



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
January 8, 2023
The Epiphany of the Lord*

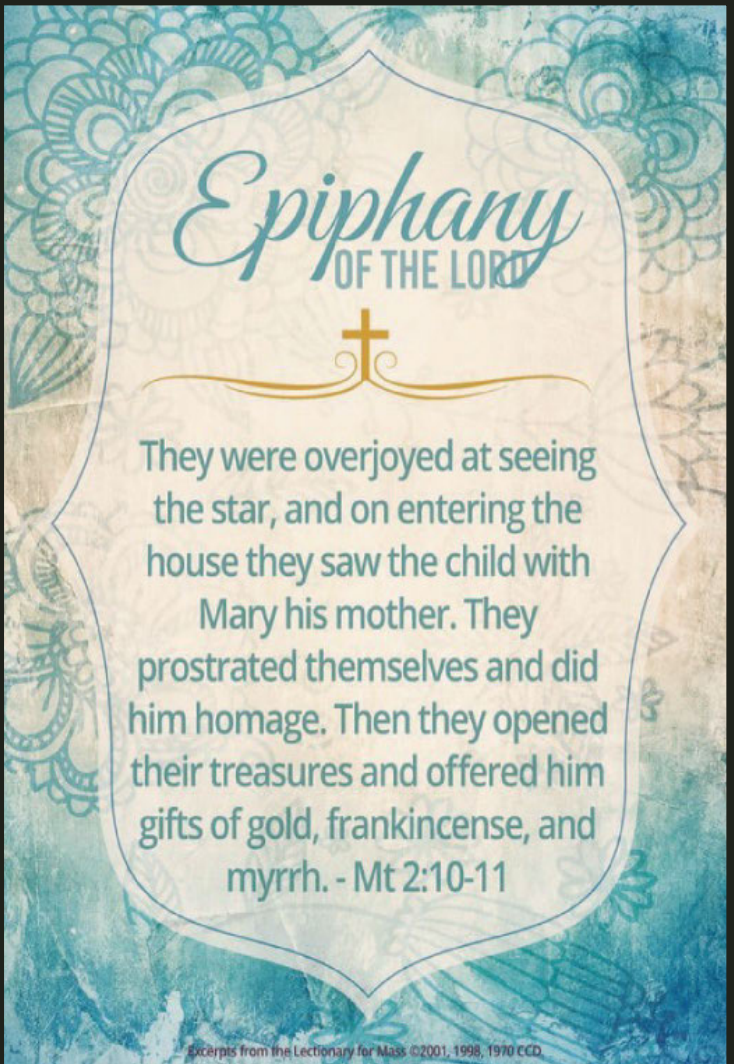


THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

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

CLR



Epiphany
OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

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 9-3 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: stjohnebridge@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohneb.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

Priests In Residence

Fr. Peter Francis
Fr. Michael Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

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

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

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

Thursday, January 5, 2023

9:00—Carolyn Ann Ritucci — 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, January 8, 2022

7:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative
11:30 - Erminia & Christiano Victoria —
 Birthday Remembrance
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 31, 2022

4:00 – Barros Friends & Family—Memorial

Sunday January 1, 2023

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

Saturday, January 7, 2023

4:00 - Bill Pelton — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, January 8, 2023

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

VOLUNTEERS CAN MAKE A PARISH FLOURISH.

**LET'S START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH MORE
HELP AT BOTH CHURCHES.**

**7:30 — ST ANN'S — NEEDS LECTORS,
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**11:30 — ST ANN'S — NEEDS EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTERS, GREETERS**

6:15 — ST ANN'S — NEEDS USHERS & LECTORS

PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY IF YOU CAN HELP!



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today our Church celebrates the Feast of Epiphany. Growing up, I always understood this to be the “end of the Christmas Season”. This makes sense for many reasons: it speaks of God’s manifestation to humanity in Christ, it highlights the appearance of the Magi, and it is a bit of a “birthday party” for Jesus. How wrong I was! The Christmas Season actually/officially ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This makes infinitely more sense! After all, our entrance into the Church isn’t marked by our birth but by our baptism. The Baptism of Jesus, about which we will read at tomorrow’s liturgy, begins Jesus’ entrance into “public” ministry. It is His “coming out party” as it were.

Now back to today’s feast. The Feast of the Epiphany, a word which has its roots in the Greek word “epiphaneia”, which means “manifestation”, marks and celebrates the appearance of the Magi upon the scene of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. In the classic Greek it was used to mark the appearance of gods. Of course, in our monotheistic tradition, this is adapted to mark the appearance of the One True God in the Person of Jesus Christ. The first reference in Christian literature to the Epiphany would be in the 4th century, which speaks of Jesus’ “birth, that is, His Epiphany” by St. Epiphanius of Salmis in his work “Panarion” (written in 361). It was celebrated on January 6th for the longest time, and currently is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2nd and 8th (thus the short “down time” this year between Christmas and Epiphany).

I can always remember the Feast of the Epiphany for the traditions we held in our household. We would set up the crèche on Christmas Eve (minus the Baby Jesus, of course!), placing Baby Jesus in the manger when we returned home from Midnight Mass. On Christmas Day, the Magi would make their appearance, but not at the manger – they would be placed on the kitchen counter! Over the next week or so, they would slowly be moved from the counter, to the stovetop, to the back of the couch and finally into the manger scene. This, of course, gave each of the five children a chance to “relocate” the Magi. The Magi were three in number (as in the song “We Three Kings”); this, we later came to find out, was probably not entirely accurate. We came to find, through investigation, that there were as many as a dozen “magi”, which is, not coincidentally, related to our modern word, “magic”. The Magi were a class of palace workers who were part magician, part alchemist, part astrologer (thus their knowledge of, and reliance on, stars for guidance). They were “jacks of all trade” (although “jacks” may be a bit of a misnomer, as there may have been some women in their company), relied on by the king (such as Herod) for guidance and direction for many things.

The Feast of the Epiphany gives us an opportunity for a “breather” (albeit a small one this year!) between Christmas and the Baptism of the Lord. May we, like the Magi, come to the manger and reflect on the good things God has provided for us – namely, Christ the Lord.

Have a Blessed (rest of the) Christmas Season,

Fr. Paul

EPIPHANY



MINISTRY NEWS



Congratulations to the cast of the
Christmas Pageant



Happy
New
Year



2022

BRAVO!!!1





Jesus Christ: True God and True Man— One or Three Epiphanies?

Far more ancient than the celebration of Christmas, the Feast of the Epiphany traditionally celebrates the manifestation of God as Jesus Christ. Another way of saying this is that on the Feast of the Epiphany, the true nature of Jesus Christ, as True God and True Man, was revealed. The Feast draws its name from the Greek word, *epiphaneia*. The root of the word, *phainein*, is the verb meaning, “to appear.” When combined with the prefix, *epi*, meaning “upon, on, over, near,” the word means, “to appear from above” or “to appear upon.” Traditionally, the Church celebrates three days or events where, from above, God manifests his presence on earth: the Magi from the East, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding Feast at Cana.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the Wise Men set out in search of the newborn King of the Jews. They were astrologers from Persia (Iran) and priests of the popular Persian religion, Zoroastrianism. These priests paid close attention to the movement of the stars because of their belief that astronomical events were linked to events happening on earth. Furthermore, in the ancient world, miracles and astronomical phenomena were said to accompany the birth of important people, heroes, and kings. In the Book of Numbers we hear about a prophecy regarding the coming of the messiah, “a star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel” (24:17). So when the Magi see what they believe is the fulfillment of this prophecy, they set out in search of the newborn King of the Jews.

Upon finding him, God reveals his presence in the Child Jesus, and the Magi respond by giving him homage (worship) and presenting the child with three gifts that reveal his identity and mission. St. Irenaeus describes the symbolic meaning of these gifts in his book Against the Heresies. He writes that the Magi give the gift of “myrrh, because it was He who should die and be buried for the mortal human race; gold, because He was a King ‘of whose kingdom is no end’ (Luke 1:33); and frankincense, because He was God, who was also ‘made known in Judea,’ and was ‘declared to those who sought him not.’” (Book III, Chapter 9, Section 2).

The second of the epiphanies takes place at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, thirty years after his birth. Jesus goes to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. There, in the waters, the Trinity is revealed for the first time. Upon coming out of the water, the heavens are torn open. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus, and the voice of the Father declares to those who are able to hear, that Jesus is God’s beloved Son. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God, and by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is anointed the Christ—truly an Epiphany moment where the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity are at work together for our salvation!

The third of the epiphanies is only recounted in John’s Gospel and is considered by most Christians to be the first miracle performed by Jesus after the baptism scene. In 2009, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily, “John’s Gospel, however, also invites us to consider as an ‘epiphany’ the Wedding at Cana, during which, by changing water into wine, Jesus ‘manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him’ (Jn 2:11).” It is interesting to note that John does not call this event a miracle. Instead, it is called a sign. This sign, and six others in his Gospel, reveal not only Jesus’ identity as God, but what he seeks to do for us by his passion and death.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Feast of the Epiphany, a word which has its roots in the Greek word “*epiphaneia*”, which means “manifestation”, marks and celebrates the appearance of the Magi upon the scene of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. It can certainly be said that throughout the life and ministry of St. Francis of Assisi, Christ manifested Himself many times. I will take a look at two of those times.

One of the first manifestations of Christ for St. Francis was in the Church of San Damiano in Assisi. When Francis was looking for direction and purpose in his newfound life, he gazed upon the Cross of Christ in this little chapel and was told by Christ to “rebuild my house”. At first, as might be anyone’s natural inclination, Francis thought Christ was speaking of the actual, physical structure of the Church of San Damiano, which was in obvious need of repair. As Francis started this rebuilding, he had an “epiphany” himself, when he realized that Christ was speaking of a “spiritual rebuilding” of the Church (Universal), not the structure of the Chapel in Assisi. This “rebuilding” would take many years, most of Francis’ time of ministry really, and much effort. The Church of Francis’ time was in disrepair, rife with scandal and upheaval. Francis worked tirelessly to fulfill Christ’s call for “repair”, responding to this particular “epiphany” made by Christ to Francis.

Another “epiphany” was Francis’ encounter with the leper. In embracing the leper, St. Francis experienced a singular moment of grace. That act of mercy should encourage us all. St. Francis had a fear and abhorrence of lepers. One day, however, he met a man afflicted with leprosy while riding his horse near Assisi. Though the sight of the leper filled him with horror and disgust, Francis got off his horse and kissed the leper. Then the leper put out his hand, hoping to receive something. Out of compassion, Francis gave money to the leper. But when Francis mounted his horse again and looked all around, he could not see the leper anywhere. It dawned on him that it was Jesus whom he had just kissed. Francis believed in divine synchronicity and saw it as essential in his spiritual life. Surely it was synchronous that Francis showed up at the church of San Damiano and then listened to the guidance he received. No doubt it was synchronous for Francis to notice a leper as he traveled the roads of Umbria. Mortified and disgusted by leprosy, Francis may have wished to pass by on the other side of the road. But God’s still, small voice told him to stop, reach out, and embrace the man with leprosy. Both the man with leprosy and Francis were transformed in that moment.

May we experience similar “epiphanies” as St. Francis did. May this Feast of the Epiphany bring about in us a transformation, moving from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness. May we, like St. Francis, be open to God prompting us to discover who is for us, for the Church, and for the world.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. Paul, OFS

On three consecutive Sundays, the Church celebrates: the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord (replaces the First Sunday of Ordinary Time), and on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C, the Church commemorates the Wedding at Cana. As Christians, we too are called to manifest Jesus’ true presence in and for the world. We do this every time we celebrate the Eucharist offering bread and wine that become for us Jesus’ true presence among us. We do this whenever we proclaim the Gospel, and finally we manifest Jesus’ true presence when we minister in his name.

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 Nicolcar, 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 JOHN'S

WINE, HOSTS, SANCTUARY LAMPS
AND FLOWERS
ARE OFFERED

THIS WEEK
IN MEMORY OF:

BILL PELTON



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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or 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

Karen McWilliams karen.mcwilliams@aol.com
(603)682-7933

MINISTRY NEWS

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



Happy New Year

TOGETHER IN CHRIST MASS SCHEDULE

SAINT JOHN'S

SAINT ANN'S

**SATURDAY
4:00 PM**

**SUNDAYS
7:30 AM**

**SUNDAY
9:30 AM**

**11:30 AM
6:15 AM**

(to change in the Easter Season)

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