

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."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 12, 2015

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 12, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Every year thousands of people come to the foot of the holy mountain. A white scar, creeping along the back and shoulder of this high land, marks the path trodden for centuries by pilgrims to this place. At first there is a fairly gentle climb, then a level piece of ground, and then a steep and rugged section leading to the conical summit of this revered place. The mountain-top is crowned with a small chapel, and there Mass will be said throughout the day for the pilgrim climbers to Croagh Patrick, on Ireland's western coast.

At the beginning of the climb pilgrims are offered stout sticks, called ash plants, to be their staff and support for the journey up and the journey down. It is good to have support for any strenuous task, and for climbing a mountain most of all. The staff gives steady anchor as the climber seeks to go higher, and on the way down the staff helps to take pressure off knee joints that are beginning to ache. Travel without the aid of a staff and soon you will find yourself using all fours to steady yourself and to assist in the climb.

When I had the opportunity to visit Ireland some time ago, I remember the guide telling us this story: "Many years ago, a climber brought an ash plant home to his sister's house, a few miles distant from the holy mountain. It was his souvenir of a happy day out, climbing the hill. Years later, he came across the staff once more, and found that it was doing service as a handle to a sweeping brush in the yard. He smiled at the sight of it, at the memory it triggered and the stout help it had been to him on a memorable day."

I am reminded of this story because of today's Gospel Lesson. Jesus sends his disciples out on mission. St. Mark tells us that the one thing they were allowed to take with them was a staff for the journey, nothing else. The disciples were not going on a vacation. They did not need to pack anything. In fact, all they needed was the assurance of Jesus and the power that he gave to them to teach and to heal. All other requirements they could expect to receive from the people they visited---shelter, a place to sleep and food to eat. These things they could reasonably expect in return for the work they were doing, preaching the word of God and healing those who were sick.

The mission that Jesus sent them on is the extension of his own life and mission. Their purpose is to save---to save people from the ruination that destroys so many human lives, when people go astray or find themselves lost in this life. This saving work is done chiefly by announcing the nearness of God to us, and by healing those who are sick or afflicted.

The instructions that Jesus gives are geared to keeping the focus on the importance of what the disciples say and do. That is why they are commanded to find a place to stay and to stay there. They are not there to look for the best accommodation. They are there to serve and save people. That is why the command is given to shake dust from their feet if they are rejected in their work. It is meant, not as retaliation or rebuke, but to be a sign. Even in being dismissed they can still preach the Gospel and indicate its importance.

Pope Francis tells us that some priests and religious people are career people. Religion is their preferred way of life, but not a matter of salvation. It's a job. Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, in today's Old Testament Lesson, was such a person. When he tells Amos to go away and stop interfering in the religious business, Amos makes it clear that he is preaching because he has to. He is not doing it for the good of his health! The Lord demands this of him, that he should preach the real word of God to people, and not some idle nonsense.

When people climb holy mountains, they do so because they feel a call to climb, a summons to go higher, a desire to see more clearly and a yearning to be a better person. The word of God calls to us all the time. The faith we have been given is the stout stick that helps our climb, the staff that supports our journey. Let us take up our staff every day and journey together to the mountain of the Lord.

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 Jeanne Gavazzi. Also, pray for the souls of all the faithful departed of our Parish Family.

May God always be pleased with us!

Monsignor Michael



Our Scripture Lessons remind us:

...*that* a staff or stout stick is a great support to walkers and climbers in helping them to make their journey;

...*that* Jesus sends his disciples and us on a great journey, a mission, to preach and to heal, and allows us a staff for the journey;

...*and that* we are blessed with faith as a staff to help us in our journey of life, and to help us help others on that same road.

May God always be pleased with us. Amen!

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN, RARITAN

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015

7am JOHN AND CLAIRE TOSCANO by Sr. Dolores Toscano
7pm CAMILLO DIRADO. by Sr. Dolores Toscano

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015

7am MICHAEL GALLAGHER by nieces and nephew
7pm VINCENZO AND DOMINICA RUFFA
by granddaughter, Saverina Ruffa and family

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015

7am MANUEL REGALA by Regala family
7pm FRANK SACINO by Theresa and James DeMuro

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015

7am ALEXANDRA SCHISSLER by Gloria Friedgen
7pm VINCENZO AND DOMINICA RUFFA
by daughter, Maria Rosa

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015

7am ANNA AND CARMINE GIOVANNUCCI
by Mr. and Mrs. Starr Giovannucci
7pm SALVATORE NATALE by wife, Lidia and family

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015

9am GUISEPPE GRECO by Rosina Greco
4pm FRANCIS GECIK by Pat and Bob Ronca

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2015

7:30am GRAZIA AND PASQUALE RUFFA
by son, Gregorio Ruffa and family
9am ANNA GOFREY AND SALVATORE GOFREY by Rosina Greco
10:30am PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
12 noon HENRY J. DROZD by Terry and Len Cavalluzzi

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 Galaini
Anthony Gambino
Madison Gara
Elizabeth Gecik
Eleanor Giraldi
Leonard Grasso, Sr.
Ruth Gulick
Melanie Heim
James Holmes
Doris Kelco
Joseph Kowalski
Bernadette Laggini
Barbara Langon
MaryAnn Mangiaracina
Rosalie Marrone
Giovanna Martini
Louis Mattei
Pauline Mengak
Jack Merwin
Nancy Natale
Margaret O'Donnell
Olga Orlando
Frances Peebles
Carol Peperere-Occhiato
P.G
Yolanda Polidoro
Frank Ratkowski

Teresa Riga
Cosette Ruh
Marianne San Filippo
Josephine Sapp
Phyllis Serafin
Raffaella Simonetti
Mary Shallenberger
Dave Snedegar
Cathy Stinziano
Frank & Lucille Sudano
Immacolata Suriano
Dolores Talamini
Eva Terlizzi
Tommarie Tibaldi
Anthony Tomaro
Gianna Torgrimsen
Carolyn Trepiccio
Pasquale Truppi
Marie Vale
Maria Varvaro
Richard Vetack
Barbara Viola
Vincent Viscariello
Carmella Vitale
Emily Vokes
Lisa Yoder

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015

4pm **ALTAR SERVERS:** Grace, James and Billy Maxton
READER: Alexa Marsh
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Cathy and Rick Stevens
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SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2015

7:30am **ALTAR SERVERS:** John Pugh
READER: Tom Brown
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Nanette Brown & George Gunzelman
+++++

9am **ALTAR SERVERS:** Angelina Basilone, Maxine & Maryann Opida
READER: Jim Fidacaro
Eucharistic Ministers: Jane Fidacaro and Michael Florczak
+++++

10:30am **ALTAR SERVERS:** Allie Myslinski, Sarah Tobia and Amy Willie
READER: Sr. Mary
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Antonietta Falco and Lena Iannetta
+++++

12 noon **ALTAR SERVERS:** Tyler Gee, Kevin Sawtell and Adam Tionsgon
READER: Mark McGuire
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Ness and Tess Tirol

THIS WEEK OF JULY 12-18, 2015

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR

ALTAR CANDLE #1

✠ **BLESSED MOTHER** ✠

Requested by Maria Incontrera



BLESSED MOTHER SANCTUARY LAMP

✠ **DOMENICA PECORILLO** ✠

Requested by Calo family



TABERNACLE LAMP

✠ **ROCCO CALO** ✠

Requested by Calo Family

ALTAR FLOWERS

✠ **ROCCO CALO** ✠

Requested by Calo Family



READINGS FOR WEEK OF JULY 12, 2015

Sunday: Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10; Mk 6:7-13

Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22; Mt 10:34—11:1

Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Ex 11:10—12:14; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Ex 12:37-42; Mt 12:14-21



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 12, 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.

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer; Watchung

Offering the following programs:

Registration required: call 908-753-2091 or
e-mail: msmhope@msmhope.org

KEEP THE SPIRIT UP!

Be refreshed as you prayerfully reassess your unemployment and
God's call in the *now*.

Prayer, reflection and sharing. **July 14, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Lunch provided—No fee—Be our guest

LABYRINTH

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual act that has
become popular in our time. Discover its value and experi-
ence a replica of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth as a path-
way to prayer.

July 15, 7-9 p.m. (\$20-\$30 As You Are Able)

Presenter: Eileen P. Smith, RSM



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.*

CELEBRATING OUR LADY OF FATIMA

MONDAY, JULY 13

Celebrate the anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

**World Apostolate of Fatima
Our Lady's Blue Army Shrine**

674 Mountain View Road; Washington, NJ

Experience the 150-acre scenic beauty and serenity of our
outdoor shrine.



The day includes:

10:30am Confessions

12:00 Outdoor Rosary Procession

12:30pm Speaker: David Carollo

1:00pm Holy Mass with

celebrant: Rev. James Miara

3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

Visit the Holy House USA containing largest piece of tree
upon which Our Lady stood, the altar from Tuy, and a
stone from Loreto. Visit the Angel Tabernacle carved
according to the description of the Angel of Portugal by the
Fatima seers.

Check out www.bluearmy.com, or call 908-689-1700.

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, **Sep-
tember 12, 2015** at **11 AM** followed by fellowship and
light refreshments.

The Disabled, their caregivers and all wishing to par-
ticipate in this special event are asked to **RSVP** by **Fri-
day, 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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 12, 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

July & 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.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH ON VACATION?

Are you traveling worldwide and need to locate a Catholic Church? Mass Times is a nonprofit organization that provides a free service to travelling Catholics by helping them to find a nearby church and their Mass schedule. Mass Times covers some 246 countries and territories.

Visit www.MassTimes.org on your smartphone or download the Mass Times iPhone app on iTunes.

You can also call 734- 794-2100.

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
Sgt Janet Wyka, U.S. Army

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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 12, 2015



Dear Friends of St. Ann School,

Did you ever play the telephone game? Players sit in a line or circle and one person whispers a message to the next child. The message gets passed around from person to person until it gets to the last child. That person says the message they heard aloud to the group. The group generally erupts into giggles and laughter at how the message changed from its original form.

An interesting observation is that we play "telephone" in real life as adults. A message is given which gets passed from person to person. Some people embellished the message; some pass only parts of the original message. Sometimes the message just stays with the hearer. And sometimes the message is changed to prove a point or to meet the teller's specific need.

In terms of St. Ann School lots of messages are out there. I ask that some key messages be shared when in conversation with others. First, St. Ann School is a fully accredited school with qualified teachers. Pass on the fact that our students from first through eighth grade are performing at least two grades above their public school counter parts. The school makes this claim based on its traditionally high standardized test scores. St. Ann School is decidedly and purposefully Catholic meaning its students are not only taught religion but they are taught to live their faith daily.

These messages are your elevator speeches about St. Ann School. Our school provides an intimate family-like learning environment in which everyone knows each child by name. Our system of education is balanced and designed to develop the whole child, not just the academic persona. Each child is taught as a person with a unique destiny given by God. Our job is to help our children discover their destiny and to be confident enough to fulfill that destiny.

We are celebrating our fiftieth anniversary this year. Our enrollment has remained stable over the past years. We have room for more students and would like to mark this fiftieth year with an increase in enrollment.

Thank you for helping make this happen by the accurate words you use to speak about St. Ann School.

Have a blessed week,

Sr. Mary Klersey, MPF
Principal



SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2015

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

Baby Drive after each Mass

Mission Appeal weekend

7 pm: BINGO

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7am and 7pm

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7 am and 7 pm

7:30 pm: BINGO

7:30 pm: Pastoral Council meeting (CMR)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7 am and 7 pm

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7 am and 7 pm

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015

DAILY MASS: 7 am and 7 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015

DAILY MASS: 9 am Vigil Mass: 4 pm

CONFESSIONS: 9:30 am and 3 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2015

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

7 pm: BINGO

The Novena in honor of Saint Ann will be prayed after each daily Mass this week.

SAINTS ANN AND JOACHIM FEAST DAY

~~ JULY 26 ~~

Each year the Church venerates the memory of Saints Ann and Joachim on July 26th. An ancient story dating to the first centuries of the Church's life recalls how Saints Ann 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 Ann, 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 Ann to put her trust in God. Saint Ann washed her face, put on her bridal clothes and went to a garden to plead with God for a child. Angels appeared to Saint Ann 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 Ann 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.

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts."

(MARK 6:8)

How different we are from the Apostles who took nothing when they ventured out to serve God. Today, we make our journey through life more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. Yet, the more we can let go of, the freer we are to serve God with love

WEEKLY OFFERING

Total: \$8,771.74
Envelope Offerings: \$ 6859.00
Net Charge Offerings: \$ 1551.74
Loose Offering: \$ 361.00

Poor Box: \$117.19

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

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