

Parish Email Update – March 16, 2023

Dear St. Ann Parishioners,

During Lent, we gather for prayer, for fellowship, and for opportunities to see and know God ever more intimately – in ourselves and in one another. Join us as part of your Lenten journey!

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT MASSES

Word of the Week – Attached to this email is a simple 2-page reflection that will help you and your family prepare the readings for this Sunday.

Parish Bulletin – Click the link to read this weekend's bulletin: <https://www.stanncc.com/sunday-bulletin>

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY – This collection will be for the benefit of Catholic Relief Services. CRS carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist those who are poor and vulnerable overseas. If you prefer to donate online, just click here <https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-1207?tab=home>, then look under Second Collections for Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your generosity.

DISPENSATION TO EAT MEAT ON SAINT PATRICK'S DAY – During the season of Lent, Catholics (age 14 and older) should abstain from eating meat on Fridays. This ancient practice of the Church challenges us to eat more simply on Fridays and also to practice more generosity to our neighbors. Penance is supposed to strengthen the whole community.

This year, Saint Patrick's Day (March 17) falls on a Friday in Lent. In Ireland, Australia, Canada, and the United States, it has become customary for church leaders to grant a dispensation to allow people to celebrate this important day in a festive way. Church Law gives pastors the ability to grant this dispensation to members of a local parish community.

I hereby dispense the parishioners of St. Ann's from the obligation to abstain from meat on St. Patrick's Day, 2023. I encourage everyone to select another day of the week to refrain from eating meat on a personal basis. And, as you fast, please pray for our Food Pantry ministry this year, which directly serves hungry children and adults in our neighborhood.

-- Fr. Ernest Bulinda



SOCIAL SENIORS – Join us for our March Planning Meeting tomorrow, Friday, March 17, at 1:00pm in Rm. 6 of the school. Bring your creativity and let's see where it takes us!

HEADS UP! There will NOT be a Fish Fry tomorrow night, in observance of St. Patrick's Day, but there WILL be Stations of the Cross in the Worship Space at 7:00pm. Come and pray the Stations with artwork from Knock Basilica in Ireland!



FOOD PANTRY GARDEN -- Volunteers will have a workday this Saturday March 18, weather permitting. Food pantry garden volunteers plant and harvest vegetables each year in the April through September timeframe for contribution to the food pantry.

Please contact Mike Richeson, mjricheson@comcast.net or 804-337-0807, if you are able to assist with the preparation of garden plots, composting, and mulching planned for March 18. The date may be subject to change. Thank you for considering assistance with this valuable and active ministry!

LOOKING FORWARD IN LENT – Here are some reminders and details about some things that are coming up in the next few weeks, as we move toward Holy Week and Easter:

- **Evening of Reflection: Drawing Closer to God** – Thursday, March 30, 7:00pm in the Worship Space. We will gather to pray and reflect on our Lenten journey in the final days of preparation for Holy Week. All are welcome to this gentle, calm time of community and prayer.
 - **Chrism Mass** – The annual Diocesan Chrism Mass will be at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond on Monday, April 3 at 6:00pm. Although attendance has been restricted in recent years because of the pandemic, this year all are welcome. Directions and parking information can be found in the attachment called “General Parking Information – Chrism Mass,” including a QR code for free parking at the West Main/Laurel Street parking deck.
 - **Rice Bowls** – Are you collecting change in your Lenten Rice Bowl? Almsgiving is part of our traditional Lenten practices, and all Rice Bowl funds will go to Catholic Relief Services to assist in their ministries abroad. **We will collect your Rice Bowls after Easter.** In particular, bring your Rice Bowl to Mass on the first Sunday after Easter (April 15 & 16, Divine Mercy Sunday) and we will invite everyone to bring their bowl to the altar during Mass, at the Preparation.
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EASTER FOOD DRIVE – Lent is upon us, which means it is time for our annual Easter basket food drive. All food collected will be distributed to families in need. Please grab a tag or two off the board in the Commons (they're going fast!) and return the purchased food items to the Commons on or before Palm Sunday, April 2nd. While we have collected monetary donations for these Easter baskets in the past, we actually only need

donations of food this year. If you have any questions, contact Berny Snyder in the parish office (804-526-2548; bsnyder@stanncc.com). Thank you in advance for your generosity!



LENTEN SCRUTINIES – As our community moves toward Easter through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, those who will be initiated into the Church through Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are going through a period of intense spiritual preparation and deep interior reflection. During the coming weeks, you may witness our Catechumen and Candidates participate in one of the three Scrutinies during Mass. The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good.

Please pray for our Catechumen and Candidates. Pictures, biographies, and name tags of these folks are on the bulletin board in the Commons. Consider taking a name tag and praying for one of these people through this Lenten season.



KITCHEN SUPPLIES – We are excited to see everyone using the kitchen and our new serving area. As we move forward and continue to look for ways we can be better stewards of our environment, we wanted to let everyone know that we will begin transitioning over to the re-usable dishes and silverware. So, as the paper products begin to deplete we will no longer order replacements. The only disposable items we will continue to order will be cups, napkins, and paper towels.

Thank you for helping us become better stewards of the environment. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Melissa Pakurar in the office (804-526-2548; mpakurar@stanncc.com).



2023 ANNUAL APPEAL

Sight is easy to take for granted. For the Pharisees in this weekend's Gospel, the possibility that they might be missing something, despite having sight, authority, and education bothers them: "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" (John 9:40)

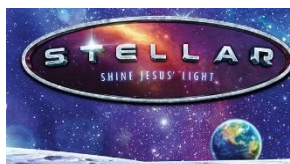
When we walk through a house, we automatically look for the light switch if it's dark. It's difficult to do anything in the dark. "We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day," Jesus said in John 9:4. "Night is coming when no one can work."

The works of God cry out to be accomplished, including the ministries supported by our Annual Diocesan Appeal. We must not delay. Christ is here. He is the daylight only by which we can work. We need him, and we need you. We ask him to guide our efforts throughout the Appeal. Please support our Appeal. We ask him to enlighten your discernment of how to do so. He will not let you walk in darkness when doing the works of God. He will be your light. God bless you abundantly for your gifts and prayers for our Appeal!

ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Stations of the Cross – Elementary Christian Formation Stations of the Cross will be held on March 26th during regular class time. Parents & other family members are invited. Please gather in the Worship Space.



Vacation Bible School -- It will be a full week of bible fun with a spectacular space theme to help us reach the stars! Save the dates for the week of June 26 – 30. Registrations will open on March 30th. We are looking for parents or interested adults to join our VBS Crew. Interested? Reach out to Silvana Lucero at slucero@stanncc.com. We would love to have you share your faith & energy with our kids this summer!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle and High School Youth Group will experience a “Hunger Banquet” this weekend and class time will be extended to 5:30-8:00pm. Crucial to this experience is for folks to sign up that they plan to arrive at 5:30pm. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aa9aa29a20-holy#/>

HUNGER BANQUET – On Sunday, March 19, our 11th and 12th graders will lead their peers in a Hunger Banquet. During this interactive and potentially life-changing experience we will seek to learn more about hunger, access to food, income disparities, and poverty on a global scale. Because of a meal being an integral part of the class, class time for MS & HS students (6th-12th) is extended to 5:30-8:00pm. This will allow the time for the full experience of the meal, processing, and conversation.

Middle School Experiential Stations – Back by popular demand, our Middle School Students will guide you through a hands-on experience of Jesus’s suffering, death, and resurrection on Friday, March 24 at 7:00pm. Volunteers are needed for Middle School Stations of the Cross. Practice for Middle School Experiential Stations will be on Sunday, March 19 immediately following the 11:15am Mass. Sign up here to volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aa9aa29a20-holy#/>

Let us pray for gardeners, farmers, and all who tend the soil. As our earth awakens from winter sleep, may we rejoice in the signs of resurrection we see and thank God for all the gifts God gives us in the fruits of the earth.

St. Ann Calendar – Thursday, March 9 through Sunday, March 19

THURSDAY–March 16

9:30 am	Women’s Spirituality Group	Rm 6
11:00 am	Mass	Chapel
1:30 pm	Mass at Dunlop House	Off-site
	Ascension Lenten Companion Discussion	
2:00 pm	Group	Chapel
7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Condon Hall
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

FRIDAY– March 17

12:00 pm	AARP Tax Aide	Double Classroom/Rm 7
12:00 pm	Mass	Chapel
1:00 pm	Social Seniors Planning Meeting	Rm 6
3:30 pm	CICCA	Rm 6
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	Worship Space
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

SATURDAY– March 18 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

3:45 pm	Confession/Reconciliation	Chapel
5:00 pm	Mass	Worship Space
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

SUNDAY—March 19 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

8:30 am	Mass	Worship Space
During Mass	CLOW	Chapel
During Mass	2nd Scrutiny	Worship Space
After Mass	Hospitality Sunday	Condon Hall
9:45 am	Adult Formation	Rm 8
9:45 am	Elementary Christian Formation	School Building
11:15 am	Celebrate Youth Mass	Worship Space
During Mass	CLOW	Chapel
After Mass	Hospitality Sunday	Condon Hall
1:00 pm	CDA Meeting	Condon Hall
5:00 pm	Crescendos Rehearsal	Worship Space
5:30 pm	Youth Group Meal	Hall
6:30 pm	MS & HS Youth Group	Worship Space/Condon Hall
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

MONDAY—March 20

9:00 am	Morning Pause	Chapel
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

TUESDAY— March 21

8:30 am	Happy Feet Dancers	Condon Hall
12:00 pm	AARP Tax Aide	Double Classroom/Rm 7
12:15 pm	Game Day	Condon Hall
2:00 pm	Study of the Gospel of Matthew	Chapel
5:30 pm	Reconciliation	Chapel
6:30 pm	Mass	Chapel
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

WEDNESDAY—March 22

7:00 am	Bible Study	Worship Space
9:00 am	Mass	Chapel
9:30 am	Bible Study	Rm 6
5:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper	Condon Hall
6:30 pm	Cantor Rehearsal	Worship Space
7:00 pm	RCIA	Rm 6
7:15 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Worship Space
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

THURSDAY—March 23

9:30 am	Women's Spirituality Group	Rm 6
11:00 am	Mass	Chapel
	Ascension Lenten Companion Discussion	
2:00 pm	Group	Chapel
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

FRIDAY— March 24

10:00 am	Women's Cursillo Group	Chapel
12:00 pm	AARP Tax Aide	Double Classroom/Rm 7
12:00 pm	Mass	Chapel
3:30 pm	CICCA	Rm 6
5:00 pm	Lenten Fish Fry	Condon Hall
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	Worship Space
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

SATURDAY— March 25 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

3:45 pm	Confession/Reconciliation	Chapel
5:00 pm	Mass	Worship Space
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

SUNDAY—March 26 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

8:30 am	Mass	Worship Space
During Mass	CLOW	Chapel
During Mass	3rd Scrutiny	Worship Space
9:45 am	Adult Formation	Rm 8
9:45 am	Elementary Stations of the Cross	Worship Space
11:15 am	Mass	Worship Space
During Mass	CLOW	Chapel
1:00 pm	Baptism Class #1	Nursery
5:00 pm	Crescendos Rehearsal	Worship Space
5:30 pm	Youth Group Meal	Condon Hall
6:30 pm	MS & HS Youth Group	Worship Space/Condon Hall
8:00 pm	Compline	Zoom

For information about how to join Compline on Zoom, please go to the St. Ann website and click on the "St. Ann Prays" tab. All are welcome!