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

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

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 the Baptism and a Preparation Seminar, call Deacon Phil Doolen at 455-7071, ext. 231.

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.
Advent is most often described as a season of waiting. Life is always a matter of waiting for the right moment. However, I am not sure we are very good at waiting because many people find waiting a waste of time. Look at some people driving these days. You put on your turn signal, slow down and get ready to turn, and then the unexpected happens - an impatient ignoramus and moron sits on the horn like you were supposed to disappear ... It's interesting to watch how impatient people can be while driving - they can't wait! It's all about me attitude. Well, sorry it's not all about you and you don't have the last word either. God does! Advent is God’s call to embrace our waiting and ultimately our getting ready to meet the Savior face-to-face at the end of time.

Your life is ending one minute at a time. This is not the time to flee and find refuge with distracting overwork, drugs, alcohol abuse, and pornography. The message of sin is never good. Satan says: “Look at your sin.” God says: “Look at my Son.”

The Prophet Baruch tells us to take off the robe of mourning and misery and put on the splendor of glory from God forever. Stop moping and brooding, and living in the past! This is the time to prepare the way of the Lord, make straights his paths and fill in the “valleys” in your life. By the way, it’s not the Lord’s paths that need to be straightened - it’s ours! This Sunday is about the Baptist and God sending a Redeemer. Advent reminds us to purify ourselves from all that is not of God.

When a person receives Holy Communion just before they die, we call it viaticum - food for the journey! But every time we receive the Holy Eucharist we receive food for our pilgrimage on earth. The closest we can be to God on this earth is at Mass … The Mass is heaven on earth! “The greatest love story of all is contained in a tiny white host.” [Fulton J. Sheen]

Salvation is one of the greatest themes of Advent, and it declares God’s love for us. However, there can be a problem in thinking that in order for God to love us we must be perfect. Our sins are not greater than God’s mercy. A few days ago I came across this insightful and discerning quote: “Nothing ever goes away until it has taught us what we need to know.” So, embrace this Advent time and journey.

Finally, I share these quotes hoping that they will help you prepare yourself to meet the Lord. Fr. Henri Nouwen says: “Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting.” Pope Benedict XVI says: “It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open the doors of hope.” Neal Maxwell says: “Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.”

Reflection: Fr. Billy

December 9 - 15, 2018
“Sanctuary Candle”
In Memory of Tu Tran
## Parish Calendar

**12/9**
- Second Collection Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal 8:30 AM
- Children’s Choir Pre-Mass Reh./St. Cecelia 7 PM
- SAS Christmas Pageant & Choir Concert/Gym

**12/10**
- 9:30 AM Come and See
- 9:30 AM Walk Through Tours/School Office

**12/11**
- 9:15 AM Adoration in Chapel
- 9:30 AM Bible Study/PMC/ST. RAYMOND
- 3:15 PM Children’s Choir Rehearsal/Church
- 6:15 PM PSR Classes/Cafeteria & Classrooms

**12/12**
- 8:45 AM School Mass Grades 3 & 4
- 9:30 AM Rosary Prayer Group/ST. RAYMOND
- 1 PM Sewing Seams of Faith Class/ST. RAYMOND
- 6 PM Notre Dame Hospice Grief Group/JPII

**12/13**
- 9:30 AM Adult Catechism/ST. RAYMOND
- 6 PM Knights of Columbus (Business)/ST. RAYMOND
- 7 PM Adult Faith Formation/JPII

**12/14**
- 7 PM Eric McCrary Christmas Concert/Church
- 7 PM Girl Scout Operation Christmas/Cafeteria

**12/15**
- 10 AM Altar Society/ST. RAYMOND

**12/16**
- 8:30 AM Children’s Choir Pre-Mass Reh./ST. CECELIA
- 9 AM Men’s Club Breakfast with Santa/Cafeteria

## Bambinelli Sunday

Each year, on the Third Sunday of Advent, children gather with their families in St. Peter’s Square for “Bambinelli Sunday.” The children bring with them figures of the Christ Child - the “Bambinelli” - from their family’s Nativity scene. During the noontime Angelus prayer, the pope blesses the children and the figurines they have brought. On the Third Sunday of Advent - December 16th at the 9:30 and 11:00 AM Masses we will celebrate Bambinelli Sunday here at St. Ann Church. Therefore, we invite the children to bring your Baby Jesus figurines to Mass for a blessing, and then to be taken home and placed in the Nativity Scene as you wait for Christmas.

## St. Ann is Adopting St. Dominic Parish

Please Help St. Dominic Parish

**Ways to Give:**
- Donation Form on our website
- Choose St. Dominic Hurricane Relief as the fund when using ParishSOFT Giving
- Special envelopes available in the church and parish office

## Breakfast with Santa

**Sunday, December 16th**
- Following 8 AM and 9:30 AM Masses in the St. Ann Cafeteria
- $3.00 per Plate
- Santa will be available for photos
- Breakfast Crafts & Activities
  - Breakfast includes Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Patties, Grits & Biscuits
  - Coffee, Milk, and Orange Juice

**Eric McCrary**
- A Christmas to Warm Your Heart
- December 14
- 7:00 PM
- St. Ann Church
Once again we at St. Ann are invited to share OUR blessings and gifts with the multitudes who are not as fortunate. **Hope House and Catholic Charities have numerous children, families, elderly and homeless** whom they serve and whom we also, are called to serve. These wonderful Catholic facilities provide for these needs on a daily basis and St. Ann is always extremely generous in our Christmas sharing. The “Giving Tree” will be up from Thanksgiving through **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**. The Angel tags on the tree will indicate the necessary information for you to be able to provide a truly Merry Christmas for **MANY** considerably less fortunate than us. The tags will indicate specific gift requests along with age, size etc.

**IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WHEN YOU SELECT AN ANGEL TAG YOU MAKE YOUR PURCHASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE WRAP SECURELY WITHOUT A BOW AND PLACE IT UNDER THE TREE AT THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MASSES ONLY!!!**

**PLEASE TAPE THE ANGEL TAG SECURELY TO THE PACKAGE WITHOUT THE STRING.**

**PLEASE BE SURE TO GET A GIFT AND RETURN IT ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY DECEMBER 9.** We must have time to sort and deliver the gifts before Christmas. We ask that all gifts be **NEW.**

Again for **SECURITY** reasons, please place your gifts under the tree **ONLY AT MASS ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.**
Retirement Fund for the Religious

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

Baby Bottle Campaign Update

The recent Baby Bottle Campaign sponsored by our local council of the Knights of Columbus and the Woman’s New Life Center has netted a total of $4323.22 for the pregnancy Crisis Center. Your donations are already at work saving and changing lives. Because of you, they are able to provide necessary, life-saving services to man women. Thank you to all St. Ann Parishioners who gave so generously!

https://ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide/holiday-gift-guide

A GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE

This Christmas please consider shopping on this ethical trade website. Your purchases are not only of good quality but will help men and women who are working hard to work their way out of poverty.

You will find gift suggestions for the kitchen, home, entertaining, jewelry, comfort, chocolate and other food items and gift baskets. These are gifts you can feel good about giving. “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:41

“Will You Please Pick Up All Your Clothes?”
Thursday, December 13

St. Lucy

In the Gospel, Jesus sings the praises of John the Baptist, who will soon be martyred at the hands of Herod. Today the Church honors another martyr, St. Lucy, who died in AD 304 during a Roman persecution of Christians. She is said to have brought food to Christians hiding in the catacombs, wearing a wreath of candles to light her way. Lucy means “light,” and we remember her during this season of waiting for the Light of the World.

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.

Friday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

The first psalm is a recipe for a happy and fruitful life: “The law of the Lord is their joy; God’s law they study day and night.” John of the Cross, in sixteenth-century Spain, was called to a life of prayer in a Carmelite monastery. When other friars turned on him and imprisoned him for nine months, he had encounters with God that he described in mystical poems. He spent those days and nights joyfully with nothing to distract him from the love of the Lord.

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 11:16–19.

Saturday, December 15

An End to Wrath

Today we hear about the great prophet Elijah. Taken to heaven in a whirlwind, he is to return as a forerunner of the Messiah: “to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord.” Jesus, who has just been transfigured and appeared with Moses and Elijah, explains that John the Baptist has fulfilled the mission of Elijah. Who will prepare the way for the Messiah’s return? Who among us helps to turn hearts toward God and each other?

Today’s Readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.
