CHRUCH OF SAINT ANNE
stannesgc.org  35 Dartmouth Street, Garden City, NY 11530  516-352-5904
516-352-1360 Fax

Christmas Mass at Saint Anne's

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th
4:00PM in the Church
4:00PM Family Mass in McCloskey Auditorium
6:00PM in the Church
9:00PM in the Church
Midnight in the Church - Choir begins at 11:15PM

Christmas Day - Wed, December 25th
7:00AM, 8:30AM, 10:00AM,
11:45AM & 1:15PM
All Masses are celebrated in the Church - Please note there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day

Please note the 4PM & 6 PM Masses on Christmas Eve are often filled beyond capacity.
You may wish to attend one of our other liturgies.

Our best wishes for a blessed and joyous Christmas!

Sharing our Blessings at Christmas

Thank you to all who share the joy of Christmas with others during this holy season

Please see inside for photos of Christmas Sponsor A Family, Respite Christmas Party, Youth Ministry, Families in Service Christmas Caroling, MOMs Breakfast with Santa and more...

All Are Welcome!

We welcome new members to join our parish family. Please contact the parish office.
We also welcome any adult who was never baptized, baptized non-Catholics or those seeking to receive First Eucharist or Confirmation to become a full participant in the Catholic Church.
Being Catholic at St. Anne’s:
Our Families, Our Mission, Our Future

Capital Campaign Goal: $3,500,000
Pledges to Date: $3,958,672
Percentage to Goal: 113%
# Donors 504

“For it is in giving that we receive.”
St. Francis of Assisi

A CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Although we are in the redemption and collection phase of the capital campaign, in the past month we have received over $150,000 in pledges and gifts and have increased our participation to over 500 donors! We have been asked if it is too late to make a pledge and be part of this exciting time in the life of the parish. Know that we continue to welcome anyone who would like to participate. The generosity of you, our parishioners is abundant in so many ways, to so many people.

Did you know that your donation is tax deductible?

There is still time for you to make a charitable donation before 2019 ends. You can give to the campaign in various ways and pledges can be paid over five years. In addition to cash and electronic payments, gifts of stocks and securities are also accepted. For donors over 70 ½ years of age, you can make a direct charitable contribution from a Traditional IRA while reducing your adjusted gross income. For more information on the IRA charitable rollover and giving electronically through We Share, please see page 20. If you have any questions on ways to give or the campaign, call Mary Lou Engrassia at 352-5904.

Architect’s renderings of the St. Francis Ministry Center

View of building from Fairmount Blvd.

View of building from behind the rectory on Dartmouth Street

If you have not already made a gift to the campaign, please consider adding it to your Christmas giving plan. Every gift helps and no gift is too small! For more information, please contact the parish office at 352-5904.
Dear Parishioners,

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent and Blessed and Merry Christmas! We will be seeing a lot of each other these next few days and weeks. Information can be found in the bulletin for the Mass schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Between these two days we have ten Christmas Masses. To avoid crowds come on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day. Please know that for the crowded Masses on Christmas Eve, there are no reserved seats. People are asked not to tell others that the seat is reserved for someone yet to arrive. Spreading coats on the pews to reserve seats is not what we do. All seating expect that for Persons with Disabilities is open seating. This is our practice all through the year and does not change on Christmas Day. Our crowds are large on Christmas Eve and we want everyone to feel welcome and as comfortable as possible.

The Advent figure for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is Joseph, the husband of Mary. Joseph is asked to trust, to listen, and to obey. He trusts without fully understanding. He listens to the voice of the Lord who speaks to Joseph in a dream. He obeys the command of the Lord mediated through the angel. Joseph is chosen for that role of father to Jesus and husband to Mary. He accepts what is asked of him despite any doubts and misgivings he may have. He does so quietly, seemingly often in the background. Joseph is a man of acceptance and peace. He is a man of faith. How well he serves as a model for all dads. Patience, trust, listening, obedient, prayerful, accepting, courageous, and faithful. Fathers need those qualities as much as ever. Our children need these kind of men in their lives. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, just before Christmas, we are privileged to have the example of Joseph to lead us into the celebration of Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, I pray that all of us may enjoy the blessings and joy of this very special and sacred time. I am very aware of the blessings that are mine to be here at St. Anne’s with you. This is a wonderful parish to which I belong. I am very grateful.

Christmas is a time of generosity. But always with generosity, there needs to be gratitude. One gratitude of mine is the exceptional generosity of the parish to the capital campaign for our new St. Francis Ministry and Meeting Center. We have exceeded our $3.5 million dollar goal by about $500,000. Just today, as I write this Christmas letter, we received another $8,000 in pledges and we now have over 500 parishioner donors. Your generosity at this time is a sign of the generosity St. Anne’s parishioners have demonstrated throughout our history.

The end of the year is a time when some people determine their end-of-year donations. We are still accepting pledges and increased participation will help us realize all of our goals. We hope for the participation of 600 parish families. So if you wish to help the parish in this regard, please know you can.

Those parishioners who have closely followed our progress with the new building have been very patient. Thank you for your patience. We have narrowed down our contractor search to two bidders and one bidder asked for a little more time to gather more precise information. We have given the contractor this time in hopes that his “best and final bid” will better meet our budget. When he submits that “best and final!” we will choose between the two contractors. The bid will be submitted to the Diocesan Building Office, the Vicar General and we hope for a quick approval. We still hope to begin building in March. A further delay would be disappointing. Thank you for your generosity and patience in this regard.

St. Anne’s is a wonderful parish because of the blessing of such a strong community. People care about one another. People help each other in need. Parishioners enjoy gathering socially. All initiatives of parish ministry are supported. Our young families support our Catholic parish school and vibrant Faith Formation program. Our long standing parishioners treat St. Anne’s as a second home and want the parish to succeed in all its endeavors. We have lots of parish organizations and opportunities to become involved.

Most important to us as a parish community is the gift of Faith. Our faith inspires us to do what we do as a parish. Our faith brings us together for Sunday Mass and all the celebrations of sacraments and prayer. A large team of parishioners combine their time and talents so we can praise, sing, and give thanks to God when we celebrate Mass. I hope those who come feel welcome and nurtured.

This has been a troubled time in the Church. The abuse scandal has hurt many and there is a continued need for repentance on the part of many who have shared in the scandal. St. Anne’s parishioners know of the pain. Yet the strong faith and dedication of parishioners has allowed St. Anne’s to be a vibrant place that makes important contributions to the local community and other parish communities. We are far from perfect and we are forever to learn how to follow the Lord more closely and live the gospel more really.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we have the powerful example of St. Joseph to lead us with the joyous celebration of the Birth of Mary’s son, Jesus.

Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Fra. Tom
**Professional Networking Group**

Saint Anne’s Professional Networking Group offers a venue and platform for parishioners to network, to share resources and to find support. We offer monthly meetings at Saint Anne’s, with informative speakers and ongoing opportunities to network with fellow parishioners. You can join the group on Linkedin, where you’ll find many useful suggestions and advice from members who have offered presentations at our meetings.  

**One-to-One Support:** Anyone who might benefit from one-to-one support, please contact Linda Leone at 352-5904 or lindaleone@stannesgc.org and you will be connected to an appropriate person. All information shared remains confidential.

**Saint Anne’s Young Widows Group**

**We relate, we understand, we listen, we care**

A new group is forming for young widows and widowers under the age of 60, as we come together in faith to find support and strength during this difficult time. We will help each other to understand and begin the healing process of losing a spouse while providing a safe space to grieve and begin your new journey. Our group will meet for eight sessions beginning Thursday, January 16th at St. Anne’s from 7-9pm. Please email us at youngwidows@stannesgc.org or text Jeanne at 516-987-1483 for more information.

**Offer A Ride**

We are pleased that so many of our seniors are taking advantage of our "Offer a Ride" program, where volunteer parishioners drive Saint Anne's seniors or parishioners in need to Mass and/or local doctor's appointments. Our seniors are especially comforted by, and deeply appreciative of, being accompanied to a doctor's appointment by a fellow parishioner. If you would like to become a volunteer driver and contribute to the continued success of this important program, please contact Linda Leone at 352-5904 or lindaleone@stannesgc.org. Thank you in advance for your willingness to be of service!

**Resilience … Support for Parents**

Many parents choose not to discuss concerns about their children’s mental health with anyone due to fear of the stigma that is often attached. If you have a son or daughter who is experiencing psychological or emotional challenges, do you hesitate to speak with trusted friends or relatives because of the concern that at best they would not understand or perhaps they would be critical or judgmental? Do you often feel isolated, as if you are alone in dealing with this issue? Do you wonder at times where God is in the midst of your child’s struggles? Saint Anne’s Resilience group offers support to parents of teens and young adults who are experiencing challenges, either psychological, emotional or both. We respect the confidentiality of each person and offer a safe environment to meet with other parents who are facing similar challenges. **You are not alone!** We will be meeting in January on a date to be announced next week. For more information, please contact Linda Leone at lindaleone@stannesgc.org

**Saint Anne’s MOMs**

Saint Anne's MOMs group welcomes mothers of young children, offering them many ways to connect with one another and to find support. From our Wednesday morning gatherings at Saint Anne’s to our many social and service activities, there is something for everyone in the MOMs group. If you’d like to join, please e-mail Kelly Cameron at stannesmoms@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 352-5904 for information.

**Cancer Support**

**Where there is life, there is hope...**

Saint Anne's has a support group for people whose lives are affected by cancer. Those who have joined are at different points in their journey, but all share a common bond of faith. If you would like more information, please contact Linda Leone at 352-5904.

**Special Needs Ministry**

**Respite Care**

The next session of our Respite Care program will be held on **Friday, January 10th** from 6:00PM to 8:00PM For more information, please contact Linda Leone at lindaleone@stannesgc.org or call 352-5904.

**Special Needs Mass**

Mass will be celebrated with our special needs community on **Saturday, January 11th at 5:00PM in the cafeteria.** All are welcome!

**Senior Ministry**

Our parish is happy to offer support to our senior parishioners. We help them stay connected to Saint Anne’s through the dedicated efforts of our Homebound Visitors, EM’s who bring Holy Communion, nurses, volunteers who deliver flowers and send cards, and our Senior Newsletter. If you’re interested in getting involved, please contact Parish Social Ministry 352-5904.
**Share-A-Meal**

Saint Anne’s Share-A-Meal program offers parishioners the opportunity to reach out and help persons in need by preparing a meal for them. A simple act, cooking dinner for someone who is not able to do so, but one that offers a great message of support. Parishioners who participate in Share-A-Meal offer to prepare a meal on an occasional basis, perhaps once a month, depending upon their availability.

The families who receive these meals are truly grateful. More than food alone, the message being delivered is that there are parishioners who care and are willing to give of themselves in reaching out to help. For more information about becoming part of Share-A-Meal, please contact Suzannah Breglio at stannesgshareameal@gmail.com or Parish Social Ministry at 352-5904.

**Ministry of Consolation**

Saint Anne's help bring comfort to those who mourn through our Ministry of Consolation. Some members serve as companions who help guide recently bereaved families through the planning and celebration of the funeral Mass for their loved one. Others serve as greeters at the Mass and still others offer to bake cakes and deliver them to the homes of the next of kin. Volunteers in the Ministry of Consolation are known for their compassion and we are grateful for their service to our faith community. For any information, please contact Linda Leone at 352-5904.

**Saint Anne’s is Here For You...**

If you’re struggling with something and not sure where to turn, Saint Anne’s Parish provides confidential support & assistance. Serious illness, financial problems, marital difficulties, mental health concerns and coping with caring for those who are ill or elderly are issues we may all face at different times in our lives. Please call the parish if you need any assistance or would like to speak with a priest. Your personal situation will be respected and kept confidential. Parish Social Ministry can be reached at 352-5904 or lindaleone@stannesgc.org.

**PSM Advisory Committee**

Our PSM Advisory Committee is composed of the leaders of the various ministries of support and service at Saint Anne’s. Monthly meetings are held during which the leaders share their ideas and pray together. Many thanks to these leaders who help make Saint Anne’s the wonderful caring faith community it is!

**Disabilities Awareness**

Our Church is fully accessible to persons with disabilities, thanks to our elevator. Inside the Church, there are specially designated areas with comfortable upholstered seats intended for persons with disabilities. Eucharistic Ministers bring Communion directly to those who are seated in these special areas. For those who are hearing-impaired, there is a digital sound system with assistive listening devices available for use by parishioners. If you or someone you care for has a disability, we hope to be of assistance in any way possible. Please contact Parish Social Ministry at 352-5904.

**Nurse Ministry**

Volunteer nurses in Saint Anne’s Parish assist people with health care needs by providing information, assessment, possible referrals and advocacy. They also work with caregivers of the sick in providing health guidance and assessment as needed. Please call Parish Social Ministry at 352-5904 for more information.
FAITH FORMATION

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020

Wednesday's Faith Formation students leading the group with opening prayers

Tuesday’s Faith Formation students leading the group with opening prayers

Calendars

The schedule for classes is available on the website (stannesgc.org). In addition, important announcements will be posted on the website throughout the year. Please check it often.

Please know that our lines of communication are always open to families. The Faith Formation office is located in the school building. Please call or email Vivian Flood at 516-488-1032 or vflood@stannesgc.org.

Virtus Training at St. Anne’s

Virtus Training will be held at Saint Anne’s on Tuesday, January 21st at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

OR

Wednesday, January 22nd at 9:30 AM in the St. John Vianney Room

To register online for this or any other Virtus session offered by the diocese, go to the diocesan website, drvc.org and click on the Virtus tab to register.

Requirements for all Church and School Volunteers

In all we do, the safety of our parishioners and most especially our children is a top priority. To ensure a safe environment is provided, the diocese requires all parish and school volunteers comply with the following four requirements:

◘ Complete an Application for Volunteer Service
◘ Sign a Release for a Background Check
◘ Review and Sign the Code of Conduct form
◘ Attend Virtus Training

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Next meeting Wednesday, January 8th

All are invited to join us for our study of the Sunday Scriptures. We meet in the RECTORY BASEMENT at 2:30PM on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. No expertise is necessary. No sign-up is required. Please come!

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Next meeting Wednesday, January 15th

Men’s Bible Study Group meets around the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 7:30PM-9:00PM at the St. Therese Chapel in the school basement. For details and schedule, please contact Joe Parisi at (516) 526-3757 or by email at jparisi@financialguide.com.
God speaks to us in many ways. Oftentimes in the scriptures we hear of prophets having a vision or a dream. Throughout Advent we have heard of Isaiah’s dream – climbing the mountain of the Lord, swords turned into plows, spears into pruning hooks, lions lay with lambs, children play in safety. Isaiah’s words gave hope to the people of his time and to us as we pray for God’s Kingdom to come. God speaks to Joseph through a dream. Joseph goes to sleep with a heavy heart – what should he do?? God’s message to him is “do not be afraid.” Joseph awoke and, no longer afraid, takes Mary and her unborn child into his embrace and into his home. How do you hear God speak to you? Listen and do not be afraid!

**The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas**

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”

The most amazing gift was given on that holy night in Bethlehem! That gift came wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. But this gift is more than a new baby. This gift is Life itself. God the Son taking on human flesh sharing the gift of divine Life with us. Our gift this and every Christmas – and each and every day – is the mystery of God’s love dwelling among us! A Blessed Christmas!

**Readings for Christmas Eve**
- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
- Matthew 1:1-25

**Midnight**
- Isaiah 9:1-6
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14

**Dawn**
- Isaiah 62:11-12
- Titus 3:4-7
- Luke 2:15-20

**Day**
- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Hebrews 1:1-6
- John 1:1-18

**Children’s Sunday Mass at Saint Anne’s**

Join us on Christmas Eve – 400PM in McCloskey Auditorium for our Children’s Christmas Mass!

There will be no Children’s Sunday Mass next Sunday, December 29th.

**Children’s Choir**

The next rehearsal for our Children’s Choir will be on Monday, January 6th from 6:00-7:00PM in church. Any child from Grade 2 and older who would like to join the choir please contact Sr. Judy at srjudy@stannesgc.org or call the parish office 352-5904.

**Readings for The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
- Numbers 6:22-27
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:16-21

**RCIA**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Perhaps you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic or is a Catholic wanting to complete the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Eucharist). Our parish community would like to extend an invitation for you to learn more about our faith and celebrate the sacraments with us.

If you would like to learn more about the RCIA process please contact Sr. Judy at srjudy@stannesgc.org or by phone 352-5904 for more information. There are also pamphlets available in the church lobby, Five Reasons to Consider the Catholic Church and What Can the Church Offer Me?
Saint Anne’s MOMs group are mothers of Saint Anne's parish whose mission is clearly stated: “Together with our children, we seek to grow spiritually, create friendships, provide support, and connect with the community through faith, fellowship, family, recreation and service.” Our Wednesday morning playgroup that we fondly call Coffee & Kids includes arts & crafts and circle time with music. Our families are connected with each other through Couples’ Nights and family events. We also use our energy to support efforts in the Parish. We proudly sell mums each year at Spirit Day. Through the Loaves & Fishes Ministry, we collectively provide food and gifts for families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We offer assistance to Catholic Charities’ Regina Residence, a women's shelter for young expecting moms and we send meals to the homes of our new mothers. We also have an active social calendar for the year ahead. Parishioners who are interested in joining may contact Kelly Cameron, our membership chair mom, at stannesmoms@gmail.com. Even if you are not available for Wednesday mornings, you are welcome to join as a social member. Wishing all a very Merry Christmas! Photos are from our recent Breakfast with Santa!
Youth Ministry Sponsors Families in Need for Christmas

Next Meeting on Sunday, January 5th at 6:30PM in the cafeteria
Youth Group Alumni invited to attend

Teens in Saint Anne’s Youth Ministry worked together to sponsor two families in need for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. These families, who are facing very difficult circumstances, are now able to celebrate Christmas this year with a good meal and thoughtful gifts for each person. Many thanks to all the teens in Youth Group for their participation in this service project.

Saint Anne’s Youth Ministry is founded on three main values: faith, community and service. At our regular meetings there are games and activities that encourage teens to form new friendships and have conversations with many different people. Teens come from various high schools and all are always welcome. New members are invited to join at any time. For more information, please contact Bill Leone @ bleone@stannesgc.org.

Saint Anne’s Youth Group recently welcomed some former leaders who are home from college

Knights of Columbus

Contact Information

Msgr. Seidenschwang Council # 11836
St. Anne’s Church, Garden City, NY
www.11836KofC.org

Grand Knight        Doug Gaeta
                    516 354-6925

Membership          Donald DePol
                    516 775 3097

Chaplain            Fr. Cody Bobick

Our thanks to Graham Nursery for donating the beautiful Christmas tree outside the front of the church

The Knights are Catholic men committed to working in the Family, Parish, Community, and Nation to make it a better place. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St. Anne’s School Cafeteria - 25 Dartmouth Street, Garden City, NY
School Christmas Concert and Nativity Pageant

On Tuesday, December 17th, the students participated in our annual Christmas Concert and Nativity Pageant. Joyous sounds of the season filled the auditorium. Our school band, under the direction of Mr. Michael Sorrentino played Christmas favorites including Silent Night and Jingle Bells. Later in the evening, our school chorus, under the direction of Mr. Tim Brown filled the room with wonderful melodies including Go Tell It on the Mountain and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. The concert traditionally concludes with a Nativity pageant presented by the 3rd grade, a truly jubilant close to a wonderful evening.

Disciple of the Month for December
Miranda Novack

Each month a student is chosen who embodies what it means to be Disciple of the Month. The disciple of the month is a student who emulates and demonstrates the character of Jesus Christ. The fruits of the spirit are shown through their actions namely: faithfulness, generosity, gentleness, goodness, joy, kindness, love, modesty, patience and peace. Congratulations Miranda!
SAINT ANNE’S CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

SAVE THE DATE... Sunday, January 31st

11:45AM Mass, School Open House immediately following

We are a school community where the Gospel is taught through word and example and the focus is on seeing Christ in one another. Lessons in faith are taught by dedicated faculty and learned through active service, as students and their families answer God’s call to serve those in need through our School Service Initiative.

Saint Anne’s School offers:

♦ A rigorous academic curriculum with motivated NYS certified teachers
♦ Ongoing in-house staff development to enhance instructional skills of teachers
♦ Accelerated math program for all students starting at the 6th grade
♦ Smart Boards in every classroom enabling teachers to create unique and interactive lessons with web links to the most up-to-date information
♦ An After-School Child Care program
♦ A fully equipped Science Lab for all grades
♦ A dedicated computer lab, as well as 180 Chrome Books
♦ IEP Resource Room services provided onsite
♦ Special-Ed certified academic support teacher on staff
♦ Individual class Masses in the Saint Thérèse Chapel
♦ Extracurricular activities include CYO swim team, track and basketball, a school band and Children’s’ Choir, yearbook, Student Council, and a school play, as well as after school enrichment activities. Special traditions at Saint Anne’s include the annual Christmas and Spring Concerts, the 1st Grade Saint’s Parade, 2nd Grade May Crowning and the 3rd Grade Christmas Pageant. The upper grade students participate in a Rube Goldberg project, Living Legends and Project Adventure as well as faith-based retreats.

We invite you to come and see if our caring, faith-filled environment is best for your child. Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner, beginning on Sunday, January 31st. We look forward to sharing the good news of Saint Anne’s School with you!

For additional information or a tour of our school, please contact our principal, Mr. Gene Fennell at 516-352-1205 or gfennell@stannesgcschool.org.
Loaves and Fishes Christmas Sponsor a Family - Thank You So Much!

Our faithful volunteers delivered everything to Saint Martha’s in Uniondale and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish Outreach in Wyandanch last Saturday morning. **In total, over 330 families** received food for Christmas dinner and extras to help stock their shelves, along with gifts for each member of their families.

**In the words of one family in need:**
“Every bag of food and box received was a total delight and joy. We pray that your Thanksgiving and Christmas was as blessed for you and your family. For a family who had nothing for Christmas these gifts mean everything to us! Words cannot say. It put so much joy in our hearts and a lot of love in our home from you. Thanks for sending us so much love, joy and happiness.”

Thanks to all who help bring hope and joy to families in need. Special thanks to Barbara Tranfaglia, Paul and Diane Wykowski, Jon and Lilly Schwieger, Joanne and Rob Sorge, Jennifer Staub, Tricia Paskewitz, Mary Stenson, Marianne Huggard, Cathy Jessop, Lauren Molloy and **every volunteer who so generously helped with this program**. Our teen volunteers were exceptionally helpful and their dedicated efforts were much appreciated! Together, everyone helped bring joy and lightness of heart to many this Christmas.

Please see the parish website, stannesgc.org, for photos
Loaves and Fishes Christmas Sponsor a Family - Thank You So Much!

Continued

A great team of volunteers worked tirelessly at the Ryan Outreach Center in Wyandanch, ensuring that everything was delivered where needed!

Young volunteers helped organize food for hundreds of families at St. Martha’s in Uniondale, all in time for Christmas delivery.
Christmas 2019

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

In his December 1, 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Our Holy Father Pope Francis writes:

“The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture...I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.

Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. *It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be discovered and revived.*”

The Holy Father captures so poignantly how we creatively share our Catholic faith generation to generation through the Nativity sets and creches that bring Christ’s light and love into our homes, our parishes and our public squares.

He also captures how the poor, the outcast, the ignored, the forgotten and the vulnerable have a privileged place in every Nativity scene: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the dispossessed and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and the power and presence of the Prince of Peace in our families, in the Church and in the World, we realize at the same time that the Christmas Crib can never be separated from the agony of Calvary’s Cross.
Even as we rejoice this Christmas of 2019, we remember and stand with the poor, the hungry, the addicted, the mentally ill, the global refugees and non-documented immigrants, and survivors of sexual abuse.

As we pray before the Christmas manger and see the beauty, the hope, the possibility in the birth of Jesus, we are compelled to remember that far too many children do not receive the welcome and joy they deserve for the miracle of their existence.

We cannot forget this Christmas season the great sadness that New York State, through the passage of the horrific Reproductive Health Act\(^1\), has enshrined into law the killing of innocent human beings through abortion up until the moment of actual birth and beyond, as this radical law permits the killing of those children who survive abortion.

Together, we invoke the power of the Prince of Peace and His compassionate Word found in the Beatitudes and in His call to serve the poor and the most vulnerable among us in Matthew 25. Our Lord gives us the courage and the voice as the Catholic Church in New York State and around the world to speak of the beauty, the sanctity and the dignity of every human life.

We will continue to be “a sign of contradiction” by witnessing relentlessly and courageously to the Gospel of Human Life. As is said in the first words of the Didache, the earliest known non-Scriptural Christian writing: “There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death…” We will always stand with our earliest ancestors in the Christian faith in favor of the Way of Life and opposed to the Way of Death.

We will continue to seek the intercession of St. Thomas More, patron of statesmen, politicians and lawyers for the conversion of the public servants who have supported this tragic legislation.

The Cistercian biblical scholar Father Simeon writes: “The Child, while present only in Bethlehem by his poverty and weakness, is already present in the pattern of the constellations by his splendor and his glory.”\(^2\)

May our praise and glory of the Prince of Peace fill our hearts and homes and give us the courage and prayerful determination to bring the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth to every public square in New York State and throughout the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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Respite Christmas Party
The Respite community enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 6th. As they gathered for dinner, everyone prayed together and gave thanks for the gift of their shared friendship. Santa Claus made a special appearance and presented each child with a gift. There were great games and activities for everyone, including decorating handmade wooden Christmas trees and freshly baked Christmas cookies, and tossing a ball into a pyramid full of surprises! There was music and dancing and basketball, with fun for all! Special thanks to Paul and Diane Wykowski for their amazing creativity and to all the quiet Santas among us who are so generous. Together they help make our Respite celebrations heartwarming and memorable!
THANK YOU TO OUR SPIRIT DAY SPONSORS!

Each year we have many companies who generously support Spirit Day as a sponsor. During this Christmas season we wish to thank them for their participation in our wonderful annual event. We hope that should you have a need for any of these services that you will consider supporting these vendors with your business. We are grateful for the support they provide to our faith community throughout the year!

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<td>Andrew J. Mollica, Attorney at Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andriola, Goldberg &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B &amp; P Chimney Cleaning &amp; Repair Co., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balsamo Contracting Corp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Tranfaglia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty Counter - Michele Meyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big W Delivery Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Daughters of America - Court St. Anne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinelli’s Pizza &amp; Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach Realtors – Nancy Giannone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach Realtor-Sharon Redmond &amp; Monica Kiely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Gale Sotheby’s– Ellen Lynch O’Hara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donnelly Mechanical Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairchild Sons Funeral Home, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden City Orthodontics - Dr. Denise Emma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JVL Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K of C - Msgr. John Seidenschwang Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krauss Funeral Home, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallozzi &amp; Dwyer, CPAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manor Deli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Funeral Chapels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pellegrini’s Prime Meats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Construction Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Fine Catering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPEAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality A/C &amp; Heating Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosen &amp; Federico, CPAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Street Gourmet Deli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaw Ross International– Tom O’Hara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature Premier Properties - Marge Leder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart Manor Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Inn at New Hyde Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas F. Dalton Funeral Homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobin Dental Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulip Caterers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Pest Control Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Stream House of Carpets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Hempstead Animal Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAVE THE DATE! SPIRIT DAY 2020

Saturday, October 17th
Families in Service Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 8th, our Families in Service program continued the annual tradition of visiting our senior parishioners, bringing them a message of good cheer. Families with young children gathered in the cafeteria and received a special blessing from Father Cody before going out in groups to sing Christmas carols. This was a wonderful way for families to share the joy of Christmas with their children and with the seniors who remain a vital part of our faith community. Thank you to Shannon Kolenik, Rena Capri and Marianne Huggard for coordinating this event and to all who helped share the blessings of Christmas. 

*For more photos, please see our parish website at stannesgc.org*
# IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Whether you itemize or not in 2019, this unique opportunity allows you to make a charitable contribution through a direct IRA transfer while reducing your adjusted gross income.

If you would like to make a gift using your IRA and if:

- You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
- Your IRA is a traditional (some Roth IRA’s may qualify)
- You don’t exceed your personal maximum of $100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions

You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution". In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

**VERY IMPORTANT!!** Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Parish. If you receive the money first then you’ll be taxed on it like any other distribution.

Bill has a $125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute $5,000 to the Parish. Upon hearing of the Charitable IRA Rollover opportunity, he directs the custodian of his IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2019 directly to the Parish as the family’s 2019 gift. He will not be subject to income tax on the $5,000 donation.

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

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## PARISH SACRIFICAL GIVING SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY OFFERTORY</th>
<th>Total Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 15, 2019</td>
<td>$18,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WeShare Electronic Contributions</td>
<td>$  6,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Collection</td>
<td>$24,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 16, 2018</td>
<td>$18,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WeShare Electronic Contributions</td>
<td>$  5,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Collection</td>
<td>$24,231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offertory Period</th>
<th>Total Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 2019-December 15, 2019</td>
<td>$376,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 2018-December 16, 2018</td>
<td>$374,937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH**

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## THIS SEASON, GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE

IT’S SAFE. IT’S SIMPLE. IT’S CONVENIENT.

1. Visit stannesgc.org and click Give Online.
2. Select the collection or event of your choice.
3. Set up your donation or payment. That’s it!
Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
7:00AM  Maureen Connelly
8:30  Annagrace Bennett, Joan Doyle, The Liggio Family, Tim Hoch, John Stewart, Ronald Hock
10:00  Sr. Maureen Coyne
10:30  Joyce McCarthy
11:45  Gloria Cotellessa
5:30PM  Parishioners of St. Anne

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
7:30  Maureen O’Brien
9:00  Charles Gavigan

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
7:30  Bishop James McHugh
9:00  Sheila Valvo
4:00PM  Concetta & Frank DiStefano
4:00AUD  Regina Brancato
6:00  Bob Wilkinson, Joan Berger, Bernadette Berger
9:00  Claire Pellett
MIDNIGHT  Anna & Frank Versaglio

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
7:00  Roman Kopacz
8:30  Oles, Esposito, & Pugliese Families
10:00  Joe & Ann Cartwright
11:45  Thomas Downey– 11th Anniversary
1:15  Ralph Comunale

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26
7:30  Noreen Conroy Domingo
9:00  Maureen Henning

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
9:00  Maria Lanzisera

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28
8:30  Marge Rix Schnell, Marianne Grossi, Alice Mostyn, Deceased Members of the Ferrick Family, Elizabeth Laide
5:00PM  Parishioners of St. Anne

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
7:00AM  Maureen Connelly
8:30  Susan Gallic, Karin Dean, Tim Hoch, John Stewart, James H. Evans, Jr.
10:00  Mae McGuigan
11:45  Patrick Manley
5:30PM  Cecelia Murray

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Please remember the following people in your prayers

Victor Abrahamsen
Stephanie Adomavicius
Catherine Amato
Garth Atchley
Mary Bagnato
Denise Bedeian
Eleanor Beggins
Jean Bennett
Kim Bily
William Brown
Deacon George Browne
Mary Ann Calabro
Gail Calma
Lisette Cantara
Cathy Carroll
Kevin Carroll
Mary Caruana
Elizabeth Castellano
Elizabeth Cirillo
Bernadette Clarke
Thomas Connor
Anthony Corrao
Anthony Cuccia
Barbara Curran
Vincent D’Agostino
Pat Dalia
Claire Decker
Denise DeCrescito
Sergio DeVincenzo
Lorraine Distefano
Margaret Donaldson
Patricia Durecko
Charles Eschmann
Janet Fellingham
Frank Fields
Sean Fitzsimons
Tom Flatley
Brendan Galligan
Baby Ashlynn George
Denise Giacometti
Brian Gormley
Anthony Greco
Sean Green
Rhett Hemingway
Don Hess
Patrick Hughes Sr.
Donald Kalbacher
Joan Kalbacher
Terese Karcher
Carolyn Kast
Terri King
H. J. Kong
Carole Langan
Ricky Loew
Baby Emma Lynch
Chris Lynch
Henry Lynch
Kevin Mansfield
Luke Mapes
Danny Marquino
Dorothy McAleavey
Marie McAuliffe
Robert McAuliffe
Barbara McGovern
Deacon Jack McGowan
Paul McManaman
Mike Meoni
Vincent Milo
Barbara Mohan
Gabrielle Monastero
William Morgan
Jimmy Mulligan
Lauren Munafo
Philip O’Connell
Sally O’ Connor
Dorothy O’Grady
Andrea O’Halloran
Thomas Onorato, Jr.
Vincent Panarella
Adelaine Parks
Mary Rose Parlato
Brian Pfail
Linda Safina
Melissa Sarfin
Maryann Scanlon
Vinny Scheppa
Eileen Sharp
Theresa Smith
Mary Spadaro
Lorraine Spanier
Catherine Sullivan
Vanessa Testani
Jerome Vanora
Susan Williams
Michael Zapf

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 28
5:00PM - Fr. Cody

Sunday, December 29
7:00AM - Fr. Tom  
8:30AM - Fr. Nicholas  
10:00AM - Fr. Nicholas  

Celebrate subject to change
**Opportunities for Prayer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosary</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>Mondays-Fridays-Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Saturdays-Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miraculous Medal Prayers</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>Tuesdays-Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Anne’s Prayer Group</td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Tuesdays-Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharistic Adoration</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Thursdays-Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>9:45AM</td>
<td>Thursday-Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Mercy</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>Fridays-Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pastoral Staff**

- **Pastor:** Msgr. Thomas Harold
- **Associate Pastor:** Rev. Cody Bobick
- **Associate Pastor:** Rev. Nicholas Frimpong
- **Deacons:** George Browne (retired), James O’Brien, Basil Bliss, Robert McCarthy, Michael Boldizar

**Parish Staff**

- **Faith Formation:** Vivian Flood
  - 488-1032
- **Saint Anne’s School:** Gene Fennell, Principal
  - 352-1205
- **Parish Social Ministry:** Linda Leone, Pastoral Associate
  - 352-5904
- **Liturgy and Worship:** Sister Judith Golden, OP
  - 352-5904
- **Music Ministry:** Timothy Brown
  - 599-5448
- **Parish Operations:** Mary Lou Engrassia
  - 352-5904
- **Youth Ministry:** Bill Leone
  - 352-5904

**We Celebrate the Sacraments**

- **Eucharist**
  - Saturday Evening: 5:00PM
  - Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:45, 5:30PM
  - 10:30AM Family Mass (October—May)
  - Monday thru Thursday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM
  - Friday: 9:00AM
  - Saturday: 8:30AM

- **Reconciliation**
  - Saturday 4:00 - 4:45PM/Thursday before First Friday 4:30 - 5:00PM

- **Baptisms**
  - Infant Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday at 1:30PM. Parents are asked to call the parish office for information.

- **Marriage**
  - Couples should contact the parish office to arrange an appointment with a priest or deacon at least six months prior to their wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick**

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on the first Saturday of the month at the 8:30AM Mass. If a loved one is unable to come to church, please call 352-5904 to arrange for a home visit.

**We welcome those newly baptized into our Faith Community:**
- Molly Jean Maloney
- Pierce James Mehmel
- Clara Rose Forste

**Let us pray for those who have died**
- Harold J. Raffetto
- Mary Ann Ryan
- William F. Brown

**Our Faith Community offers prayers this week on their first anniversary for:**
- Maria Dell Italia—December 22, 2018

**The Altar Bread & Wine for this week is in memory of Nicholas Altuna**
- Donated by Mary Altuna

Please remember in your prayers family members of Saint Anne’s parishioners who are serving in the military:
- 1st Lt. William Allen, US Army;
- Pvt. Nicholas Ballek, US Army; Pvt Charles Bosch, US Army
- Thomas Brown, US Army; L/Cpl. Neal T. Burke, USMC
- Capt. Anthony F. Califano, US Navy
- Master Sgt. Denis Cashin, USMC;
- Capt. Matthew Clements, US Army
- Lt. Cmdr. Brian Cunningham, Navy SEAL
- Capt. Christopher Dar Conte, USAF
- Commander Michael Flatley, US Navy; Spc. David Garcia, US Army
- Lt. Corporal James Harkin, USMC; Major Kevin Joyce, US Army
- Sean Kelly, US Navy
- Michael Koster, Military Police, US Army Reserves
- Lance Cpl. James McCartin, USMC
- Ensign Glenn McKenna, US Navy; Cpl. Owen A. Monahan, USMC
- AD2 Joseph V. Muscaro, US Navy;
- Greg Palkot, Int’l. News Reporter
- Airman Anthony J. Pittella, US Navy;
- T. Sgt. Ian William Roth, USAF
- Capt. Thomas Safina, US Army Reserves;
- Capt. Tara Sutcliffe, USMC
- 2nd Lt. Kyle T. Walsh, US Army, Aviation