

# The Catholic Church of St. Ann



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Website: [www.stannparish.com](http://www.stannparish.com)

Email: [info@stannparish.com](mailto:info@stannparish.com)

Facebook: The Catholic Church of St. Ann- Raritan, NJ

## Christmas Octave Schedule

<b>Christmas Eve, Dec. 24</b>	4pm and 12 Midnight
<b>Christmas Day, Dec. 25</b>	7:30am, 10am, 12 Noon
Octave Weekdays:	
Thur., Dec. 26	9am ONLY
Fri/Mon, Dec. 27, 30	9am ONLY (NO 7pm)
Weekend, Dec. 28-29	Normal weekend schedule
Tues., Dec. 31	9am
<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>	(Holyday of Obligation)
Tues., Dec. 31	7pm, MMG Vigil
Wed, Jan. 1, 2020	9am and 7pm

## Church

The Catholic Church of St. Ann is open daily from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. for prayer and meditation.

## Daily Mass

Monday: 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 7:00 a.m.  
Friday: 8:15 a.m. (when school is in session) & 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.  
First Friday: 8:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

## Holy Day Mass

Holy Day: 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (weekdays)

## Penance/Reconciliation

Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

## Church Calendar

Can be found on our website under *Events & News - Calendar*

## Registration

Any new family or adult 18 and over, who has moved into the parish, are invited to stop by the Parish Office to complete a new parishioner form. Please notify us of any change of address.

## Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

## Donations by Electronic Giving: WeShare

The Catholic Church of St. Ann offers parishioners the opportunity to make Online church and school contributions! Log onto [www.stannparish.com](http://www.stannparish.com), scroll down, click on **Give Online with WeShare**. You will be connected to a secure site to enter your information. Thank you for your continued support!

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and Adult Confirmation

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic who was baptized but never received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation? If so, please contact the Parish Office or Deacon Rick Stevens at 908-910-0309 or email him at [rstevens@stannparish.com](mailto:rstevens@stannparish.com).



*Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019*

# Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019

## The Catholic Church of St. Ann

Under the Pastoral Care of the Priests and Brothers  
of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri

V. Rev. Peter R. Cebulka, C.O., Provost

**Rev. Thomas Odorizzi, C.O., Pastor**

todorizzi@stannparish.com



### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Roy Rabinowitz

Deacon Rob Sause

Deacon Rick Stevens

Transitional Deacon Br. John Fredy Triana Beltran, CO

### Office Staff

Mr. Miguel De Jesus, *Director of Sacred Music*

Mrs. Christine Esposito, *Social Ministry*

Mr. Lou Falconeri, *Plant Manager*

Ms. Barbara Russell, *Administrative Assistant*

### Community of Religious Teachers of St. Lucy Filippini

Sister Margaret Mary Hanlon, MPF, *School Principal/Superior*

Sister Dolores Toscano, MPF, *Pastoral Associate*

Sister Phyllis Vella, MPF, *Director of Religious Education*

## Sacramental Information

### Baptism

Sundays at 1:30 p.m. (must be scheduled with the Parish Office) Instructions for new parents take place on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Please call Mrs. Christine Esposito at the Parish Office or email her at cesposito@stannparish.com to make arrangements.

### Baptism Godparents

Must be 16 years old, registered as an adult and be confirmed in the Catholic Church. If you are married, your marriage must be recognized by the church. This is especially important if you wish to be a Godparent for Baptism. It takes six months of attending Mass to be eligible for this privilege.

### Penance/Reconciliation

We invite you to participate in the Penance & Reconciliation at the times specified in the front of this bulletin.

### Holy Eucharist

We invite you to participate in the Holy Eucharist daily at the times specified on the front of this bulletin. If you have not had the opportunity to make your Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office.

### Confirmation Sponsors

Must be 16 years old, registered as an adult and be confirmed in the Catholic Church. If you are married, your marriage must be recognized by the church. This is especially important if you wish to be a Sponsor for Confirmation. It takes six months of attending Mass to be eligible for this privilege.

### Marriage

The common policy of marriage requires that arrangements with the church be made at least one year before the date of marriage and before any social plans are made. Either the Bride or Groom must be a registered parishioner. If you would like to get more information about getting married, please contact the Parish Office.

## St. Ann Parish Religious Education

### Program (PREP)

#### Grades 1-8

Monday: 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m. ;Thursday: 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

#### Special Needs PREP

#### Grades 1-8

Monday: 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Call Sr. Phyllis Vella in the Parish Office or email her at pvella@stannparish.com to register your child.

### Ministry to the Poor

We help those who are experiencing financial difficulties with food, clothing, shelter, rent, PSE&G, and water bills. Please call Mrs. Christine Esposito at the Parish Office or email her at cesposito@stannparish.com.

### Ministry to the Sick/Homebound

Parishioners who are homebound are visited by our Deacons, Religious & Extraordinary Ministers. If you know of someone that is seriously ill or hospitalized, please contact the Parish Office.

### Ministry to those that are pregnant and/or thinking of an abortion

We are building a culture of Life through prayer and action serving our community, state and country. We pray and serve along with the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center, Please call at 908-256-8121 (24-hour hotline).

## St. Ann School

### Grades K-8

Discover how a Catholic Classical Education at St. Ann School can inspire your child to be a joyous learner, filled with wonder and awe for all of creation. Our new academic approach allows for students to be formed and immersed in virtue-truth, beauty and goodness-through their everyday curriculum.



**To learn more about the school and its new Classical education approach, call us at: (908) 725-7787**

# The Catholic Church of St. Ann, Raritan, New Jersey



*Pope Francis  
General Audience  
November 13, 2019*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Acts of the Apostles recounts that as a tireless evangelizer, after his stay in Athens, Paul continues the Gospel's journey throughout the world. The next leg of his missionary journey is Corinth, the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a commercial and cosmopolitan city thanks to its two important ports.

As we read in Chapter 18 of the Acts, Paul is welcomed by a married couple, Aquila and Priscilla (or Prisca), who was forced to move from Rome to Corinth after Emperor Claudius had ordered the expulsion of all Jews (cf. Acts 18:2). I would like to pause here. Jewish people have suffered greatly throughout history. They were exiled, persecuted ... And in the last century, we saw very great brutality perpetrated against Jewish people and we were all certain that this had ended. But scattered here and there, **today the habit of persecuting Jews is beginning to reappear. Brothers and sisters, this is neither human nor Christian. The Jews are our brothers! And they should not be persecuted.** Understood? These spouses show that they have a heart that is filled with faith in God and is generous to others, capable of making room for those who, like them, experience the condition of being a foreigner. Their sensitivity makes them altruistic in order to practice the Christian art of hospitality (cf. Rom 12:13; Heb 13:2) and open the doors of their home to welcome the Apostle Paul. They thus welcome not only the evangelizer, but also the Good News that he brings with him: the Gospel of Christ which is "the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith" (Rom 1:16). And from that moment their home is permeated by the scent of the "living" Word (Heb 4:12) that enlivens hearts.

*Pope Francis Prayer Intention for  
December 2019  
The Future of the Very Young*



That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

*From the desk of...  
Bishop James F. Checchio  
November 14, 2019*



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To continue...So, to whom do we need to go? Our year of spiritual awakening has prepared us to hear the Word of God too, to listen more attentively to Jesus. Perhaps we are being prepared for an encounter with Christ in a brother or sister who is in need, who is suffering from a loss or difficulty/tragedy in life. Perhaps our next prayer could be an encounter with a beggar, an immigrant, a person afraid or who is ill or lonely, even a stranger. Perhaps our next encounter with Christ will be with someone in our family or a friend, with whom we have had a conflict or disagreement and need to reconcile, or has fallen away from a faith filled relationship with Jesus in His Church. We are asked to be like Mary, and share the Word, the presence of Jesus in our lives. That is what discipleship is about; sharing the presence of Jesus in our lives. Perhaps our next encounter is just that we too live and witness to what we have received as faithful disciples of Jesus and His Church in a world which needs that witness greatly.

May our pilgrimage here at Guadalupe help us to trust God always, like Mary, then to share Jesus with others, as the first disciple, Our Blessed Mother did, as St. Juan Diego did, as he kick started a whole movement of evangelization in our Church. Indeed, God has a purpose and a mission for each of us. He will share it with us through Mary. We are listening Mary; we are here! As we prepare to consecrate ourselves and our diocese to Jesus through our Lady of Guadalupe, may we always follow Mary, may we too carry the love of God within us so that others will be astonished and filled with joy—and so together we ask our Blessed Mother's help for us: Hail Mary, full of grace....

## *Retrouvaille for Couples*

Stress in you Marriage? Feeling frustrated, hurt or angry at your spouse? Have you thought about separation or divorce?

Retrouvaille is a lifeline to help couples heal and renew their marriages. The program consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions.

Upcoming weekend: February 21-23, 2020.

For information and to register call Rich Colasuonno at 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno at 732-672-0748 or email [3024@retrouvaille.org](mailto:3024@retrouvaille.org)

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019

Dear St. Ann Parishioners and Friends,

Have you allowed yourself any time for stillness and silence during the past three Advent weeks?



Make use of these last days of Advent to enter into moments of prayerful quiet. It may feel uncomfortable to stop all that you are doing, to turn off the phone, radio and television, and get away from everyone to be still. It takes some effort to put aside preoccupations regarding gifts and shopping, Christmas cards, baking and cooking, making traveling plans or preparations to host guests. Those are all good things... but what is it all about? What is the reality that underpins our frenetic activities? Has Christmas become social custom and tradition whose true meaning has faded away?

In those moments of prayerful quiet and stillness, we strip away “doing” and we affirm “being.” Who we are is not what we do. We have become so accustomed to doing — working, completing tasks, getting things done — that doing nothing other than being with God in prayer seems to be a waste of time. Yet it is our being with God and reflecting on God’s being with us that helps put all that we do into perspective, giving it direction and purpose.

It is in the school of silence that we learn and understand better who Jesus is for us, and who we are in relationship with God. It is in the school of silence that we realize that God’s love and mercy for us is undeserved gift, not dependent upon our “doing”. The Son of God, the Word of the Father, was enfleshed in the womb of Mary. Jesus is given to humanity as gift for our healing and redemption. It is in prayerful silence that we remember the message of his actions, teaching and miracles, and sacrificial love. The Lord’s desire that we be one with him is heard in the silence of our hearts. It is there that we most personally and sincerely respond.

The reality of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, born in history, calls for the birth of a personal relationship with him in our time and in our hearts. May prayerful silence with our Lord bear fruit in your heart with a deep and confident joy, hope and peace.



Blessed Christmas to all our families. I am grateful for all of you. On behalf of the Raritan Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, the Sisters Filippini, our Deacons, church and school staffs, may God bless and protect all of you, and draw you ever more deeply into the mystery of His love for you. Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

### Prayer to St. Philip Neri

*O holy St. Philip Neri, patron saint of joy,  
you who trusted Scripture’s promise that the Lord is always at hand  
and that we need not have anxiety about anything,  
in your compassion heal our worries and sorrows and lift the burdens from our hearts.  
We come to you as one whose heart swells with abundant love  
for God and all creation.*

*Hear us, we pray, especially in this need  
(pause to make your request here).  
Keep us safe through your loving intercession,  
and may the joy of the Holy Spirit  
which filled your heart, St. Philip,  
transform our lives and bring us peace.  
Amen.*

# The Catholic Church of St. Ann, Raritan, New Jersey

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 23

7:00 p.m. Anna and Giovanni Falzarano by daughter  
Antoinette Falco

Giacomo Greco by Caterina and Isabella Ruffa

### Tuesday, December 24

7:00 a.m. Ralph and Mary Cusati by the family

4:00 p.m. Michele and Chester Biedrzycki by the Biedrzycki  
Family

Midnight People of the Parish

### Wednesday, December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

7:30 a.m. Joseph and Eva Giaquinto by daughter JoAnn

10:00 a.m. Natale and Greco Families by Maria Natale

12:00 p.m. Col. Frank Carlone by the Carlone Family

### Thursday, December 26

9:00 a.m. Anna Morella by Louis Troisi, Jr.

### Friday, December 27

9:00 a.m. Gregorio and Paolo Cugliari by sister Caterina  
Fusca

### Saturday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Carmela Casola by the Massa Family

4:00 p.m. JoAnne Dellaperute by Rose Mary Wills

### Sunday, December 29- Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 a.m. People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. The Lukas Family by family

12:00 p.m. Deacon John Pacifico by Enzo and Theresa  
Padovani

5:00 p.m. Antonia Scattaglia by family

## Altar Candles, Sanctuary Lamps, Altar Flowers:

*Altar Candle #1 for Greco Family*  
by Maria Natale

*Altar Candle #2 for Antonio Natale*  
by wife and children

*Tabernacle Lamp for Antonio D'Anna*  
by the D'Anna Family

*St. Joseph Lamp for the  
Calo and Pecoriello Family*  
by the Calo Family

*Blessed Mother Lamp for  
Giuseppe and Rosina Greco*  
by children and grandchildren

## Pray for Those We Have Recently Lost



**Darlene Mankowski**

## Pray for those in the Military

**May God protect the men and women serving  
in our Nation's Armed Forces.**

LtCol Michael A. De Cicco; U.S. Army  
Victor Dulay, Jr.; U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Brendan Hughes; U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Gavin John; U.S. Marine Corps  
LCpl Matthew John; U.S. Marine Corps  
CW4 Michael Lopez, Jr.  
Maj Michael Morella; U.S. Army  
Sgt Dan Neville; U.S. Marine Corps  
Zack Drecchio; U.S. Navy

Pvt Tayla Rasmusson; U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Daniel J. Salvo; U.S. Marine Corps  
Cpl Jonathan Schultes; U.S. Marine Corps  
LtCol Louis P. Simon; U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Jerome C. Sunga; U.S. Army  
Jack Vara; U.S. Marine Corps  
LCpl Daniel Viscariello; U.S. Marine Corps  
Sgt Janet Wyka; U.S. Army  
Capt Kaitlyn Zimmitti; U.S. Air Force

## This Week's Daily Bible Readings

### Sunday

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt  
1:18-24

### Monday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

### Tuesday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,  
14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

### Wednesday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17,  
22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk  
2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7;  
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6;  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### 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

## Murder Mystery Dinner at St. Ann School

Come join us for a night of entertainment! The 7th Grade class at Saint Ann School will be performing a Murder Mystery Show and Dinner. The event is a fundraiser for the school. The show will take place on Friday, January 31, 2020. Doors will open promptly at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served during the intermission. All donations and admission fees go directly to the school. We appreciate your support. Tickets will be \$10. Children 2 years old and under are free. Ticket Order Forms are available at the back of Church or at the school.



## Pray for those who are Sick in our Community

Wayne Basilone  
Anna Carra  
Katie Cassling-  
Fishman  
Bruno Cirianni  
Frank Cirianni  
Mary Contino  
Maria Anastasia  
D'Amore  
Michael D'Angelo  
Dominick DeLuca  
Ann DiBetta  
January Drevnak  
Mary Felice  
Frank Forte

Cindy Galvacky  
Gambino Family  
Maria Rosa  
Gasparro  
Gloria Guide  
Bernadette Healy  
Victor Laggini  
Gloria A. Lamaestra  
Brianna Rose  
Larson  
MaryAnn  
Mangiaracina  
Mark Marshall  
Giovanna Martini  
Austin McNamara

Lidia Natale  
Ann Navatto  
Victor Rangel  
Marie Richardson  
Deborah Scarpone  
Mary Soriano  
Cathy Stinziano  
Nathan Tarantino  
Joseph Tomaio  
Emanuel Valentin  
Ron Wyka  
Alex Zachok

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019

### Parish Events

#### Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Holy Name Society Meeting (CMR)

#### Monday, December 23

No School

No PREP

#### Tuesday, December 24

No School

Parish Office Closed

#### Wednesday, December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

No School

Parish Office Closed

#### Thursday, December 26

No School

No PREP

#### Friday, December 27

No School

#### Saturday, December 28

9:30 am Confession (C) [after 9:00 am Mass]

3:00 pm Confession (C)

3:00 pm Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (C)

#### Sunday, December 29 - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1:00 pm Santo Nino Feast Practice (SC)

[C = Church, CMR = Church Meeting Room, CL = Church Loft, PMR = Parish Meeting Room, S = School, SC = School Cafeteria, SL = School Library]

### St. Ann's Music Ministry

As we are hours away from the Feast of the Nativity, let us remind ourselves of who Jesus is and why he is coming as the choir sings the following text. "Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God Who was, and is, and is to come Sing Holy, Holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below For Christ is coming, is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more. They need no light nor lamp nor sun For Christ will be their All!"

### Bereavement Support Group

A bereavement support program of five meetings will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M at St Thomas the Apostle in Old Bridge (parish room in the Parish Hall). The meetings will continue on Tuesdays, January 21, February 11 and 25, and March 10. The program is offered as a support for all persons who have recently lost a loved one and are struggling with the mourning process. Registration is required. No walk-ins. For more information, please call Deacon Pat at 732-251-4000 ext. 8218

### Weekly Offering... December 15, 2019

	Total: \$ 10,556.50	
Church Collection:		\$ 8,098.00
Online Offering:		\$ 1,933.50
Other		\$ 208.00
Immaculate Conception		\$ 317.00

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

### Year-End Contributions

In accordance with IRS tax law, there may be a tax benefit for making deductible contributions to charitable, tax exempt 501.c.3 organizations. To be included in your 2019 tax return, you must make your contribution before the end of December. Consider making an extra year-end donation to St. Ann parish. Thank you for your support and generosity.

### PREP (CCD)

#### Sacrament of Confirmation:

##### Sunday, February 9, 2020:

12:00 pm Mass for parents and candidates **and**

1:00 pm Candidates-Only Session (School Cafeteria)

#### Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Sunday, February 9, 2020: 10:00 am Mass for parents/guardians and their children

Questions: Contact Sr. Phyllis at the Parish Office  
(908) 725-1008, press 1 then 5

### Stewardship Reflection

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

### Catholic Charities Connection Program

Mentors are needed to be a positive adult role model for children who have suffered loss or who have special needs. It only takes a minimum of three hours per week and you can make a difference in a child's life. Interested in learning more? Contact: Jeanette Cullen (732) 738-1323 or jcullen@ccdom.org for more information.

### Divine Mercy Chaplet

Everyone is welcome to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together on **Saturdays at 3pm in the church**. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a beautiful prayer to help foster devotion to our Lord's Divine Mercy! With this devotion, let us especially remember the spiritual needs of the sick and the dying.