



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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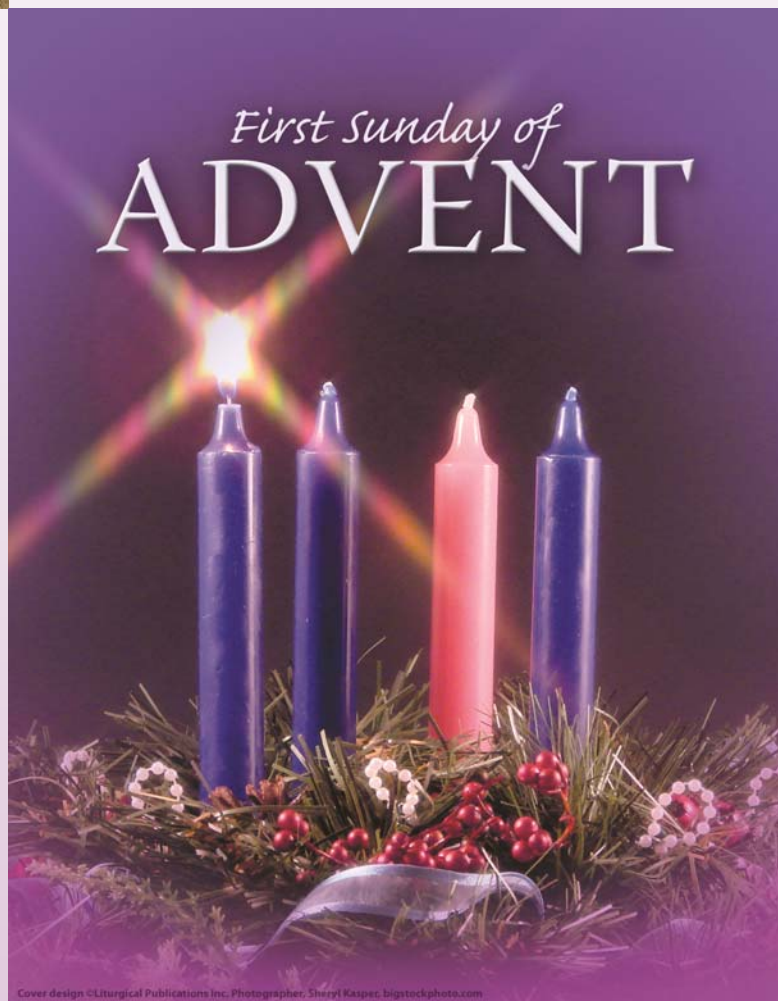
Registered parishioners call the Parish Office

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.



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

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tues.- Fri.

9:30-9:40am in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12noon

MASS INTENTIONS



First Sunday of Advent

MONDAY, December 2

9:00 **Al Saxer**, requested by John & Alice Kuzia

TUESDAY, December 3

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

WEDNESDAY, December 4

9:00 **James Conlon**, requested by the Arciero Family

THURSDAY, December 5

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

FRIDAY, December 6

9:00 **For the Intentions of Judith Stafford and Family (living)**

SATURDAY, December 7

4:00 **Derek Stockwell**, requested by the family

SUNDAY, December 8

7:30 **Marie Ahern**, requested by St. Ann's MMP Cenacle

9:30 **For Divine Peace, Divine Love and Divine Will on Earth**, requested by Judith Stafford and David Woolley

11:00 **Loretta Tarckini Fahey**, requested by Sandy, Jean and Joseph Dallis

WELCOME!



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 2

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

All are welcome! (Enter through door on the left side of the church)

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall
Unpacking the Advent Scriptures: 7:15pm in Rm. 3

TUESDAY, December 3

Unpacking the Advent Scriptures: 9:30am in Room 3
RCIA: 7pm in Room 3

WEDNESDAY, December 4

Revelation Bible Study (full): 9:30am in Rooms 2 & 3

THURSDAY, December 5

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church
Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft
Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

FRIDAY, December 6

1st Corinthians Bible Study: 9:30am in Room 3

SATURDAY, December 7

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3
Advent Wreath Making Event (see pg.3), 3pm in Fr. Bennett Hall

SUNDAY, December 8

Unpacking the Advent Scriptures: 10:30am in Rm. 3
Parish Coffee: after the 9:30am Mass in Fr. Bennett Hall sponsored by our Men's Retreat

Cookies with Saint Nicholas

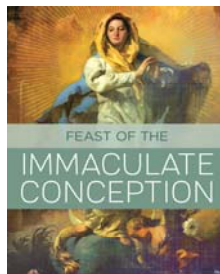
Fr. Bennett Hall
Sunday, December 15th
Immediately after the 11am Mass until 1pm



What a better way to get into the Christmas spirit than to meet and hear the Story of Saint Nicholas, sing Christmas Carols and enjoy delicious Christmas Cookies!

All Families are welcome to join us !

NEW THIS YEAR!



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Since the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday this year it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. The Feast will be celebrated the next day, Monday, December 9th at the 9am Mass.



Divine Mercy Holy Hour

THIS Sunday, December 1st

2:30 - 3:30pm in the church

Let's beg for God's Mercy and the outpouring of His Healing Love. Please join us for this powerful devotion.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Monday, December 2nd
7-8:30pm
Fr. Bennett Hall

All are welcome! We can also teach you the basics of knitting and crochet.

CHRISTMAS SINGING



The combined choirs are beginning to rehearse for the beautiful Christmas liturgies and we want YOU to join us! Please consider offering your musical gifts and voice to your parish for this festive occasion! Extra help is available for those who want it! Please call Tom Stockton at 673-9858 ext. 230. Children grades 5 and up will also be beginning for the special Christmas Eve Mass!



Advent Wreath Making Parish Event

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
3:00 PM IN FR. BENNETT HALL

Please join our 4th grade faith formation class for an Advent wreath making event followed by a special family Mass.

Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

It would be helpful to let us know if you are planning on attending so that we have enough materials for every family.

Suggested donation is \$10 per wreath.

RSVP: to Valerie.stjean@stannavon.com
All are welcome!



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

December 7/8 and December 14/15

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: December 7/8 & 14/15.



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

Annual Toy/Gift Collection

Weekend of December 14/15, 2019

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.

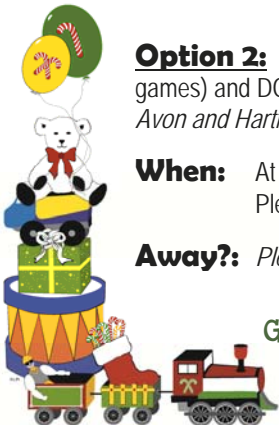
Option 2: Purchase one or more gifts (please, no war games) and DO NOT WRAP. Recipients will be children in Avon and Hartford.

When: At Masses on the weekend of December 14-15
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



Gifts for those in Convalescent Homes

Once again St. Ann's would like to 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 pocket-books

Gentlemen: Flannel shirts, after-shave lotion.

Please mark each package for size, ladies or men. Please place in marked box in the Gathering Space now through Dec. 22nd



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

November 17, 2019: \$4,538.80
November 24, 2019: will be reported next week
Next weekend's 2nd collection:
Immaculate Conception



HEARTS & SOULS

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

A Special Thank You!



Thank you catechist's Michele Tabora and Kristen Loparco who organized a service project with their 6th grade class. Their students made 105 lunch bags which were donated to the Cathedral of St. Joseph's Sandwich ministry whose mission is to fight hunger in their neighborhood. Each bag contained a sandwich, chips, cookies and a piece of fruit.



All are Invited to an
Advent Lecture
 (Teens included!)

Presented by our very own
 Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

"The Catholic Worldview"

Monday, December 9, 2019
 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 Fr. Bennett Hall

This informal lecture will focus on the Catholic worldview that creates the Catholic mind and the Catholic heart. Fr. Joe will discuss the underlying ethos, imagination, paradigm, a set of lenses by which Catholics view the world. He will clarify the essential differences between Catholic and Protestant principles.

Fr. Joe has given this talk at academic conferences and at parishes across the country.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Advent Enrichment

Weekly Small-Group Gatherings

"Unpacking the Advent Scriptures"

- + Begins the week of Nov. 24
- + Gather with friends weekly, at home or at church
- + Explore the rich connections between the Sunday readings for Advent and your everyday life

Church-based Small Groups meet in Room 3

- Sundays, 10:30am
- Mondays, 7:15pm
- Tuesdays, 9:30am

Home-based Small Groups meet at your convenience. Materials provided.

SIGN UP With Ann DiStefano (see bulletin cover)

Presentation: "Do You See What I See? The Catholic Worldview"

Monday, Dec 9, 7pm, Fr. Bennett Hall.

Childcare provided

A renowned professor who teaches from the heart, our own Fr. Joe Cheah shares the unique lenses Catholics use to view the world. To RSVP and to RESERVE CHILDCARE, contact Ann DiStefano (see bulletin cover)

Daily Devotional Booklet

Find peace and purpose each day of Advent by reading and reflecting on God's word. Free copies are available in the gathering space.

Daily Online Reflection Series

Beginning Sunday, Dec.1st

Receive daily email messages featuring insightful video reflections and practical tips for making Advent and Christmas more meaningful. Sign up via <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Wide-Open Eyes

When my first child was born, we had a nursery created for him that featured images from "The Beginner's Bible" painted on all the walls. (You may have seen this Bible before, where the Biblical figures in the book all had large wide-open eyes.) Images of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, and Jesus were displayed on all four walls. On the largest wall was a big picture of Noah's Ark with lots of animals. As our son got older, we would point to images on the wall as we read bedtime stories to him. Our son is now in his 20's and living several hours from us, so those days are far behind in our rearview mirror of life.

We prepared quite a lot for his birth. When our next two children were born, the preparation time had decreased significantly. Most parents know what I am talking about. The newness of your first-born brings with it so much emotion that you are compelled to spend countless hours preparing. When the next children are born, you are certainly excited, but you act differently and with a little more reserve.

For most readers, this is not your first Advent. It probably won't be your last. If you approach these December days simply as a way to prepare for Christmas, you may find yourself just doing the same old thing as last year. However, if you spend this time reflecting on the time when Jesus returns or when you shall see him face-to-face, you might be able to stir up some of that emotion of anticipation within you. Jesus is coming again. When people of all ages understand that reality, it can be a cause for large, wide-open eyes indeed.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

The great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.

-C.S.Lewis

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. (Is 2:4b)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Gospel:

"Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Mt 24:42)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 1, 2019

- Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/ Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
- Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps122:1-2, 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: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/ Mt 3:1-12

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"I'm never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be 'asleep?'" In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. "In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left." When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world's darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." There's another hour, too, both known and unknown. It's the present moment. Whether it's a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it's attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative's bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let's pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon. ©LPI

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

Stay awake! With so many things competing for our attention and so many details to attend to, it is very easy to fall into a slumber. We can find ourselves simply going through the motions of life and losing a sense of purpose and direction. Busy with many things, we lose touch with the things of God, especially the gentle stirrings of His presence. Advent calls us to the challenge of living a wakeful life. Awake from the sleep that life's demands can put on us, and allow God's word to transform our hearts. Being ready for the coming of the Lord is life's priority for the Christian. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

Gingerbread Holiday Fair

St. Patrick's Church - Collinsville

Saturday, December 7th: 10am to 7pm

Sunday, December 8th: 8am - 12 noon

*Unique Hand-crafted Items
Gift Baskets and Bake Sale
Teacup Auction and more!*



"Gingerbread Cafe"

Relax and enjoy items from our lite menu!
Beverages, Wassail and Dessert!
HOMEMADE Gingerbread with REAL Whipped Cream!

2019 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Did you know that December 3rd is #GIVINGTUESDAY?? It is only with *YOUR* help that we will be able to achieve the Annual Appeal goal of *\$10 Million!* This year's Appeal goal may be a challenge – but it is nothing compared to the challenge many suffer with each and every day of their lives. This funding provides support to families and individuals for life's basic necessities: a warm meal, a bag of groceries, a place to sleep, or a place to turn for guidance and support. The Annual Appeal is one way to share our blessings and express thanks for the blessings with which God has graced us with our neighbors. This December 3rd, please remember the 2019 Archbishop's Annual Appeal!!

Please visit the Appeal website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org and follow the link *Sharing the Joy of the Gospel for Generations*, to learn more and make your gift today. All pledges can be paid through December 31st 2019 towards this year's Appeal.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/aaa-2019-last-years-appeal-impact/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

Take a chance on the Northwest Catholic \$10K Raffle!

Tickets will be available for purchase after all the Masses during the weekend of December 7&8, 2019 for Northwest Catholic High School's \$10K Raffle fundraiser, to benefit the Northwest Catholic Fund. The NWC Fund annually supports the school's operating budget and the exceptional educational and financial aid programs that distinguish Northwest Catholic. Tickets are \$20 each and only 3,000 tickets are available for sale. The grand prize is \$10,000, with a second prize of \$2,500 and a third prize of \$1,000. The drawing will be held on Thurs., Dec. 19, 2019 at 9:00 pm during the finale of NWC's Christmas Concert. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

Visit www.NorthwestCatholic.org/Raffle for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of Northwest Catholic High School and our students!

Lourdes of Litchfield

Advent Day of Recollection

Saturday, December 7th from 9am-3pm

An Advent Day of Recollection is being offered on Saturday, December 7th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Montfort House (top of the hill) at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 83 Montfort Road, Litchfield. Reflection on Advent Attitudes: "Adjusting our Attitudes in Sync with Advent" will be explored. Join Fr. William Considine, SMM, Fr. Donald LaSalle, SMM and Fr. James Brady, SMM in discussion on the ways the Advent Season invites us to new perspectives and new attitudes towards ourselves and our world. Mass will be celebrated and there will be opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lunch will be served. Donation for the day is \$30.

Reservations and donations can be made by calling 860-567-1041 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com by December 2nd.

Grotto Gift Shop

Stocked up for the Advent/Christmas Season!

The Grotto Gift Shop at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, Rte. 118, Litchfield has stocked up for the Advent and Christmas season. Available are rosaries, medals, unique jewelry and Christmas cards. And there is a large selection of Fontanini creches and Willow Tree items. The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30-4:00 and Sunday, 11:30-4:00. On Monday, December 23rd, the shop will be open from 10:30am-4:00pm. For further information, call 860-567-0891 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.