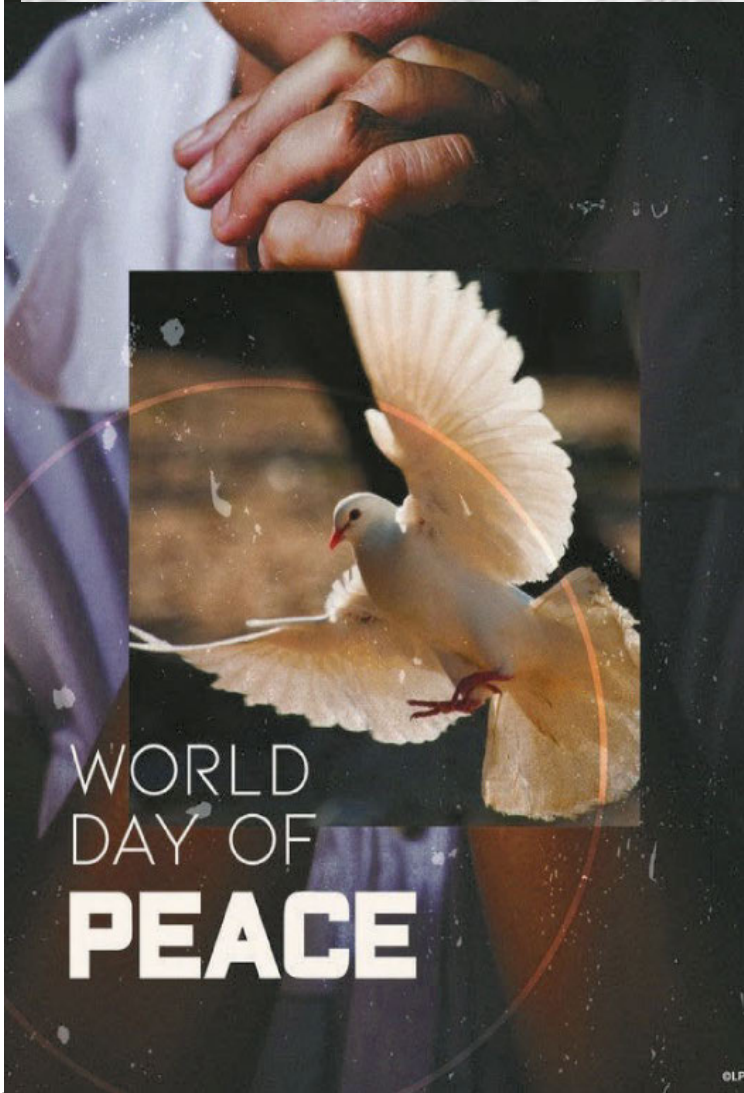




*Together in Christ  
Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John  
January 1, 2023*

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*



*Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God*



**Church of Saint Ann**  
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379  
508-586-4880  
E-Mail: [stanns@comcast.net](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)  
Website: [stannswb.com](http://stannswb.com)  
Facebook: St. Ann-WB  
Collaborative Office Hours are 9-3 M-F  
For both Churches

**Saint John the Evangelist**  
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333  
Office –103 N. Main Street,  
West Bridgewater  
508-378-4207  
E-MAIL: [stjohnnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnnebridge@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnne.org](http://www.stjohnne.org)  
Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB  
Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring

## TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

### PASTORAL STAFF

#### Pastor:

**Rev. Paul L. Ring**  
fr\_plrstjohn@comcast.net

**Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)**  
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

#### Priests In Residence

**Fr. Peter Francis**  
**Fr. Michael Dioch**

#### Permanent Deacons:

**Christopher Connelly**  
cconnelly@rcab.org

**The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 3PM Monday-Friday**

### EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

**St John's**  
**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 9:30 a.m.**

**Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**In the Church**

**St Ann's**  
**Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 &**  
**6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass**  
**w/ Drive up option**

**Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Holiday Schedules will vary**

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. These baptisms are private and not done at the masses currently. Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.

Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
**3:00—3:30 at the church holding the 4 PM Mass**  
**Or by appointment.**

Please call the Rectory Office to set up an appointment.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the Rectory 6 months prior to the intended date of marriage.

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If you are in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the Rectory to make an appointment for a visit from a Priest.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

### SAINT ANN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano**  
stanns@comcast.net  
508-586-4880

### SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad**  
stjohnebridge@comcast.net  
508-378-4207  
**Music Minister: Erica Vinton**

### COLLABORATIVE STAFF

**Finance & Operations Manager: Kevin Mercier**  
bmanager.tic@gmail.com

**Director of Music: Rich Cesarini**  
richcesarini@gmail.com  
**Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham**

**Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady**  
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com  
774-533-2002

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

6:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Sunday, December 25, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Sunday, January 1, 2023

7:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

11:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

6:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

Midnight - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Thursday, December 29, 2022

9:00 - William Lopes — 21st Anniversary

#### Saturday, December 31, 2022

4:00 - Barros Friends & Family—Memorial

#### Sunday January 1, 2023

9:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

My Dear Friends in Christ,



I have a confession to make: I haven't always had a close relationship with Mary. One might wonder why since, as one parishioner put it, "all priests are close to Mary, aren't they?" It's not that I don't understand Mary's sacrifice, or appreciate all that she has done for us. It's due to the fact that for most of my life, I've had my *own* mother with me. This changed in 2001 with her passing. It was at that time that my relationship with the Blessed Mother changed, and changed for the better. It was at that time that I came to appreciate Mary as *mother* – Mother of the Church, Mother of us All.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. This feast has had many "incarnations". It has been celebrated at different times of the year and has been displaced a few times by other feasts, but it has found its current place mainly due to the Council of Ephesus. It was at the Council of Ephesus, in 431, that Mary was called "Theotokos", or "God-Bearer". If she is the mother of Jesus then, by association, she is rightly the mother of God – thus the naming of the feast as the Solemnity of Mary, the most holy Mother of God.

Mothers hold a very special place in familial archetypes. Not to take anything away from fathers (being a "father" myself!), but mothers are unique in that it is they who bring the life (conceived by God with the "co-authorship" of mother and father) of a child into the world. It is in this maternal bond, "forged" in the first months of a child's conception and "solidified" at the first months of their birth, which makes the mother/child union a unique one. This is why Mary holds a special place not only in the life of Christ but in the life of the Church, Herself. This is why this solemnity is a celebration for the whole Church gathered throughout the world.

In this Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, our Church comes to understand its place in the world. We are called to foster, with a mother's love, the unique gift that God has in our lives. Just as Mary brought Jesus into the world by "bringing to life" the reality of God's love in our lives. We who know God, and who love God, are called to "birth" into reality the manifestation of that love by loving our brothers and sisters, especially those who the world has cast aside – the pre-born, the mentally/physically challenged, the elderly, the terminally ill. In all of these people, we are to see Christ, and we are to help the world see Christ in them.

May we have the courage, on this feast, to welcome Mary into our homes, hearts and lives. May we know that Mary, who leads us to her Son, has something to teach us. As disciple and exemplar of faith, Mary shows to the world what it means to love unconditionally. May we share that unconditional love, a love which the world does not know, with all whom we meet.

A Blessed New Year to All,

Fr. Paul



### TOGETHER IN CHRIST MASS SCHEDULE

#### SAINT ANN'S

##### SUNDAYS

7:30 AM

11:30 AM

6:15 AM

#### SAINT JOHN'S

##### SATURDAY

4:00 PM

##### SUNDAY

9:30 AM

(to change in the Easter Season)

MINISTRY NEWS



Congratulations to the cast of the  
Christmas Pageant



Happy  
New  
Year



2022

BRAVO!!!1





## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

St. Francis of Assisi certainly had a way with words. Speaking of Mary as 'Virgin made Church' is one of those inspired phrases found in The Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Third Order Regular Rule of St. Francis which Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity live also gives honor to our Blessed Mother using this title. What does it mean? I invite you to read the following passages and ponder them as the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

*"Let the brothers and sisters keep the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever before their eyes. Let them do this according to the exhortation of St. Francis who held Holy Mary, Lady and Queen, in highest veneration since she is the virgin made church. Let them also remember that the immaculate Virgin Mary, whose example they are to follow, called herself the handmaid of the Lord". Third Order Regular Rule, Chapter IV, #17*

### The Salutation of the Virgin Mary

Hail, O Lady,  
 Mary, holy Mother of God:  
 you are the Virgin made Church  
 and the one chosen by the  
 most holy Father in heaven  
 whom He consecrated  
 with His most holy beloved Son  
 and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,  
 in whom there was and is  
 the fullness of grace and every good  
 Hail His Palace!  
 Hail His Tabernacle!  
 Hail His Home!  
 Hail His Robe!  
 Hail His Servant!  
 Hail His Mother!  
 And (hail) all you holy virtues which through the grace and light of  
 the Holy Spirit are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that  
 from their faithless state you may make them faithful to God.  
 AMEN

What do the words "Virgin made Church" mean to me? Well, for starters, the capital letters are central to my understanding. These words speak to me of THE Virgin rather than just any virgin. That is the Virgin Mary! Also the word Church with its capital letter status speaks of the Body of Christ, the "people" church rather than the structure. Mary is the Virgin made Church of course because of her part in bringing forth the body of Christ in a physical way. More importantly though, she brought forth the Body of Christ the Church. How? By her faith in her Son and God's from the very moment of his conception, by her faith on display at the wedding of Cana where we hear her voice commanding, "Do whatever He tells you" and by her nurturing the fledgling Church in the upper room in the waiting time for the coming of the Spirit. Our existence as Church from the past and on into eternity is truly accompanied by and given life by THE Virgin.

Pax et Bonum, Fr. Paul, OFS



## I Believe in One Lord Jesus Christ: True God and True Man

Today, the Church concludes the Octave of Christmas with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The title, Mother of God, translates from the Greek word "Theotokos" often used for Mary, coming from *Theos* (God) and *tokos* (offspring). The phrase is best translated as "she whose offspring is God" or "she who gave birth to one who was God"; in other words, Mother of God.

The idea that God can have a mother can seem strange and even impossible. God, the eternal one, has no beginning or end. God was not brought *into* being; instead, God is *pure* Being and the source of *all* being. One of the major theological questions that Christians struggled with at the time was how to reconcile their belief that God's eternal and immortal Logos (Word) was made man and died. In a related way, some early theologians were uncomfortable saying that Mary was the mother of God and instead emphasized that Mary was the mother of Christ. In the early Church, there was a form of gnosticism (discussed in an earlier article) called Docetism that believed that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity only "appeared" to be a man. Therefore, Mary could not have given birth to God and Jesus only "appeared" to suffer and die.

Docetists denied that Jesus was truly man. There were others who struggled with Jesus' identity as God and Man. A theologian who struggled with these questions was Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, who died approximately in the year AD 451. Nestorius believed and taught that within Christ, there was a union between a human person (Jesus) and the divine person (the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity). At best, the union between humanity and divine was a moral union. The human will of Jesus adopted the divine will of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Hence, Mary was the Mother of the human person but not the eternal and immortal Logos (Word).

At the Councils of Nicea (AD 325) and Chalcedon (AD 451), the Bishops of the Church attempted to resolve these issues concerning Jesus' identity. They taught that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who is True God, assumed a human nature and was born of the Virgin Mary becoming True Man. This is one of the great mysteries of our faith that is hard, if not impossible, to fully understand. Yet, this inspired teaching of the Holy Spirit puts into words what the first Christians believed in the Gospels—that Jesus is True God and True Man. Therefore, we can say that Jesus Christ is ONE person with two natures. He, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is the Son of God and Son of Mary.

We can take comfort knowing that Jesus is Truly God. Through Jesus, God shares our life with us. He knows what it is like to live a human life with all of its joys and sorrows, happiness and sadness, friendship and betrayal, along with life and death. In all these things, he lives up to the name given to him by the angels, *Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us". By being Truly Man, he reveals how a human life is truly created to live. Jesus shows us that it is possible for a human being to live a life without sin. He shows us that it is possible to live human lives in freedom, virtue, and holiness. Not only does he show us how a true human life is lived, he gives us the means by his grace to live as he lives in communion with God and with each other.

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Diane Nicolar, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz, Jack & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

*If you know that some of these people should be removed, Please call the Rectory so we can update the list.*

The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul  
Saint John's Conference  
PO Box 544

East Bridgewater MA 02333

Call the Food Pantry Hotline for food / assistance  
Hotline—508-378-3760

### PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm**, and the **THIRD MONDAY from 3 pm to 4:30 pm**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

### THE FOOD PANTRY

*Tuesday, January 2, 2023  
Monday, January 16, 2023*

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

Gift cards are also a great help. \$5 — \$25 cards are easier to distribute than large sums, ie \$100

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

### SAINT ANN'S

**WINE, HOSTS AND  
SANCTUARY LAMPS  
ARE OFFERED**

**THIS WEEK  
IN MEMORY OF:**

*Joseph Utka*



### St Ann Prayer Line:

To request prayers from members of Saint Ann's Prayer Line for yourself, another person in need, or a special intention, please call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or [linda@santry.org](mailto:linda@santry.org). If you would like to join the telephone tree or e-mail distribution list, please contact Linda. We would like to expand our membership for this worthy endeavor.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095 or [jchbaker@msn.com](mailto:jchbaker@msn.com)  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379**

Due to very low funds, St. Vincent de Paul at St. Ann's is looking for donations for a calendar raffle — any gift cards (store, Amazon, restaurants or whatever you want to donate) wine baskets, movie baskets, just a few ideas, if you want to donate a monetary amount, please put it in an envelope labeled for the raffle and put it in SVdP boxes at the sides and back of St. Ann's Church. Any help you can give is extremely appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless

West Bridgewater Food Pantry  
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1  
West Bridgewater

**WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD  
Wednesday each month  
TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM  
(508) 510-5274.**

### Family Healing and Recovery Ministry invites you to

Join us for an evening of intercessory rosary, Holy Mass, guest speaker and fellowship.

**When:**  
First Friday of each month (starting January 6th, 2023)

**Time:**  
6:30pm (Intercessory Rosary)  
7:00pm (Mass)

**Location:**  
Saint Joseph the Worker church (Holy Apostles Parish)  
1 Maquan Street, Hanson, MA.  
[Rosary4recovery.org](http://Rosary4recovery.org)

Karen McWilliams [karen.mcwilliams@aol.com](mailto:karen.mcwilliams@aol.com)  
(603)682-7933

# MINISTRY NEWS

## Christmas Sharing For Saint Ann's

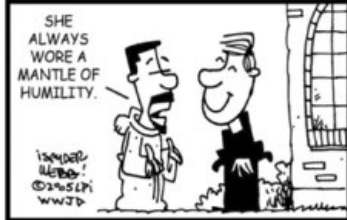


Thank you all for your very generous donations to our families, senior citizens and teen moms. You continue to amaze me with your generosity.



Thank you to everyone who participated and helped us to make Christmas bright for so many families in need.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



*From the Together in Christ Collaborative,  
Fr. Paul, Fr. Peter,  
Fr. Michael Diochi, Deacon Chris,  
Deacon Brendan and the whole staff*



*Happy New Year*



Thank you for your donations to the Christmas Flowers!

We hope that you are pleased with the display this year. We are very pleased with the support given by both parishes.

God Bless you All!!!!

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