



# Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road \* Avon, Connecticut \* 06001

860-673-9858

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

[www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org)

## WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

Rev. Joseph P. Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

## DEACONS

Jeffrey Sutherland: [deaconjeff@stannavon.com](mailto:deaconjeff@stannavon.com)

Tim Healy: [deacontim@stannavon.com](mailto:deacontim@stannavon.com)

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Russell Koch: [russ.koch@stannavon.com](mailto:russ.koch@stannavon.com)

## COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR (K - 8)

Valerie St. Jean: ext. 223 [valerie.stjean@stannavon.com](mailto:valerie.stjean@stannavon.com)

## CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

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[rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com](mailto:rosemary.neamtz@stannavon.com)

## REGISTRAR & CONFIRMATION ASSISTANT

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## DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

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## RCIA DIRECTOR & LITURGY COORDINATOR

Maureen Fiedler: 860-995-4026

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Stockton: ext. 230

## OFFICE MANAGER

Kris Martino: ext. 221 [kris.martino@stannavon.com](mailto:kris.martino@stannavon.com)

## CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Gould: ext. 225

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## BAPTISMS (Registered Parishioners):

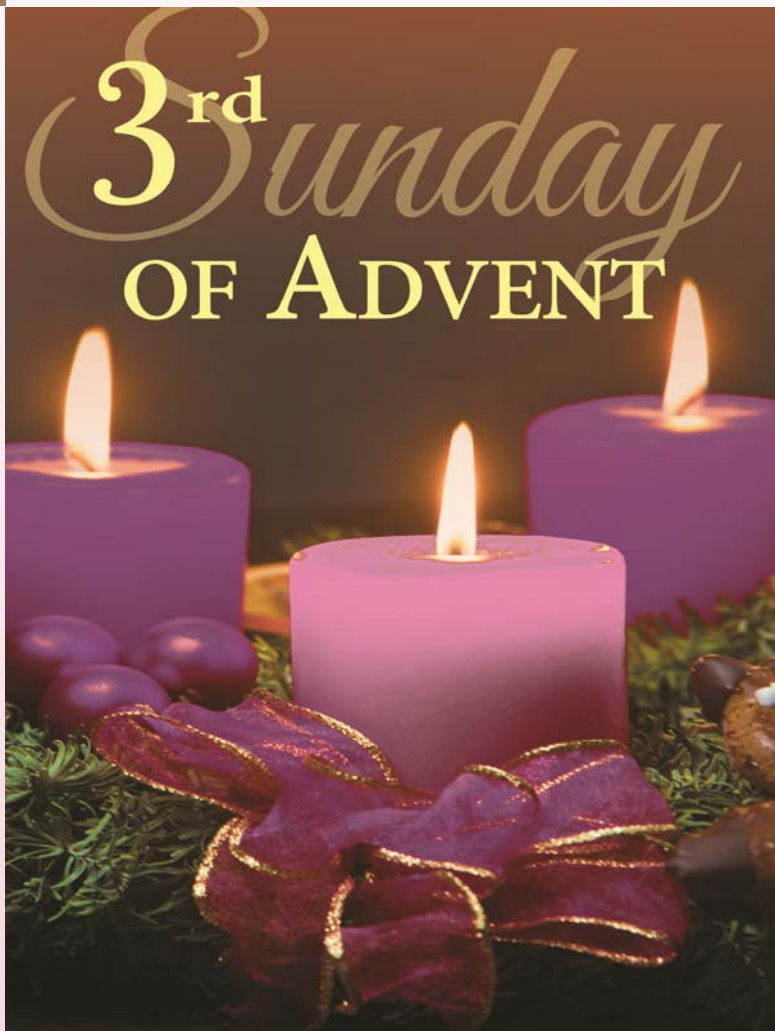
Call the Parish Office

## 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.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**3rd Sunday  
of Advent**

**MONDAY, December 17**

9:00 **Bill Barrante**, requested by  
*Delores and Moe Poirier*

**TUESDAY, December 18**

9:00 **Frank and Angie Scalzo**, requested by  
*Andrea and Dante Pizzuti*

**WEDNESDAY, December 19**

9:00 **Frank Scalzo, Jr.**, requested by  
*Andrea and Dante Pizzuti*

**THURSDAY, December 20**

9:00 **Thomas Penzone**, requested by  
*Rosanne and Mark Harutunian*

**FRIDAY, December 21**

9:00 **Berthe Poirier**, requested by  
*Delores and Moe Poirier*

**SATURDAY, December 22**

4:00 **Frederic Beloin**, requested by  
*Brian and Ann Beloin*

**SUNDAY, December 23**

7:30 **Claire Scapellati**, requested by  
*the Scapellati Family*

9:30 **Camille and Peter Angelina and  
Michael Nay**, requested by the family

11:00 **John O'Neill**, requested by the family



*Advent Reconciliation*

*Monday, December 17th*

Confirmation Students: 6pm  
Parish: 7pm

Give yourself the gift of forgiveness and peace as you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas.



*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 worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S**

**MONDAY, December 17**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 9:30-10:30am in the church  
**MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group:** no mtg-will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>

**Advent Series:** 7:15pm in Rm. 3

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

**TUESDAY, December 18**

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

**St. Ann Playgroup:** 10am in the Activity Room

**RCIA (evening group):** 7pm in Room 3

**WEDNESDAY, December 19**

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

**Acts Bible Study:** 6:30pm in Room 3

**Knights of Columbus:** 7pm in Room 2

**THURSDAY, December 20**

**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 21**

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

**SATURDAY, December 22**

**Men's Breakfast Group:** 8am in Room 3

**SUNDAY, December 23**



**YOUTH MINISTRY  
POINSETTIA SALE**

*This is Last Weekend! 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 this weekend.

**WE HAVE OPLATEK**

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



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Visit [www.stannavon.org](http://www.stannavon.org) for full details. To register, contact Ann: [ann.distefano@stannavon.com](mailto: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!

### 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-4<sup>th</sup> Grade parents

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

\* 5:45pm – "Families of Character" for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

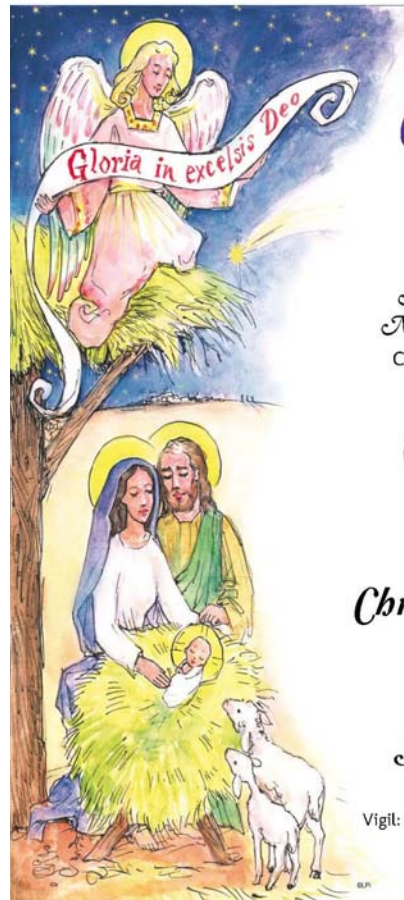
Contact: Kylie Brasel, (860) 951-6211, [kylie.brasel13@gmail.com](mailto:kylie.brasel13@gmail.com).

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

## 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.



# 2018 Christmas Schedule

*Advent Reconciliation:*  
**Monday, December 17th**

Confirmation Students: 6pm  
Parish: 7pm

## Christmas Eve

3:00 pm  
6:00 pm  
9:00 pm

## Christmas Morning

8:00 am  
10:00 am

*Solemnity of Mary*  
*Holy Day of Obligation*

Vigil: 4:00pm on Monday, December 31st  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019  
8:00 am  
10:00 am

## Gifts for those in Convalescent Homes

*Please remember those in Convalescent Homes for the holiday with:*

**Ladies/Gentlemen:** Small blankets, combs, nail clippers, picture frames, sweat pants & tops, eyeglass holders, sweaters (prefer button front style), writing paper, envelopes & stamps, large faced watches & clocks, slippers, socks, bathrobes, PJs, hats, bird feeders that attach to windows, large-face playing cards, wall decorations, wicker baskets for odds and ends, and artificial flower/plant arrangements

**Ladies:** Costume jewelry, pins, necklaces earrings, hair picks, perfume, powder, cosmetic bags, emery boards, nail polish, nightgowns, knee-highs, bed jackets & easy to open pocketbooks

**Gentlemen:** Flannel shirts, after-shave lotion.

Please mark each package for size, ladies or men and place in box in the Gathering Space as soon as possible prior to Christmas!

Questions? Call Ida Maillet: 860-673-4861



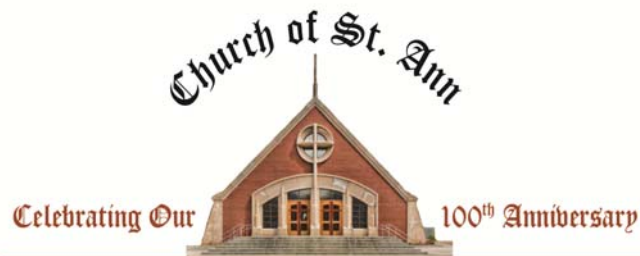
## Annual Toy /Gift Collection Drop Off is This Weekend: December 15-16



*God Bless You For Your Generosity*  
*Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee*

**WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME**

**December 9, 2018: \$7,289.50**  
 Online Giving/Pmts (week ending 12/11/18): \$5,188.00  
 Next weekend's 2<sup>nd</sup> collection: none



**2018 ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION**

We'd like to thank all of those who have already made a donation to our 2018 Parish Annual Appeal. Unfortunately we are still behind our totals from last year so we ask that you please prayerfully consider making a donation to our Parish. 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](http://www.stannavon.org)*

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 in W. Htfd.

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](mailto:Pgwatson33@gmail.com))  
 Bob Yurch 860-675-1366 ([byurch@fjainc.com](mailto:byurch@fjainc.com))

**December Bulletin Announcement Deadlines**

*Due to the holidays and our bulletin publisher's early upload dates, please note the following bulletin announcement deadlines. Thanks!*

Sunday Bulletin:	Announcement Deadline:
December 23	Thursday, December 13th
December 30	Tuesday, December 18th
January 6, 2019	Friday, December 21st

Save the Date  
**Church of St. Ann Used Book Sale**

January 11, 12, & 13, 2019



**Donation Dates:**

Wednesday, January 9th: 9:30am—6pm  
 Thursday, January 10th: 9:30am - 6pm  
 Friday, January 11th: 9:30am - 11am

**Please donate books:** *best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, religious, classics, biographies, memoirs, self-help books, vintage books, cookbooks, children's books, young readers, books-on-CD, etc., and vinyl records.*

**January 2019 Book Sale Dates:**

Friday, January 11th: 5pm - 7:30pm (\$5 adult admission)  
 Saturday, January 12th: 9am - 6pm (no admission fee)  
 Sunday, January 13th: 8am—12:45pm (no admission fee)

**Volunteers are needed for collection & sale week**

To volunteer at the January 2019 Book Sale, please contact Nancy Casey 860.673.3141 or Constance Rotondo 860.404.0204. Thank you!

*Proceeds go to Catholic High School Student Scholarships*



*Hey, Fr. McHugh's inviting us to a party!*

**You're Invited!**

**St. Ann's Second Ever Baptism Reunion.**

- Who: Parents with children baptized in the last five years.
- What: Meet, play, eat, enjoy getting together with other families with recently baptized children.  
 Pick up your free Baptism Go-Kit, if you need one!
- When: After the 11am Mass on January 6th for about an hour.
- Where: Fr. Bennett Hall

If you've had a child baptized in the last four or five years, consider yourself invited!

**We hope to see you there!**

RSVP would be helpful:  
 Deacon Tim via email ([DeaconTim@StAnnAvon.com](mailto:DeaconTim@StAnnAvon.com))  
 or text/voicemail his cell (860) 693-9744.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

*I wish I were a better steward. I would like to think I am a pretty generous person, and I do work hard to cultivate the characteristics of a good Everyday Steward in my life. However, stewardship is about more than giving. It is also about prudence and wise planning. It is about storing up grain for the lean years and making sure there is enough oil to light your lamps when the power goes out. If I were a better steward, I would have that \$1,000 emergency fund to dip into when I need a car repair. I would save more for retirement and vacation. I would have more food in the garage freezer because I bought more on sale and prepared for when money was a little tighter. In a nutshell, I would be prepared for whatever comes my way, good or bad.*

*Advent is a time of preparation. We not only prepare for Christmas, but for the day when Jesus Christ returns again. Unfortunately, we too often act like this is the only time to prepare for such events. We should be preparing all throughout the year.*

*If we only focus on our spirituality at Advent and Lent, then we are poor stewards of our time the rest of the year. The wise steward is always cultivating their faith and working to improve their relationship with God. They know that they need to be prepared for anything at any time. They stand ready, waiting for the call of their God.*

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

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## QUOTES

### Words to Inspire the Faithful

*Our world has been filled with noise. It is time to enter in to the classroom of silence.*

-Matthew Kelly

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior. (Zep 3:17a)

### Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6)

### Second Reading:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:6)

### Gospel:

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Lk 3:16)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
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1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Readings for the Week of December 16, 2018

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
 Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17  
 Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25  
 Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/  
 Lk 1:5-25  
 Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/  
 Lk 1:26-38  
 Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21  
 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
 Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/  
 Lk 1:46-56  
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/  
 Lk 1:39-45

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas?

Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

### Live the Liturgy

This Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down? We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life, indeed our own weakness and sin, eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective. We really want to be free from our burdens but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to "do life differently," just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and despair.



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD  
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
06105-3784

OFFICE OF  
THE ARCHBISHOP

## *STATEMENT REGARDING CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE*

Every Advent Season we are renewed in hope that Jesus, who was born on the first Christmas, will come again, this time in glory, to judge the living and the dead. His judgment will shine brightly and reveal the truth about each and every person who has ever lived. It is a divine light of both mercy and justice, and we distort what God has revealed if we emphasize only one of these two realities.

Judgment is very much on my mind when I think of the heinous crimes of predatory sexual abuse of minors by clergy, including the misconduct of bishops. Much attention has rightly been given to recent events connected with our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore, and I want to share with you some of my thoughts about this matter.

First of all, it is very important for me to repeat that when it comes to priests, deacons, and any other person working in the Archdiocese, we have had strict and comprehensive policies and procedures of accountability in place since 2002. There are no clergy ministering in the Archdiocese against whom there has been a credible accusation of abuse of a minor. Those who have been credibly accused are either laicized (i.e. returned to the lay state) or, if the Holy See in Rome will not impose laicization, then they are sentenced to a life of "prayer and penance" with absolutely no public identity or ministry whatsoever as a cleric.

Today's uproar has to do with bishops, precipitated by the as yet unexplained case of Theodore McCarrick, former Archbishop of Washington. I was deeply disappointed by the directive the U.S. Bishops in Baltimore received from the Holy See in Rome not to vote on proposals which had been developed to ensure the accountability of bishops. However, the rationale given for this prohibition was that we should wait for the results of a meeting of representatives of all the world's bishops to take place in Rome in February. Whether this February meeting will provide an effective and timely way forward remains to be seen, but I want to assure you that I fully support what the leadership of our U.S. Conference of Bishops has said, that "we are committed to taking the strongest possible actions at the earliest possible moment," and that we will continue to develop the proposals that were to have been discussed in November.

I remain convinced that allegations against bishops ought to be handled by a review board principally composed of lay people who have the expertise to properly assess and make a determination about the credibility of such accusations.

Finally, having heard in Baltimore the recommendations of the bishops' National Review Board, I wish to announce that **in January the Archdiocese of Hartford will be publishing the names of archdiocesan clergy who have been the object of lawsuits and legal settlements, or otherwise credibly accused, and the names of religious order priests and priests from other dioceses who have been credibly accused of an offense that took place in the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese will also contract for a further independent review of all our clergy files to identify any additional names from the present going back to 1953, the year in which the Archdiocese of Hartford as such was established. The publication of names will be updated as any new information becomes available. Finally, the Archdiocese will be publishing the financial outlay that has been made as a result of the abuse of minors by clergy and the sources of these funds.**

Very importantly, in seeking to apply spiritual remedies to this great scandal and tragedy that has seriously wounded so many people, I will be offering Masses of reparation for the evil that has been done. Three Masses are envisioned, to be celebrated in different churches in early 2019.

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford  
December 8, 2018