

ST. ANN'S CHURCH
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 2-18-2024

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.thesaintannschool.org

Ms. Rachael Casey – Principal,

rcasey@thesaintannschool.org

Mrs. Bonnie Tsaldaris – info & admissions

bsaldaris@thesaintannschool.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@thesaintannschool.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 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024

From Fr. Eric: Forty-day Journey to Victory (Mark 1:15)

On the first Sunday of our forty-day Lenten journey, the Gospel Reading speaks of the forty days of Jesus in the desert. The reason for this period in the desert is given by Mark in his text – it was for Jesus to be tempted by Satan. Mark points out that the power behind the move of Jesus into the desert was the Spirit. The force of the sentence shows that the initiative was not from Jesus himself. The Spirit that came upon him at his baptism now took control of him and drove him to the desert. The use of the verb “to drive” (*“na odigeíte”* in the Greek text) shows the divine urgency of the action that is to be undertaken. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert or the wilderness which with its variety of meanings in the Old Testament seems to play not only a physical but also a figurative role in the narrative. In general, the desert is a place of ambiguity in Scripture. It was for Israel a place of refuge away from any form of aggression. It was a place of encounter with God but also a place of trial, temptation and sin.

The number of days Jesus spent in the desert is equally of symbolic significance in the narrative. We know of other uses of the number forty in the Scriptures, particularly in the Old Testament. The number forty recalls the experiences of Moses in Exodus 24,18 and Elijah in 1Kings 19:4-8,15. We also think of the forty years of Israel in the desert on the way to the Promised Land (Ex 34:28).

In the Gospel Reading, Mark also mentions that Jesus was fed by angels. This is a way of indicating how God provides for those he takes into his care. Jesus did not have to worry about his sustenance because God was providing for him by means of the angels. All he needed to do was to concentrate on his encounter with Satan and come out victorious.

The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert to be tempted by Satan. Although Jesus is the one being tempted, it is clear that the two forces that seek dominance over him are the Spirit and Satan. Jesus who had received the confirmation of his Sonship and is full of the Spirit would now have to confront an opposing force and prove himself before God and humanity that he is faithful to the Father who entrusted him with the mission of salvation. Mark narrates the temptation in only two verses and so does not describe the specific temptations nor speak of the victory of Jesus over Satan. Mark leaves us to conclude for ourselves that Jesus was victorious because he goes on to proclaim the Good News from God.

Mark has a distinctive element in his narrative that calls for particular attention. It is the mention of wild beasts which we do not find in the accounts of Matthew and Luke. On the one hand, the reference to wild beasts reinforces the savageness of the wilderness where the encounter took place. In the Scriptures, wild beasts normally go together with the forces of evil. Satan, not being an agent of God, falls under the forces of evil and his activities against Jesus are reinforced by the presence of wild beasts. This implies that Jesus needed protection from them as he struggled against the temptations of Satan. The mention of angels being with Jesus attenuates the force of the savagery associated with wild beasts. It gives the impression that Jesus was living peacefully with the wild beasts because the Father was with him.

The story of the temptation of Jesus places before us the struggles we may have to go through during our forty days of Lenten journey. As we intensify our spiritual or prayer life, we risk becoming more conscious of the machinations of the evil one. **Just as Jesus was tempted by Satan and came out victorious**, we are encouraged to undergo our Lenten journey in a way that **we can come out victorious**. It is important we keep in mind that **we should not venture out on our own without the Holy Spirit’s direction or guidance**. While travelling in this desert world, especially during this Lenten Season, we would be battling spiritual forces of different kinds **but we should trust that God would protect us with his angels**.

We pray for the grace to come out victorious so that we can bear witness to Jesus who saved us by shedding his blood for us.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE FOR THE 2024 ST. ANN’S SCHOOL MUSICAL: “Lion King, Jr.” The shows are Friday, March 1st at 7pm and Saturday March 2nd at 1pm and 7pm in the Social Hall. You may purchase tickets electronically through: Parish Giving, Venmo, PayPal, or with a credit card. All links are listed on the Parish Activity page of the website which is <https://www.stannwilmington.com/parish-activities/lionkingjr>. Please put the number of tickets and which performance you would like in the note field if you pay electronically. You can also drop off cash or checks to the rectory. The cost for each ticket is \$10. You won’t want to miss it!

SECOND COLLECTION TO BENEFIT THE ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY. The second collection THIS weekend 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.

First Sunday of Lent: In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. **May God bless you for your continuing support of the St. Vincent De Paul Society.**

Lenten Bible Study – We will be offering Bible Study sessions immediately after the 8:00am Mass until 9:15am on Mondays during the Lenten Season. We will reflect on the meaning of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. Sessions will be held in the church on the following Mondays: **2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, & 3/25** (Holy Week). Take some time during your Lenten journey to reflect on the meaning of the Word of God.

Lenten Holy Hour – Seminarian Eric Gianforcaro will lead us in a **Holy Hour Monday, February 26** at 6:30pm with Evening Prayer during the Lenten Season. Seminarian Gianforcaro will reflect on the meaning of Lent and how we can better prepare ourselves worthy to celebrate with joy and exaltation the glorious Resurrection of Our Savior.

Eucharistic Concert with Chris Brunelle - Please join us **Sunday, March 10th** at 2pm in the church for a concert with guest musician Chris Brunelle. Chris is a fabulous guitarist, singer, and songwriter who is coming to celebrate the Eucharist with us. Check out his website: <https://chrisbrunellemusic.com/> and his youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRdcjB3HTyMxkP_imONR2Aw.

Pasta Dinner – Save the date, Saturday, March 23rd at 5:30pm in the social hall. More details to follow.

All are invited to the **13th CYM Pilgrimage** – **“Blessed are They/Bienaventurados son ellos”** – on **Saturday, March 23, 2024**, in Wilmington, DE. We hope to gather 1000 pilgrims this year to walk with Bishop Koenig through the route and encourage families to accompany their young people! The CYM Pilgrimage will be blessed this year by the presence of the Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, which St. Elizabeth Parish will host throughout that weekend. Please share the attached logo and registration link with all who may be interested: <https://www.cdowcym.org/events/detail/pilgrimage-2024>. Questions should be directed to catholicyouth@cdow.org.

ONE GOOD HABIT FOR LENT: FEED THE HUNGRY – Our Knights of Columbus here at Saint Ann Parish make that easy for you by providing plastic Knights of Columbus bins just inside the front door of our church, in the vestibule for you to drop off cans or boxes of food for God's Hungry Children. For Lent you can make a pledge of a can or box of food a day and drop it in the bins daily or weekly. The Knights of Columbus will handle the rest for you! There is more information on flyers in the vestibule. God bless you all!

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.

Mass Intentions

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

Saturday February 17

**8:00A.M. Edward Stewart

4:00P.M. Lyn Doto

The Faulker Family & the Jasper Family

Sunday February 18

7:30 A.M. Toni Ann Cilia

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn

10:30 A.M. Bernard Francis Kenny

Parishioners

Monday February 19 Presidents' Day Holiday

***9:00 A.M. Harris & Montague Families

Sheila McPeak

Tuesday February 20

**6:30 A.M. Elizabeth Conaty

8:00 A.M. Margaret McLaughlin

Joanne Kornach

Wednesday February 21 St. Peter Damian

**6:30 A.M. Dennis Cline

8:00 A.M. Melanie Corbett

Joseph Gagnier

Thursday February 22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

**6:30 A.M. Edward Stewart

8:00 A.M. William & Mary Louise Duffy

Robert Moses

Friday February 23 St. Polycarp

**6:30 A.M. Charles Stalhuth

8:00 A.M. Linda Trusk

Andrew Schenck

Saturday February 24

**8:00A.M. Edward Reilly

4:00P.M. Kevin Patrick Murphy

Charles & Elizabeth McKinney

Sunday February 25

7:30 A.M. Joseph, Ada, & Alan Wasilauskas

Parishioners

10:30 A.M. Kobby Walsh

Peachy Smuff

Pray for the sick and elderly of our Parish

Offertory for the weekend of February 4th was \$10,731. 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.



HOLY MOMENTS



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Elizabeth Ford Dougherty



**AIDEN JEROME VAHLDICK
Son of Mike and Ashley Vahldick**

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.

Men of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington are invited to participate in the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Catholic Men's Fellowship of Maryland on **Saturday, March 9**, at Saint Philip Neri Church in Linthicum (Maryland). Conference activities will include presentations, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Adoration.

"Jesus Christ - yesterday, Today and Forever" (Heb. 13:8)

**Catholic Men's Fellowship of Maryland
2024 Annual Conference**



**March 9, 2024
Saint Philip Neri Church
Linthicum, MD**



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