ST. ANN CHURCH & NATIONAL SHRINE
4940 Meadowdale St.,
Metairie, LA 70006
504-455-7071
stannchurchandshrine.org
contact@stannchurchandshrine.org

Pastor: Fr. Billy O’Riordan
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Vincent Nguyen

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 & 5:00 PM

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

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Saturday: 3:00 to 4:00 pm
or by appointment

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Tuesday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
ending with Benediction
First Friday: 9:15 - 10:00 am

Pray with us on Saturdays!
Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 PM
Rosary 3:20 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

St. Ann School
stannschool.org
4921 Meadowdale St.
504-455-8383
Lindsay Guidry, Principal

December 8, 2019

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Mass Intentions

Sunday December 8

4:00 pm Vigil Albert Basha, Frank Mason, George Sens Jr., George A. Sanderson Jr., William P. Patterson, Bob & Jean Segura, Mary Z Gelpi, John Downing, All Aborted Babies, Sherron Leggio, Ernie Becnel, Jillian Clark, Mark and Gertrude Melancon, Gardner & McCleland Families, Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Reyes & Family (SI), Jack Worley, Peter Bua, Frances Dauphin Blanke, Vincent Salamone, Ferdinand Berry, Albert Temes Sr., Carlos Estevez, Margaret Canale, Giorgina Valobra

8:00 am Parishioners
9:30 am Patricia Vezina
11:00 am Mrilyn L. Zimny, Luis Toca, Joan G. Ibos, Ry Nguyen, Clarence F. Schlamp Jr., Tran Family (SI), Frances Dauphin Blanke, Ferdinand Berry, Ramiro & Allison Guerra (SI), Pearl Kingston, Allie Boteler, Darci J. Haley, Sue (Health), L.G. (SI), Paul Kiff, Alfred Tortorich, Baldomero Amador

5:00 pm Jillian Clark

Monday December 9

6:30 am Melva Helwig
8:45 am Aubrey Mire
6:30 pm Ralph E. Crowley, Jr.

Tuesday December 10

6:30 am Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Alexander
8:45 am Jillian Clark
7:00 pm Tran Family (SI)

Wednesday December 11

6:30 am Melva Helwig
8:45 am Dulcie "Janie" LaHaye

Thursday December 12

6:30 am Melva Helwig
8:45 am Aubrey Mire

Friday December 13

6:30 am Anthony L. Musso
8:45 am Mark & Gertrude Melacon

Saturday December 14

7:30 am Tran Family (SI)
Advent - a journey toward Christmas! This Second Sunday of Advent falls on December 8th which also happens to be The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of obligation in the USA. The reason for the Holy Day of obligation is that the United States is dedicated to God through the intercession of Mary, and under the title of the Immaculate Conception. However, this year the solemnity is moved to Monday, which means we will have three Masses on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 AM, 8:45 AM and 6:30 PM.

In preparing this reflection, I looked for an image of John the Baptist, that voice of one crying out in the desert and calling people to make straight paths for the Lord. I think the above image says it all - that wild and serious look in his eyes and scolding words: “You brood of vipers!” Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire ... Those words demand action on our behalf so that we will do our best as Christians and bear fruit that will last, for God expects the world to be a better place by our presence in it. Mindful of John the Baptist’s chastising words in demanding readiness, I share a this line from a homily a few weeks ago: The surest way to be late for salvation is to think you have plenty of time.

John the Baptist reminds us of God’s wrath and God’s holiness that brings judgment in its train of glory. We are not to presume privilege like the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to John the Baptist for baptism - a kind of just-in-case approach to salvation and a kind of insurance policy so as not to go to Hell. The evidence that John the Baptist is crying out for is a turning away from the old us and then letting go of the things that are sinful and harmful. Let the gradual lighting of the Advent candles on the wreath light the way for us in opening our eyes and hearts to what God expects of us. What we are is God’s gift to us; what we become is our gift back to God. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” [Matthew 3:1] Let go and let God!

Preparing a way for the Lord means building a few bridges and filling in some potholes. As we know, those potholes can be rather big at times, and so we need to repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. On a side note, John the Baptist might have us working on the Department of Transportation filling in the potholes, building new roads and an exit to the new airport ... Seriously though, Advent is a time to prepare a way for the Lord. May this time of Advent ready our hearts and awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus open the doors to hope and peace.

Reflection: Fr. Billy
ST ANN CYO
Christmas Party
Sunday, December 15
4909 Loveland Street
6:00-7:30pm
Don’t miss the fun!
Wear your favorite flannel and join us for hot chocolate, games, and prizes
Open to 8-12 grade students

St. Ann Church & National Shrine
Date Night
Saturday, January 18, 2020
ST. Ann Cafeteria ~ 6:30 PM
$30 per Couple
Dinner & Entertainment

“Our Love Stories” Babysitting
Ages 4 and up

Date Night is limited to 75 couples. Last year, this even sold out, so be sure to purchase your tickets early!
Tickets are available on our website or in the parish office 504-455-7071.
https://stannchurchandshrine.org/marriage-family-life-1

Spend your time with Christ in the Gospel this Advent
We have run out of the Advent Reflection books that were made available through the generosity of a St. Ann Parishioner and they are sold out at Word on Fire.
If you were unable to pick up a book, you can still have the Advent Reflections delivered to your email inbox daily by signing up online here:
https://adventreflections.com
St. Ann School News
Our annual Parish/School Christmas Pageant is Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7:00 pm in the gym. The fifth graders will reenact the Nativity. The band and choir will perform Christmas songs. All are invited to the performances and for refreshments.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule: Monday, December 9th
6:30 AM, 8:45 AM, 6:30 PM
Since December 8, 2019, is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9, 2019. The obligation to attend Mass, however, does not transfer.

The Optional Memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, December 9, is omitted this year.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Ann Church & Shrine
Christmas Mass Schedule
Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord
Tuesday, December 24th
NO 6:30 a.m. Mass
There will be an 8:45 AM Mass
Vigil Masses:
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
Candlelight Christmas Mass
10:00 PM
Tuesday, December 25th
Christmas Day Masses
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
New Year’s Day
Tuesday, December 31st
NO 6:30 AM Mass
There will be 8:45 AM Mass
Vigil Mass 7:00 PM
Tuesday, January 1st
New Year’s Day Masses:
6:30 AM & 8:45 AM

Eucharistic Procession honoring Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

Photos and videos of the November 24th Eucharistic Procession are available to view on our website and social media accounts.

How does St. Ann communicate?

ELECTRONICALLY

Website
The St. Ann website is www.stannchurchandshrine.org
Revamped about five years ago, it is updated frequently and gives you access to current events, Mass & Confession Times, information to help with faith formation, the Monthly Newsletter, Weekly Bulletin, and much more.

Monthly Newsletter
The Monthly Newsletter puts the calendar of events for the whole month at your fingertips. To get this emailed to you, sign up on the website or call the parish office and ask to be added to the email list. Printed copies are also being made available in the church and the parish office.

Email, Text, & Telephone
Fr. Billy will send out group messages by email, text, and telephone for special occasions and Holy Days.

SOCIAL MEDIA
St. Ann Parish has a strong presence on Social Media. Our Facebook page has over 3000 followers and is updated multiple times a day, 7 days a week. We also use Instagram and Twitter, and those are updated frequently. You can see videos of Novenas, Missions, and other events on YouTube. We even have a Pinterest page!

PRINT

Weekly Bulletin
The Weekly Bulletin is your go-to resource for weekly events and information. The bulletin is distributed following all weekend Masses and is also sent home with the oldest/only students of St. Ann School. The bulletin is also available on the website and in the Parish Office. Extra copies are kept in the vestibules of the church following the weekend Masses.

Bulletin Boards & Posters
The Bulletin Boards at the entrances of the church are updated weekly. Notices are also posted frequently on the easels, poster stands, and doors of the church at all three entrances.

How DID YOU KNOW THAT?

SAVE THE DATE!
Eric McCrary presents:
“A Christmas to warm your Heart”
Friday, December 13th ~7:00 PM
St. Ann Church

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Have questions? Need help with something? Call the Parish Office 504-455-7071 contact@stannchurchandshrine.org
**Ministry Spotlight**

**Youth Ministry**

The Parish Youth Ministry efforts at St. Ann Church encompass a variety of activities designed to bring all young people to experience God in a youth friendly environment. Jr. CYO is designed for students in grades 6-7. CYO is for students in grades 8-12. Young Adult Ministry is for those ages 18-30. Adult leaders are needed for each of these ministries! Youth Ministry programs allow the “young Church” to grow in their knowledge and love of God. If you wish to become involved in any of these ministries, simply contact the church office at 455-7071, ext. 2229 and we’ll be happy to share how you can get involved.

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**Men’s Spiritual Retreat**

All men of St. Ann parish are invited to participate in the archdiocesan Men’s Spiritual Retreat, entitled: “Mission Possible: Personal Holiness.” Our council of the Knights of Columbus will pay 60% of the cost of the retreat for any man of our parish wishing to attend. Your cost will be just $15 for the entire day. This will be held March 7 at St. Catherine of Sienna church and includes lunch. Guest speakers include Jack Del Rio, Peter Herbeck, and Curtis Martin. More information is available online at [https://www.neworleanscatholic.com/](https://www.neworleanscatholic.com/) Contact the church office at 455-7071 to sign up. Reservations are limited!

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**Musings From A Pilgrim Along The Way . . . Be Counter-cultural!**

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time, of the Year!” Here we go! The air is getting cooler, the nights are longer, football season is nearing the end, and the Christmas commercials are upon us! Have you ever noticed how secular the Christmas Season has become? With focus on Santa, Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, and endless commercialization, we have turned one of the most holy and sacred times of the year into one giant commercial. “Gimme, gimme, gimme!” has become our mantra.

In recent years, there has been a movement to focus more on the “reason for the season” and this has been relatively successful. But there are several ways in which we can become counter-cultural in our approach to the holiday season. First of all, the word “holiday” comes from “holy day.” Uh, nothing more needs to be said about that! Second, the word “Christmas” comes from “Christ Mass.” This may take a little more explanation as many people don’t know the true meaning of the word “Mass.” This is a Latin word meaning “sent, or to send.” This points to the “sending” of Christ into the world, born as a human baby.

Last, and this will likely take a radical shift in our own practices, is to follow the Church’s model of celebration. In our culture, we have a long build up to the holiday (holy-day). Many stores begin putting out Christmas decorations BEFORE Halloween! But then, once the holy-day is over, everything stops almost immediately, our excitement ends and we take down our decorations (sometimes not as quickly as we hoped we would!). But in the Church’s practice this isn’t the case. Yes, there is a long build up to the holy day (advent), but then, we linger after the celebration. Christmas (and Easter) are celebrated as an “octave” in which the 8 days of celebration are as if it is one day (one week and a day). Then, the Christmas “season” stretches well beyond the octave, past the feast of the epiphany and ends on the Baptism of our Lord (the Sunday following January 6—the twelfth day of Christmas). So you can see, our Church wishes to “ponder and reflect” upon the great celebrations of our Church’s life. So this Advent/Christmas season, be counter-cultural! Focus on the reason for the season, wait (spiritually) for the coming of the Lord (in our hearts and our world), and then really celebrate (for days and days) upon the fulfillment of that wish. It truly is a “Most Wonderful Time, of the Year!”

D. Wilson . . .

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**LAST CHANCE!!! Purchase YOUR Knights of Columbus Charity Calendar TODAY in the church office!!!**

$20 per Calendar (That’s a NICKLE a drawing!) $15,970 in Cash Prizes!!!

Proceeds benefit our local KC Council and its Charitable Programs

$20 enters you into a drawing for cash prizes to be held every day of the year (366 raffle drawings)!

You can win more than once! Your ticket stays in the raffle every day - even if you previously won!

**Prizes**

- $2,000 Columbus day
- $1,000 New Year’s Day
- $250 April 1 & December 1
- $150 1st day of Feb, Mar, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, & Nov.
- $100 Saturdays (51 drawings)
- $ 20 All other days (301 drawings)
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