Mass Schedule

Weekends: Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am - 9:00am - 10:30am - 12:00noon
Weekdays Monday - Friday: 7:00am - 7:00pm; Sat. 9:00am
Saturday Reconciliation: 9:30am & 3:00pm

Holy Week Mass Schedule

Wednesday- 7:00pm: Tenebrae Service
Holy Thursday- 7:30pm: “Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper”
Good Friday- 3:00pm: Liturgy of the “Passion of the Lord Jesus”
7:30pm: Special Stations of the Cross
No Reconciliation on Saturday, April 7th
Holy Saturday- 3:00pm: Blessing of the Easter Foods
Easter Vigil: 8:30pm
Easter Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, Noon

AUGUST 1, 2012 - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN, RARITAN

**ALTAR CANDLES**
For the week of March 31st, Altar Candles will burn in memory of:
Altar Candle 1. No Intention
Altar Candle 2. No Intention

**SANCTUARY LAMP**
For the week of March 31st, Sanctuary Lamps will burn in memory of:
Tabernacle: Carmela Nowosielski Req. by Family
St. Joseph: No Intention
Blessed Mother: Anthony D’Anna Req. by D’Anna Family

**In Memoriam**
Angelino Sunga & Anthony D’Amore III

**Ministers of the Liturgy for March 31 & April 1, 2012**

**4:00pm Mass**
Altar Servers: Christopher, Julia, & Rebecca Aiello
Reader: Carol Werner
Ministers: John Lamastra & Theresa Walakonis

**7:30am Mass**
Altar: Thomas Brown, Jessie Farrigan, Alyssa Sause
Reader: Jim Janci
Ministers: Frank Kerr & Tom Brown

**9:00am Mass**
Altar Servers: Lia & Carly Rodriguez, Grace Giordano

**9:00am Mass**
Altar Servers: Zach, Andrew, Daniel Haynberg
Reader: Frank Palazzi
Ministers: Dr. Joseph & Joanne Mele

**9:00am Mass**
Altar Servers: Nikki Tardiiff, Chiara Benato, Damien Barczewski
Reader: Cathy Stevens
Ministers: Tom & Barbara Ronca

**10:30am Mass**
Altar Servers: Nikki Tardiiff, Chiara Benato, Damien Barczewski
Reader: Cathy Stevens
Ministers: Tom & Barbara Ronca

**4:00pm Mass**
Altar Servers: Christopher, Julia, & Rebecca Aiello
Reader: Tina DiFabio
Ministers: Michael & Kathy Faccone

**9am Continuation**
Reader: Tina DiFabio
Ministers: Michael & Kathy Faccone

**Sunday, April 8, 2012 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12N: For the people of the parish

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**~ St. Ann 9th Annual Golf Outing ~**
**Monday, May 14**

St. Ann will hold its annual Golf Outing at the Raritan Valley Country Club on Rt. 28 in Bridgewater. Registration is $165pp and includes green fees/cart, breakfast, on-course refreshments and luncheon with open bar.

Prizes and Silent Auction to follow a morning on the links. Volvo S60T Hole-in-One car sponsored by Smythe Volvo.

To order tickets, inquire about additional Sponsorship Opportunities or to donate a great prize, please call the Rectory Office at 908 725-1008 or email our Home School Assoc. President, Robert Sause at robertsause@yahoo.com

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**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, April 2, 2012 ~ Holy Week**
7:00am: Violet Nikas Req. by Phyllis Scarpone
7:00am: Serafina DeFina Req. by Anna & Nicola DiBetta
No 7pm evening Mass due to Chrism Mass at St. Francis

**Tuesday, April 3, 2012 ~ Holy Week**
7:00am: The Corona Family Req. by Family

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012 ~ Holy Week**
7:00am: Pasquale Suriano Req. by wife, Immaculata
7:00am: Chester S. Biedrzycki Req. by Wife, Irene
7:00pm: Tenebrae Service
No 7pm evening Mass due to Tenebrae Service

**Thursday, April 5, 2012 ~ Holy Thursday**
7:30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**Friday, April 6, 2012 ~ Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord**
3:00pm: Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord Jesus
7:30pm: Special Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, April 7, 2012 ~ Holy Saturday**
3:00pm: Easter Foods Blessing (school café)
8:30pm: Easter Vigil

**Sunday, April 8, 2012 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12N: For the people of the parish

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**Chrism Mass ~ April 2, 2012 ~ 7:30pm**

St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. St. Ambrose (340-397) began this custom - which we now call the Chrism Mass - in his Cathedral in Milan. These Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; & Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at ordination, the head of a bishop at ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. At the Mass, all priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His people; the Bishop and all Priests then ask people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are encouraged to join in the ancient, grace filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 7:30pm.
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, a young priest from Eastern Europe arrived in the US. He had been secretary to a bishop who was arrested and imprisoned by the State secret police. The priest recalled what happened on the day of the arrest. Armed men arrived at the bishop’s house, pushed aside the nun who had opened the door in response to their rough knocking and, with guns at the ready, moved from room to room in search of their prey.

Meanwhile, the priest, fearing that they might be after him too, managed to climb out of the window. For some time – though, as he remarked, it seemed like for ever – he hung there, precariously, by his fingertips. He recalled that one of the most dreadful aspects of it all was the sheer loneliness, the terrible fear that every hand was against you, that there was no one on your side.

Today, as we listen to St. Mark’s grim Passion story, we can appreciate how loneliness must have been a bitter ingredient in our Lord’s sufferings. Even when enemies surrounded him, he had that searing feeling of being alone in a crowd. It all began in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus – his closest friends fast asleep – struggled with an anguish so intense, so devastating that it could have proved fatal, a sorrow “to the point of death.”

Suddenly the night sky is lit up by flaming torches, and the silence of the night is shattered by the sound of men’s voices and the clatter of swords. It’s the arrival of the arrest party. Jesus goes forward to meet them and there at their head is one of his own chosen ones – Judas Iscariot. Turning the sign of love and friendship into an act of betrayal, Judas kisses his Master. There’s a brief scuffle, an ear cut off; a brief protest from Jesus at the formidable little army coming to arrest him; and then, in perhaps the saddest sentence in the Gospel, St. Mark reports that the disciples “all deserted him and ran away.”

Betrayed by Judas, deserted by the rest of the Twelve, Jesus is now completely alone, and he will remain alone to the moment of death. Throughout the trials – before the Jewish supreme court and then before Pontius Pilate – there is no one to speak up for him or offer him a word of encouragement.

After each trial he is subjected to abuse and humiliation – stripped, blindfolded, spat upon, ridiculed, crowned with thorns, flogged – totally at the mercy of others. There’s the terrible cry from the crowd of “Crucify him!” – a cry that both seals his fate and highlights the utter loneliness of his plight.

As he threads his way through the narrow streets of Jerusalem, the heavy cross on his shoulder, the sense of loneliness is borne in upon him. If anybody does anything more than give a second glance in his direction, it’s only to murmur: “another poor devil for crucifixion.”

Even on Calvary the mockery and the jibes continue. They are voiced by passers-by, by the chief priests and the scribes, even by his fellow victims (there’s no “good thief” in Mark’s account). Finally comes Jesus’ own terrifying cry: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” We may try to soften that cry – by explaining that it comes from a Psalm that ends on a note of triumph – but it is difficult to deny that at this culminating moment of his suffering, Jesus has some sense that even his “Abba,” his own dear Father, has deserted him. For him there could be no greater aloneness than that.

Everything we do this week to make it a truly Holy Week – every prayer, every act of self-denial, every kindness to another person, every acknowledgement of guilt – can become our way of offering some comfort, some support to our lonely Lord. In his first encyclical letter, Pope Benedict said that the Christian life can be summarized in these words of St. John: “We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God” (6:69). All that happens to Jesus this week, every pain and outrage he suffers, not least the dreadful loneliness he endures, is proof of his love for us. At each stage of the Passion he can say: “My son, my daughter, I undergo this for you.” Thanks be to God, he can also add, “I thank you for all that you try to do to help me in my loneliness. I love you.”

In your charity, pray for the sick and the lonely — visit them if you can. Also, please remember to pray for all who have wandered from the faith, and all who have died. May God always be pleased with us!

God always be pleased with us!

Monsignor Michael

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**LET’S NOT FORGET**

**COLLECTION FOR RETIRED PRIESTS – MARCH 31/APRIL 1**

The second collection today is for the benefit of the Priests Retirement Fund of our Diocese. This collection is exclusively for the benefit of our 27 retired priests, as well as, our active priests upon their retirement. May your generosity to this collection reflect your gratitude and love for our retired priests who have been dedicated and faithful to their priesthood over the years. Let’s not forget.
We are a Stewardship Parish

Offertory Collection weekend of Mar. 18, 2012.....$8,752.50
Poor Box for weekend of Mar. 18, 2012.....................$224.00

Thank you and God bless you always

Our Lenten Season at St. Ann School has been a good one. We prayed the Stations of the Cross every Friday morning; we prayed our morning prayers as a school group every day; we included (each day) some reflections based on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus. We also prayed for all Mission children and gave some money to them for their basic needs. We also had an opportunity to learn more about Religious Vocations. We also selected some special evening prayers for our families and some private prayers we could offer on our own. We also made some personal sacrifices during the Lenten Season.

We have a bit more to do. Our Sixth Grade will also present the annual Passion Play to the student body, our teachers, our families and for anyone else who wishes to be part of the audience. This has been a tradition for many years. Our presentation will take place on Tuesday, April 3rd at 1 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

A narrator tells the story of the final week in the life of Jesus, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with the first Easter Sunday which took place around 2,000 years ago. The narrator follows Jesus throughout this Holy Week and describes the outstanding events of each day during that Sacred Week. The cast members speak and act out each event. Favorite scenes are those depicting the Last Supper which we celebrate on Holy Thursday and the road to Calvary which we observe on Good Friday. The story ends, as it should, with the victory won by Jesus as He resurrects from the dead on Easter morning. The cast closes the presentation with the song "Mighty to Save".

We congratulate the sixth graders on a beautiful presentation, performed respectfully and prayerfully.

Baptisms: Baptisms are celebrated each month on the First Sunday at the Noon Mass as well as the second, third, and fourth Sundays at 1:30pm. **There are no baptisms during Lent.** Arrangements must be made in advance and new parents are required to take a Baptism Preparation class held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00am with Deacon Conrad in the CMR. Please call to register at 908-725-1008.

Sponsors & Godparents: If you are 18 years or older, you must register 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 or Godparent. It takes 6 months of attending Mass to be eligible for both of these privileges.

Marriages: The common policy of marriage requires that arrangements 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. Weddings Masses / Ceremony may be scheduled on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning or afternoon; **Sunday afternoon ceremony only.**

**Come Pray for those who Strive to preserve Life & Property!**

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski cordially invites ALL the faithful in the Diocese to join him at the 2012 Firefighters Mass to pray for and with firefighters who serve and promote public safety in the communities and towns across Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties. Come to represent your parish and your local community as we gather to support and pray for all our dedicated men and women who, at first responders, often bravely risk their own lives as they strive to preserve the life and property of others. Come, also, to honor those firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice through their service to others. For information call 732-562-2461 or visit www.diometuchen.org.

**GOLDEN AGE CLUB**

April’s Golden Age meeting is cancelled due to Holy Week. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 7th at 1:30pm in the school cafeteria. Happy Easter to you and your families!

**C.P.A.**

St. Ann Church is looking for a parishioner with a CPA to get involved in the financial matters of the parish. If interested, please call the parish office.

**ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP**

On Thursday, April 12th, a bus will depart from St. Ann’s Church to Atlantic City. Please call 908-725-1187 for ticket Information.

**St. Ann School 12th Annual Spring Fling**

**Tricky Tray ~ Saturday, April 21**

**Tickets are selling out quickly!**

Doors open at 5:00 pm. Five tiers of basket values, and over 300 baskets, many grand prizes valued $500+. Proceeds go to St. Ann School. Admission tickets is $10 and must be purchased in advance.

For tickets, contact Kelly at 908-725-7787 or email at kalbright@stannparish.com
APRIL 1, 2012

Please remember and pray for our sick
*N Names will remain on prayer list for 4 weeks

Rosary Altar Society
April 1, Sunday: 9am Corporate Communion Mass
April 4, Wednesday: 6pm Meeting / 6:30pm Rosary / 7pm Mass. Please note the meeting time change for this month only. All are invited to attend! Any questions, kindly call Edith Pena, President, @ 908-209-4224 or 908-253-0037.

Do a good act of charity for Lent
An elderly woman who lives in Branchburg on Windmill Way needs a ride to mass on the weekends. Please Dorothy Pacifico if you can help at 908-725-1008 ext. 119.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 1 ~ Palm Sunday
- Mass: 7:30am • 9am • 10:30am • 12Noon
- Knights of Columbus Flower & Palm Sale
- 9am: First Communion PREP Mass #7
- 7pm: Bingo (sc)

Monday, April 2, 2012 of Holy Week
- Mass: 7am only
- 9am: St. Ann School Children confessions for Grs. 2-4
- 2:30pm: Daisies meeting (sc)

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 of Holy Week
- Mass: 7am • 7pm
- 9am: St. Ann School Children confession for Grade 5-8
- 1:00pm: St. Ann School’s 6th grade class Passion play
- 7pm: Columbiette’s meeting (cmr)
- 7:30pm: Bingo (sc)

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 of Holy Week
- Mass: 7am only
- 12:30pm: Early dismissal for St. Ann School children
- 6pm: R.A.S. meeting (cmr)
- 7:30pm-9pm: Bible Study ~ Gospels of Mark (cmr)

Thursday, April 5, 2012 ~ Holy Thursday
- 7:30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, April 6, 2012 ~ Good Friday
- 3:00pm: Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
- 7:30pm: Special Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 7, 2012 ~ Holy Saturday
- No Sacrament of Reconciliation on this day
- 3:00pm: Easter Food Blessing (sc)
- 8:30pm: Easter Vigil

SCRIP ~ “A Shopping Cart Fundraiser”
Have you ever heard of “Scrip” and wondered what that is? Scrip are certificates or prepaid gift cards that you use like cash on groceries, clothing, restaurants, or gasoline just to name a few.

Churches, Schools, and other non-profit organizations buy these cards from Scrip Centers at a discount price and sell them for face value. Profits can range anywhere from 4% to 17% to the school or church with no extra cost to you.

St. Ann School has been using Scrip since January 2008 and have seen our profits increase each year. Just from July 2011 to date our school has earned $15,000. Why not do the same for your Parish.

We invite you, our Parish members, family, and friends to participate in this program too. Scrip is available through the Rectory Office Monday through Friday. Currently the Rectory Office carries Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Kohl’s, Barnes & Noble, Dunkin Donuts, and Itunes. More stores are available but require additional notice about 24hrs. These vendors can be found on the school website at www.stannparish.com/schoolsite/parents_school.html or call 908-725-1008 with any questions.
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