

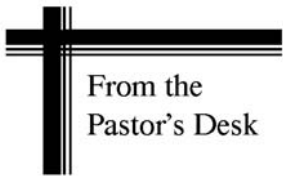
*second Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



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## Saint Ann Church

481 Brewster Street, Bridgeport CT 06605  
(203) 368-1607 [www.StAnnBlackRock.com](http://www.StAnnBlackRock.com)



### Preparing our Hearts and asking for the Grace

From the  
Pastor's Desk

We prepare this week by stepping up the longing. We move through this week by naming deeper and more specific desires. Each

morning this week, if even for that brief moment at the side of our beds, we want to light a second inner candle. We want to let it represent "a bit more hope." Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say,

*"Lord, I place my trust in you."*

Each day this week, as we encounter times that are rushed, even crazy, we can take that deep breath, and make that profound prayer. Each time we face some darkness, some experience of "parched land" or desert, some place where we feel "defeated" or "trapped," we hear the words, "Our God will come to save us!"

The grace we desire for this week is to be able to hear the promise and to invite our God to come into those real places of our lives that dearly need God's coming. We want to be able to say:

*"Lord, I place my trust in your promise. Please, Lord, rouse your power and come into his place in my life, this relationship, into this deep self-defeating pattern. Please come here and save me."*

Each night this week we can look back over the day and give thanks for the moments of deep breath, that opened a space for more trust and confidence in God's fidelity to us. No matter how difficult the challenges we are facing – from the growing realization of our personal sinfulness, to any experience of emptiness or powerlessness, even in the face of death itself – we can give thanks for the two candles that faithfully push back the darkness. And, we can give thanks for the graces given us to believe that "Our God will come to save us" because we were given the courageous faith to desire and ask boldly.

***Come, Lord Jesus. Come to visit your people.  
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.***

Email your questions to [AskFather@StAnnBlackRock.com](mailto:AskFather@StAnnBlackRock.com)



#### Prayer for Advent

*God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*



**GIVING TREE** located in the front of the church. Please take an ornament and place the ornament and UNWRAPPED GIFT under the tree by **DEC. 14<sup>TH</sup>**.

#### PARISH STAFF Phone 368-1607 Fax 334-5856

**Rev. Peter J. Towsley**, Pastor ext. 102  
**Rev. John Paul Long**, In-Residence ext. 108  
**Mrs. Theresa Tillinger**, Principal 334-5856  
**Ms. Regina Martindale**, CRE ext. 101  
**Ruth Anne Parker**, Music Director  
**Mark Tillinger**, Finance Council Chairperson  
**Jim Flaherty & Maureen Pelletier**, Lay Trustees  
**Corinne Wohlforth**, Secretary 368-1607

#### PARISH HOURS

The Parish Offices are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Parish Offices are closed on Holy Days and Civic Holidays.

#### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Old Navy Youth Group: Sunday 6:00 PM  
 Senior Meeting: Monday, 12:00 PM (Convent)  
 First Friday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration  
 First Friday: Benediction 5:00 PM in the church

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday: 7:00 AM Saturday: 8:30 AM  
 Sunday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM  
 Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM  
 Holy Day Vigil: 5:30 PM  
 Holy Day Schedule: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM  
 Daily Mass on Civic Holidays: 8:30 AM

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:00-3:45 PM,  
 15 minutes prior to all Masses, and/or by appointment.

### HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY



**OLD NAVY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will meet **this Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 PM for **War or Peace!**

### ADULT FORMATION

**RCIA** Are you considering conversion to the Catholic Faith? The Four-Step process begins soon and culminates at the Easter Vigil. The "Time of Inquiry" begins Jan. 4, 2009. Call the Parish Office for more information

### FAITH FORMATION

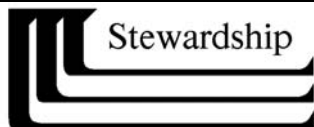
**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE** service for all children/youth on **December 13** at 3:00 PM

**THANK YOU** Our Parish donated \$707 for the World Mission (October 19) Collection this year and the missionaries are very grateful.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATING – Saint Ann Church, Sunday, Dec. 21** at Noon, Volunteers needed. Sign up sheet is located in the Church.

*HERE AT SAINT ANN*



Stewardship

*John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live — the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."*

**Regular Weekly Offertory 11/30/08  
Loose Currency, Coin, and Checks and  
Currency, Coin, and Checks in Envelopes**

4:00 PM	\$	1,118.00
8:00 AM	\$	738.00
9:30 AM	\$	2,078.00
11:00 AM	\$	1,326.00
<b>TOTAL REGULAR OFFERTORY</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,260.00</b>
<b>LAST YEAR</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,883.00</b>

Looking for a meeting date? Check out the calendar page on our website [www.stannblackrock.com](http://www.stannblackrock.com) or the fold-out page of this bulletin.



School  
News

Visit [www.cathedralcluster.org/stann/publish/default.shtml](http://www.cathedralcluster.org/stann/publish/default.shtml)

For more information on any events

**SISTER PAT** continues to recover from complications from her knee surgery earlier this year. Please keep her in your prayers.

**SUPPORT OUR WILDCATS BASKETBALL TEAM!**

Join us for an upcoming game in the Parish Center:

- 12/07 at Noon – Girl's Junior Varsity Team
- 12/07 at 7:00 PM – Girl's Varsity Team
- 12/11 at 7:00 PM – Boy's Junior Varsity Team
- 12/13 at Noon – Boy's Junior Varsity Team
- 12/13 at 4:00 PM – Boy's Varsity

**Advent Retreat With St. Paul**

Fr. Tom Forrest

Our Call to Be...

Dec. 7 Lunch 12:15 and

... Saints

Dec. 8 at 9:30am & 7pm

... Disciples

Dec. 9 at 9:30am & 7pm

... Witnesses of Love

All other presentations will be in the Convent basement.



*AROUND THE DIOCESE*

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN FOR EVANGELIZATION**



In this Advent season, we are joyfully waiting the birth of our Savior.

*Are we conscious of how much we ourselves need to be saved?*

The first reading from Isaiah tells the exiles in Babylon who are waiting for freedom to have hope. God will step in and lead us out of a hopeless situation. The Gospel is reflective of this message when John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah. Jesus' mission was prepared by John; "One mightier than I is coming after me." John's message is of repentance, baptism (with the Holy Spirit), and forgiveness. If we are waiting for salvation, a way out of a dim and unexciting existence, we should apply these aspects to our own lives. John stressed judgment, whereas Jesus stressed salvation. Make the Psalm of today your prayer "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us Your salvation." To receive the monthly free e-newsletter of the Pastoral Plan, register at [www.footstepsofchrist.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.footstepsofchrist.org/newsletter.htm)

**THOMAS MERTON CENTER** in Bridgeport is in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, and soap. Please help! For more info, please contact Mark Grasso: at-367-9036

During this year of Saint Paul marking the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of the Holy Apostle, Pope Benedict XVI has granted a plenary indulgence to the faithful who fulfill the required conditions. The sacred places designated by Bishop Lori in the Diocese of Bridgeport to receive plenary indulgence include the only Parish dedicated to Saint Paul (Greenwich) and the Adoration Chapels listed below:

- Saint Paul Parish, Greenwich
- Saint John Fisher Seminary Residence, Stamford:  
Mon.-Thurs., 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.;
- Fridays opens at 6 a.m. until Sunday at 11 p.m.
- Saint Mary, Ridgefield:, 24 hrs, 7 days
- Saint Mark, Stratford:, 24 hrs, 7 days
- St. Marguerite, Brookfield:, 24 hrs, 7 days
- Saint James, Stratford: Mon. – Fri. 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- St. Theresa, Trumbull: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- Saint Andrew, Bridgeport: Mon. to Fri., 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, Dec. 7 5 PM** Black Rock Community Council with Wassail Party to follow @ S.S. Norden Club.

**SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY** at St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull on **Dec. 13** at 7:30 PM. Call Pat at 881-1478 for more information.

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH, NY /DISCOVERING XXI Century:** Pilgrimage to China, **April 15-27, 2009**. For more information, please call 212-244-4778.



PRAY FOR ...

**ST. ANN PARISH PRAYER LINE**

Beginning this Sunday evening, our Prayer Line representative is Ken and Marie Gould @ 259-7617. Calls are welcome any time but preferred between 5:00 & 6:00 PM.

**MEMORIAL AND BUILDING FUND**

Donations made in loving memory,  
Please contact the Rectory

**SEVEN DAY VIGIL CANDLE**



This week our candle burns for:

*Saint Martha*

By

Dympna O'Brien

Donations for the Candle Intention can be made at the Rectory

**FOOD** for the **NEEDY**

Many families benefit from your generosity to the Food Pantry. Our contributions of non-perishable foods such as canned goods, cereal, rice, baby food spaghetti sauce, pasta, etc., are brought to St. Stephen's Food Pantry and are greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations to the vestibule of the Church each week

*Plan To Attend*

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13

- Sun., 12/7, 12:15 PM, Advent Retreat Lunch/Fr. Tom Forrest
- Sun., 12/7, 6:00 PM, Youth Group, War or Peace
- Mon., 12/8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Office closed
- Mon., 12/8, 9:30 AM Advent Retreat
- Mon 12/8, 7:00 PM, Advent Retreat
- Mon., 12/8, No Men's Group**
- Tues., 12/9, 9:30 AM Advent Retreat
- Tues., 12/8, 9:30 AM No Bible Study**
- Tues., 12/9, 7:00 PM, Advent Retreat
- Tues., 12/9, 7:00 PM No Bible Study**
- Wed, 12/10, 4:30 PM, Religious Ed (Public School Students)
- Sat., 12/13, 3:00 PM, Children's Communal Penance Service
- Sun., 12/14, 9:30 AM Children's Advent Liturgy
- Mon., 12/15, 7:00 PM Adult Communal Penance Service
- Tues., 12/16, 9:30 AM, Bible Study
- Tues., 12/16, 7:00 PM, Bible Study
- Wed., 12/17, 4:30 PM Religious Ed (Public School Students)
- Wed., 12/17, 7:30 PM, Women of St. Ann



**SAT., DEC. 6 VIGIL SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

4:00 PM Theresa Choquette by Mary Meehan & Family

**SUN., DEC. 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM Les Sharp (4<sup>th</sup> anniv) by Family

9: 30 AM Ann Csontos by Bob Kelly

11:00 AM Samuel Dizenzo by his Wife and Family

**MON., DEC. 8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

8:30 AM Al and Adrienne Keogler by Fr. Peter Towsley

7:00 PM Expectant Mothers

**TUES., DEC. 9 ADVENT WEEKDAY**

7:00 AM Margaret Rose Matyi by Estate

**WED., DEC. 10 ADVENT WEEKDAY**

7:00 AM John and Theresa Matyi by Margaret Rose Matyi

**THURS., DEC. 11 ADVENT WEEKDAY**

7:00 AM Rose Matyi Phillips by Margaret Rose Matyi

**FRI., DEC 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

7:00 AM George Towsley by Fr. Peter Towsley

**SAT., DEC. 13 LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR**

8:30 AM Parishioners Living and Deceased

**SAT., DEC. 13 VIGIL THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

4:00 PM Stephen Sedensky by Mrs. Richard Giannino and Family

**SUN., DEC. 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM Ruth Romanowski by Janet and Jack Shostak

9: 30 AM Jack Giblin by Giblin Family

11:00 AM Edward Gerrity, Jr. by Stan Gloss

**Readings for the Week of December 7, 2008**

- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



*As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way." - Mk 1:2*