provides an important guide for new Catholics, a source of renewal for "old hands," and a challenge to all of us to deepen our relationship with Christ by frequenting the Sacrament of Penance.

Mary: Handmaid of the Lord
St. Teresa of Kolkata
61 MINUTE AUDIO
St. Teresa of Kolkata is known throughout the world as a woman who was totally committed to the Gospel. In this inspiring talk, she shares her insights on the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model of womanhood and perfect discipleship. She shows us that we, too, can do the will of God by saying "yes" to the Lord in the big and little things in our lives; nothing is too insignificant.
A Whole Liturgical Month of Content on FORMED.org!

**4th**
Second Sunday of Advent  
Program: Advent, Session 2: Trust in God, YDisciple Advent, Session 2: Trust in God

**8th**
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin  
Programs: Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, Session 9: Mary & The Saints  
Audio: Mary: Handmaid of the Lord

**11th**
Third Sunday of Advent  
Program: Advent, Session 3: Watch and Pray, YDisciple, Session 3: Watch and Pray

**12th**
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Program: Catholicism, Session 4: Our Tainted Nature’s Solitary Boast  
Programa: La Solitaria Presuncion de Nuestra Naturaleza Caida  
Movie: Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message  
Movie/ SPANISH: Guadalupe

**14th**
St. John of the Cross  
E-book: Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer

**18th**
Fourth Sunday of Advent  

**25th**
Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord  
Movie: The Story of the Nativity  
Audio: The True Meaning of Christmas

**27th**
St. John the Apostle  
Program: Catholicism, Session 2: Happy are We  
Programa: Catholicismo, Session 2: Somos Bienaventurados  
Audio: Searching the Scriptures: The Gospel of John

**28th**
Feast of the Holy Innocents  
Program: Catholicism, Session 6: A Body Both Suffering and Glorious  
Programa: Catholicismo, Session 6: Un Cuerpo Doliente y Glorioso

**31st**
Feast of the Holy Family  
Movie: Joseph of Nazareth  
Audio: Be a Man!, ¡Sé Hombre!

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**December 2016**

**Universal:**
End to Child-Soldiers  
That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

**Evangelization:**
Europe  
That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

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**St. Ann Church & National Shrine**  
Pastoral Plan for 2017  
**EVANGELIZATION**

“Dynamic Catholics invite others to grow spiritually by sharing the love of God with them.”  
*The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic – Matthew Kelly*

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**2016 Christmas Season Mass Schedule**

**Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord**  
Saturday, December 24th  
Vigil Masses: 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM  
Candlelight Christmas Mass at 10:00 PM

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
New Year’s Day  
Saturday, December 31st  
Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM

**New Year’s Day Masses:** 8:00, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM & 5:00 PM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fill Our Darkness with Your Light

Ever-living God, source of all life and all goodness,
you who dwell within all creation,
who draw us closer:
fill the darkness of lives with the light of your presence.
As we await your coming,
inspire us in our waking and our sleeping,
and quiet our anxious minds
so that we will be ready for you, God-with-us.
May we realize your promise fulfilled in our hearts,
our homes, and our lives.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, December 18, 2016

His Name Will Be Emmanuel

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24. God speaks to Joseph during a dream. Joseph was unsure of how to respond to the news that Mary was with child. He was considering how to react, for he did not want to have her disgraced publicly. And so he slept on it. Imagine the anguish of falling asleep with that on your mind!

It is apparent that Joseph was faithful to God, in love with Mary, and quietly obedient. When an angel appears to him in a dream, he does not waver in his faith, for he is reminded of the ancient prophecies. When he is told to name the child Jesus, he carries that into his waking world as Mary treasures prophecies in her heart.

Together, they bring the messages of the prophets into the world with their son.

The challenge today is to discover the same kind of clarity of heart as did Joseph. His quiet understanding of God’s plan came through a dream. As we near the end of the Advent season, can we say our hearts are ready? Have we stripped away the unnecessary distractions of our lives so that God can enter? Are we prepared to act according to God’s plan? With Joseph, let us not judge too quickly, but turn our hearts and minds to God, so that we may have a quiet understanding of God coming to us. His name will be Emmanuel; that is, God with us.
This Week At Home

**Monday, December 19**

**Come to Save Us**
The readings today are of unlikely pregnancies and the births of Samson and John the Baptist. Both men were signs of God’s love and were born to older, seemingly barren women. Scripture continues to proclaim God’s spirit in our lives in unlikely ways and through unlikely people. Are you ready to see God’s love in unlikely people and places? *Today’s Readings: Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab, 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*

**Tuesday, December 20**

**Free the Prisoners of Darkness**
In these shortest, darkest days of the year, we are invited to break through barriers of darkness that bind us and hold us back. The Lord tells Ahaz, in the First Reading, to look for a sign, and to look everywhere. As we approach Christmas in this final week of Advent, reach out beyond your normal boundaries to discover Christ, the Light, by helping those who are prisoners to work, to poverty, or to loneliness. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

**Wednesday, December 21**

**Las Posadas: Visits of Love**
Today’s Gospel is the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Both women are pregnant, and yet both reach out to the other in joy and concern. In many Mexican communities, *Las Posadas* are celebrated each of the nine days before Christmas. During the joyful, musical processions in these observances, participants go from house to house looking for the home or inn where the Christ Child can be found. Consider your holiday visits as a joyful time rediscovering where Christ is found in each home. *Today’s Readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

**Thursday, December 22**

**Dedicating Children to God**
Hannah and Mary were both granted children by God, and in turn focused their prayer on their children. In these final days of the Advent season, when toys and presents to be received often overtake our lives, be sure to cherish the gift that children are to each family. Today, invite each child to say a prayer with the lighting of the Advent candles. *Today’s Readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

**Friday, December 23**

**Joy in the Name**
The surprise of the name “John” for the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah shows the significance of name choices. Our birth and baptismal names have connections for those who named us. Find time today to discuss the name of each family member as well as what it means to call someone a demeaning name. The integrity and joy that comes with a name may surface links to ancestors, closeness to culture, and appreciation for the meaning a name holds. O Come, Emmanuel, God with us. *Today’s Readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10, 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

**Saturday, December 24**

**Prophecies Fulfilled**
On this eve of Christmas, the readings are a last reminder that the season of Advent has been leading us to the fulfillment of so many prophecies. The Messiah will proclaim and initiate a new Kingdom. Take time today to focus on the spiritual meaning of the season, even as other last-minute preparations are taking place. Find joy in pausing to take a breath, and pray with Zechariah, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!” *Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67–79.*