



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

860-673-9858

Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor

www.stannavon.org

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Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

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CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

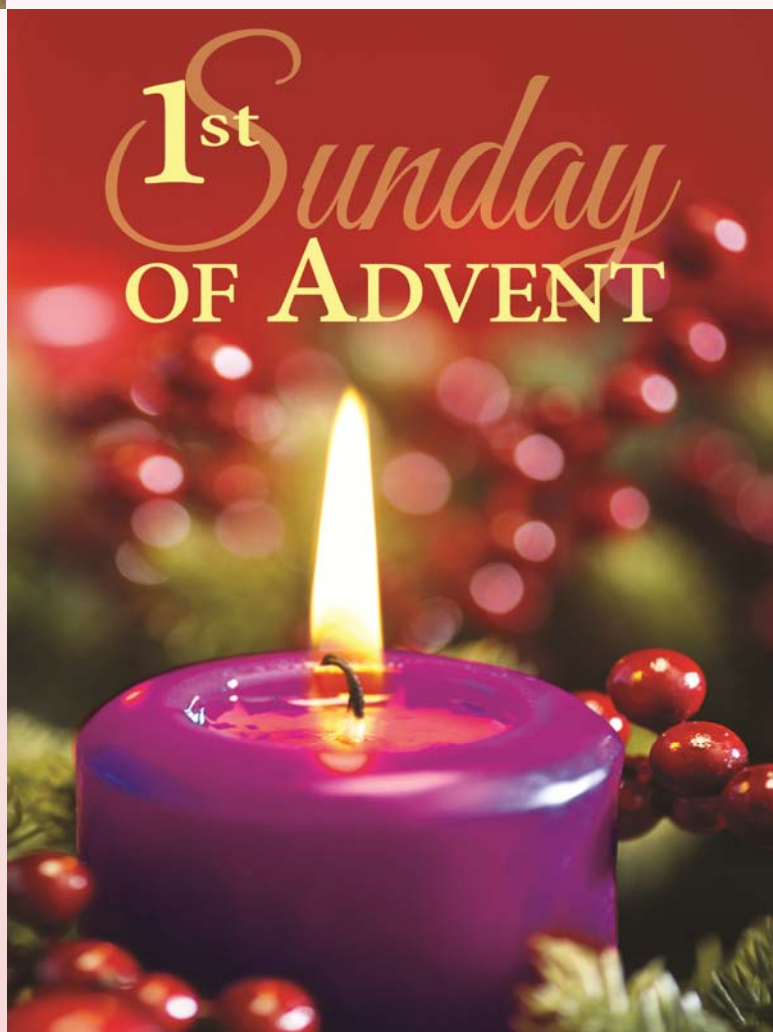
Call the Parish Office

MARRIAGES

Please set the date with the priest or deacon at least six months prior to the wedding. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass or on Sundays.

BULLETIN DEADLINE & INSERTS

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 2pm on the Monday prior to the weekend you would like it published. Also, please contact the office to obtain permission to insert fliers into the weekly bulletin.



1st Sunday OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday:

9:00 am

Sunday Vigil (Saturday):

4:00 pm

Sunday:

7:30, 9:30 and 11:00am

First Friday:

9:00 am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: after 4pm Mass

First Friday: Before 9:00 AM Mass

Other times by appointment

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Mondays 9:30-10:30am

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

Chaplet: following daily Mass

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12 Noon



**1st Sunday
of Advent**

MONDAY, December 3

9:00 **Marion Zalenski**, requested by
the ZuWallack Family

TUESDAY, December 4

9:00 **Special Intentions**

WEDNESDAY, December 5

9:00 **Dr. Theodore deGroot**, requested by
his wife and family

THURSDAY, December 6

9:00 **Special Intentions**

FRIDAY, December 7

9:00 **Tom Madden**, requested by
Mike and Rosemary Madden

SATURDAY, December 8

9:00 *Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate
Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation*
4:00 **Robert J. Papandria**, requested by
the Papandria Family

SUNDAY, December 9

7:30 **Oscar Maillet**, requested by his children
9:30 **Teresa Izzo**, requested by Joan & Mike Gould
11:00 **Derek Stockwell**, requested by the family



*Live This
Advent with
Peace and
Purpose!*

Our Advent Reflection Series began the week of November 25.

Form a small group at home with friends, or join us at church in Room 3 on Sundays at 10:30am or Mondays at 7:15pm, or Thursdays at 9:30am.

All materials are provided!

To register, please contact: 860-673-9858, x228 ann.distefano@stannavon.com



If you are a resident in this area, we hope that you will continue to grace us with your presence and register with our office manager. You may call 860-673-9858 or stop by the parish office to register. If you are a visitor, we thank you for participating in worshipping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S

MONDAY, December 3

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church
MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church.

Enter through door on left side of church. All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

Advent Series: 7:15pm in Rm. 3

Young Adult Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30pm (Activity Rm)

TUESDAY, December 4

RCIA (morning group): 9:30am in Room 3

RCIA (evening group): 7pm in Room 3

WEDNESDAY, December 5

Prophets Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 2/3

Acts Bible Study: 6:30pm in Room 3

THURSDAY, December 6

Advent Series: 9:30am in Room 3

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church

Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft

Youth Choir: 4:15pm in the Choir Loft

Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

FRIDAY, December 7

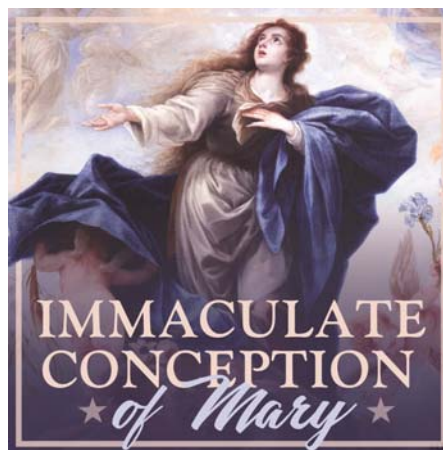
Acts Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3 (check w/leader if meeting today)

SATURDAY, December 8

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, December 9

Advent Series: 10:30am in Room 3



**Saturday,
December 8th
Mass at 9:00am**

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, falls on a Saturday this year. The Mass for the Holy Day will be at 9am on Saturday, December 8th.

This Mass will not fulfill your Sunday obligation.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Visit www.stannavon.org for full details. To register, contact Ann: ann.distefano@stannavon.com; 860-673-9858, x228

Grow in Faith with Friends

Form a Small Group with your friends/neighbors to explore your faith and deepen your friendships, at your pace and from the comfort of home. Materials and support are waiting for you!

Encounter God in the Bible

"Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures"

helps you make personal connections to the Sunday readings. *Lectio Divina* prayer included. Drop in, all materials provided.

- Sundays, 10:30am, Room 3 with Chip Janiszewski
- Mondays, 7:15pm, Room 3 with Jim Serruta

Parenting with Purpose

"The video presenters are so relatable." *"These are great tips not just to help me raise my kids, but to help me be a better person!"* Come see what your peers are talking about!

Join us for our engaging video series on parenting on CCD Sundays at Avon Middle School, Room 228.

* 9am – "Sharing Faith" For K-4th Grade parents

Childcare for babies-preK is available at this session - sign up by Thurs prior with babysitters Lisa, lrg1010@comcast.net AND Paula, uconnloves@att.net

* 5:45pm – "Families of Character" for 5th-8th Grade parents

Young Adult Group

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of the month at 7:30pm in the Activity Room (beneath the left wing of the church). Unwind, connect and explore faith with other men, women and couples in their 20's and 30's.

Contact: Kylie Brasel, (860) 951-6211, kylie.brasel13@gmail.com.

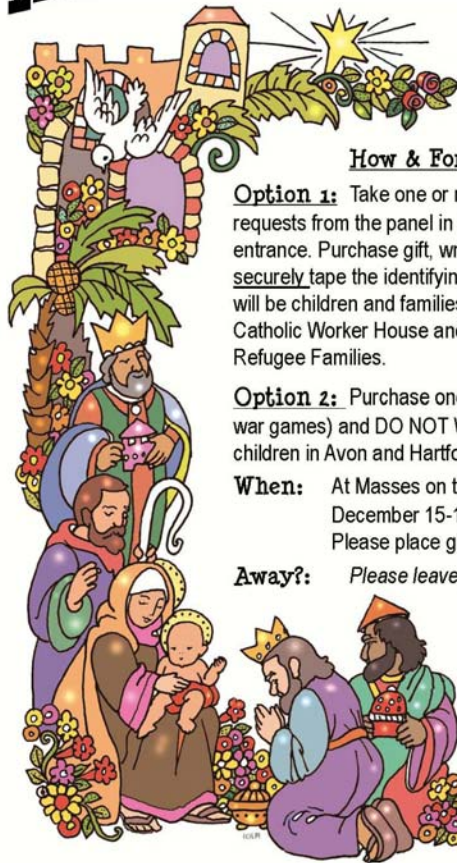
Find us on Facebook: St. Ann's Young Adult Group

Please Help Keep Our Church Looking Nice!
Replace Hymnals etc. as Shown Below:



Annual Toy/Gift Collection

Weekend of
December 15/16



How & For Whom:

Option 1: Take one or more paper Christmas gift requests from the panel in the Gathering Space or side entrance. Purchase gift, wrap in Christmas paper and **securely** tape the identifying tag to the gift. Recipients will be children and families at Family Life Education, Catholic Worker House and Catholic Charities Refugee Families.

Option 2: Purchase one or more gifts (please, no war games) and **DO NOT WRAP**. Recipients will be children in Avon and Hartford.

When: At Masses on the weekend of December 15-16, 2018
Please place gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall

Away?: Please leave gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall.

God Bless You
For Your
Generosity

Sponsored by the
Social Justice
Committee

The Men of the Church of Saint Ann are Invited to the

Annual Men's Retreat

January 18 - 20, 2019

At Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
West Hartford

Join Us for a focus on

**"No Ordinary Path ...
Holiness in Everyday Life"**

For more information go to the
Holy Family Retreat Center website:
<https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>
Click on Retreats, then Themed Retreats

Call or Email your St. Ann Representatives:

Paul Watson 860-922-0812
(Pgwatson33@gmail.com)

Bob Yurch 860-675-1366 (byurch@fiainc.com)

WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

November 25, 2018: \$7,019.70
Online Giving/Pmts (week ending 11/28/18): \$2,666
Next weekend's 2nd collection:
Retired Religious Fund

Church of St. Ann



2018 ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many to our 2018 Annual Parish Collection. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated! Thank you.

You can pick up a pledge form in the Gathering Space, Parish Office or print one out from our website:
www.stannavon.org



HEARTS & SOULS

Ministering to body, mind and spirit, the Health Ministry offers blood pressure screening, health counseling and referrals to our community of faith. Office hours are generally the 2nd Sunday of each month from 8:15-11am in the Sacristy (2nd door on the left as you enter the vestibule of the church). No appointment necessary.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come be a part of our ministry!

Upcoming Meeting: Monday, Dec. 3rd
at 7-8:30pm in Room 2



All are welcome...including brand new knitters!
For more information call
Tina: 860-674-1541



Divine Mercy Holy Hour
This Sunday, Dec. 2nd
2:30 - 3:30pm in the church

Jesus told St. Faustina, "I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy. Please join us for this powerful devotion."

How We Can Help the Homeless During the Holidays...

Please start looking for new warm socks, gloves, hats, cough drops, tissues, travel size toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and chapsticks that we can use to put together gift bags for the people who will spend Christmas at ImmaCare shelter. We are also hoping to help supply a shelter/apartment that assists women who are experiencing homelessness or have recently moved into an apartment. Most of the items needed are the same. Any sweatshirts - for men or women- are also needed and can be gently used as they will not be Christmas presents. Just leave any items in the church kitchen and please mark for ImmaCare.

Thanks to all of you not only cook or donate to the shelter throughout the year, but also to those who pray for these people to whom winter is so cruel. May your families enjoy a beautiful Christmas season, surrounded by love and joy.



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

December 8/9 & December 15/16

Poinsettia sale time is here again! Please help us decorate our beautiful church for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Plants are \$10 each and will be used to decorate the church. They will be sold in the Gathering Space after Masses the weekends of: Dec.8/9 & 15/16.

WE HAVE OPLATEK

We will also be selling Oplatek, Polish Christmas wafers, during the plant sale.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Waiting is not always so easy. If you lack patience, like me, you probably want whatever is going to happen to just happen already. I remember waiting on the births of my children. There was the time I sat with my dying father in the hospital. One year, we waited to see if our oldest child got into the college of his choice, or any college at all, which was nerve-wracking.

So, to make the time pass more easily, and because it is prudent and wise, we make preparations. We put together nurseries, go over last will and testaments, and look through endless college mailings. Then, when the event finally happens or our fate is unveiled, the preparation ends. Either you have prepared well or you didn't.

Unlike events in our lives that only happen once, we have been through Advent many times before. Even though this is the case, when Christmas arrives many of us will think we missed it again, and next year will be the year we really get into Advent. Of course, there is no promise of next year. What if you knew this was your last Advent ever?

I once read a book about how to live your life as if you only had one year to live. The author said that doing this provides incentive for a real commitment to living life to its fullest. You notice things for the first time. You make plans that you always put off. You tell people what you always wanted to say.

I hope all who read this have many wonderful years ahead of them. However, let's approach this Advent like it is our last. I bet Christmas will seem that much sweeter. And who knows, we may find a new and improved way to live all year long.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before.

- Jan Richardson

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

"In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. (Jer 33:15)

Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you. (1 Thes 3:12)

Gospel:

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk 21:36)

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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 2 2018

- Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/
1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/
Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/
Lk 3:1-6

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Tribulation. Wildfires. Tsunamis. Moral corruption. Disease. War. We tend to associate these things with the end times, and perhaps for good reason! In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world." Not exactly putting us in the Christmas spirit, is it? During Advent, we anticipate a celebration of Christ's first coming. There is a quiet stillness about our waiting, or at least we try to encourage that in ourselves. Perhaps we have an Advent devotional or we take time to pray together as a family around the Advent wreath.

But Jesus did not come only once into history. During Advent, we remember that he will come again. You may remember the rapture craze in the early 2000s, when a series of books and movies envisioned a future where Jesus was coming soon and all the true believers had been whisked away. Everyone else had one more chance to repent before things really went to hell...literally, in this case!

But is that what Jesus is talking about here? The truth is, we don't know what Jesus' Second Coming will be like. The actual return of Christ - though sudden and perhaps frightening to some - should not frighten us. Despite all the stories we may have heard about the apocalypse, the advice of Jesus is not to hang our heads or cower in fear. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." In a certain sense, we are already living in the end times. We already encounter great tribulation. We all find it easy to get distracted or discouraged in the grind of daily life. Today's Gospel reminds us that vigilance for God's presence is needed now.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

As we begin our Advent journey in preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth and in anticipation of his coming again in glory, we are reminded of our need to be vigilant and prepared. This short season of Advent can be a mini-retreat for us who find ourselves living in a world that is often counterproductive to developing mature, focused, and meaningful relationships with God. Being a Christian and standing firm in our faith requires a strength that can only come from prayer. These four short preparatory weeks can help us look back to what God has done in history, to what God continues to do in our lives today, and to what God promises for the future. May we use this Advent time wisely, calling us to greater holiness.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Coming to the Church of Saint Ann The Weekend of December 15/16.

Representatives from Catholic Bethlehem Christian Families will be with us on the weekend of Dec 15 & 16, 2018, to ask for your help and blessing for the native people of the Holy Land in Bethlehem. These families, sixty years ago, made up 18% of the population. Due to recent events in the Middle East, it has caused these families to face devastating economical strain, and caused the population to decrease to less than 2% in the Holy Land. These families have relied on the income from their religious hand carved olive wood artifacts to tourist. So we have come to the USA to try to help support these families by bringing their artifacts here to sell in the USA. All the proceed from sales will be send back to the families of the Holy Land so that they may be able to keep their homes and provide their families. The last few years were very tough for the Christian families, and this is the only source of income for them.

PLEASE BROWSE THEIR ITEMS AND HAVE SOMETHING FROM THE Holy Land.

AVON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PRESENTS

JOYS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

AT THE HISTORIC AVON MEETING HOUSE

Feast on four courses of traditional holiday fare while enjoying the joys of Christmas song and traditions.

Proceeds to benefit the restoration of Avon's Historical Meeting House on its 200th anniversary

December 14, 15 & 16

Fri 6:00 pm
Sat 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm
Sun 2:00 pm

\$40 per person
(includes meal, glass of wine & entertainment)

6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
Catering by Bees Knees of Avon CT

Questions? Call 860-678-0488
Purchase reservations at
www.avon-church.org

DAILY

ADVENT CHALLENGE

Reflect on how you need Jesus in all aspects of your life. How will you prepare yourself this Advent for Him to meet your needs more fully?

Gather Together

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry in collaboration with The Underground CT is offering "Gather Together," a Connecticut human trafficking awareness event. It will be held Saturday, Jan. 12 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow St., in Manchester. Expert speakers will discuss the reality of trafficking in Connecticut, the work being done and how churches can help. To register, email theundergroundct@gmail.com. For more information, contact Lynn Campbell at 860-242-5573.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Let us live and love in our marriage as we await the coming of Jesus. Make time for your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 1-3, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT and Jul 12-14, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Pat & Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-315-2127 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.