

ST. ANN'S CHURCH
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 3-30-2025

2013 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware 19806-2213
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.

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 online parent Baptismal program and compliance with Godparent eligibility policy is required before setting a baptism date. Call the rectory for more info.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – Open/closings call 302-655-1639, email: adorationchapel.stann@gmail.com, website: www.stannwilmington.com/parishinformation.

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.

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 wedding date.

PARISH ADVISORY GROUP – Charles Klous, Finance Council Executive Officer

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM - 8th of each month to volunteer or give donations contact Clair at 302-893-7182 or clair2413@gmail.com.

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

<https://www.thesaintannschoo.org>
Ms. Rachael Casey – Principal, rcasey@thesaintannschoo.org
Mrs. Bonnie Tsaldaris – info & admissions btsaldaris@thesaintannschoo.org

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
Student PREP, First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, contact Grace Donahue at gdonahue@stannwilmington.com or 302-654-8504.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM (Grade 8)
For info contact Mrs. Lynne Dickinson, Coordinator mdickinson@thesaintannschoo.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 302-654-5519 or email pcullen@stannwilmington.com

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 30, 2025**

From Fr. Eric:

The father's merciful reaction (Luke 15:20)



The First Reading tells the story of Israel upon entering the land of Canaan, the Promised Land. The story is sited at Gilgal and serves as a transition in the lifestyle of the people. At Gilgal, they celebrated the Passover and the day after, they begun to eat the produce of the land of Canaan. This day marked a new beginning for the people of Israel. From now on however, they would have to till the land and produce what to eat.

In a way, this transition marked the end of their desert wandering and being fed by God in an extraordinary way. In the entire history of Israel, particularly during their period

in the desert, food played an important role in their relationship with God. The absence of food was the cause of complaint on many occasions. The abundance of food was seen as a blessing from the Lord, but it was also the cause of their distancing themselves from God.

In many situations of life, we observe that affluence or the availability of food can cause us to be inward looking and selfish. The parable of Jesus in the Gospel Reading uses food as the vehicle of the narration. The time the younger son lived with his father, he lived in comfortable circumstances. He became selfish and did not see the good the father was doing to him by providing all his needs for him. The decision to request his part of his inheritance even before the death of his father was a wicked one. His resolution to separate himself from his father and the rest of his family shows that he had no consideration for his personal responsibility toward the family. He thought his inheritance would provide him with food for all his life. He did not realize that he was not experienced in managing wealth properly.

The parable makes it clear the young man came to his senses only because he lacked food. When he was living an affluent life, he did not have time to reflect on his life. In his want, he realized that his previous life with his father was a glorious one. In his want, he also realized that his condition was worse than that of the servants in his father's house. Very often we do not realize our good conditions until we experience a worse situation than what we are used to. We'd expect the young man to reflect on his life and repent asking for his inheritance while his father was alive. Instead, he compared his life to his father's servants and seemed unaware of the gravity of his actions. However, his demand for pardon when he admitted his sins against his father and God, suggests a glimmer of remorse.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." The father's merciful reaction to his prodigal son's return, despite the son's squandering of his inheritance, illustrates God's love and forgiveness. This unexpected reaction of the father calls for rejoicing. This parable also challenges the judgmental attitude of scribes and Pharisees, emphasizing the importance of reaching out to sinners. As we learned from last Sunday's Gospel, God is always ready to offer us a second chance to repent and bear fruit. This week, we are making good use of the second chance given to us by reconciling with our merciful father.

Lent is a time for repentance and forgiveness, recognizing our imperfections and welcoming sinners back to God. We should extend forgiveness to others and rejoice in their salvation.

"Lord, I accept your offer of reconciliation!"

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 302-654-5519 or email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com.

BISHOP KOENIG VISITING ST. ANN'S – Our Chapel of Divine Mercy has been designated as one of the Jubilee sites for pilgrimages and pious visits within the Diocese of Wilmington until December 28, 2025. Therefore, Bishop Koenig will be here at St. Ann's **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 6th** to celebrate the 10:30am Mass. For additional information about the Jubilee, please visit the Vatican website: jubilaeum2025.va.

PAUSING FOOD DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE – Our Knights of Columbus Council must pause collecting food donations at the rear of the church. Please do not leave any food there for the foreseeable future. We thank everyone for their past generosity and hope to resume collections in the future. God bless you all. - Msgr. Dewson Council

2025 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal – “Together in Hope” – Embracing the gospel message, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13), we invite you to join us in our 2025 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal under the theme "Together in Hope." This Appeal is a call for us to unite in faith, as a community bound by hope, trusting in God's providence and guided by the Spirit. Just as hope sustains us through life's challenges, our collective generosity will bring forth abundant blessings for those in need within our diocese. Your giving is not only a response to the call of Christ but a powerful expression of our shared hope and solidarity. Let us unite in giving, confident that together we can make a transformative difference in the lives of thousands. "Together in Hope," we can achieve more than we ever could alone. Join the Appeal and be a vital part of the hopeful journey we share in faith and charity. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Your participation is a beacon of hope that strengthens our community. If you have not yet participated, please consider doing so today. Your gift makes a real and lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families across our 12-county diocese. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews and in the back of church and can be placed in the offertory baskets. Thank you for your generosity and support. To learn more about the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, visit www.cdow.org; click "Giving" then "Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal."



STATIONS OF THE CROSS take place every Friday in Lent at 6pm and on Good Friday they are at 7pm.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us immediately after the 8am Mass every Monday during Lent. We will reflect on the meaning of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. Sessions will be held in the church on the following Mondays: **3/31, 4/7, & 4/14**. Take some time during your Lenten journey to reflect on the meaning of the Word of God.

WE NEED YOUR HELP – We are looking for a few good men and women to help our current ushers. We could use your help to greet the faithful, gather the donations from the collection baskets after Mass, seat people (when necessary), count the number of the faithful, and help place the gifts in the sacristy after Mass. Additionally, the ushers are there to help people if someone is in need of assistance. If this is a way you would like to contribute to our parish, please contact the rectory at 302-654-5519 or stannschurch@stannwilmington.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for ten people to get their feet washed during the Holy Thursday Mass on April 17th at 7pm. If you are interested please call the rectory at 302-654-5519 or email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com.

**RECONCILIATION
MONDAY
APRIL 14 • 3-8 PM
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Mass Intentions

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

Saturday March 29

**8:00 a.m. Rev. Edward M. Aigner (2023)
4:00 p.m. Bruce Faulkner and Sue Ruebens

Sunday March 30

7:30 a.m. Thomas J. Duszak
The Parishioners of St. Ann's
10:30 a.m. Robert Straight
John C. Volk, Jr.

Monday March 31

**6:30 a.m. Deacon Edward J. Danko, Sr. (2023)
8:00 a.m. John Carney and Jim Keegan

Tuesday April 1

**6:30 a.m. Mary Doherty
8:00 a.m. Yong Tae Tae

Wednesday April 2 St. Francis of Paola

**6:30 A.M. Charles and Elizabeth McKinney
8:00 A.M. The Coyne and Keegan Family
Georgina Sheing, Henry & Janet Salacki

Thursday April 3

**6:30 a.m. Msgr. John A. Lyons (1916)
8:00 a.m. Kathy Godley

Friday April 4 St. Isidore

**6:30 a.m. Rev. Stephen J. Connell (2011)
8:00 a.m. Henry, Theresa, and Paul Deptula

Saturday April 5 St. Vincent Ferrer

**8:00 a.m. Rev. Hilary R. Rodgers (2020)
4:00 p.m. Tommy Smith and Pat McLaughlin

Sunday April 6

7:30 a.m. John R. Dougherty
The Parishioners of St. Ann's
10:30 a.m. Kathy Eckrich

Pray for the sick and elderly of our Parish

Offertory for the weekend of March 16th was \$9,209. As always, thank you very much 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.

Hospital Visitations – Make sure to email the Rectory at stannschurch@stannwilmington.com or call 302-654-5519 if you are in the hospital and would like the rectory to know.

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 susana.saldivar1@gmail.com or 302-824-0161.

Give to St. Ann Church by scanning a QR Code:



St. Ann Catholic School
@StAnnParishWilmington



venmo

SCHOOL NEWS – Congratulations to our school Science Olympiad Teams! Our middle school teams attended the annual statewide Science Olympiad competition on Saturday, March 15th and medaled in 18 of the 24 events, winning 43 medals overall! We are so proud! Thank you to all of the volunteer coaches, most especially Julie Dugan and Mike Johnson!

Fourth Sunday of Lent – In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father. **Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust. You may place a donation in the Society of Poor Box. You can also donate through the parish website:**

<https://www.stannwilmington.com/support>, the Parish Giving portal: <https://www.parishgiving.org/index>, and Venmo [@StAnnWilmingtonSVDP-Society](https://www.venmo.com/@StAnnWilmingtonSVDP-Society). Thank you!

12TH ANNUAL LIEUTENANT JOSEPH SZCZERBA MEMORIAL 5K – Join us on Thursday, April 10th at Abessinio Stadium to run or walk this 5K. The Szczerba 5K is a touchstone community event, drawing runners and walkers from across the region to celebrate the memory of Lt. Joseph Szczerba '85, and to support the scholarship that bears his name at Salesianum School. This family-friendly 5k features ample parking, a great course, great food, great prizes, a huge crowd, and, above all else, a great cause. To register please visit the following website: <https://runsignup.com/Race/DE/Wilmington/LtJosEphSzczerbaMemorialK>

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