



Saturday, 4:00 PM
 Sunday, 9:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 January 7, 2024
 The Epiphany of the Lord*



Sunday, 8:00 AM
 Sunday, 11:30 AM

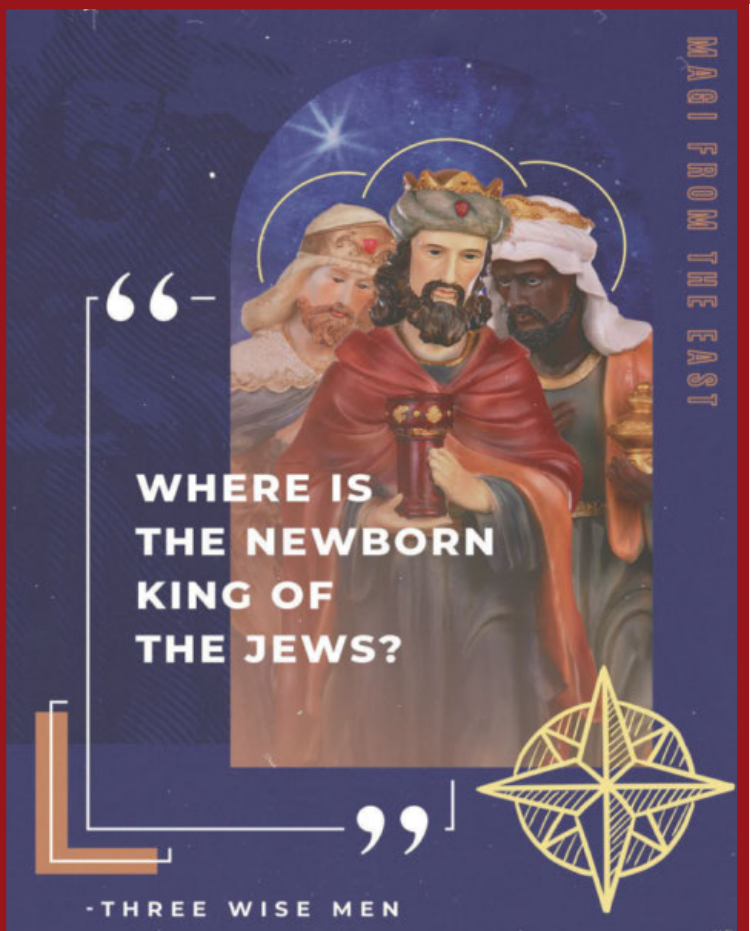


THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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“

**WHERE IS
 THE NEWBORN
 KING OF
 THE JEWS?**

”

- THREE WISE MEN

MAGI FROM THE EAST

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Church of Saint Ann

**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater
 02379
 508-586-4880**

**E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net
 Website: stannswb.com
 Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are
 9:00-3:00
 Monday through Friday**

Saint John the Evangelist

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater
 02333
 Office -103 N. Main Street,
 West Bridgewater
 508-378-4207**

**E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net
 Website: www.stjohneb.org**

**Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB
 Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —
 Paul Ring OFS**

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 Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

Christopher Connelly
cconnelly@rcab.org

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

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass
Thurs & Sat.
9:00 a.m.

St John's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
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.

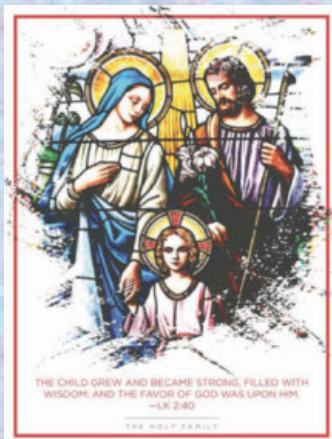
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

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



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 - Bill Pelton, Jr. — 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:30 - John D'Arpino — 5th Anniversary

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

Saturday, January 13, 2024

4:00 - Michael Shea & Susan Arvidson — 2nd Ann.

Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:30 - Diane Wyman — 1st Anniversary

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

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 --Nancy McHugh — Birthday

Sunday, January 14, 2024

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 - Steven Puffer — 1st Anniversary

Thursday, January 18, 2024

9:00 - Anna Ritucci — Memorial

USHERS ARE NEEDED AT ALL MASSES.
SAINT ANN'S NEEDS TWO—FOUR
USHERS PER MASS

ST JOHN'S NEEDS THREE FOR EVERY MASS.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From

Our entire Staff:

**Fr. Ring, Deacon Brendan, Deacon Chris,
Rich, Matt, Kevin, Arlene and Debbie**

**May the New Year bring you good health, wealth, peace,
of mind, the joy of family & friends and fill you and your
family with joy and gratitude for the
Lord's love.**

Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your
dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about
your unfulfilled potential. Concern not yourself with
what you tried and failed in, but what it is still possible
to do. Now is the time to put aside past and present
setbacks and failures and look with confidence to the
new day called tomorrow. —Pope John XXIII



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

My Dear Friends in Christ,



According to the dictionary, an “epiphany” (from the Greek “epiphania”) is an “appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being” or “a usually sudden perception of the essential nature or meaning of something”. One often speaks of having an “epiphany” when they have been wrestling with a dilemma and come upon a solution that, often times, was right in front of them. An epiphany of this sort brings about a sense of relief, if not outright joy. A problem solved, one can then move on to other things.

Either of the above definitions fit into our celebration on this day’s Feast of the Epiphany. It has been held traditionally that on this day, the Magi appeared at the manger, paying homage to the child Jesus. They came bearing gifts (a bit of an impromptu “baby shower”, if you will!) of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The “manifestation” is that of the Christ Child, who holds the promise of salvation for all. In approaching the manger, I’m sure the Magi were overwhelmed with a sense of that “essential nature” not only of the Messiah, but of themselves. Their purpose was two-fold: not only to pay homage to the Child Jesus, whose birth had been foretold, but also to gather information for Herod and report back to him all that they had seen. Upon seeing the child, they are given another “sign” of God’s handiwork in this moment: a dream which tells them not to go back to Herod, but to depart for home by another route. Why? Because the intentions of Herod are not to pay homage but to do harm to the infant Jesus; Herod sees Jesus as a threat to his reign. And well he should – Jesus has come into the world to re-establish on earth God’s Kingdom. This Kingdom, based not on power but service, not domination but peace, is one that Herod cannot understand or by which he can abide. He must eliminate the threat of Jesus so as to maintain power.

The gifts themselves are a “manifestation”, a sign of things to come. The gift of gold, befitting a king, is a reminder of Jesus as Messiah and King of all Creation. The gift of frankincense is one which befits Jesus “priest and prophet”, for this was often used by the temple priests and rabbis to signify prayers “rising” to heaven. The myrrh (a balm used to prepare a body for burial) was a bit enigmatic, as it signifies Jesus’ death (yes, a rather odd gift for a baby!), a death which He would offer for the world. This “trinity” of gifts, brought to the manger, is meant to bring the mission of Jesus to the forefront. Even in the manger, Jesus’ destiny is set; He has been “ordained” by the Father to carry out His plan of salvation for all. Jesus – priest, prophet and king – has been sent to us to restore the relationship broken by sin.

In this Feast of the Epiphany, may we come to our own realizations of the “essential nature” of God in Christ Jesus. May we continue to seek out the Child, just as the Magi did, so as to pay Him homage. May God’s love, made flesh in the Christ, reside in and resonate from our hearts. May this feast be for us a true “epiphany” of faith so that we may continue to grow in faith, hope and love!

Happy Christmas Season,

Fr. Paul

MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

January Family Mass

Our January Family Mass is 1/7 at the 9:30 Mass. Fr. Paul will call all the kids up to join him in front of the altar for the homily, and there will be coffee and donuts afterwards.

We also invite any of our kids who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your child wants to do one of these things, please contact Matt Brady.

January Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is January 28th at the 6:15 Mass. There will be contemporary music and Fr. Paul will make his homily relevant to the life of our young people.

We also invite any of our teens who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your teen wants to do one of these things, please contact Matt Brady.

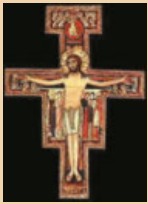


Journey from Grief to Healing

You are invited to come for sharing and healing in a prayerful small group setting. Mary, Queen of Martyr's Parish Grief and Loss Support group begins on **Tuesday evenings February 6th through April 9th** from 6:30PM to 8PM at St. Kateri Church.

The group will meet once per week for 9 sessions. The facilitators of the group are Meredith Scott and Betty Whittaker. Please call Kathy Benton parish administrator to register: 508-866-4000 ext.401





MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

According to the dictionary, an “epiphany” (from the Greek “epiphania”) is an “appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being” or “a usually sudden perception of the essential nature or meaning of something”. One often speaks of having an “epiphany” when they have been wrestling with a dilemma and come upon a solution that, often times, was right in front of them. An epiphany of this sort brings about a sense of relief, if not outright joy. A problem solved, one can then move on to other things.

One could certainly make a case that St. Francis had an “epiphany” when he knelt before the Cross at San Damiano. He had been living for himself and for his own selfish pleasure up until this point. When St. Francis hears the call to “rebuild my church”, at first he was confused as he thought that the Lord meant the actual building (of the Church at San Damiano). When he realized that God was calling him to take on a whole new life and (ultimately) establish the Franciscan Order, that “manifestation” (which is what the word “epiphany” means) of God’s plan for him was all the more clear.

St. Francis came to know God’s call for him when he shut out the world and focused on what, and who, God was calling him to be. May we come to have our own “epiphany”, striving to shut out the world so that we can hear who God is calling us to be. May we be like St. Francis and give God the time each day to speak to us, to call to us, and to manifest Himself to us. May this New Year be a time of renewal for us, so that God’s plan for us may not only come to revelation, but fruition as well! A Blessed New Year to you all!

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**OUR GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION IS UNDERWAY!
IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR ENVELOPE,
THERE ARE ENVELOPES AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH.**

**THIS WEEK’S COLLECTION IS FOR
Outstanding Bills**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR
Outstanding Bills**

My mother-in-law was the best gift-giver I ever knew. One could say my parents spoiled me growing up, but there was something about her gifts to me that made me feel overwhelmed. I guess it was that after several years I still was surprised that she would think enough of me to get me something no one else would. She was able to make me feel special every time. Of course, I believe she honored me in this way because I accepted her greatest gift to me, her daughter.

Sadly, my mother-in-law did not live long in this world. She passed away over a decade ago due to an aggressive cancer. Some of her material gifts to me remain, while others are long gone. But the memories and the effect of those gifts remain because it was never all about the gifts themselves. It was about relationship. It was about her and me. It was about love.

What we offer Jesus is never about the gift itself. It is about the motivation behind the action and the effect that action has on the body of Christ. Many of the gifts we give today to God and his people will fade away like the mist of the early morning, but the effects of those actions will last forever. It is about relationship. It is about God and us. It is about love.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund. We hope you think the altar looks beautiful and displays the joy we feel in the coming of the Christ Child.



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



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. 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.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Karen & Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen & 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 or you want to have someone added, Please call the Rectory.***



Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." — Isaiah 60:2

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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

Tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal are needed.

Cash donations also accepted

St Ann's
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379

To join please call — TINA ANTHONY
508-245-5481

Donations are always appreciated. Place Money and gift cards \$5-\$24 into the St. Vincent de Paul boxes located at the exits.

Because of your generosity, we were able to put together 16 toiletry bags for our homeless neighbors and were able to donate some toiletry items to the food bank.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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.

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30 Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30

*Monday, January 2, 2024 (Tuesday)
January 15, 2024*

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

The Pantry is a little low — needed any food, especially tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal.

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| WISE-MEN | MESSIAH | GIFTS |
| STAR | WORSHIP | WARNED |
| HEROD | EXCITED | DREAM |

U W A R N E D E K O E
 J I N E G A J W I N G
 A S U T O F I O S A I
 N E X C I T E D U D F
 O M I Y U B A U W E T
 H E R O D E N Y O G S
 W N A H R T Y H R S F
 S O Y I E O M A S T U
 T I B V A H U D H Y M
 A S U L M E S S I A H
 R E W A Y I L E P O Y

MISSION

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.



GROWING WITH THE Gospel
 CYCLE B

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Epiphany of the Lord • Matthew 2:1-12

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