

The Catholic Church of St. Ann

45 Anderson St., Raritan, NJ 08869 • Tel. (908) 725-1008 • Fax (908) 707-1915

St. Ann School: 29 Second Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869 Tel. (908) 725-7787 • Fax (908) 541-9335

St. Ann Convent: 29 Second Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869 (908) 725-2256



Mass Schedule:

Daily: Monday-Friday at 7:00am & 7:00pm; Saturday: 9:00am

Weekend Mass: Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, and 12 Noon

Confession:

Saturday: 9:30am - 10:00am & 3:00pm - 3:45pm

Baptism:

First Sunday of the month at the Noon Mass, as well as the second, third and fourth Sunday at 1:30pm. Instruction for new parents takes place on the second Saturday of the month at 10am. Arrangements are made with the rectory, 908-725-1008.

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. Bride or Groom must be a parishioner. Please do not make any arrangements until you have met with the pastor, Msgr. Corona, and the wedding date has been approved.

Ministry to the Sick:

Parishioners who are homebound are visited on the first Friday of each month by our Deacons & Religious. If you know of a parishioner that is seriously ill or hospitalized, please call the parish office.

Lazarus Ministry:

Lazarus Ministry contacts and helps families of deceased parishioners. Providing greeters at funeral liturgies, preparing meals and house sitting are several ways parishioners assist families. Also, a Mass of Remembrance is held every November for those deceased that year.

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS, Pastor

Rev. John J. Werner, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Msgr. James Cafone, S.T.D., Weekend Clergy

Deacon John R. Pacifico, Permanent Deacon

Deacon Conrad Paulus, Permanent Deacon

Sr. Dolores Toscano, M.P.F., Superior / Pastoral Associate

Sr. Mary Klersey, M.P.F., Principal

Sr. Phyllis Vella, M.P.F., Director of Religious Education

www.stannparish.com

Email: info@stannparish.com

Parish Mission Statement

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we the Catholic Parish of St. Ann embrace all as family and continue Christ's mission by exemplifying the love of God and neighbor as stewards of God's gifts to us.

Sponsors & Godparents:

Must be 18 years old, registered 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 a Godparent for Baptism. It takes **6 months** of attending Mass to be eligible for both of these privileges.

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP):

Grades 1-8 Monday 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Grades 1-7 Thursday 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Special Needs PREP - Grades 1-8 Tuesday, 6pm-7pm

For more information and Registration packet, please call Sr. Phyllis in the Parish Office at 908-725-1008.

Parish Registration:

Any new family who has moved into the parish, or adult children 18 and over, are invited to register at our parish after any Sunday Mass or visit the rectory 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Also, please notify us if you move.

St. Ann School Registration - **Pre-K to 8th grade:**

Our dedicated and experienced faculty are committed to providing a quality education focused on Faith, Family and Community. Call us at 908-725-7787 for more information, to visit our school or to register your child(ren).

Like us on Facebook:

We are excited to announce that we now have a Facebook page for the Church, which will include important information concerning activities and special dates. Please LIKE us at "The Catholic Church of St. Ann - Raritan, NJ."

DECEMBER 21, 2014 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN, RARITAN

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 20, 2014

4:00pm **Eucharistic Ministers** - Rob Sause & Carol Werner
Reader - Alexa Marsh
Altar Servers - Julia Harvis, James & John Toolan

SUNDAY, December 21, 2014

7:30am **Eucharistic Ministers** - Tom DeSantis & George Gunzelman
Reader - Jim Janci
Altar Server - John Pugh & Peter DeSantis

9:00am **Eucharistic Ministers** - Theresa Walakonis & Michael Florczak
Reader - Jim Fidacaro
Altar Servers - Angelina Basilone, Maryann & Maxine Opida

10:30am **Eucharistic Ministers** - Barbara & Tom Ronca
Reader - Sr. Mary Klersey
Altar Servers - Tyler Gee, Andreea Chadwick, Kevin Sawtell and Nikki Tardiff

12:00 Noon **Eucharistic Ministers** - Ness & Tess Tirol
Reader - Mark McGuire
Altar Servers - Adam Tiongson, Rebecca, Christopher & Julia Aiello

READINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2014

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Thursday:
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, December 22, 2014

7am Assunta & Gaetano Bonaduce by Angie Romano
 7am Carmela & Angela Casola by Massa family

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

7am Carmela Sena by Jim & RoseMarie Condo
 7pm Margaret & Jane Callaghan by Margaret O'Donnell

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Christmas Eve

7am Domenico Natale by wife, Emilia
 4pm People of the Parish
 12midn. People of the Parish

Thursday, December 25, 2014

HOLY DAY: Christmas Day

7:30am People of the Parish 10:30am People of the Parish
 9:00am People of the Parish 12Noon People of the Parish

Friday, December 26, 2014

7am Paolo Cugliari by Caterina Fusca
 7pm NO EVENING MASS

Saturday, December 27, 2014

9am Joseph & Eva Giaquinto by JoAnn
 4pm Carmella Nowosielski by daughter & Wisleski family

Sunday, December 28, 2014

7:30am Margherita Cugliari by Caterina Fusca
 9:00am MaryJane & Bill Galvacky by Chuck & Cindy
 10:30am Giovanna Tedde-Mowbray by Mr. & Mrs. Starr Giovannucci
 12Noon People of the Parish

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, December 24, 2014 *Christmas Eve*

4:00pm **Eucharistic Ministers** - Barbara & Tom Ronca
Reader - Dan Walsh
Altar Servers - Jamie Mallinson, Michael & Peter Albright

12:00 **Eucharistic Ministers** - Cindy & Chuck Galvacky
 Midnight **Reader** - Jackie D'Alessio
Altar Servers - Morgan Hill, Evie & Doug Sullivan

THURSDAY, December 25, 2014 *Christmas Day*

7:30am **Eucharistic Ministers** - Tom DeSantis & Christine Esposito
Reader - Rob Sause
Altar Server - John Pugh & Peter DeSantis

9:00am **Eucharistic Ministers** - Mary Lou Cirianni & Jim Fidacaro
Reader - Jim Fidacaro
Altar Servers - Brendan & Danny McNulty

10:30am **Eucharistic Ministers** - Antonietta Falco & Lena Iannetta
Reader - Dianne Bautista
Altar Servers - Damian Barczewski, Allie Myslinski and Nikki Tardiff

12:00 Noon **Eucharistic Ministers** - Joseph Mele & Theresa Walakonis
Reader - Silvia Sorace
Altar Servers - Amy Wyllie, Rebecca, Christopher and Julia Aiello

THIS WEEK OF DECEMBER 21-DECEMBER 27, 2014 WE REMEMBER AND HONOR



ALTAR CANDLE #1

Michael & Edwina Schurick
 Requested by
 Edwina, Tom, Tanya & Rich

ALTAR CANDLE #2

**Deceased Members of
Mattei & Basetti family**
 Requested by Lou & Inez Mattei

TABERNACLE LAMP

Antonio D'Anna
 Requested by D'Anna family

BLESSED MOTHER SANCTUARY LAMP

Calo, Pecoriello & Gentile families
 Requested by Calo family

ST. JOSEPH LAMP

**Angelo Bavaro,
Pasquale & Grazia Ruffa**
 Requested by
 Filippo & Lia Ruffa & family



David Alves
 Luzmanda Anthony
 Michael Brennan
 Chester Butkiewicz
 Joanmarie Carlone
 Albert Charles
 Bruno Joe Cirianni
 Frances D'Angelo
 Michele D'Angelo
 Angela DeFina
 Mary Ann De Maio
 Ann Descoteau
 Raymond Descoteau
 Theresa DiBetta
 Lydia Digiuoseppantonio
 Mike Faccione
 Carmela Fasano
 Mary & Richard Felice
 Joanne Felty

Maria Fusca
 Teresa Galaini
 Anthony Gambino
 Elizabeth Gecik
 Eleanor Giraldi
 Leonard Grasso, Sr.
 Roberta Grillo
 Ruth Gulick
 James Holmes
 Doris Kelco
 Joseph Kowalski
 Bernadette Laggini
 Barbara Langon
 MaryAnn Mangiaracina
 Rosalie Marrone
 Giovanna Martini
 Louis Mattei
 Victoria Melitsky
 Pauline Mengak
 Nancy Natale
 Adelino Nunes
 Margaret O'Donnell
 Olga Orlando
 John Petsko
 P.G.

Gary Pieretti
 Yolanda Polidoro
 Fortunato Riga
 Teresa Riga
 Frank Ratkowski
 Mary Ribar
 Cosette Ruh
 Adolph Russo
 Anthony Sacino
 Marianne San Filippo
 Josephine Sapp
 Mary Shallenberger
 Phyllis Serafin
 Frank & Lucille Sudano
 Dolores Talamini
 Eva Terlizzi
 Anthony Tomaro
 Tommarie Tibaldi
 Carolyn Trepiccio
 Marie Vale
 Allison Valverde
 Richard Vetack
 Vincent Viscariello
 Carmella Vitale
 Lisa Yoder

DECEMBER 21, 2014 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2015 ST. ANN RAFFLE CALENDAR



Sold before and after all Masses.
December 21

Also sold at the Rectory and School
\$25 per ticket
Each ticket enters every drawing

- ◆ Daily drawing winner receives \$25
- ◆ Last day of the month winner receives \$100
- ◆ Easter & Christmas winner receives \$500

***Makes a great gift for anyone who has everything**

NEW FISCAL YEAR WEEKLY OFFERING

Week #23 (Total)..... \$11,449.12

Envelope Offerings:	\$9423.00
Net Charge Offerings:	\$1426.12
Loose Offering:	\$600.00

Poor Box - \$217.33

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

"...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" 12:34

ELECTRONIC GIVING

St. Ann's offers parishioners the opportunity to make Online Church contributions!

- Log onto www.stannparish.com, then scroll down, and click on St. Ann Parish Online Donation System.
- You will be connected to a secure site where you may enter your information.

Thank you for your continued support!



CALLING ALL ALUMNI TO ST. ANN SCHOOL

50th Anniversary of St. Ann School
Let's celebrate together!

If you are a graduate or know of any alumni to St. Ann School in the past fifty years, please contact the Parish Office at 908-725-1008 or email Donna at dbontempo@stannparish.com to ensure that at least one graduate from each year is represented to form this committee to coordinate and organize the various events for the year celebration.

Please remember "The Catholic Church of St. Ann" when planning your will. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of parishioners who in the past have left bequests to the parish. These gifts help us to build a solid foundation for future generations.



OUR MILITARY

Let Us Remember...In our prayers, the men and women serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

- Major Michael A. De Cicco, U.S. Army
- Victor Dulay, Jr. U.S. Marine Corps
- LCpl. Matthew John U.S. Marine Corps
- PFC Gavin John, U.S. Marine Corps
- CW4 Michael Lopez, Jr.
- Major Michael Morella, U.S. Army
- Sgt. Dan Neville, U.S. Marine Corps
- SPC Keith Ressa, U.S. Army
- PFC Daniel J. Salvo, U.S. Marine Corps
- Corporal Jonathan Schultes, US Marine Corps
- Major Louis P. Simon, U.S. Marine Corps
- PFC Jerome C. Sunga, US Army
- Jack Vara, U.S. Marine Corps



May God bless them & keep them safe. Pray for the souls of those who have given their lives in service to our country.

(Please advise the Parish Office if your family member's military status or rank has changed, or if a name should be included, so we may update our list)

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. During this Christmas season take time in silence and pray to God. Thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's grace.

2014 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Life-Changing Faith

As Christmas nears, you are asked to make a special effort to remember the 2014 Bishop's Annual Appeal. It is a gift that makes a life-changing difference for thousands of people throughout the Diocese of Metuchen. Please consider making a gift today.

To date, the Development Department has received pledges totaling \$47,149.48 and payments totaling \$43,452.07 from 215 parishioners. This represents 82.7% of your \$57,000.00 goal.

Thank you for your efforts

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER OF ST. ANN CHURCH? You may not be!!!

NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE OR HOW LONG YOU HAVE ATTENDED MASS HERE, YOU MAY SHOW UP AS A CHILD ON YOUR PARENT'S REGISTRATION OR NOT SHOW UP AT ALL!!! WE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH FOR YOU TO REGISTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL SO YOU CAN RECEIVE MAILINGS FROM US. PLEASE STOP BY THE PARISH OFFICE TO FILL OUT A REGISTRATION FORM; THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF YOU WISH TO BE A SPONSOR FOR CONFIRMATION OR GODPARENT, ARE GETTING MARRIED, OR WISH TO BAPTIZE YOUR BABY.



Amazon will donate .5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Catholic Church of St. Ann and St. Ann School whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.



Website: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1610843>

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Imagine a young man and a young woman in love as their relationship develops. They begin to think about the future. They dream about their home. Where will it be? How many rooms will it have? They wonder about how many children will be born to them. Their hopes and their dreams form the foundations on which they will build a successful relationship, which they hope will be strong enough to survive all the storms and difficulties that life will throw at them. Their house will be their home, the place where their love for each other will grow and mature, where they will bring up their children, where they will live happily ever after through poverty and wealth, through sickness and health, until their life reaches a peaceful end after a happy old age together.

Do young people today have such romantic longings for their lives? There are so many negative influences to crush their dreams that not so many are ready for the commitment that marriage requires. Many just live together to see if it will work for them. They know only too well how many relationships break down in bitterness and regret. They know also that they are just cogs in the great economic machine that has little room for romance and sentimentality.

The message of Scripture, however, is a message of hope to overcome such negativity. It, too, is a love story. It is the story of the Lord our God, who loves us so much that he wants to live with us, to build a home with us.

In our Old Testament Lesson, we hear about how David knew well how much he depended on God's help in the building up of his kingdom. He wanted to build a temple in which that dependence could be expressed in worship. But God had other ideas. God wanted rather to make the family of David a lasting sign of God's care and protection. This would be a house built not with cut stones, but with people who would enter a covenant relationship of lasting love and fidelity. Of course, the story of Israel shows us that this "marriage" between God and His people was just as rocky as many relationships today. The difference is made by God, who continues to believe in the possibility of a love that endures despite the many failures of both kings and people.

The prophets had taught the people to trust that God would be faithful to that promise to David, and today we hear of that trust finding its fulfilment when Mary says in our Gospel Lesson: "Let what you have said be done to me." You see, God doesn't give up on us. God believes that men and women are worthy of His love, and so establishes His dwelling place on earth among the people of Israel, in the house of David. Now, in Mary, God's presence is affirmed by the incarnation of Christ, God's Son. However, with God there is always something more. As we will celebrate in the coming season of Christmas, Christ was born to be the king and savior not just of the people of Israel but of the whole of humanity. This is the secret mystery of God which, as St. Paul tells the Romans in our New Testament Lesson, has now to be made known to the pagans so that everyone may know just how much God loves them and wants to share His life with them for all eternity.

In our modern world today, many people think of the Christmas story as just another feel-good fairy tale. Such "happy ever after" stories are only for children, to help them go to sleep. The real world is much more scary, with real-life monsters, committing real-time atrocities.

Yet, for those of us who still believe, behind the glitter and the sparkle of Christmas lights and decorations, there is the truth of God the Father who loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is the abiding sign of God's eternal love; that no matter how much we might experience human failure and disappointment, God's love never fails; God will never turn back on the promise to come to us and make a home with us. Let us welcome this Good News and have a very happy Christmas.

May God *always* be pleased with us!

Monsignor Michael

Our Scripture Lessons remind us:

...*that* as young lovers plan their future home; God plans to make a home among His people;

...*that* just as human relationships falter, so does that between God and His people, but God doesn't give up. God's plan, through Christ, extends to embrace all humanity;

...*and that* Christmas is not just a feel-good fairy tale, but the promise of God to live with us always.

May God always be pleased with us. Amen!





**PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING
THE
ADVENT WREATH CANDLES**

Fourth Week

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

~AMEN~



*5th ANNUAL WINTER WONDERLAND
of
WINE AND FOOD TASTING*
Saturday, January 24 ~~~ 7 PM
St Ann's Wine Cellar (*school cafeteria*)

Come sample a variety of wine and food from local businesses.

DJ ~~~ Basket raffles valued at up to \$1000 ~~~ 50/50

Don't miss out on one of the biggest fundraisers of the year!!

\$45 in advance

\$50 at the door

No one under 21 is admitted.

For Tickets contact Gloria at 908-725-1008 x.112

ST. ANN'S CHOIR LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS.....

Saint Ann's music rehearsals have started, and we're looking for new members! No experience needed, and no fees - just come to rehearsal to sign up!

Bell Choir (4th - 12th grade)

Rehearses Wednesdays 5-5:45pm and performs at the holidays. (To clarify, "bell choir" does not sing - we make music by ringing bells of all sizes; ability to read music preferred).



Children's Choir (2nd - 7th grade)

Rehearses Wednesdays 6-6:45pm and sings every Sunday at 9am.

Choir (8th grade - adult)

Rehearses Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm and sings every Sunday at 10:30am.

(We especially need men!)

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that - it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.



**ST. ANN'S SCHOOL CAFETERIA
EVERY SUNDAY at 7 PM & TUESDAY at 7:30 PM**
Doors open 1-1/2 hours prior to game time.

**UNION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
EXAM**

Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 9:00 AM and
Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 1:00 PM

There is no make-up for this exam!!!

The exam fee is \$25.00.

For more information regarding scholarship opportunities:
Call the Admissions Office at 908-889-1600 exts. 302 or 328,
or visit our website at:
www.unioncatholic.org/admissions/scholarships.php



Find us and ***LIKE US*** on Facebook!!!

We are excited to announce that we now have a Facebook page for the Church, which will include important information concerning activities and special dates.

Please ***LIKE US*** at

"The Catholic Church of St. Ann-Raritan, NJ".



DECEMBER 21, 2014 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. ANN SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Friends of St. Ann School,



Advent has been a real challenge at the school these past weeks. As you may have learned, the school has been battling an outbreak of lice. It has been quite an adventure for many. We realize that we were one of at least 3 other schools in the same circumstance. But we try to see the hand of the Lord in everything.

Our prayer began, "Why us, Lord!" and continued to grow and take on a list of expletives. The battle brought out the best and the worst in all of us. On the best side, I have to say that so many parents were grateful for our efforts. It was something to be endured but there was no blame, just acceptance. We were able to actually be cheerful for the sake of the children. The experience has caused a bonding that only comes from those working in faith through tragedy or an evil.

I am reminded of the book, The Hiding Place. It is the true story that came out in the early 1970's about the life of Corrie ten Boom. Here Corrie and her sister had been arrested because of their faith. In prison, they lead the women in prayer. This prayer included a prayer for the lice. Corrie's sister became mortally ill and could not get out of her bunk to report for morning line-up and work. The guards generally mercilessly beat such individuals. But the infestation of lice had become so fierce that none of them were willing to enter the barracks and the woman was able to die in peace. Praise God for the lice!

Many of St. Ann parishioners are from what has come to be known as "the greatest generation" because of the suffering and endurance you have displayed through an era of war, poverty, and conflict. It is your example that helped younger members know how to cope. You taught us that belief that there is something good in everything. God is in the midst of the mess.

The good from our encounter with lice is just beginning to show itself. We are a stronger school community of faith because of it. On all levels, I have seen outreach for help, support and assistance that was not present before. Smiles are broader and more sincere. Cards, notes, and e-mails of appreciation have brought tears to many eyes at the school. The lice have brought out our ability to love one another as true Christians.

Thank you, dear parishioners for your example. Though I do not wish you a case of lice, all of us at the school wish you a happy Advent and a very Merry Christmas.

God bless you,

Sr. Mary Klersey, MPF
Principal

OUR PARISH WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Mass: 7:30am / 9am / 10:30am / 12N

1-3pm - Santo Nino (CMR)

2pm - Fr. Alphonse, Christmas Concert (VoTech)

7pm - BINGO (SC)

Baby Gift Collection

Monday, December 22, 2014

Daily Mass: 7am

7pm Intentions will be celebrated at the 7am Mass

8pm - Knights of Columbus meeting (CMR)

NO PREP

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Daily Mass: 7am and 7pm

7:30pm - BINGO (SC)

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Christmas Eve

Daily Mass: 7am

Vigil Mass: 4pm / Midnight

NO School

Thursday, December 25, 2014

HOLY DAY: Christmas Day

Mass at 7:30am / 9am / 10:30am / 12N

NO PREP or School

Friday, December 26, 2014

Daily Mass: 7am and 7pm

NO School

Saturday, December 27, 2014

Daily Mass: 9am

Vigil Mass: 4pm

Sunday, December 28, 2014

Mass at 7:30am / 9am / 10:30am / 12N

7pm - BINGO (SC)

St. Ann School is in need of \$350 towards nursing supplies. If you are able to donate, please contact St. Ann Parish at 908-725-1008.



Please help support reading at St. Ann School. To inspire readers the school hosts a Read-A-Thon and is in need of a sponsor to fund the Read-A-Thon. Last year, within two weeks, our students and staff read over 100,000 minutes. This year we plan to read even more.

