ST. ANN CHURCH
AND NATIONAL SHRINE
4940 Meadowdale St., Metairie, LA  70006
504-455-7071 - Fax 504-455-7076
Website: stannchurchandshrine.org - Email: stannmet@bellsouth.net
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stannchurchandshrine
Twitter: https://twitter.com/stannmetairie
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/stannchurch

CHURCH HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 6:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday 6:00 am to 8:15 pm

WEEKEND EUCHARIST
Saturday: 7:30 am Mass
4:00 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday Masses:
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

WEEDDAY EUCHARIST
Monday - Friday:  6:30 am & 8:45 am
Tuesday:  7:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday:  9:30 am to 6:00 pm
ending with Benediction
First Friday:  9:30 - 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday:  6:00 to 6:45 pm
Saturday:  3:00 to 3:45 pm
5:00 to 5:30 pm

WEEKLY EUCHARIST

Pastor
Rev. Billy O’Riordan
455-7071, ext. 223

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Colin Braud, ext. 224

Deacons
Mr. Philip Doolen, ext. 231
Mr. Raymond Bertin,
Facilities Manager, ext. 226
Mr. Tom Fox, ext. 257

Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Mr. David Wilson, ext. 225
e-mail: stanneled@bellsouth.net

Director of Liturgical Music
Trish Foti , 559-8637
e-mail: foti@stannchurchandshrine.org

Office Manager
Mrs. Debbie Sommers, ext. 221

Church Secretaries
Mrs. Linda Ehrhardt, ext. 222
Mrs. Beverly Musso, ext. 222

St. Ann School - 455-8383
Mrs. Susan Kropog, Principal
www.stannschool.org

WEBSITE POLICY
The parish bulletin is published on the parish website on the internet. Any person who does not want his or her name or picture in the bulletin or on the internet, please notify the Parish Office immediately in writing.

MISSION STATEMENT
St. Ann, a Roman Catholic Parish of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, is a faith family serving the needs of the parishioners and the wider community. Home to the National Shrine of St. Ann, we are committed to providing opportunities to all for worship and service, evangelization and education, stewardship and ministry. St. Ann Parish welcomes and invites all people to join us in proclaiming and living the Gospel values of Jesus Christ.

A CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD
This is for students in grades kindergarten, one, two and three and is held during the Sunday 9:30 am Mass.

BAPTISM
Baptisms are celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. Please call the Church Office at least three months before the anticipated date of birth. To schedule an interview and date for Pre-Baptism Seminar, call Deacon Ray Bertin at 455-7071, ext. 226. The celebration of infant Baptism will be arranged during the interview process.

MATRIMONY
The prospective bride or groom must contact one of the parish priests or deacons at least 6 months in advance.

FUNERALS
Families should contact the Church Office before making any arrangements with the funeral home.

VISITATION OF THE SICK
Please notify the Church Office when someone is in the hospital or sick at home and unable to attend Mass.

ROSARY GROUPS
1st Saturday of each month following the 7:30 am Mass in Church.
Every Saturday 3:20 pm-3:40 pm, before the 4:00 pm Mass in Church.
Rosary & Divine Mercy, every Wednesday 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the St. Ann Room.

NOVENA TO ST. ANN
Every Tuesday after the 8:45 am and 7:00 pm Masses. Twice a year a solemn nine day novena is held at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, consisting of Mass, homily and novena prayers. July 18th through 26th (Feast of St. Ann) and the Thursday after Ash Wednesday through Friday of the first week of Lent.

“LITTLE CHURCH”
“Little Church” is a babysitting service which is available every Sunday during the 9:30 am Mass for children ages 1 to 5 years old. Please bring your children to the Parish Ministry Center, behind the church.
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A  
I Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

We are more than half way through Lent. It’s *Laetare Sunday* - a Sunday of hope and joy that Easter is near. Rose colored vestments are usually worn. The Church’s liturgy, on this fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the man born blind. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of Christ. This might well be a day to visit the baptismal font, recall your baptism, and renew your baptismal promises.

In the Gospel, Jesus gives the gift of sight to the blind man, but since we are not physically blind, most of us at least, we might think the Gospel story has no relevance for us. It is precisely because we can see that it has relevance for us. The question is: How well do we see?

The Pharisees had perfect eyesight, and saw too clearly the mistakes and faults of others, but they had no faith in Jesus. Oh, they loved to point the finger and gossip. *You are what comes out of your mouth!* We must not think of blindness as an illness that affects the eyes only. There are many forms of blindness that in some ways are very crippling: Selfishness blinds us to the needs of others. Snobbery blinds us to the equal dignity of others. Pride blinds us to our own faults. Prejudice blinds us to truth. Hurry blinds us to the beauty of the world around us. Materialism blinds us to spiritual and moral values.

A narrow mind, a small heart, an impoverished imagination all lead to a loss of vision, which darkens our lives and shrinks our imagination.

The man’s journey from blindness to sight symbolizes the journey from unbelief to faith - a journey from darkness to light, a journey from the head to the heart ... There is an old adage: *We shall pass through this world but once. Any good that we can do, or any kindness that we can show to others, let us do it now, for we shall not pass this way again.*

Reflection by Fr. Billy
Parish Calendar

3/26  
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION
2 PM IRELAND TRIP MEETING IN THE WELCOME CENTER

3/28  
9:15 ADORATION
6:20 PM PSR CLASS/CAFETERIA
7:30 PM BOY SCOUTS IN CAFETERIA
7:30 PM CATECHIST CLASS/ST. RAYMOND

3/29  
9:30 AM PRAYER GROUP/ST. RAYMOND
12:30 PM SCHOOL CONFESSIONS/CHURCH
1 PM SEWING SEAMS OF FAITH CLASS/ST. RAYMOND
5 PM CONFESSION IN ALL PARISHES/CHURCH
7 PM ADULT CHOIR/ST. CECILIA
7 PM YOUTH CHOIR REH/CHURCH

3/30  
9:30 AM ADULT CATECHISM/ST. RAYMOND

3/31  
7 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CHAPEL
4/1  
7:30 AM MEN’S CLUB MASS/CHURCH
8 AM ROSARY FOLLOWING THE 7:30 AM MASS
7 PM ST. ANN SCHOOL PARENT SOCIAL/WINSTON’S

School News

The students viewed our annual St. Joseph’s Altar last week in the school cafeteria. Report card grades for the third quarter were posted this week. We are proud of our students’ academic performance and we are happy to offer secure electronic communication to parents. Please watch the WLAE tuition auction on Tuesday night, March 28th. St. Ann School will be one the schools participating.

Born to Run/5K and Fun Run  April 8, 2017

EVENT INFORMATION
Audubon Park  Shelter #10/Newman Bandstand
7:30 am - Runner sign-in, race day registration
8:30 am - 1-mile Fun Run/Walk begins
9:00 am - 5K/Walk begins

Post-race “Birth”Day Party - Free food, live music by Neutral Snap and fun for the whole family.

The 2017 Born to Run/NOLA is a great opportunity for runners and walkers alike to take an active role in Woman’s New Life Center’s mission. Woman’s New Life Center (WNLC) is a life-affirming counseling and medical center that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the New Orleans and Greater Baton Rouge areas. You can help WNLC continue to save and change lives by participating in Born to Run/NOLA.

Olga Ann Frank, our pianist at the 11:00 a.m. mass has a team participating in the Born to Run race which raises money for the Women’s New Life Center.

If you’d like to join me, please visit my Team Page using the link below. Team Page: https://secure.qgiv.com/event/team/799403/Team Name: Go Make a Difference
Team Captain: Olga Ann Frank

Palm Sunday—Regular Mass Schedule

Monday, April 10th
♦  Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:45 AM

Tuesday, April 11th
♦  Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:45 AM & 7:00 PM
♦  40 Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 6:30 AM Mass until 10:00 PM on Wednesday in the Adoration Chapel ONLY
♦  Mass of Chrism at St. Louis Cathedral: 10:00 AM
♦  Confession 6:00-7:00PM

Wednesday, April 12th
♦  Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:45 AM

Holy Thursday, April 13th
♦  Morning Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours] 8:45 AM
♦  Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7:00 PM followed by procession to the Day Chapel, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight.

Good Friday, April 14th
♦  Morning Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours] 8:45 AM
♦  Celebration of the Lord’s Passion: 3:00 PM
♦  Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday, April 15th
♦  Morning Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours] 8:45 AM followed by RCIA Preparatory Rites
♦  Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM. The entire celebration of this Vigil should take place at night, that is, it should begin after nightfall and end before dawn. The Easter Vigil is not to be celebrated at the time of day that is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses. [No 3:00 PM Confessions or 4:00 PM Mass]

Easter Sunday, April 16th
♦  Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
[No 5:00 PM Mass]
Fourth Sunday of Lent

See into Our Hearts

Father Almighty,
you who have blessed our ancestors
and anointed them with the oil of
your Spirit;
who have given your grace and light to
those in need
and guided the hands of our leaders in faith.
See into our hearts today,
and find us ready to receive you,
as you guided Samuel to recognize the
Lord’s chosen.
May we open our eyes to see you, and our
hearts to accept you,
and may we find Christ in others as you
guide us.
Teach us to know your ways,
to follow your path,
and to trust in your guidance.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

March 26, 2017
Healing Our Blindness

Today’s Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm
23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. The
Gospel passage for today tells the story of a man being
healed of his blindness. However, the exchanges between
the man and Jesus and those among onlookers all reveal
the many deeper meanings of this account. To be relieved
of blindness in our lives is challenging for us. It is so
much easier to continue in blindness than to allow our-
selves to be healed. Even at the end of the Gospel pas-
sage, some of the Pharisees ask, “Surely we are not also
blind, are we?” They may well be revealing our thoughts.

This is the day and the season to ask that question
about our blindness, and to find a way to “see.” Find
where you are blind, and seek a way to wash away the
blindness. Take some time to find where Jesus is pointing
out the path to healing for you. Go to the same prayerful
space each day, as did the blind man, and pray and wait.

Name your blindness, and in naming, perhaps find ways
you can wash it clean. Find another person, as did the
witnesses in the Gospel, to discuss this blind spot of
yours and do not blame another for your loss of sight.

We are reminded that being blind leaves us in the dark,
both literally and figuratively, but also that Jesus is our
Light. Jesus tells the blind man to wash in the pool at
that moment. It is Jesus who points out that his path is
where our blindness might be washed away so that we
may see. Often we are not completely healed in one mo-
ment, but the revealing light is gradually revealed to us.
Lent provides an opportunity to focus more intently on
healing our blindness, and seeing more of the Light. As
we proceed through Lent, we should pray that our eyes
are opened.
This Week at Home

Monday, March 27

Remember When
In today’s Gospel passage, John reminds us that we often recognize the truth, the Christ, or God’s grace, only after the fact. Jesus leaves Galilee only to return, and yet many are still skeptical. Today, spend time in prayer not only looking forward, but remembering when God’s grace was given without notification. Learn to slow down and appreciate the presence of Christ in the things of beauty that you see daily. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; John 4:43–54.

Tuesday, March 28

Life-Giving Water
Both readings today speak of an abundance of water that is both fruitful and healing. Such is our baptismal water, giving us life again and again, and cleansing us. Throughout Lent, we are reminded that our Baptism continues to be our source of life, health, faith, and spiritual nourishment. In your Lenten prayer space, include a small bowl of baptismal water as a reminder of what your Lenten practices are renewing within you. Today’s Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 4–5, 8–9; John 5:1–16.

Wednesday, March 29

Mercy to the Afflicted
Isaiah proclaims a day of salvation that is one of compassion, mercy, pity, and comfort. These are the signs of the Lord’s favor. As we proceed through Lent, we should consider the place that compassion and mercy have in our lives. The Lord comforts his people and so must we. Perhaps today you might be more intentional about recognizing the needs of another and responding appropriately. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.

Thursday, March 30

The Faith of Moses
Today, in all three readings, Exodus, Psalm 106, and John, we hear about the faith and strong belief of Moses. His belief in God saved the people from destruction on more than one occasion. He pleads with the Lord to relent in punishing his stiff-necked people. If only our faith could be that firm, that secure. Today’s Readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.

Friday, March 31

A Recompense of Holiness
In today’s readings, we hear that the wicked not only are blinded by their evil ways but that they do not know how to recognize God’s holiness in their midst. In our fast-paced world, we often miss holiness as well. Consider how holiness has been apparent in, perhaps, a kind word from a store clerk, a gentle hand holding you back from oncoming traffic, or a child putting away the dishes without being asked. How have you let your holiness shine forth to others? Today’s Readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.

Saturday, April 1

Opening Ourselves to Others
In today’s Gospel, some are not open to Christ because they have a preconceived idea of who the Messiah will be. Lent is a time for penitence and introspection. We need to consider how often we jump to conclusions about someone without first discovering who they are. The readings today remind us to hear people’s stories and consider their situations and experiences. Doing so will open us to their goodness. Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.
A Gift for You! The Best Catholic Content, All in One Place.
St. Ann Parish has gifted you with unlimited access to the best ebooks, talks and videos in the Church today.

To Register
• Go to Formed.org
• Enter ST. ANN’S PARISH CODE XX87MF on the homepage
• Create a personal account with your user name/email and password
• Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

In the future, log in by going directly to Formed.org and entering your user name/email and password.

IMPORTANT
DO NOT sign up as an individual - our parish access code provides more content than the individual subscription.

Some of the Liturgical Content on FORMED.org.

My Beloved Son
Meditations for Lent
Bishop Robert Barron
Bishop Robert Barron offers five sermons on the spiritual discipline we must cultivate in the Lenten season, a discipline centered in Christ. These meditations cover topics such as finding our identity in God, prayer as the key to mission, our thirst for God, how to end our alienation from God, and how to joyfully embrace the way of happiness.

Opening The Word
Welcome to Opening the Word, a program offering prayer and insights for the Sunday Readings. Featuring a variety of experienced presenters including Dr. Tim Gray, Mary Healy, Scott Powell, Dr. Edward Sri, and Fr. John Riley, Martha Fernandez, and Ben Akers, the fifty-two videos are designed to facilitate thought and discussion for personal faith formation or in the context of a group meeting. Personal Prayer Journals and a group Leader’s Guides are also available to make the most of these Sunday Readings.

Way of the Cross for Married Couples
Passionate about Marriage?
Come to The Way of the Cross for Married Couples hosted by New Orleans Catholic Engaged Encounter on April 1, 2017, at 6:00 PM in St. Philip Neri Church (6500 Kawanee Avenue, Metairie, LA 70003). This annual event is for married and engaged couples throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The reflections are written specifically for married couples, so it makes a great Lenten date night. As a way to serve our community, NOCEE offers this event free and open to the public, so invite friends and family to join you. To help us plan for the reception, reservations are requested. Email salvant@nocee.org with the number in your party.

Lenten Time of Prayer
Do you want a more personal relationship with Jesus? St. Ignatius of Loyola taught us that this is possible. His own conversion came about through a contemplative journey of prayer, given to him by the Blessed Mother. He in turn gifted the whole Church with this contemplative way of prayer. St. Anthony of Padua, 4640 Canal Street, is offering a Lenten Time of Prayer that will introduce you to this most beautiful way of prayer. All are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 4 from either 9 to 11 am or from 7 to 9 pm. Please call 488-2651 for details or visit the website www.sapparish.org.