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

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

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

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Colin Braud, 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: stanneled@bellsouth.net

Director of Liturgical Music
Trish Foti, 559-8637
e-mail: tftot@stannchurchandshrine.org

Office Manager
Mrs. Debbie Sommers, ext. 221

Church Secretaries
Mrs. Linda Ehrhardt, ext. 222
Mrs. Ann Gauthier, 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.

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. 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).

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.
Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ann,

Christmas is one of the loveliest times of the year. It is the time of year that strikes a chord in the heart of every Christian. For centuries, Christians have gathered in catacombs, hillsides, valleys, cathedrals and homes to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh. (John 1:1ff)

Christmas is the love of God made visible in the body of a child. Our God is a loving God. When we are generous, loving and family-minded, we are modeling ourselves on him, who has done great things for us. The real Christmas takes place in the heart. It is above all a spiritual feast about God’s love for us, our love for each other, our commitment to the less fortunate and our conversion to Jesus Christ the Lord.

Christmas is the most human of our feasts. The feast is celebrated in the most earthy and concrete of ways. There is a Christmas tree in the corner, holly on the mantle, candles in the windows and toys for the children. There are nice words, hugs and handclasps for our neighbors and friends, and in every conceivable way we give tangible expression to Christmas and make it real. This feast more than any other is a family feast - a holy family at that …

What is it that makes Christmas a reality? The first thing that comes to mind is the rise in temperature … and I am not talking about the weather. I am talking about the extra degrees of warmth and goodwill that characterize this time of year. It is a thermal feast - warmer by far than any other time. We are challenged to make Christmas a more permanent part of our daily lives. It draws out of us our deepest human instincts and helps us to reach out in love toward others. **Christmas is above all a feast with skin on.** It’s a great celebration of the best that is in all of us and the gratitude we feel and owe to one another in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Our love for each other reflects God’s love for us. Jesus Christ became one with us so that we might be free … free from what? Everyone needs some personal liberation in one way or another. Christ is with us. Christ is for us. Christ is one of us.

I send special greetings to those who are sick in any way or living alone and who may not be able to join us for Christmas Mass this year. I will pray for you at all Masses here at St. Ann Church & Shrine, you will be remembered in the swaddling thoughts and prayers of many people celebrating the word of God made flesh.

Remember, the whole concept of Christmas is based on gift and giving. God the Father gave us the greatest gift he possibly could have given us. He gave us life, redemption and salvation.

In wishing you a Merry Christmas, I pray that you will be a source of love and blessing in the lives of others. Please spare a thought and prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Armed Forces as well as those who will have to work on Christmas Day. On behalf of Fr. Braud, deacons and staff, God’s blessing to all

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Rev. Fr. Billy O’Riordan
Pastor & Director of Seminarians
MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday December 24
4:00 pm Vigil Dale St. John, Sr., Louis & Ruth Duvic, Robert Kinler, Robert McGinnis, Gardner & McCleand Families, Jeffrey Lambert, Anton Tangell, Shayne M. Beier, Ida Hyver, Ann Stansbury, Albert F. Hezou, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Orallana (S.I.), Elaine Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Karim SeBushi (S.I.), Norman Haydel, Haifa Mosto Hamide (S.I.), Amina Hamida (S.I.), Mrs. McDowell, Kathleen Howard Brady (G.I.)

8:00 am Parishioners
9:30 am Poor Souls
11:00 am Roberto C. Haughton, Salvador D’Amico, Sr., Sondra Tourne Cothern, Allen Webre, Clara Louise Deubler, Catherine Linn, Mary Kay Woodruff, Michelle Buisson and children (S.I.), Dorothy L. Benge (Health), Mr. & Mrs. G. Cox (S.I.), Helen Turner (Health)

Christmas Vigil
4:00 pm Paul Brue, Patricia Virgadamo, Harold R. Neuberger, Ida Hyver, Allen Webre, Clara Louise Deubler, Catherine Linn, Mary Kay Woodruff, Eunice Lion, Geralyn Lion

Christmas Vigil
6:00 pm Walter Parr, Curtis Dupree, Tom Dupree

Candlelight Mass
10:00 pm Dominic DiGiovanni

Monday December 25
8:00 am Robert George Fisher, Sr.
10:00 am Jose Silva

Tuesday December 26
6:30 am Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Alexander
8:45 am Sara Staines
7:00 pm Jack P. Panno

Wednesday December 27
6:30 am Frank Mason
8:45 am Dorothy L. Benge (Health)

Thursday December 28
6:30 am Aida Palmeri (Health)
8:45 am Dorothy L. Benge (Health)

Friday December 29
6:30 am Poor Souls
8:45 am Ollie French, III

Saturday December 30
7:30 am Dorothy L. Benge (Health)
Students “Purchase” Gifts From PSR Store

Students from St. Ann’s Parish School of Religion earned “credits” for good behavior, attendance and other positive achievements that they used to “purchase” donated gifts at a “PSR Store” on December 5th. The items were donated recently by parishioners as part of the positive reinforcement program of the religion program. The items included rosaries, religious medals, crosses, necklaces, and many other religious items donated by parishioners and friends of our program. Thanks to all for your donation of items to be used for our store! Our PSR program allows students to purchase items such as these each month during their PSR school year. Donations are always accepted! God bless and thank you! Our students greatly appreciate the opportunity.

Knights of Columbus
Membership Drive

The Knights of Columbus, are looking for a few good men! The Knights are an international organization that promotes service, fraternity, and faith. The Knights are open to all Catholic Men who are at least 18 years old and lead a life consistent with Catholic Moral standards. New members are always welcomed to consider joining. To learn more, speak with a Knights member or check out our website at www.kc3465.org. Be a real man! Be a Knight!

St. Ann CYO News

St. Ann CYO is open to ALL 8th through 12th graders. Our youth group meets each Sunday evening following the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Youth House located at 4909 Loveland Street. If you are interested in participating in any CYO event, feel free to call the church office at 455-7071, ext 225 or attend any of CYO events listed below. Our calendar for the coming weeks is as follows.

December 29—Paintball outing in Covington
December 30—CYO Movie Outing at Clearview AMC
January 6—Ice Skating in Baton Rouge
January 7—CYO Topic Sharing Night with food
January 14—Rosary for Peace and Healing 6:00 p.m.
    Followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 7pm
CYO Spiritual Night in church with snacks.
January 21—CYO Topic Sharing Night with food
January 28—Service Night in Youth House with snacks
February 4—CYO Topic Night with Food in Youth House

Youth Ministry

The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Wanna Help with our CYO?
Call 455-7071, ext 225
St. Ann School Liturgies and Activities to Promote Catholic Identity

- Frequent Masses or liturgies for students in kindergarten through seventh grades. Included in the Masses are Holy Days of Obligation (if school is in session) as well as at the Opening of School, the End of School and Catholic Schools Week Masses.
- Reconciliation during Advent and Lent
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- May Crowning
- Schoolwide Rosary at least four times per year
- Eucharistic Adoration during Lent and other times throughout the year
- Organized prayers in the morning, before lunch and at the end of the day. Morning prayers include a reading about the Saint or other liturgical events celebrated that day.
- Yearly theme, based on the Catechetical Sunday theme, which is discussed in the classrooms and displayed throughout the school.
- Monthly aspirations serve as spiritual goals for the students. The aspirations are coordinated with the yearly theme and are displayed throughout the school.
- Assemblies with student plays centered on the current aspiration
- Respect Life Month in October includes a theme, a Respect Life Mass and other liturgies, rotating take home family rosaries and classroom discussion on the value of life.
- Priests visit the classrooms during the year to discuss church teachings and liturgies as well as answer questions from the students about their faith.
- Family Sunday celebrates the family and its place in the faith formation of the students
- During Advent we prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas. Advent activities include a theme, a daily reading, a classroom activity and the lighting of the Advent Wreath.
- Living Nativity (fifth-grade participants) with two presentations for the students and adults
- Foster diversity and respect for fellow students through classroom discussions, guest speakers, studying role models such as Saints and special programs during Black History Month.
- Observe Catholic Schools Week through special activities such as Mass, a Buddy event, daily prayers and announcements and attendance at the Archdiocesan CSW Mass.
- Feast of St. Blaise throat blessing
- Ministers-in-training and recorder program Mass for third grade students
- Buddy program to promote sharing and mentoring between older and younger students
- Foster a culture of respect for fellow students through anti-bullying programs, speakers and counseling.
- St. Joseph’s Altar and blessing
- Program for Lent includes a theme, faith building activities and daily prayers
- Blessing of the Pets (stuffed animals) on the Feast Day of St. Francis (Kindergarten)
- Participate in the Archdioceses Holy Childhood Association and other mission activities and fundraisers.
- Promote vocations through guest speakers, Vocation Week activities, Mass and prayers
- Promotion of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) for students in sixth- and seventh-grade
- Mary’s Club for girls in third- through fifth- grade promotes devotion to Mary
- Joseph’s Club for boys in third- through fifth- grade promotes devotion to St. Joseph through service to the community.
- Junior Service Club to promote volunteer service to the school community
- Service hour requirements for Middle School students to promote service to others
- Builder’s Club, for students in sixth- and seventh-grade, is a community service organization that has established a fellowship with an Orleans Parish Catholic school. Club members perform a monthly service activity for the students and several members then visit the school to distribute the donations. Also, there is an Annual Middle School Christmas Collection for the school.
- National Junior Beta Club, for students in the sixth-through seventh-grade, is a scholarship, leadership and service organization that performs community service including a Thanksgiving Food Drive for the needy.
- The Middle School Student Council serves the school community by decorating the St. Ann tree for Celebration in the Oaks in New Orleans City Park, assisting at Grandparents Day, attending the Archdiocese Catholic School Week Mass and performing other service related duties.
- Faculty includes a Religion Coordinator who is dedicated to preparing and implementing the school liturgies, fostering the spiritual growth of the students and faculty and coordinating all the religious activities of the school.
- School wide response to the needs of our community which have included food drives for Second Harvest and St. Ann Church food banks, coat drives for the homeless and book and sporting equipment drives for needy schools.
- Middle School Grandparents Mass
- Participation in the Keep Christ in Christmas and Respect Life programs sponsored by the Archdiocese.
- Students serve at school liturgies as altar servers and in the choir

Revised 9/21/17
This Week at Home

Monday, December 25
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Today’s psalm captures the importance of this solemnity in the life of the world. The psalmist sings a song of praise for the mighty deeds God has done. As Christians, we celebrate God’s gift of the Incarnation, which has made salvation known; all creation blesses God’s holy name. During dinner tonight, read and reflect on the story of Christ’s birth. 


Tuesday, December 26
Feast of St. Stephen
Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be a martyr? In his martyrdom, Stephen teaches us to remain fervent and faithful in our commitment to Christ. Although it is not always easy to keep our baptismal promises, we must trust, as Jesus says, that the Spirit will speak through us. Practicing a regular prayer life will help us remain faithful. Take time today to pray for those who continue to be persecuted for their faith; research one modern martyr.


Wednesday, December 27
St. John
The word witness is a good summary for the readings today. Because of the encounter that the disciples and Mary Magdalene had with Christ, they were compelled to share the Word of life. John is willing to give his life for Christ. In Baptism, each of us is intimately woven into the life of God and therefore, we, like the early disciples, must witness to our encounter with the Risen Christ. Everything we are and do must proclaim Christ, who is life. Like John, take time today to write your “gospel,” the story of your encounter with Christ. 

Today’s Readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a and 2–8.

Thursday, December 28
Feast of Holy Innocents
Today the Church commemorates the life of those children who were executed by Herod. During this short Christmas cycle, martyrdom is highlighted, as the feasts of Sts. Stephen and John are also celebrated. In the Middle Ages, these early martyrs were known as companions of Christ. Their stories invite us to reflect on the effect of the Incarnation. Christ is the one who frees us from all bondage and saves us from death. Martyrdom is a profession of deep faith in Christ. Let your prayer today be for all who have been executed for the sake of Christ.

Today’s Readings: 1 John 1:5 — 2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7cd and 8; Matthew 2:13–18.

Friday, December 29
Light
The birth of Christ revealed God’s greatest gift to the universe. He truly is the Light of the World, the one who brings us out of darkness. John tells us that those who love and remain in love will have the light. Simeon, in the Gospel, tells us that Jesus is the light that will reveal God’s love and mercy to the world. At Baptism, each of us received a lighted candle to remind us that Christ’s light is in us, and that we are called to share that light in acts of love. Light your baptismal candle today.


Saturday, December 30
God’s Will
“Do not love the world or the things in the world” is a key message in today’s First Reading. John reminds us that we know God and God is within us. Yet we are often enticed by the ideals of this world, and we can easily be misdirected. We must listen to the voice of love within us. God calls us to share the Good News and live according to his will. Listening in prayer helps us remain confident in our vocation. Make a list of those times you have ignored God and then offer them in prayer.

Today’s Readings: 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.
St. Ann Church and Shrine

Date: December 24, 2017

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

Publisher 2010, Acrobat 10 standard

Special Instructions: