

## Weekly Email Update – May 6, 2021

Dear St. Ann Parishioners,

St. Ann's is a busy place, and we're grateful that we're able to gather in prayer and service together. Many of our families are feeling more comfortable gathering in person, for which we rejoice! But we urge everyone to make the best decisions for yourself and your family as spring and summer continue.

-----

### **INFORMATION ABOUT MASSES**

**Reminders About Attending Mass** – We are filled with joy to see so many people who are able to return to Mass in person on Saturday and Sunday! We thought it would be wise to remind everyone what you can expect and what we ask of you when you come to Mass:

- Do not attend Mass if you or anyone in your household:
  - shows symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, chills, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
  - has had a positive diagnostic test for the virus that causes COVID-19 in the prior 10 days.
  - has had exposure to a COVID-19 case in the prior 14 days.
- A cloth face covering is required of all those aged 5 and older. Individuals who cannot wear a cloth face covering due to health reasons must wear a face shield.
- Please use hand sanitizer when you enter the church and stay socially distanced. Take a copy of the prayer from the table in the Commons, which we use at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Wait at the double doors into the worship space and the ushers will seat you. This is particularly important as our numbers increase. Please do not seat yourself.
- If you have an envelope or wish to make a contribution to the collection, please drop it in one of the baskets on the edge of the baptismal font. We are not passing the baskets in the pews.
- Stay socially distanced in your pew; please do not spread out.
- Follow the directions of the ushers at communion; we will invite you by section and by row and you will be given hand sanitizer before you receive. Stay socially distanced as you wait in line.
- At the end of Mass, stay in your pew (you may be seated after the song) until the ushers invite you to leave. Please do not congregate in the Commons; conversations should be held outdoors.
- When you attend a Mass that is livestreamed, you are giving your permission for your image to be part of our livestream. This is usually the 8:30am Mass on Sunday, but occasionally it changes; we will inform you of these changes ahead of time via this weekly email. (See the information below about First Communions on May 15 & 16.)

A few minor changes to our Mass practices will be coming in the next few weeks, but they will not affect any of these basic procedures. Thank you for your kind cooperation as we seek to celebrate and keep one another safe!

**We Really Need Your Help!** – With more people coming back to Mass, we are in great need of more ushers at the 8:30am and 11:15am Masses. Anyone can serve who is in high school or older. You just need to arrive on your scheduled Sunday at least 30 minutes before Mass begins. You'll receive plenty of support and training, and we will accommodate your work and family schedule. With enough ushers, each person will only need to serve once or twice each month. **Please help!** Contact Katie Johnson ([kjohnson@stanncc.com](mailto:kjohnson@stanncc.com); 804-526-2548).

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

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

-----

**ST. ANN'S IS HIRING!** We are seeking a Coordinator of Elementary Christian Formation (CECF). This is a part-time, 28-hour per week position.

**Responsibilities:** The CECF coordinates Christian Formation for children aged Pre-K to 5th grade. Duties include establishing curricula and calendars, recruiting and training volunteer catechists, implementing First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation, and recruiting and training Vacation Bible School and Children's Liturgy of the Word Coordinators. The CECF reports to the Director of Religious Education and the pastor.

**Qualifications:** Candidate must be a practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree and one to three years of parish experience preferred, experience working with preschool and elementary-aged children highly recommended. Must have basic technology skills, interpersonal skills, and ability to communicate well orally and in writing.

**To apply:** Please send a resume and [diocesan application](#) to Linda Mingos in the church office or [lmingos@stanncc.com](mailto:lmingos@stanncc.com).

-----

**NEW POSITION!** Please help us spread the word that we are expanding our staff to include a part-time **Social Ministries Coordinator**.

**Responsibilities:** The SMC coordinates outreach efforts by the parish to those in need in our area and beyond. Duties include responding to inquiries for family assistance, serving as staff liaison to the parish food pantry, coordinating holiday food and gift drives, and coordinating volunteers. The SMC reports to the Pastoral Associate and the Pastor.

**Qualifications:** Candidate must be a practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in theology, social work, or related field required, Master's degree preferred. One to three years of experience working with underserved populations. Must have an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, compassion and excellent people skills, especially toward those in need, ability to keep organized and accurate records and budgets, ability to handle several projects at once, ability to maintain confidentiality.

**To apply:** Please send a resume and diocesan application (<https://richmonddiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CDR-Application-For-Employment-11-17-16.docx>) to Katie Johnson, 17111 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Colonial Heights, VA 23834 or [kjohnson@stanncc.com](mailto:kjohnson@stanncc.com).

-----

**All are invited to participate in an ecumenical Novena to the Holy Spirit, May 13-22**, commemorating the 120th anniversary of the Pentecostal movement! The movement began in 1897 when Pope Leo XIII decreed that this novena would occur annually prior to Pentecost Sunday. Catholic bishops and Pentecostal leaders will lead us in prayer for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our world to change hearts and overcome what divides us. The concluding event will be the Pentecostal Vigil celebrated by Pope Francis at 9:00pm. Rome time (3:00pm EDT). More information, including resources and instructions on how to participate in the international prayer service, can be found at [www.Pentecost.cmax.tv](http://www.Pentecost.cmax.tv).

-----

**First Eucharist on May 15 & 16** – With great joy we will welcome 13 young people to the Table of the Lord for the first time at Masses on May 15 & 16. Please be aware that, with their families and guests, we expect all of the Masses that weekend to be crowded, especially the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday. Also, all of the Masses will be livestreamed for our parish family and for the loved ones of our First Communicants who cannot be with them in person that day.

-----

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Spring Bazaar** – The Youth Ministry Spring Bazaar will take place on Saturday, June 5 from 8:00am-2:00pm. Are you a vendor or Yard Saler that would like to rent a spot? \$25 and a completed form will take care of that! Not interested in selling? Then come visit and shop! All proceeds will go toward Youth Ministry Activities!

**Graduation Blessing** – We invite all our graduates from all levels of learning to join us for a Graduation Blessing the weekend of June 5/6! What a great way to celebrate such an accomplishment.

**Diocesan WORKCAMP** – Our Diocesan Workcamp opportunity this year is being done COVID-style! This means that our High School youth from St. Ann will be participating in service opportunities that WE choose! Our choice for this year is to work at home, on our own campus, the week of June 21-25! Multiple projects are in the works, but we need qualified adults to “supervise” each independent project. Many of these projects are “handyman” type jobs and require no specific expertise. We have two “bigger jobs” that are construction-oriented and one that requires an electrician. If you are interested in, and available for, supervising one of these projects, and need more information, please contact Elise at (804) 921-1022 or [echapman@stanncc.com](mailto:echapman@stanncc.com). For our young people, watch the Youth Ministry Newsletter for more information!

**Our Youth Have Spoken!** Some of our potential upcoming summer activities are Fire Side Chats, Carnival, Camping/Beach Trip, On-Site Diocesan Workcamp, Hiking, Lockout, Escape Room, Drive-In Movie Nights, and the list goes on! If you would be interested in helping to support or lead one of these activities, have ideas to help make these more successful, or have something YOU would like to offer, please let Elise know as soon as possible! The summer is filling up!

-----

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!** Many thanks to all who helped make Pass It On another great success! We served 48 families and a total of about 125 children. They received gently used clothing, books, toys, games, shoes, baby equipment, bikes, etc. We also distributed 22 new large items such as cribs with mattresses, highchairs, strollers, and car seats; these were paid for by a generous grant we received from the

Fricano Foundation. Special thanks to all of our donors and volunteers – we literally could not do it without you! – to the Knights of Columbus for purchasing and refurbishing many bikes and helmets, and to the Catholic Daughters for keeping our volunteers well fed! Linda Biles and Rupert Miller served as our intrepid leaders once again; their energy and enthusiasm are the power behind the work. Thank you! We are very grateful for the outpouring of love and compassion that is the heart of Pass It On. See you again in the Fall!

-----

**Pray the Rosary** – May is the month of Mary, and the Catholic Daughters invite all to join them in praying the Rosary daily throughout the month. There will be no sign-ups this year, but plan to pray a decade or a full Rosary each day that you can. Invite your family to join you and post a picture on the St. Ann Facebook page!

-----

**A Message from Commonwealth Catholic Charities** – CCC is facing a shortage of housing options for refugees and is calling upon parishioners from across the Diocese to assist us. Refugees who have just arrived in the United States cannot seek housing at most apartments because upon arrival they do not yet have social security numbers, an American work history, or any income. The blessing that is the current COVID-19 eviction moratorium has also resulted in low apartment vacancies for those in need of affordable housing. Under a new president, we anticipate a drastic increase in refugee arrivals and will need numerous housing opportunities ready by August. For more information about how you can help: <https://tinyurl.com/CCCRefugeeHousing>.

-----

**A Reminder about Rice Bowls** – Please turn in your Rice Bowls for Catholic Relief Services, any time during the Easter season, in the specially-marked basket in the Commons. If you did not use a Rice Bowl during Lent, but would like to make a donation to CRS, please feel free to drop it in the basket as well.

-----

**Annual Diocesan Appeal** – Thanks to your generosity, our parish has raised over 83% of our goal! Please consider supporting the Appeal if you haven't already.

There are a lot of ideas out there about what it takes to be happy: earn a certain income, have certain experiences, achieve certain things. In this Sunday's Gospel, Christ presents us a vision of happiness that is wildly counterintuitive to our contemporary, individualistic society: "love one another."

Jesus reveals that we find ourselves only by giving ourselves away. This is because we are made for relationship, not self-indulgence. Christ tells us that there is no greater love than to "lay down one's life one's friends," not in an effort to scare us, but so that his joy may be in us and that "your joy may be complete."

So how do we live out this self-giving love? Most of us aren't called to be missionaries in foreign lands, or to completely devote our lives to caring for the poor or sick. Yet opportunities to lay down our lives for others abound. One simple way? Support our ongoing Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your offering will directly contribute to our ability to share the love of Christ with a world in desperate need, truly producing "fruit that will remain."

-----  
**Easter continues, so we wish you the blessings and rejoicing of the season. Let us pray especially for the people of India and other countries that are suffering so much from the pandemic.**