



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF ST. ANN

45 Anderson Street; Raritan, NJ 08869

TELEPHONE: 908-725-1008 • FAX: 908-707-1915

WEBSITE: www.stannparish.com

EMAIL: info@stannparish.com

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

SCHOOL: 29 Second Avenue; Raritan, NJ 08869

TELEPHONE: 908-725-7787 • FAX: 908-541-9335

FACEBOOK: St. Ann School

CONVENT: 29 Second Avenue; Raritan, NJ 08869

TELEPHONE: 908-725-2256

Parish Mission Statement

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we, the Catholic Church of St. Ann, embrace all as family and continue Christ's mission by exemplifying the love of God and neighbor as stewards of God's gifts to us.

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, 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.

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.

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

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2019

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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 Ms. Barbara Russell, Administrative Assistant

Office Staff

Mr. Miguel De Jesus, Director of Sacred Music

Mrs. Christine Esposito, Social Ministry

Mr. Lou Falconeri, Plant Manager

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.

Ministry Information

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).

Parish Ministries

Santo Nino Prayer Group Simbang Gabi

The Santo Nino group is joining the Diocese in celebrating the Advent Season by holding a Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) at St. Ann on December 21, 2019 (Saturday) at 7:00pm. This is a Filipino tradition by doing Novena before the Christmas Day. All the churches at the Diocese will be celebrating a night of the nine nights during this novena.

St. Ann's Gift Giving Tree Thank You

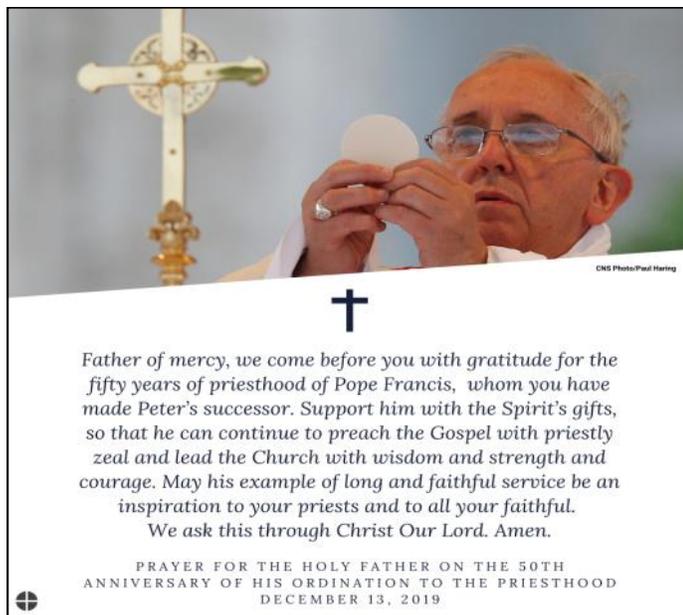
Thank you for the generous gifts for our annual gift giving tree. Many families and agencies have benefited from your kindness. God bless. Merry Christmas.



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



Pope Francis celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Friday, December 13, 2019. Join in prayer for him in honor of this milestone anniversary and with gratitude for his priestly ministry.



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...Brothers and sisters, we too need such trust in the Lord, and our visit here today reminds us that our Mother Mary is the one who can help us to trust. We ask Mary to surround all of us with her maternal love and that she provide us with the graces we need to persevere and emulate her, who trusted in joyful moments like in today's Gospel, but also in moments of darkness, confusion and evil, like when she held the body of her lifeless Son at the foot of the cross. Yes, Mary is a model of trust in God for all of us.

However, Mary is not just a model of trust for us, she is also a model of discipleship, as she is the first missionary – she hears from the Angel that Elizabeth, her cousin is pregnant with John the Baptist and she immediately goes to Elizabeth to share the good news of the Annunciation. She takes the Word within her and speaks that Word to Elizabeth. That Word brings life deep in Elizabeth's person and being and John leaps in her womb.

That's what we're supposed to do as disciples as well my brothers and sisters in Christ – be missionaries who trust in God and receive the Word and then speak the Word in such a way that it gives life, meaning and hope to others. We are to be people of prayer, who speak and listen to God often. Then, we are supposed to bring the presence of Christ to the world.

St. Juan Diego gives us good example of this as well. It was St. Juan Diego whom the Blessed Mother of Guadalupe asked to build a church so in it she could show her love, compassion, aid, and defense to all her children, especially the least among them. After seeing apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe in 1531, Juan Diego told the local Bishop of Mary's visitations and her desire to have a church built where she appeared to him. In response to the bishop's request that he ask Our Lady for a sign, Juan Diego went back to our Lady in prayer and implored the Virgin Mary to provide something to convince the bishop of her wishes. The Virgin instructed him to gather flowers from the hillside, and even though roses in December are rare, he was able to fill his cloak with them. When Juan Diego returned to the bishop and opened his cloak, the fresh roses fell to the ground and miraculously revealed an imprint of Our Lady's image on his "tilma."

Yes, Mary is pronounced blessed in the Gospels because she believed and acted on the Angel's message – she didn't go home and discuss it with her family or just write about it in her journal – she acted on it. She trusted. She went to Elizabeth with it. Juan Diego was declared blessed by the Church, for he too took what he received from our Lord without fear or hesitation, and in faith presented it to the Bishop

CONSECRATION THROUGH OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was Thursday, December 12. That evening the Diocese had a large celebration at St. Francis Cathedral, with representation from every parish and Catholic school. This weekend all parishes in the Diocese of Metuchen are participating in a prayer of consecration at all Masses. This concludes the Awakening Year, but not our continued need to allow Mary to draw us closer to her Son.

WHAT is a Consecration? Consecration is a word that is not often heard outside religious contexts, and even then, it may not be readily understood. **To be consecrated means to be set apart for a holy or transformative purpose.** Biblically speaking, consecrations were a means to respond to God's invitation to be "His people." Although you may never have thought about it or realized it, in the sacrament of baptism, you, too, were consecrated, set apart for God. You became a child of God called to be his disciple, his witness in the world. Moreover, you have been empowered by the Holy Spirit with supernatural gifts for the mission of evangelization. Have you used those gifts to bring others to Jesus?

Unfortunately, the reality is that many of us have not always lived up to the responsibilities and promises of our Baptismal consecration, clergy and laity alike. Sadly, moreover, many baptized Catholics have never fully known or felt a living relationship with God who made them and claims them as his very own. Because of so many forces in the world, an increasing number of Catholics have fallen away from the life of the Church: not living in an intimate, personal and vibrant relationship with Jesus.

So, today, perhaps more than ever before, we need to personally and communally renew our Catholic faith. We need to renew our baptismal consecration, determined to be disciples who will 'light a fire in the heart of our world.'

WHY a Marian Consecration? A Marian consecration is basically a means of entrusting oneself to the Mother of God in the following of Her Son, Jesus. In this particular case, we want to consciously entrust our vocation of discipleship and our mission of evangelization to her.

Mary was the first disciple of Jesus, and she unhesitatingly responded 'Yes', to the will of God in her life. She was completely receptive to God and her openness to 'let' His will be done in her life according to His plan is what we want to imitate. We want her to lead us in 'doing whatever he tells us to do' so that an authentic renewal of our hearts and our diocese can commence.

May each one of us respond as wholeheartedly as she did by saying, 'Let it be done to me according to your word, Lord.'

WHY Our Lady of Guadalupe? Nearly five hundred years ago the state of affairs in what is now known as Mexico City was grave. There was a clash of cultures unfolding and both sides seemed hopelessly lost in violent destruction. The darkness of sin had become a stronghold that not even the zeal of the Spanish missionaries could break. Then a desperate plea was uttered on the part of the bishop for some form of supernatural intervention and it was heard! The response from on High changed Mexico forever - God sent a mediator, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego (an Indian

convert to Catholicism), as a woman resembling the people of the Mexican community. Her clothing contained the Gospel message written in Aztec codex. Those who saw the miraculous image on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak) were so profoundly impacted, that nine million converted to Christianity within eight years - practically the entire population of Mexico at the time! Through the collaboration of Juan Diego she unleashed a grass roots wave of evangelization, the likes of which have never been seen before or since.



Today, our world is in need Our Lady of Guadalupe's intervention once again. Times are dark and the faith of so many has been weakened or lost, putting many souls in jeopardy. Who can help us get back on track and spread the Gospel message anew if not the one who came at the inception of Christianity in the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe? She is The Patroness of the Americas, as well as The Star of the New Evangelization.

Need for Renewal. Bishop Checchio's intention for this consecration is to ask for the graces needed for a New Evangelization and he is placing it under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He wants it to stir up **an increased holiness of life, a renewed commitment to living the Gospel message to the full, and the enthusiastic willingness, among the faithful, to share that message with others.**

There will be another viewing of the documentary video, **Guadalupe: Miracle and Mystery** on this Sunday, December 15 in the Church Meeting Room after the 12 noon Mass. The video is about one hour long and will help you to better understand the significance and relevance of this great event.

CHRISTMAS OCTAVE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24	4pm and 12 Midnight (5pm and 10pm at HT)
Christmas Day, Dec. 25	7:30am, 10am, 12 Noon (8:30am, 10:30am at HT)
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 and 7pm MMG Vigil (5pm at Holy Trinity)
Mary, Mother of God, Holyday of Obligation	
Wed, Jan. 1, 2020	9am (11am at HT), 7pm

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

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 16

7:00 p.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Mastice and Petrino Families by Patrick and Kathryn Mastice

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 a.m. Bertie and Jerry Carovillano by Patty Bliss and family

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Joseph and Rose Sansone by children and family

Thursday, December 19

7:00 a.m. Kathleen Black by St. Ann's Parish Staff

Friday, December 20

8:15 a.m. Maria Barieri by Pat Barbieri

7:00 p.m. Richard Roberts by wife and family
Julie Fisher by Randy Fisher

Saturday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Giacomo Greco by wife Vincenza Greco

4:00 p.m. Anna Sturino, Giuseppe DeBartolo and Domenico Natale by sister Emilia

Sunday, December 22 - Third Sunday in Advent

7:30 a.m. People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

12:00 p.m. Mary Grasso by her family

5:00 p.m. John and Anna Falzarano by Lena and Joe Iannetta

Altar Candles, Sanctuary Lamps, Altar Flowers:

Tabernacle Lamp for Delmont Light
by Annmarie Simeone and Pat Collins

Blessed Mother Lamp for Santo and Mary Carnevale
by the children

Thanksgiving Basket Project Thank You

To All Bakers, Drivers & Volunteers Who Helped with the Annual Thanksgiving Basket Project. We strongly appreciated your support and assistance during this Thanksgiving event. Without you, we would not be able to do it. **Words cannot express how much we appreciate your kindness and generosity.** Your help is the sweetest gift ever. God Bless! Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the Earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Religious Give Thanks

"Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

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 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a, Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Friday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

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

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2019

Parish Events

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am-11:00 am K of C Parish Breakfast with Santa (SC)
12:30 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Video, *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message* after the 12:00 pm Mass (CMR)
1:00 pm Santo Nino Feast Practice (SC)

Monday, December 16

6:15 pm PREP (S) (SC)
7:30 pm Pro-Life Rosary after 7:00 pm Mass (C)

Tuesday, December 17

Wednesday, December 18

7:30 pm The Advent Word (CMR)

Thursday, December 19

6:15 pm PREP (S) (SC)
6:00 pm Children's Choir (CL)
6:45 pm Bell Choir Practice (CL)
7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice (CL)

Friday, December 20

12:30 pm School Dismissal (S)

Saturday, December 21

9:30 am Confession (C) [after 9:00 am Mass]
3:00 pm Confession (C)
3:00 pm Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (C)
7:00 pm Simbang Gabi (Night Mass)

Sunday, December 22

11:00 am Holy Name Society Meeting (CMR)

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

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 Hal). 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

St. Ann's Music Ministry

Rejoice! The choir proclaims the following great English hymn this weekend. Let us prepare our hearts for our great King!

Lo! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousands, thousands saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him Robed in dreadful majesty; Those who set at nought and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree, Deeply wailing Shall the true Messiah see. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory: Claim the kingdom for thine own: O come quickly! Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Weekly Offering... December 8, 2019

	Total: \$ 13,873.50	
Church Collection:		\$ 9,645.00
Retirement Fund for Religious		\$ 2,444.00
Online Offering:		\$ 1,988.50
Other		\$ 2,240.00

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.

NJ Catholic Conference Action Alert

In May, the New Jersey Legislature introduced a package of bills that would create a New Jersey version of the federal Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act of 2010.

Included in those bills is S3804/A5508, legislation that would eliminate the long-standing exemption in the current state law (P.L. 2005 c.251) that protects religious employers from having to provide health insurance coverage for family planning medications, devices, and procedures, including abortion inducing drugs and sterilizations.

If signed into law, S3804/A5508 would impact the ability of Catholic Dioceses, Catholic schools, and Catholic Charities Agencies to offer employees comprehensive health benefits without violating fundamental Catholic principles.

The NJ Senate will vote on these bills on Monday, December 16. Please contact your State Senator asking that they protect religious freedom. Send your message to:

<https://www.votervoicenet/BroadcastLinks/Lx9Nm4npAuiQxl aux g>

Give the Gift of Faith

Remember our Parish in Your Will

More and more Catholics are responding to the idea of giving a gift that perpetuates our Catholic faith. Please consider remembering St. Ann parish in your will. By doing so, you establish a legacy of love for others by enabling the Church to continue the expansion of our Catholic faith through its ministries. For more information on naming our parish in your will, contact:

Diocese of Metuchen
Office of Stewardship & Development
by phone at 732-562-2432 or
by emailing development@diometuchen.org.

Also, see link, <http://diometuchen.plannedgiving.org/>