Pastor’s Corner

Dear Parishioners,

It is my sincere hope that you had a peaceful and restful summer. Now that the long days of summer are over and the autumn leaves tumble toward winter, we embark on another Spirit-filled year of parish life at St. Ann. Our dedicated staff has worked long and hard over the summer months to prepare educational offerings that are intended to increase and deepen our faith.

Our religious education program is off and running. The parish educates 600 children in grades K through 10. The dedicated staff employees, Valerie St. Jean and Rosemary Neamtz, assisted by Jennifer Soucy, Sue Ollestad, Ann DiStefano, and a dedicated group of 66 catechists selflessly give their time and talent in the formation of our parish children in the way of the faith. You might thank them when you get a chance.

This issue contains a summary of our annual report for 2016. I apologize for the delay, which is due to the inability of the new Quick Books edition to marry with the Archdiocesan chart of accounts. After months of fixes, we are now able to offer this report. In summary, we did well this year thanks to the generosity and beneficence of the people of St. Ann.

In the area of summer improvements, many trees that threatened the safety of the rectory and church have been trimmed and cut down. In the weeks ahead, a similar effort will take place at our parish cemetery.

In closing, I thank all of the parishioners of St. Ann for the support of my ministry and the other ministries offered at St. Ann’s Church.

With every good wish and the blessings of almighty God, I am,
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. John McHugh

St. Ann’s Parish
The Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor
The Rev. Joseph P. Cheah, OSM, Ph.D., Weekend Assistant
The Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan, Weekend Assistant
Jeffrey Sutherland, Deacon

Tim Healy, Deacon
Valerie St. Jean, K-8 Religious Education Coordinator
Rosemary Neamtz, Confirmation & Youth Ministry Coordinator
Maureen Fiedler, RCIA Director & Liturgy Coordinator

Tom Stockton, Director of Music
Kris Martino, Office Manager
Mike Gould, Cemetery Superintendent
Ann DiStefano, Adult Faith Formation Director

IN THIS ISSUE
Meet Maureen Fiedler
Knights of Columbus
ImmaCare Shelter
Scholarship News
Annual Report
Adult Faith Formation

Parish Happenings ....dates to jot down
Nov 3 - 4 Scholarship Used Clothing Sale
Nov 3 Christmas Pageant Auditions & Sign Ups/
Gathering Space, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Nov 18 - 19 Turkey & Fixin’s Collection
Dec 16 Christmas Pageant, 6:00 p.m.
Dec 16 - 17 Christmas Gift & Toy Collection
Jan 12 - 14 Scholarship Used Book Sale
Feb 10 - 11 Scholarship Art Show & Sale
CHAIR LIFT FOR CHOIR LOFT

Members of the music ministry are very excited about and grateful for the new chair lift Fr. McHugh had installed in the stairway up to the choir loft, here demonstrated by parishioner and choir member Connie DeRoehn. The chair lift helps make our music program accessible to those for whom stairs present an obstacle and is sure to be useful to many over the years to come. Thank you, Fr. McHugh and Carl Sauerbrunn, for researching this! The Traditional Choir rehearses Thursday afternoons at 2:00 in the choir loft and 10:00 on Sundays; the Contemporary Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:30. Both choirs always welcome new members! Please call Tom Stockton at 860-673-9858 ext. 230 for further information.
**Worship - Service - Lifelong Learning**

Thank You Mike Gould.

Mike retired from his position as Building Superintendent at the end of the summer and will be greatly missed by all of us. In addition to keeping our facilities up and running and in immaculate condition, he cheerfully assisted our many ministries when they needed his help or advice. Thankfully, he is remaining as our Cemetery Superintendent; and he and Joan are St. Ann parishioners. So we still will be meeting both of them around the campus.

God bless you, Mike; we hope you enjoy your new-found time to the fullest.

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**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures**

- Get to know some great people
- Enhance your experience of Mass
- Deepen your understanding of the Bible
- Uncover connections between Scripture and your daily life
- Pray with the popular practice of Lectio Divina

Join us in Room 3 beneath Fr. Bennett Hall on Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or Mondays, 7:15-8:45 p.m. No homework; materials provided. Bible Study novices and Drop-ins welcome!

Contact: Ann DiStefano, ann.distefano@stannavon.com

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**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Parent Enrichment**

Join us for our 8-session, video-based Parent Bible Studies at Avon Middle School while the kids are in Youth Faith Formation classes on Sundays, 9:00-10:30 a.m. or 5:45-7:15 p.m. $24 material fee.

- Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible provides a fascinating overview of the story of God's loving plan for us that is woven throughout Scripture. Great for beginners!
- Ephesians - Discover Your Inheritance helps you uncover your unique gifts and calling as a member of Christ’s Church and what that means for your everyday life.

Register ASAP with Ann: ann.distefano@stannavon.com

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The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”

A PSALM OF DAVID 24:1

God bless you, Mike; we hope you enjoy your new-found time to the fullest.
Meet:

Maureen Fiedler

A proclivity towards obedient behavior and faithful religious practice earned Maureen Polzello the nickname “Little Miss Goody Two-Shoes” as a young girl growing up in rural Rutland, Vermont. The third of four sisters, Maureen was the one who did her homework, completed her chores, and attended church - earnestly, and without complaint. Decades later and 150 miles south, Maureen (now Fiedler) remains hardworking, devoted to her faith, and true to her childhood nickname.

A 33-year parishioner of St. Ann’s, Maureen’s faith was nurtured early at St. Peter’s Church in Rutland and its adjacent K-12 schools. She went right to work as a legal secretary after high school, and moved to Canton, Connecticut, five years later as a newlywed. Maureen left the workforce to raise her three children, Eric (now in Bristol), Michelle and Jennifer (both now in Salem, NH), and during those years as a homemaker, became active in parish ministry. “Like many longtime parishioners at St. Ann’s, I was tapped on the shoulder by (then DRE) Pat Piano one day,” she recalls; “and you couldn’t say ‘no’ to Pat Piano.” Maureen taught religious education for many years, following her children through the program. She was a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Liturgy committee, and served several stints on the Parish Council. But the ministry about which she is most passionate, and from which she gets the most in return, is her current work as coordinator of the parish RCIA program.

Individuals curious about the St. Ann’s RCIA program should call the parish office at 860-673-9858 to inquire. It’s not too late to join the 2017-18 session!
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a world-wide Catholic program dating back to the 1970s that offers instruction and guidance to adults (typically 16 and up) who want to learn about the Catholic faith and, ultimately, become Catholic through receipt of the sacraments. St. Ann’s RCIA program has been active for decades. RCIA is a nine-month journey of faith for participants, beginning in September and running through April when participants receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Mass. The journey isn’t considered complete until Pentecost Sunday, about seven weeks later. During this in-between time, called the Period of Mystagony, new Catholics are called to reflect on their place in the church and to consider what God is calling them to do.

“Some of our participants join RCIA because they are inspired to share faith with a new spouse or fiancé,” Maureen explains. “Others were raised Catholic but never received their sacraments, and some want to complete their Catholic education so they can better educate their young children.” Whatever their reasons, people come to RCIA because they are hungry to learn about the Catholic faith. And, according to Maureen, the teachers get as much (or more) out of the learning experience as the students do.

Maureen became involved in St. Ann’s RCIA in 1995, and, again, Pat Piano had a hand in it. “Pat asked me to be the RCIA sponsor for a young participant; so I agreed,” she recalls. “Going into it, I didn’t know much about the program, but I was so moved by the experience of being a sponsor that I decided I wanted to become more involved.” A lifelong weekly churchgoer and volunteer, Maureen’s faith was devout but somewhat obligatory. “I was a do it/don’t question it kind of Catholic.” But through the RCIA experience, where participants are encouraged to question and dig deep, Maureen explored her own faith more fully and consciously. As a result, she found her faith growing and deepening. She volunteered to be part of the RCIA team and ultimately became RCIA Coordinator. Today, she co-facilitates meetings and lessons with Deacons Tim Healy and Jeffrey Sutherland. Her role is to facilitate, bear witness, and encourage participation, while Tim and Jeff explore scripture and church teachings.

The St. Ann’s RCIA program meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Classes of one to six students learn church history, doctrine, and practice. They study upcoming Sunday Mass readings to better understand the context and message prior to weekly Mass. Aware that many churchgoers go through the motions, Maureen explains: “We also practice praying with intention, so students really think about what they are saying at Sunday Mass, rather than reciting rote prayers.” She continues:

“RCIA is a realistic education. We know it’s not easy to be a good Catholic. We all struggle. Service is hard. The cost of love is grief - and no one has shown us that more clearly than Jesus.”

Maureen is animated and passionate when describing the RCIA program at St. Ann’s. Her involvement is clearly a calling, and a labor of love. But she is quick to admit that it’s not all service to others, as she gets a lot out of it, too. “Every year, every new session, every class, I get more out of it than I put in,” she claims. “Helping the students dive into faith nurtures mine; and seeing their faith in action inspires mine.”

When she’s not planning and teaching RCIA lessons, or scheduling lectors and writing petitional prayers as part of the parish liturgy team, Maureen keeps busy as the Executive Assistant to the Head of School at the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, where she has worked for 28 years. She enjoys gardening, walking, and spending time with her husband, Jim Fiedler, in and around their Canton home. Maureen finds evidence of God in all that she does.

“The way I’ve stayed and thrived as a Catholic is by sharing my faith through service, and practicing it regularly.” She advises others to conduct an annual faith check-up to ensure that they are where they want to be with their faith. “Is faith feeding you, or is it just another ‘thing’ to do?” she asks, rhetorically. And, when friends or family tell Maureen they don’t ‘get anything’ out of church, she is quick to reply: “What did you bring?”

It’s clear that this grown-up “Little Miss Goody Two-shoes” brings a lot to her church, and we are grateful!
### Grace Enough

The theme "GRACE ENOUGH" will help you discover anew how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to see ever-present challenges in our lives.

Join the women of St. Ann and others on a retreat directed by the Holy Family retreat team for a weekend of inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, workshops, plenty of free time, and, of course, delicious home-cooked meals.

Consider attending one of the five retreats offered in 2018 and bring a friend or relative...your PLUS ONE! Please check The Nexus as well as the website www.holyfamilyretreat.org for a schedule of retreats, programs, and events. St. Ann contacts: Nancy Janiszewski, 860-818-9260, or Jacque Warren, 860-673-6761.

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**WOMEN OF ST. ANN RETREAT NEWS**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to Carol Anderson and Jim Serruta, who were commissioned recently as new Eucharistic Ministers serving the parish of St. Ann.

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### St. Ann’s Church Annual Report

**FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

#### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory, Annual &amp; Special Purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts, Donations, Bequests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Formation &amp; Other Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>84,998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>41,458</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>993,435</strong></td>
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</table>

#### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Taxes &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>449,605</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>17,532</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities (Oil, Gas, Electric, Phone, Cable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Repairs</td>
<td>40,578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracted Services (Plowing, Mowing, Professional Services, etc.)</td>
<td>76,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectory Expenses (Food &amp; Household Supplies)</td>
<td>26,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy (Hosts, Wine, Candles, Vestments, Music)</td>
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<td>Religious Formation (Books, Rent, Teachers &amp; Supplies)</td>
<td>38,520</td>
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<td>Charity &amp; Parish Socials</td>
<td>21,471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank &amp; Investment Fees</td>
<td>11,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>36,152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications &amp; Memberships</td>
<td>11,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Subsidy &amp; Assessments</td>
<td>3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathedraticum (5.5% of previous year’s ordinary income)</td>
<td>41,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic School Support (5.5% of previous year’s ordinary income)</td>
<td>41,654</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>898,365</strong></td>
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#### OTHER INCOME

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<th>Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividends</td>
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<td>Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments</td>
<td>7,931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments</td>
<td>62,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>99,006</strong></td>
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#### OTHER EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Campaign Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>127,841</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>131,899</strong></td>
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#### NET INCOME/(LOSS)

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$62,177</strong></td>
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*Unrealized Gains/Losses are subject to market increases and decreases. These values should not be relied upon for economic decision-making purposes. They will change with the market until such time that they are realized; i.e., sold.*
**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 9TH ANNUAL ART SHOW & SALE**

The St. Ann Social Justice Scholarship Program will hold its 9th annual Art Show and Sale on Saturday, February 10, and Sunday, February 11, 2018.

The work of emerging young artists still in school, as well as that of adult professionals, will be available for viewing and many for sale. Plan to bring family and friends and visit the show on Saturday from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the art, to purchase fine pieces for your home or for gifts, and to support the St. Ann Scholarship Program.

For any questions or for more information, please contact Inez Faillace (860-673-5579, faillace1@comcast.net) or Meg Kundahl (860-521-1051, mkfk@sbcglobal.net).

**SCHOLARSHIP NEWS**

This fall, East Catholic, Northwest Catholic, St. Paul Catholic, and Mercy high schools all welcomed back urban students who receive tuition assistance from the St. Ann Social Justice Ministry Scholarship Fund. We are helping 3 seniors, 5 juniors, 6 sophomores, and 1 freshman to be able to receive a Catholic education. Watch for write-ups about these deserving young people in future issues of The Nexus.

A series of fundraisers at St. Ann throughout the year, as well as donations from individuals in memory or honor of someone, help to support this program.

Our first fundraiser is coming soon—the Used Clothing Sale on November 3-4. Gently used clothing of all seasons and sizes plus jewelry, accessories, shoes, and coats will be accepted Wednesday November 1, and Thursday, November 2, from 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The Preview Sale ($5 admission) is Friday, November 3, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.; and the General Sale (free admission) is 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 4. There will be a $15 bag sale from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please be sure to tell your friends and family to come and shop for great bargains on quality clothing in a friendly environment — and all for a good cause!

Watch for information on our upcoming fundraisers: Used Book Sale on January 12, 13, and 14, 2018; Art Sale and Show on February 10 and 11, 2018; Perennial Plant Sale on May 19, 2018.

Thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause!

For any questions or for more information on the clothing sale, please contact Meg Kundahl (860-521-1051, mkfk@sbcglobal.net) and Karen Smith (860-673-9281, klsathome@sbcglobal.net).
CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

The Confirmation Program has gotten off to a great start. We welcomed 80 first-year teens at our Orientation in September. The second-year candidates are working hard to complete their preparation for their early March Confirmation.

There has been a great interest in Youth Ministry, and we hope for a large crowd at our first meeting. Several wonderful service events are planned for this year. They include a pumpkin bread sale, the annual plants sales, Food packing for Haiti, and the Cemetery cleaning day in April. Please look to the weekly bulletin for dates and times.