“If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until harvest.”
Matthew 13:29-30

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

stannchurchandshrine.org
contact@stannchurchandshrine.org

WEEKEND EUCHARIST
Saturday: 7:30 AM Mass
4:00 pm Vigil Mass (Live-Stream)
Sunday Masses:
8:00 AM, 9:30 (Live-Stream),
11:00 AM & 5:00 PM

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
Monday - Friday:
6:30 AM (Live Stream during Novena)
8:45 AM

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 3:00
(In the Sacristy)

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

TEMPORARY WEEKDAY
CHURCH HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY
8:30 am - 6:00 pm

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

Updates on parish activities with regard to coronavirus precautions can be found on our website: stannchurchandshrine.org/coronavirus-updates

St. Ann School
stannschool.org

4921 Meadowdale St.
504-455-8383

Lindsay Guidry, Principal
PARISH CALENDAR

Any meetings on St. Ann Parish campus must be cleared through the parish office and scheduled on the calendar to assure you have ample space to respect social distancing. If your ministry has a meeting, please wear masks out of Christian charity for the good of others around you.

If you have fever or any symptoms at all, please STAY HOME.

19  St. Ann Novena - All Masses

6 PM CYO Backyard Game Night (Youth House)

20  10 AM & 7 PM St. Ann Novena

3 PM Litany of Precious Blood & Novena Prayers (Live Stream)

7 PM Men’s Club Meeting - Cafeteria

21  10 AM & 7 PM St. Ann Novena

3 PM Litany of Precious Blood & Novena Prayers (Live Stream)

5 PM Dance Camp - Gym

22  10 AM & 7 PM St. Ann Novena

1 PM Sewing Seams of Faith - St. Raymond

3 PM Litany of Precious Blood & Novena Prayers (Live Stream)

23  10 AM & 7 PM St. Ann Novena

3 PM Litany of Precious Blood & Novena Prayers (Live Stream)

5 PM Dance Camp - Gym

24  10 AM & 7 PM St. Ann Novena

3 PM Litany of Precious Blood & Novena Prayers (Live Stream)

25  10 AM & 7 PM St. Ann Novena

3 PM Confessions - Sacristy

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday July 19

4:00 pm  Vigil  George A. Sanderson, Jr., Bob & Jean Segura, Dorothy Falgoust, Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Alexander, Laura McGinnis, Enola Hoppe, Pat Brewster (SI), Allemand Family Members, Dinh Tran, Tu Tran, Thien Tran, Ernie Becnel, Byron Marse, Ralph Manuel Alfonso, Jose A. & Maria J. Martinez, Terry P. Quinn, Sal Buras Family, Lucian Castro, Linda & Dawn Boteler & Family (SI)

8:00 am  Karen DiZinno

9:30 am  Martha Disimone

11:00 am  Jessica A. Noggerath, Bill Althans, Vernon Higgins, Owen LaCour, Sr., Joyce Elizabeth Hurtel Spain, Jack Saux, Joseph Patrick Clark, Arthur Brewster, Alma Weilbacher, Julie Ann Roser Bourgeois, Harold J. & Kathleen O'Donnell

5:00 pm  Parishioners

Monday July 20

6:30 am  Gertrude McDermott

10:00 am  Christopher Richards

7:00 pm  Raymond Bollinger, Jr.

Tuesday July 21

6:30 am  Anna M. Boudreaux

10:00 am  Daniel Halligan

7:00 pm  Blessed Mother for Health (L.M.)

Wednesday July 22

6:30 am  Irene Cormier

10:00 am  Katherine Montague

7:00 pm  Rita Mae Sommers

Thursday July 23

6:30 am  Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Alexander

10:00 am  Alice Songy Poursine

7:00 pm  Byron Marse

Friday July 24

6:30 am  Madeline Deharde

10:00 am  Thomas Patrick Monahan III

7:00 pm  Rita Mae Sommers

Saturday July 25

10:00 am  Arthur Brewster

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday  Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday  Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17

Friday  Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10-12abcd, 13; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday  2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28

Sunday  1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]
Coming from Vietnam where most of the people are farmers, I know quite well how difficult it is to work on a farm. I remember when I was little, farmers did not have machines like tractors or harvesters. Everything was done manually. Farmers had to get up very early in the morning to work before the sun rose and the temperature often reached well over 100° F. They sometimes had to work at night to avoid the daytime heat. To water the rice field, they used an instrument to scoop water with the strength of their hands. When the harvest came, they harvested with their own hands since they had no harvester. Farmers had to labor tirelessly to provide food for our tables.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes Himself as a farmer. He comes to the world to sow the seeds of the Good News of the Kingdom of God. He comes to work on the farm in the world. He first sows the seeds of faith in our souls. Then He showers us with graces and blessings that help our faith to grow. He heals our wounds, both physical and spiritual wounds. And by dying on the cross, Christ brings us to a new life. The good seeds that Jesus has sown continue to spread and bear fruits. From a group of Twelve Apostles, the Church continues to grow and welcome new members from every corner of the earth.

But the enemy does not stay still. Jesus tells us that the enemy waits until everyone is asleep to sow weeds. He waits until people are drowsy to spread the bad seeds among us. He uses many tools to put us into his traps. Like many of you, I love watching movies and listening to music. However, it is not easy to find a good movie that does not contradict our Catholic faith. Many films and songs are filled with a lot of offensive languages, sexual immoralities, and violence. The more often we see these images, the easier for us to be convinced that it is okay to do so. The enemy tries to convince us that we are free to do whatever we want to do and that the Church’s law limits our freedom. The enemy tries to convince us that these are what normal people do. No, we are not normal people. We are Catholics. We are sons and daughters of God.

Every family has rules to follow. The Church as God’s family has its own rules. Sometimes, these rules do not make sense for us. Little children often do not know why their parents do not allow them to do this or that. The Church’s laws do not limit our freedom, but these laws are there to stop the bad seeds from growing. God gives us rules to follow not to punish us; he does so because He loves us. Jesus loves us to the point that He died to bring us true freedom.

The seed of faith has been sown into our hearts. The plant needs to be nourished and watered in order to grow. The Holy Body and Blood of Christ are the fertilizers that Christ has given us. In the Eucharist, our faith receives nutrition to increase. And the Word of God is the everlasting fountain that waters our souls. Do not let our faith lack water and nutrition. Come to the Holy Mass more often to be nourished by the Word and the Eucharist because the Holy Mass is the most beautiful thing on this side of heaven.

Of course, we are all sinners and time and again we commit sins against God, against one another, and against ourselves. That is when the bad seeds have been sown into our souls. Christ has provided us the best pesticide ever: the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the confessional, it is not the priest that you confess to, but you confess to God Himself. The infinite fountain of love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation will help us to stop the weeds from spreading in our souls.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the seed of faith that you have sown into our souls. We thank you for the gift of Your Son who brings us true freedom in His Word and His Body and Blood. Help us to grow our plant of faith and to spread the seeds of the Good News to others in our families, our workplaces, our schools so that your harvest will be fruitful and abundant. Amen.

Reflection by Fr. Vincent
ST. ANN NOVENA 2020
BEGINNING JULY 18 ~ 4 PM MASS

Healing Mass
10 AM
Saturday, July 24th

July 18 - 26, 2020 - Weekday Masses at 10 AM and 7 PM
Saturday 10 AM, Vigil 4 PM, Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 AM & 5 PM
St. Ann Church & National Shrine
stannchurchandshrine.org  504-455-7071

FR. STAN FORTUNA C.F.R.
TALKING WITH GOD AND HIS SAINTS

One of the most important activities for a Catholic is prayer. Without it there can be no true spiritual life. Through personal prayer and the communal prayer of the Church, especially the Mass, we worship and praise God, we express sorrow for our sins, and we intercede on behalf of others (1 Tim. 2:1–4). Through prayer we grow in our relationship with Christ and with members of God’s family (CCC 2663–2696).

This family includes all members of the Church, whether on earth, in heaven, or in purgatory. Since Jesus has only one body, and since death has no power to separate us from Christ (Rom. 8:3–8), Christians who are in heaven or who, before entering heaven, are being purified in purgatory by God’s love (1 Cor. 3:12–15) are still part of the Body of Christ (CCC 962).

Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39). Those in heaven love us more intensely than they ever could have loved us while on earth. They pray for us constantly (Rev. 5:8), and their prayers are powerful (Jas. 5:16, CCC 956, 2683, 2692).

Our prayers to the saints in heaven, asking for their prayers for us, and their intercession with the Father do not undermine Christ’s role as sole Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). In asking saints in heaven to pray for us we follow Paul’s instructions: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone," for "this is good and pleasing to God our Savior" (1 Tim. 2:1–4).

All members of the Body of Christ are called to help one another through prayer (CCC 2647). Mary’s prayers are especially effective on our behalf because of her relationship with her Son (John 2:1–11).

God gave Mary a special role (CCC 490–511, 963–975). He saved her from all sin (Luke 1:28, 47), made her uniquely blessed among all women (Luke 1:42), and made her a model for all Christians (Luke 1:48). At the end of her life he took her, body and soul, into heaven—an image of our own resurrection at the end of the world (Rev. 12:1–2).

(Excerpt from Catholic Answers’ Pillar of Fire, Pillar of Truth https://www.catholic.com/tract/pillar-of-fire-pillar-of-truth)
Treasure the Present

Author Unknown

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a Grade.
To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
To realize the value of ONE DAY, ask a child on Christmas Eve.
To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.
To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.
To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have!
And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.
And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is mystery.
Today is a gift.
That's why it's called the present!!

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. . . . Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." Matthew 6:25, 27, 34
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