

ST. ANN'S CHURCH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2-4-2024

2013 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware 19806-2294
Tel: (302) 654-5519 • Fax: (302) 654-5527 • Website: www.stannwilmington.com

MASSES

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM
Sunday 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Monday through Friday 8:00 AM

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 8:30am-9:30am in the reconciliation room in the church vestibule.



PARISH CLERGY

Rev. John J. Mink, Pastor
Rev. Eric Frimpong, Associate Pastor
Deacon Matthew Boyer, Esq.
Mr. Eric Gianforcaro, Seminarian

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE – call the Rectory at least 12 months in advance. *Initial meeting with couple & St. Ann's priest required before setting wedding date.*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – Completion of Parent Baptismal Program with Godparent guidelines required before setting baptism date. Call the rectory for more info.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – For info on the Chapel go to www.stannwilmington.com/parish information or email adorationchapel.stann@gmail.com.

ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY - Provides emergency help/assistance to the needy. Call (302) 658-9876.

VISITS TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND – can be arranged on a temporary or regular basis by the homebound person, an immediate family member or care giver. We are happy to bring the sacraments.

PARISH MUSIC PROGRAM Director: Andrew Trites
Email atrites@stannwilmington.com Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays in the Social Hall at 7pm.

Couples being married are to contact the director for an appointment several months before the requested date.

PARISH ADVISORY GROUP - Charles Klous, Finance Council Executive Officer

ST. ANN SCHOOL age 3 – grade 8
2006 Shallcross Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806-2295
Tel: (302) 652-6567 Fax: (302) 652-1241
www.thesaintannschoool.org

Ms. Rachael Casey – Principal,
rcasey@thesaintannschoool.org

Mrs. Bonnie Tsaldaris – info & admissions
bitsaldaris@thesaintannschoool.org

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Student PREP, First Reconciliation/First Eucharist
For info contact the office: (302) 654-8504.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM (Grade 8)

For info contact Mrs. Lynne Dickinson, Coordinator
mdickinson@thesaintannschoool.org

ESTATE PLANNING – We are grateful to parishioners who have included St. Ann's in their plans with a legacy gift in their memory. For more info, contact Patrick Cullen at 654-5519 or email pcullen@stannwilmington.com.

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

From Fr. Eric: My days . . . come to an end without hope. (Job 7:6)

Poor Job! He had lost his possessions, his family, and his health. But perhaps worst of all, he had **lost his hope**. Now there was nothing for him to do but suffer and wait for death to take him out of his misery. He was convinced that he would “**not see happiness again**” (Job 7:7). The book of Job confronts the problem of suffering. The common explanation, at that time, was that suffering was a punishment for sin but, though Job is a good man, he suffers greatly.

Job’s perspective on life is not surprising given the conditions of life universal in the ancient world and his ignorance of a promised afterlife which will surpass the deepest longings of the human heart. Today there are millions of men and women who still live in conditions that are not much better than his. Think of all who are suffering from poverty, hunger, sickness, injustice, oppression, tragedy, and so forth.

We all need hope, but it’s not something we can manufacture on our own. Instead, we need something to pin our hopes on, and that was what Job was lacking. Like Job, if we don’t see something on the horizon that will improve our current situation, we will find it hard to keep going. Wrestling with the problem of why the innocent suffer, Job takes a rather gloomy and pessimistic view of life.

This sets the scene for our Gospel reading today. However, what we see in the Gospel is not Jesus’ answer to the question “why suffering?” but his response to actual suffering. He heals the sick and **proclaims the good news of salvation**. Here we see Jesus surrounded by throngs of physically and mentally sick people, and he gives himself to each of them, healing them one by one. He did not insulate himself against human pain; he made himself totally vulnerable before the wounded and sick.

However, we need to understand that although Jesus healed all kinds of diseases and there was no limit to his power even as he cast out many demons, it was not everybody in Capernaum that was healed. Suffering and pain may not necessarily be taken away by the Lord especially when they become **necessary ingredients for our eternal salvation**. In the face of such salvific suffering, we should remember that Christ suffered for us and died excruciating death on the cross, so that we might have eternal life. Jesus asks us to take up our cross daily and follow him. That daily cross of ours cannot be as heavy as his. If we carry our cross patiently, it will be turned into our crown of glory when we meet Christ at the moment of our death.

In today’s Gospel, he heals Peter’s mother-in-law and then spends the evening healing people and casting out demons (Mark 1:32-34). What hope this must have sparked, not only in the people he had cured, but in everyone who had witnessed such divine power! Perhaps he really was the Messiah they had been waiting for! The next morning, Jesus told the disciples that he was going to other villages in Galilee to preach and heal. “**For this purpose, have I come**” (Mark 1:38).

For this purpose, I have come. **Jesus came to give us hope**: to heal us of our sins and free us from the power of death. He came to give us life in him, a life that begins now but will last into eternity. Perhaps you are tempted to feel hopeless about a difficult situation in your life. Or maybe you’re discouraged about what the future will hold. But remember what Jesus said: he came for a purpose, and that purpose is being fulfilled in your life and in the world even now. He is the horizon you can look to whenever you are tempted to give up hope. May we always keep our eyes on him!

“Jesus, you are MY HOPE, now and forever.”

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: In the Gospel today, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray and then he went out to preach and to heal. **Please pray for the poor and suffering, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.**

Just a reminder that “The Feast of St. Blaise” will be celebrated this weekend, February 3rd and 4th with the Blessing of Throats after every mass.

Second Sunday Social Next Weekend! Please join us Sunday, February 11th after the 10:30am Mass for our Second Sunday Social. Members of the Welcoming Committee will be available to provide information about the parish, its events and also how to register. Hope to see you there!

The 2023 Faith & Charity Appeal Campaign, Thank you from the Pastor: "Shining the Light of Faith" Campaign ended on January 16, 2024. I would like to thank the 210 parish households who made a sacrificial gift to the Appeal. We surpassed our goal of \$140,000 and raised \$147,265.35, going \$7,265.35 over our target. The overage, 100 percent, will be returned to our parish for our needs. St. Ann Parish has always been a diocesan leader in generosity to the needs of the poor and underserved in our area. The Faith & Charity Appeal 2024 will be upon us next month. I pray that all of us will reflect on our responsibility to look out for the poor and vulnerable and to support the good work of our diocesan ministries, and give generously to this year's Appeal. I thank you in advance for your sacrifices to share what you have with others.


Second collections: This weekend, February 3rd and 4th, the second collection is for Black and Native Americans. The weekend of February 17th and 18th will be for Saint Vincent dePaul society. Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION TO BENEFIT THE ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY. The second collection during the weekend Masses on February 17 and 18 will be for the benefit of the St. Ann's Conference of the St. Vincent dePaul Society. The St. Vincent dePaul Society provides financial and spiritual assistance to local residents who contact us looking for help with rent, utilities, and food. Please prayerfully consider donating to the St. Vincent dePaul Society; we rely entirely on donations and grants to support our work, and the funds that you contribute are vital to our mission. If you don't get a chance to contribute during the second collection, you can always put tax-deductible donations of cash or checks (made out to "SVDP-St. Ann's") into the poor boxes or into an envelope marked "SVDP- St Ann's" and drop it in a collection basket in the coming weeks or send it to the rectory. You can also donate through the parish website (<https://www.stannwilmington.com/support>) and the Parish Giving portal (<https://www.paritygiving.org/index>). **WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY!** If interested, please contact Dave O'Connor at madello@msn.com. Thank you for your support.

St. Ann's would like to welcome the following parishioners who have joined our Parish Community in the last three months:

M/M Jeff Abreu	Mr. Joseph Kitching	Ms. Jeannie Skilling
Mary Callahan and Scott DuPont	Dr. Alyssa Lanzi and Mr. Conor Burke	M/M Gerald Spears
Mr. James Carrington	M/M Eddie Morales	Ms. Laura Abessinio Terpak
Ms. Marie Graney	M/M Neal O'Donnell	M/M Nathan Trexler
M/M David Holloway	M/M Dale Schmidling	Ms. Leslie Wemyss

Emmanuel Dining Room: Our next meal delivery to Emmanuel Dining Room is Thursday February 8th. We are collecting cases of fruit cups or applesauce, cases of water, cases of nutri-grain bars and granola bars. If you wish to donate, please drop off at 2413 W 17th St. by February 7th or call Clair for a pick up at (302) 893-7182. We also welcome donations as well. Thank you for your generosity to those less fortunate.

 **Ash Wednesday is Wednesday February 14th** – Masses will be 8am and 5:30pm. There will also be Liturgy of the Word with ashes at 12noon. Stations of the Cross begin Friday, February 16th at 6pm and will continue through Good Friday.

Mass Intentions

****Priests will be saying Mass Intentions privately for each 6:30am daily mass & the 8am Saturday Mass**

Saturday February 3 St. Blaise, St. Ansgar

**8:00A.M. Jennie Gallagher
4:00P.M. Theresa Ann Faulkner & David Kearns

Sunday February 4

7:30 A.M. Danny Cunningham & Deceased Members of the Cunningham Family
Stephen & Anna Smith
10:30 A.M. Ryan Johnson
Parishioners

Monday February 5 St. Agatha

**6:30 A.M. Arthur Family
8:00 A.M. Luis Barcenas

Tuesday February 6 St. Paul Miki

**6:30 A.M. Audrey Boys
8:00 A.M. Henry Deptula

Wednesday February 7

**6:30 A.M. Betty Conaty
8:00 A.M. Betty Conaty

Thursday February 8 St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Josephine Bakhita

**6:30 A.M. Intention of Chestnut Family
8:00 A.M. Erich Kuehn

Friday February 9

**6:30 A.M. James Hiatt
8:00 A.M. Donagh Galvin

Saturday February 10 St. Scholastica

**8:00A.M. Braun & Mooney Families
4:00P.M. Agnel Coutinho

Sunday February 11

7:30 A.M. Ed Reardon
Parishioners
10:30 A.M. Catherine R. Winner
Luis Barcenas

Pray for the sick and elderly of our Parish

Offertory for the weekend of January 21st was \$15,671. As always, thank you for your support!!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET US!!! Parish Giving is available for Online Offertory Giving – Visit our website and click the Parish Giving Button.

Need to register for St. Ann's? Visit our website www.stannwilmington.com, print the form and drop it off at the rectory or email it back to us.

ST. ANN'S PRAYER LINE – to place a name on the prayer line contact Susana Saldivar at susanasaldivar1@aol.com or 302-824-0161.

Hospital Visitations – Make sure to email the Rectory at stannschurch@stannwilmington.com or call 654-5519 if you are in the hospital and would like the rectory to know.

INTERESTED IN BAPTIZING YOUR CHILD AT ST. ANN'S? There is an online Baptism PREP class required if you have not taken a class within the last two years. Just visit the "Ascension Press" website and look for "Belonging." The cost for the class is \$9.95. Once you have taken the class, we can get you on our baptism calendar. We schedule two baptisms on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. For info, call 654-5519 or email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com.

"MEMORIAL VOTIVE CANDLES" – Dedicate the sanctuary candle in front of the Blessed Sacrament in both the church and the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel in memory of your deceased loved one. The offering will be \$20.00 for the week per each location. The dedications will be published in the parish bulletin the week prior. Just send in your check for the offering and also note the requested week you would like to reserve. For questions, contact the rectory at stannschurch@stannwilmington.com or call 302-654-5519.

Catholic Forum - Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 10th, learn about *Retrouvaille*, a program to heal marriages, when Deacon Craig and Judy Bickel are the guests. Catholic Forum will not air on Relevant Radio 640 this week due to their fund drive, but you can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. You can see videos of most interviews at [YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm](https://www.youtube.com/DiocesefofWilm). For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at facebook.com/CatholicForum @CatholicForum.



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