SAINT ANN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas 2019
May God’s Blessings be yours this Christmas!
Welcome to St. Ann!
We’re so glad that you’re here. We strive to make all feel at home here and to build community.
Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.

Parish Clergy & Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Rev. Kail Ellis, O.S.A.</td>
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Parish Office

PHONE: 610-933-3732  FAX: 610-935-7958
502 S. Main Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Parish Website: www.churchofsaintann.org
Parish Email Address: stannphx@comcast.net
St. Ann Cemetery: 305 W. Pothouse Road
Sacred Heart Cemetery: 1258 Fillmore Street

HOPE VOLUNTEERS drive people in need to appointments or on essential errands, Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Schedule a ride 4 days in advance. If you call on a Friday the ride will not be scheduled until Tuesday or Wednesday.

No rides will be scheduled December 16 to 31.

Today:   | Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Monday:  | Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: | 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16a; Lk 1:67-79
Thursday: | Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Friday:   | Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Saturday: | Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday:   | Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
          | Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
          | Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
          | Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Due to the printer’s schedule this time of year, the Sunday Bulletin for the fourth Sunday of Advent needs to double as our Bulletin for December 25, and so.....

“....MERRY CHRISTMAS!”

Father Ellis, Father Doody, Deacon Giblin, Deacon Szewczak, Sister Marie Rose Gibson, RSM and I wish a “Merry Christmas” to our parishioners and to our visitors. We pray that each parish member and each visitor will be able to receive the Grace God wants to give him or her as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ of God.

OFFICE CLOSED – Our Parish Business Office will be closed this Wednesday and Thursday (Dec. 24-25). If you need a priest, please phone the parish office and the pastor will get back to you as he is able.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CONCERT – Starting at 9:30 PM in Chapel our combined Choirs will lead us in thirty minutes of choral and congregational singing. The Choir Mass will begin at 10:00 PM.

NEW CALENDARS – We hope you enjoy our new format for 2020 for our Parish Calendars. Take as many as you need as you leave Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tues., 12/24
4:00 PM Mass in St. Ann Chapel
4:00 PM Mass in St. Ann Church
7:00 PM Mass in St. Ann Church (Spanish)
7:30 PM Mass in St. Ann Chapel
10:00 PM Mass in St. Ann Chapel

Wed., 12/25
7:30 AM Mass in St. Ann Chapel
9:30 AM Mass in St. Ann Chapel
11:30 AM Mass in St. Ann Chapel
2:00 PM Mass in St. Ann Church (Vietnamese)

A CHRISTMAS STORY - A few years ago a woman shared with me that while visiting her grandchildren she noticed that the infant Jesus was missing from the family’s indoor Nativity scene. When she asked her 7 year old granddaughter where Baby Jesus was, the girl replied that his absence was due to her 2 year old sister. Puzzled, the woman asked why, to which the 7 year old replied: “Mom says Baby Jesus is a choking hazard.” This got me thinking...

SWALLOW, I – Let’s begin by swallowing some numbers regarding the observable universe:
1. It is about 15 billion years old;
2. Earth is one of eight planets in our solar system, revolving around our star (sun).
3. Our solar system is one of billions of solar systems in our one galaxy (The Milky Way).
4. If we could travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) it would take us 100 years to cross our particular galaxy.
5. There are billions of galaxies.

SWALLOW, II – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God….All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be” (John 1:1-3). The universe we can observe (and anything we cannot perceive) has a Maker who was in the beginning and who sustains each molecule in existence each second.

SWALLOW, III – “…and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). The Creator is by definition outside of and not a part of creation. Yet each Christmas we celebrate the category shattering thought / event that Creator has entered into and become part of creation-----and creation somehow has become able to contain its Maker and the cosmos continues to exist!

SWALLOW IV – What’s more (!) the child whose birth we are celebrating “is the image of the invisible God…and in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians:1:15, 19-20). Full God and full human in one and the same person!

SWALLOW V - The night the Savior enters this world, he is laid in a container for animal food (a manger). The night before the Savior exits this world, he gives himself to us as food and drink: “Take, eat, this is my Body...this is my Blood”.

SWALLOW VI – We are called to swallow not only the person of Jesus, but also the perspectives and values of Jesus, eg.: “The Father and I are one”; the first shall be last, the last shall be first”; “this man welcomes sinners and eats with them”; “there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who have no need to repent”; “whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me”; “blessed are the poor”; pray for those who persecute you”....

HOLY HEIMLICH – In each Sunday and Holyday Mass we bow profoundly when during the Creed we say: “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.” We bow because what we are saying is meant to “take our breath away”. Within Masses on Christmas---when we celebrate Christ’s Birth most solemnly---when we come to these words we stop, kneel and go silent. I think of this ritual gesture as a spiritual Heimlich maneuver to save us choking on the immense, infinite Mystery we are attempting to take in, swallow, believe and live. We need to pause all that we are doing, drop to our knees, and be still. Otherwise we might choke on Baby Jesus. Let’s pray for one another and ask God for the gifts of Stillness, awe and gratitude this Christmas.
Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 22  Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Mass 7:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 9:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word 9:30am Mass @ 602 Living Room
- Spanish Mass 9:30am @ St. Ann Church
- Spanish RICA 11:15am @ Parish Office Dining Room
- Mass 11:30am @ St. Ann Chapel

Monday, December 23  St. John of Kanty
- Rosary 7:30am - 8:00am @ St. Ann Church
- Mass 8:00am@ St. Ann Church
- Confessions 2:00pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- Legion of Mary 7:30pm - 8:30pm @ Church Hall Room #2

Tuesday, December 24  Parish Office Closed
- Mass 4:00pm @ St. Ann Church
- Mass 4:00pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- Spanish Mass 7:00pm @ St. Ann Church
- Mass 7:30pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- Christmas Eve Dinner 8:00pm @ Church Hall
- Carols & Concert 9:30pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 10:00pm @ St. Ann Chapel

Wednesday, December 25  The Nativity of the Lord
Parish Office Closed
- Mass 7:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 9:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 11:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Vietnamese Mass 2:00pm @ St. Ann Church

Thursday, December 26  St. Stephen
- Rosary 7:30am - 8:00am St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 8:00am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Grupo de Oracion Mateo 6:00pm - 8:00pm @ Church Hall Room #3

Friday, December 27  St. John
- Rosary 7:30am - 8:00am St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 8:00am @ St. Ann Chapel

Saturday, December 28  The Holy Innocents
- Men’s Bible Study 7:00am @ Church Hall
- Rosary 7:30am - 8:00am St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 8:00am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Confessions 3:15pm - 4:00pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 4:30pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- Alpha/Omega Spanish Prayer Group 7:00pm - 9:00pm @ Sacred Heart Church

Sunday, December 29  The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Mass 7:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Mass 9:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Spanish Mass 9:30am @ St. Ann Church
- Spanish RICA 11:15am @ Parish Office Dining Room
- Mass 11:30am @ St. Ann Chapel
- Group Baptism 1:00pm @ St. Ann Chapel
- 12 Step Spirituality Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm @ Parish Office Dining Room

“EASY TO DO GOOD” –
The Servant of God Dorothy Day worked to foster a society where is was “easy to do good”. Wish Lists for a number of local charitable non-profits are posted both on our parish website and bulletin boards to make it easier to help neighbors in need at this time of year. FYI, our parish poor box donations in these cold months (December – February) will support the Phoenixville Code Blue Emergency Overnight Warming Center.
We love having you as part of our flock! Let’s keep in touch! Get important Parish & Ministry updates via email & text. There are two ways to connect. Visit our church at: flocknote.com/StAnnPhx or Text Stannphx to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

Help Wanted: A volunteer/s to water the poinsettias in St. Ann Church and/or St. Ann Chapel. A green thumb is not required. Please contact Madelyn Howard at 484-302-5705 or stannadulted@gmail.com.

Please pray for the sick, disabled, homebound members of our Parish Family.

Alicia Andrews    Michael DiArcangelo    Patrick Koch    Jonathan Perez    James Smith
Chad Berish    Lucille Dickson    Christine Koons    Glen Phillips    John Snyder
Stephanie Bilash    Audrey Dombroski    Irene Layden    Abigail Pilcicki    Evelyn Spitz
Patricia Bogardus    Kensley Egelging    Denise Long    Dianne Ponzio    Christine Springer
Beth Booth    William Egelging    Ray Long    Norm Rabenold    Bob Stancavage
Ashley Rose Bukay    Andrew Fabian    Claire Maestrale    Ann Racey    Marc Stevenson
Sandy Burns    Dan Fennell    Steve & Joanne Mardi    Christine Radoiss    Sherri Stover
Lewis Busovsky    Daniel Flores    Thomas Mastrangelo    Katherine Raggazino    Julie Szewczak
Ed Cain    Ryan Gerhold    Bernadette Matta    Jerry Ratchford    Ethel Thomas
Eleanor Calvecchio    Joe Gibson    Heather McCann    John Riegel    Glenn Thomas
John Calvecchio    Gordon Gladden    John McKenzie    Kris Roberts    Don Troncelliti
Leroy Campbell    Jennifer Golaszewski    Michele Mellon    Stephanie Robinson    Helen Twargoski
Mark Chester    Christine Greger    Ron Motzer    Tom Sarnak    Doris Valerio
Sally Claverie    Angela Hogan    Karen Nesspor    Urs Schwabe    Jeff Vance
Dave Cocci    Michael Hudak    Jacob Nichols    Debbie Schwartz    Mike Warring
Frank Cook    Jeanette Jelus    Georgene O’Donnell    Al Scott    Mary Way
Estela Cruz    Ann Johnson    Marcelo Opiela    Ken Shackleton    Ann Wolff
Carol Daley    Terry Johnson    Helene Ouiet    Maxine Sheman    Talan Wolstenholme
Al DeMola    Linda Kerr    Steve Pannella    Keith Sheridan    
Isabella DeSimone    Betty Koch    Cindy Patton    Margaret Sim    

Counting Our Blessings!
Your donations help us fulfill our parish mission and make improvements to our facilities. Thank you for your generosity!

The financials will not be posted this weekend due to the publishing company’s schedule transmittal of our bulletin over the holiday.

Want to save some time and money while helping St. Ann Parish in the process? Consider using Direct Deposit for your weekly Sunday donation. St. Ann’s offers a Direct Debit program whereby your total monthly (Sunday) contribution is automatically deducted from your designated account on the 15th of each month. There is no fee to use this service. Sign up forms may be found on our chapel shelves or call the Parish Office for more information.

Are you over 70 1/2 and looking for a way to increase your giving to St. Ann Parish? If so, and if you are taking required minimum distributions from your Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), there may be an opportunity for you to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRAs and potentially lower your federal adjusted gross income. To learn more about this option, please contact your personal accountant and/or financial or tax adviser.
“GIVING HOPE TO ALL” – is the theme of the 2019 Catholic Charities Appeal. This annual appeal is our main corporate effort as the Body of Christ in the five counties of the Archdiocese to serve hundreds of thousands of our neighbors in need of material and social assistance.

For more visit http://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org

The faculty, staff, and students of Holy Family School extend to our parish families best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas season! We strive to reflect Christ’s love for us in the lives we live and are grateful for the gift of a Catholic education. Be assured of a remembrance in our daily prayers now and in the new year! For more information about our academic, athletic, spiritual, and social programs call 610-933-7562 or email us at office@myholyfamilyschool.org Like us on Facebook!

2020 March for Life: The March for Life will take place on Friday, January 24, 2020. You are invited to march with our St. Charles Seminarians who will be leading the way! Prior to the March, Archbishop Chaput will be celebrating Mass at 10:00am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with the Seminarians and the Philadelphia pilgrims. Please go to our website, www.phillycatholiclife.org for more information on our meeting place and planning details. If you have any questions, please call the Office for Life and Family at 215-587-0500 or email us at cdfamily@archphila.org.

Meals for St. Mary’s Shelter
The parishioners of St. Ann’s provide dinners for the residents of St. Mary’s Franciscan Shelter on Emmett St. in Phoenixville for two scheduled weeks each year. Our next assigned week is January 27 to January 31, 2020. If you, your family, or your group would like to prepare a meal and deliver it to the Shelter, please contact Patti Phillips at 610-935-2687 or ppum73@gmail.com for more information.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!
Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program please pass it on. Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program in our area begins on the weekend of February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Another weekend will be held in April. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our website at www.helpourmarriage.org or call 215-766-3944. All inquires are strictly confidential.

Conference Day: “The Samaritan Woman and Jesus: A Way of Opening to One Another”
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Presenter: Sister Julia Keegan, OSF
Stipend: $40 (includes breakfast, lunch and Mass)
Location: IHM Conference Center, 401 S. Bryn Mawr Ave, Bryn Mawr
During this Conference Day, Sister Julia will assist us in walking through the discourse between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and listen to the heart-to-heart connection that enables them to see and understand one another in a way that frees them to disclose their real selves. Our invitation is to enter into the dialogue with them and have it transform our hearts as well.
If you would like to carpool, please contact Madelyn Howard at 484-302-5705 or stannadulted@gmail.com by Monday, January 6, 2020.

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 9:00-12:00 PM
Event: Chosen: Daughters, Sisters, Warriors Retreat
We can get caught up in the noise of our hurried, unfulfilling and hyper-sexualized culture, becoming disconnected from the truth of who God says we are: beloved and chosen, of infinite value and undeniable dignity. Come spend the day with us as we: remember our feminine genius, understand common spiritual obstacles we encounter as women, talk about our Blessed Mother’s role in protecting and strengthening us and gain tools to stand and stay in the Father’s blessing.
Conference team: Father Stephen DeLacy, De Yarrison, Jenn Lozano and Megan Murphy
Location: Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford, PA
Learn more and register: https://youaremadenew.com/chosen-conference or contact De Yarrison at 610.287.2989.

Missionary Volunteers Needed
Are you looking for a chance to do a little bit of Missionary work to help the poor and the needy? Is God calling you? Father Chuck’s Challenge is inviting you to join us in our funding campaign for homes that are to be built for the poor in Haiti and Nicaragua. We are in need of volunteers. We will have a Q & A meeting on January 13, 2020. For info please contact Kathy John at 215-646-1399

Aid for Friends - If you can assist by creating single-serving meals with leftovers for the homebound in our community, you can pick up empty trays & supplies and then drop off meals on the back porch of 602 S. Main Street on Saturdays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM and Sundays from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
For more information, please call Kate at 610-933-3814.

Annual Appeal - CYACC - Due to Christmas: No Event, Have a Merry Merry Christmas!! For more information about our group and upcoming events please check www.cyacc.org or find us in Facebook / email us at cyacc1@gmail.com

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