

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: 7:00am & 7:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am

Weekend: Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

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

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

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).

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 rectory.

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!

R.C.I.A.:

We welcome all individuals who wish to become members of the Catholic Church as well as baptized Catholics who never received their First Communion or Confirmation and are interested in becoming full participants in the Catholic faith to contact Deacon John Pacifico in the rectory.

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

Rev. John J. Werner, Parochial Vicar

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 & continue Christ's mission by exemplifying the love of God & neighbor as stewards of God's gifts to us.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 rectory.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

Please join us on *Facebook*. Our Church *Facebook* page includes important information concerning activities and special dates. Please **LIKE US** at "The Catholic Church of St. Ann-Raritan, NJ."

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 5, 2015

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 5, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Giuseppe "Pino" Puglisi was born in a poor and rough district of Palermo in Sicily in 1937. His father was a shoemaker, his mother a dressmaker, and he grew up in modest circumstances. He entered the seminary at the age of sixteen. He was ordained a priest in 1960, and after his ordination he worked in several parishes but was finally sent to the parish of San Gaetano, in the district where he had grown up. It had many social and spiritual problems and he wanted to tackle them through his ministry. He knew that the Mafia carried out many illicit activities and that they controlled the lives of parishioners, who were too scared to say anything. He looked for support from the religious authorities in Palermo, but they did not want to interfere and disturb things.

Father Puglisi began to educate the street children so they would not turn to drugs and robbery. He refused to let Mafia "men of honor" head the religious processions in the parish and refused their payments. Then he mobilised some of the parishioners to fight against the corruption despite increasing threats. One of his favourite sayings was, "If everyone does something, then we can do a lot." He knew that he was in danger. On his fifty-sixth birthday, September 15, 1993, he was shot dead with one bullet by a hired gunman. Twenty years later a crowd of fifty thousand turned out in Palermo for his beatification.

In today's Gospel Lesson, Jesus goes back to his hometown of Nazareth. He preaches in the local synagogue and people are amazed by what they hear. "Where did he get all this wisdom from?" they ask. Through his teaching and his miracles Jesus challenges their understanding of what a Jewish Messiah should be. The people become angry that he has disturbed their domesticated idea of God and of themselves. "Who does he think he is? He is getting above himself. He is a carpenter. After all, he has grown up with us and we know his family." And they shut their minds and hearts to him.

Jesus should not have been too surprised by their reaction, for he knew that this is what had happened to prophets like Ezekiel and Jeremiah throughout Jewish history. The prophets challenged the status quo and so the saying grew up: "A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his relations and in his own house." Who are prophets? They are the ones who offer a different vision of our society, a vision sanctioned by the word they receive from God. They point out that the bonds of the covenant that linked God to the Chosen People and bound the people to one another are being broken. But the prophets

who have the courage to speak the words God wants God's people to hear often have to pay the price for such temerity just as their predecessors did.

The prophetic vocation is an integral part of our Christian faith. How else can the Lord warn his people of their failures to keep his covenant of justice? But such a calling often results in the suffering, even the death, of the prophet and that is why many of us feel rather uneasy about these disturbing voices. We wish they would just go away, although we know in our hearts that they are speaking the truth. We can recognise at a safe distance the courage of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador, meeting his death by a hired assassin because he spoke out on behalf of the poor people of his country. But when it comes closer to home, we feel nervous. For we know that prophets are not accepted in their own country. But that, of course, does not stop them.

There are times, in the world, in the Church, in our country, or even in more domestic situations, when we know something should be done. Just think of the Supreme Court decision of last week concerning the redefinition of marriage. The prophetic voice of the Church teaches that those with same sex attractions should enjoy the protection of the law and should not be discriminated against. However, that does not mean that the Church could change the meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage, which has always been celebrated by a man and woman. Nor can the Church change the moral law that tells us that sex outside of the Sacrament of Marriage is a mortal sin whether or not it is between a man and a woman, or a same sex couple, or single persons. The question is do we have the courage to be even a little bit prophetic over this and similar issues, or at least to open ourselves to listen to the Church's prophetic voice and live it? We may hesitate, for we know of the inevitable discomfort and change that it may bring. But how else will a society be healed unless a word is spoken? Ezekiel reminds us of God's calling: "Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them."

In your charity, pray for the sick and the lonely—visit them if you can. Please remember to pray for all who have wandered from the Faith and all who have died. Especially pray for the souls of all the faithful departed of our Parish Family who died this past week, *Michele DiGeronimo*.

May God always be pleased with us!

Monsignor Michael

Our Scripture Lessons remind us:

...that my story of Father Puglisi who challenged the Mafia's power in his home parish, was killed for being a prophet in his time and place;

...that Jesus was rejected in Nazareth because prophets are not accepted in their own towns;

...and that prophecy is an essential part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, because it speaks God's truth, even though we are often reluctant to hear it or witness to it by what we say and do in our lives.

May God always be pleased with us. Amen!

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN, RARITAN

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015

7am CAMILLO DIRADO by Sr. Dolores Toscano
7pm ROBERT SAUSE, SR. by St. Ann School faculty

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

7am RAFFAELE FUSCA by daughter-in-law, Caterina Fusca
7pm ANGEL OPIDA by Opida family

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

7am ROSA FUSCA by Maria and Paul Fusca
7pm ANTONIO NATALE by daughter, Filomena and family

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

7am JOSEPH AND MARIE TOSCANO by Sr. Dolores Toscano
7pm PETER AND ARGNES CZOCH by Mary Shallenberger

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015

7am DECEASED FAMILY OF PASQUALINO DeLUCA by Maria DeLuca
7pm LOUIS PRIETO by wife, Teresa Truppi

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

9am ANTONIO MARIA MATTEI by Ihez Taylor and family
4pm SPECIAL INTENTION FOR MR. AND MRS. D. NATALE
IN HONOR OF ST. ANTHONY

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015

7:30am SALVATORE AND RUSSO family by niece, Gerry
9am PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
10:30am WILLIAM DeCASTRO by family
12 noon GREGORIA RUFFA AND ANNA GUADAGNO by Rosina Greco

PRAYER LIST



Pat Adamo
David Alves
Luzminda Anthony
Patrick Bliss
Michael Brennan
Chester Butkiewicz
Joanmarie Carlone
Albert Charles
Bruno Cirianni
Mark Cusati
Frances D'Angelo
Michele D'Angelo
Angela DeFina
Joseph De Lucia
Mary Ann De Maio
Ann Descoteau
Raymond Descoteau
Maria M. Desiderio
Lydia DiGiuseppantonio
Mike Faccione
Carmela Fasano
Mary & Richard Felice

Maria Fusca	Teresa Riga
Teresa Galaini	Frank Ratkowski
Anthony Gambino	Cosette Ruh
Madison Gara	Marianne San Filippo
Elizabeth Gecik	Josephine Sapp
Eleanor Giraldi	Phyllis Serafin
Leonard Grasso, Sr.	Raffaella Simonetti
Ruth Gulick	Mary Shallenberger
Melanie Heim	Dave Snedegar
James Holmes	Frank & Lucille Sudano
Doris Kelco	Immaculata Suriano
Joseph Kowalski	Dolores Talamini
Bernadette Laggini	Eva Terlizzi
Barbara Langon	Tommarie Tibaldi
MaryAnn Mangiaracina	Anthony Tomaro
Rosalie Marrone	Gianna Torgrimsen
Giovanna Martini	Joseph Torlish
Louis Mattei	Carolyn Trepiccio
Pauline Mengak	Pasquale Truppi
Jack Merwin	Marie Vale
Nancy Natale	Maria Varvaro
Margaret O'Donnell	Richard Vetack
Olga Orlando	Barbara Viola
Frances Peebles	Vincent Viscariello
Carol Pepere-Occhiato	Carmella Vitale
P.G	Emily Vokes
Yolanda Polidoro	Lisa Yoder

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

4pm ALTAR SERVERS: Julia Harvis, John and James Toolan
READER: Carol Werner
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Jim Werner & Theresa Walakonis
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SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015

7:30am ALTAR SERVERS: Grace Giordano
READER: Nancy Giordano
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Jo-Ann Liptak and Victor Nazario
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9am ALTAR SERVERS: Sal Wiecenski, Joseph and Tanner Gorky
READER: Tina DiFabio
Eucharistic Ministers: **MINISTRY NEEDED**
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10:30am ALTAR SERVERS: Alyssa Amato, Allie Myslinski and
MINISTRY NEEDED

READER: **MINISTRY NEEDED**
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Tom & Barbara Ronca
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12 noon ALTAR SERVERS: Morgan Hill, Logan Christ and Danielle Licht
READER: Ness Tirol
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Antonietta Falco and Lena Iannetta

THIS WEEK OF JULY 5-11, 2015 WE REMEMBER AND HONOR

ALTAR CANDLE

✠ **THERESA CONDO** ✠

Requested by Jim and Rosemarie Condo

ST. JOSEPH LAMP

✠ **BILL SALERNO** ✠

Requested by The Sullivan family

BLESSED MOTHER SANCTUARY LAMP

✠ **SANTO AND MARY CARNEVALE** ✠

Requested by The family

TABERNACLE LAMP

✠ **MARY DeMAIO** ✠

Requested by Marilyn and Diane



READINGS FOR WEEK OF JULY 5, 2015

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6a

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57, 42:5-7a, 17-24a;
Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29, 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32, 50:15-26a; Mt 10:24-33



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 5, 2015

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO PAPAL MASS IN PHILADELPHIA



MASS TO BE CELEBRATED BY POPE FRANCIS September 27, 2015 ++

Tentatively scheduled for 4pm

...on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art
and along the Ben Franklin Parkway.

No tickets required- **all standing event.**

**Pilgrims should be physically fit and prepared to
walk several miles.**

Round Trip From: ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX; Bridgewater.

Round Trip bus reservation & pilgrimage package: \$55/pp
All payments by *credit card only*. **No refunds.**

"First-come first served" basis. Space is limited.

**Does not include meals or shuttle expenses at event site.

Reservations starting July 8, 2015:

Preferred on-line method: www.diometuchen.org/WMOF

Phone: 732-562-1990 x-1543 Monday-Friday 10am-1pm

A waiting list will be formed once seats are filled.



Prayer for Our Country

Almighty God,
bless our nation
and make it true

to the ideas of freedom and justice
and brotherhood for all who make it great.

Guard us from war,
from fire and wind,
from compromise, fear, confusion.

Be close to our president and our statesmen;
give them vision and courage,
as they ponder decisions affecting peace
and the future of the world.

Make me more deeply aware of my heritage;
realizing not only my rights
but also my duties
and responsibilities as a citizen

Make this great land
and all its people
know clearly Your will,
that they may fulfill
the destiny ordained for us
in the salvation of the nations,
and the restoring of all things in Christ.

Amen

2015 EXPOSURE AWARD

Our young church photographer, Marianna Zaman, entered the 2015 Exposure Award contest and received enough votes for her photography to be in a digital slide show at the Louvre in Paris. The photo was the one of the interior of the church. The photo was also selected to be part of the "Black and White Contest."



You can see her profile at
<https://mari-zaman.see.me/exposure2015>.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

All Are Invited

The Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities is sponsoring the Celebration of Holy Mass with the opportunity for participants to receive the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** at **St. Helena's Church**, 950 Grove Ave, Edison, NJ 08820 on Saturday, **September 12, 2015 at 11 AM** followed by fellowship and light refreshments.

The Disabled, their caregivers and all wishing to participate in this special event are asked to **RSVP by Friday, September 4, 2015** by calling 732-234-6432 or emailing us catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS FILIPPINI

If God calls you, call us!!

Religious Teachers Filippini

Continuing the ministry of Jesus the Teacher.

Are you being called to share your life in love and service
as a consecrated woman in religious life as a Sister?

Are you passionately in love with Jesus Christ?

If you have questions or are curious about the prayer,
ministry and community life of the
Religious Teachers Filippini.

Contact: Sister Shirlee stbernadetteconvent@gmail.com

917-349-7935 www.filippinivocations.com

Facebook: Filippini Vocations

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 5, 2015

CATECHISTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Ann PREP (a.k.a CCD)
THE BEST WAY TO LEARN IS TO TEACH!



We are called to continue to grow in our own faith, and the best way to learn is to teach. When you instruct others, your own understanding increases. If your own faith education ended years ago, the resources and materials you are exposed to as a catechist will surely refresh and expand your own knowledge! If you have questions about how you could be involved in teaching or aiding in our Parish Religious Education Program – PREP (aka. CCD).



Please call the Parish Office, 908-725-1008 or email Sr. Phyllis at pvella@stannparish.com

2015-2016 PREP PROGRAM (a.k.a. CCD)



Families are encouraged to register their children for our PREP Program (a.k.a. CCD) as our young children journey in faith together.

PREP - REGISTRATION FOR GRADES 1-8

June - August

In the Parish Office during Parish Office hours.

Checkout the Parish website: www.stannparish.com under the Faith Formation/Religious Education Tab for more information or contact Sr. Phyllis at 908-725-1008.

SUMMER ENVELOPES

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail, deliver or electronically give your weekly envelopes to the parish while you are out-of-town on vacations this summer. As many of you understand, our parish expenses and obligations do not take a vacation when you do, so it is very helpful to be able to rely on your continued support even when you cannot personally attend Mass here.



EVERY SUNDAY at 7 PM and TUESDAY at 7:30 PM

Doors open 1-1/2 hours prior to game time.

ST. ANN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**BONUS
BALL**

Thank you to Randazzo's Pastry Shop who so generously donates pastries to our Bingo games.

NO BINGO, SUNDAY, JULY 5

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,
U.S. Marine Corps
Major Louis P. Simon,
U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Jerome C. Sunga, U.S. 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).

SCRIP - GIFT CARDS

Help St. Ann Parish to help you by purchasing **Scrip Gift Cards** from us for making your purchases at stores and shopping on the internet. We receive a percentage of total sales in return. No extra cost to you. This helps to reduce costs.



Scrip Gift Cards are always available for purchase at St. Ann School.

Scrip Weekly Form is available at:
www.stannparish.com/churchsite/

ST. ANN SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

St. Ann School has a recycling program. We will receive money from TerraCycle for recycling certain items.

RECYCLING ITEMS

Aluminum & Plastic Drink Pouch such as Capri Sun & Honest Kids (with straw)

Entenmann's Little Bits Pouch

Go-Go's Applesauce Pouch

Energy Bar Wrappers

Inkjet & Toner Cartridge: Only with copper electronic nozzle strips.

Personal Care & Beauty: Shampoo & conditioner bottles & caps, gel tubes & caps, pump hair spray bottles & triggers. Shaving foam tubes (no cans). Toothpaste, toothbrush, floss container, deodorant.

Skin Care: Lip balm tubes, face, body & hand soaps & lotions bottles & tubes.

Cosmetic Packaging: Lipstick/gloss, eye shadow, bronzer, powder, eyeliner, or concealer cases or tubes. Lip or eye liner.

Plastic Tape Dispensers & Cores

Brita: Pitchers, bottles, filters, faucet filtration system & dispensers.

Bottle Caps



Let's keep items out of our landfills for the future of our children's environment.



Bring your recycling items to our school.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 5, 2015



Dear Friends of St. Ann School,

This weekend we celebrate the fourth of July, Independence Day. We celebrate an awesome gift and responsibility granted by our victory.

As a school, we teach the value and importance of independence. Our little ones, and sometimes even our big ones, would rather have parents carry book bag and do homework. Indeed many times it is easier for an adult to do it than to patiently wait for a child to complete something.

But dependence can cripple us. Children need to be able to do for themselves and to take responsibility for their actions. It is the way to mature adulthood. Though it may be easier for us to dress our children from head to toe, when do they learn to tie their shoes? Is it age 6 or 8 or 10? For every shirt we pull over a head and every coat we button, we say you are too young. You cannot ...

Our goal is to educate towards an independence based on our Catholic morals and values. We help children form habits of virtue. Mom and Dad set the example but the action of goodness, the act of living a life based on the love of Christ must come from the child and develop if our faith is to survive.

Parishioners can help our young people and school by setting the example. Sing using the Music Issue. Point out the number on the hymn board. Kneel when it is time and stand for the Gospel. If you avoid reading the bulletin during the homily you will teach them the value of lesson taught by the homily. The eyes of the young are not only on you, they become you over time.

Thank you for the example you set for us. Thank you for living your American Independence with grace, dignity and responsibility.

Enjoy God's favor,

Sr. Mary Klersey, MPF
Principal

“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, ‘Son of man, I am sending you...’” (EZEKIEL 2:2-3)

God asks each of us to do some special work for Him. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. However, do we listen to God when He calls? Do we get up on our feet and give our talent to do the work He asks of us? Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called.



SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015

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

NO BINGO

Food Drive *after each Mass*

9am: Rosary Altar Society—Corporate Communion Mass

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7am and 7pm

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7am and 7pm

7:30pm: BINGO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7am and 7pm

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7am and 7pm

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7am and 7pm

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

DAILY MASS: 9am Vigil Mass: 4pm

CONFESSIONS: 9:30am and 3pm

10am: Baptismal PREP (cmr)

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015

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

NO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

7pm: BINGO

SAINTS ANNE AND JOACHIM FEAST DAY

~~ JULY 26 ~~

Each year the Church venerates the memory of Saints Anne and Joachim on July 26th. An ancient story dating to the first centuries of the Church's life recalls how Saints Anne and Joachim, like Abraham and Sarah, were scorned by their neighbors because they had no children. Years of longing did not weaken their trust in God, but grief eventually drove Saint Joachim into the wilderness to fast and pray. Saint Anne, remaining at home, dressed in mourning clothes and wept because she had no child of her own. Seeing her mistress distressed, a servant girl reminded Anne to put her trust in God. Saint Anne washed her face, put on her bridal clothes and went to a garden to plead with God for a child. Angels appeared to Saint Anne in her garden and Saint Joachim in the desert, promising that, despite their old age, they would give birth to a child who would be known throughout the world. The new parents ran to meet one another at Jerusalem's Golden Gate, and with a kiss rejoiced in the new life which God had promised would be theirs. Saints Anne and Joachim are powerful intercessors for all married couples, expectant mothers and married couples who are having difficulty conceiving, as well as all who have grown old.