



SAIN'T JOHN

***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

***The First Sunday of
Advent***

November 28 2021



SAIN'T ANN



1st Sunday
OF ADVENT

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." - Lk 21:27

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 9-4 M-Th
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

Website: 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

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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice
In the Chapel

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

***Aleternating between the two worship**
sites, refer to website for details.

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 p.m. These baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.
Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is by appointment during the pandemic. 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 Wasil

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager: Donna Roderiques
donna.stannstjohn@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini
richcesarini@gmail.com

Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham

Director of Ministries: Nancy Goggin
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, November 27, 2021

4:00 - Matilda Ritucci — 1st Anniversary

Sunday November 28, 2021

8:30 - Cincy Nyhan — 1st Anniversary

Saturday, December 4, 2021

4:00—Koseph W. Guarino — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 5, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, November 27, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, November 28, 2021

10:30 - Dorothy Boisclair — 19th Anniversary

Saturday, December 4, 2021

5:30 - Kathleen Climo — 11th Anniversary

Fred Climo — 4th Anniversary

Sunday, December 5, 2021

10:30 - Valerie Teague — 5th Anniversary



My Dear Friends in Christ,

While I haven't done it in a while, I used to run marathons regularly. In doing this, you come to realize that many things (life, work, family and, yes, Advent) are a "marathon, not a sprint". We begin our Advent journey this weekend in the usual ways. The Church waits in joyful anticipation for a time – namely, Christmas – which the world is already (seemingly) celebrating. You never see an "Advent Sale" or an "Advent Tree" (although many churches have a "Jesse Tree"). No, for the world it's "Christmas, Christmas, Christmas". This is certainly in line with a society of immediate gratification and one that doesn't know the meaning of the word "wait"!

This Advent Season begins with the prophet Jeremiah speaking of a time of fulfillment, when the "just shoot" (Jer 33:15) who will bring justice to the world. This "just shoot" (ibid) is, of course, Jesus and He will bring God's justice to the world when He comes again in glory. St. Paul helps us to be ready by being "blameless in holiness" (1 Thes 3:13) so as to be able to join God in His Kingdom. Jesus then "seals the deal" by calling us to be watchful, to be "vigilant" (Lk 21:36) so that we can stand before God's judgment and be ready for the life to come.

Advent may seem like the "same old, same old". After all, it comes at relatively the same time of year, has many of the same "themes" ("watch", "wait", "be vigilant") and ends up with the same "goal" (namely, to be ready to welcome Jesus as the Christ Child and the King of Glory). We would do well to not fall into the same routines. I would invite us to try something different, to move out of our "comfort zone". If you haven't followed an Advent calendar, try it this year by following the daily readings and prayers. If you haven't made/kept an Advent wreath for your home, now's the time. I would further encourage you to WAIT. It's easy enough to get "caught up" in the hullabaloo of the preparations for Christmas. These are important and need to be tended to, but not at the expense of our peace of mind or our sanity. So many of us "go overboard" with Christmas and its preparations that they fail to see the opportunity that Advent gives us to "pace ourselves" in these four weeks.

May we take this time of the Advent Season to prepare ourselves, spiritually, for the coming of Christ. Whether it is Christ's coming as the Christ Child or as the King of Glory, may Christ find us ready to welcome Him into our hearts, our homes, and our world. May we give Christ His due, giving Jesus the well-deserved welcome that we would a King. Jesus is our King, enrobed not in a royal garment, but in ordinary swaddling clothes. May we go to the manger in a few weeks, having spent this time preparing for that moment in salvation history when "God so loved the world that He gave us His Only Begotten Son" (Jn 3:16). Advent is a marathon, not a sprint – enjoy it...savor it...live it!

A Blessed Advent to All,

Fr. Paul

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekly Offertory

Nov 9 - Nov 15, 2021

ST ANN		ST JOHN	
Online	N/A	Online	\$ 589
Mail	\$ 150	Mail	\$ 916
Mass	<u>\$ 1,759</u>	Mass	<u>\$ 1,820</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,909	TOTAL	\$ 3325
Restoration Fund	\$171	Restoration Fund	\$39

**TOTAL RESTORATION FUND TO DATE —
\$21,998**

A REQUEST FROM THE COUNTERS.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE CHECKS OUT
TO:
SAINT JOHN'S OR SAINT ANN'S**

**CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE
T I C COLLABORATIVE OR ANYTHING ELSE
CANNOT BE CASHED BECAUSE THE
ACCOUNTS ARE IN THE NAME OF EACH OF
THE CHURCHES.**

Thank you for your help in this matter.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Advent is upon us (hard to believe, I know!), and with it the anticipation of Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded not to live in a place of settling but to live in a place of being awake and aware. If we are living in anticipation of something more, we don't need to know the time nor the hour, because we are living in the place of hope. We are reminded to live in hope, not in complacency.

Today to help us focus on the stable at Bethlehem we might set up a Nativity Scene with Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds with their sheep. My personal recommendation would be to hold off placing the Infant Jesus in the manger, as He has not yet arrived, but I will leave it up to each of you to decide. It was St. Francis who in December 1223 created the first ever nativity scene not in a church but in a cave in Greccio, Italy. "I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by." (St Bonaventure).

Furthermore, in the words of Franciscan biographer Thomas of Celano, "There Simplicity was honoured, Poverty exalted, Humility commended; and of Greccio there was made as it were a new Bethlehem. The night was lit up as the day, and was delightful to men and beasts ... [Francis] stood before the manger, full of sighs, overcome with tenderness and filled with wondrous joy. The solemnities of Mass were celebrated over the manger, and the priest enjoyed a new consolation."

It was through this event at Greccio that Francis evoked the simplicity with which Christ came into the world. It was also in this event that he called his followers to have that same simplicity of mind, heart, and life. May this Advent Season be a time of "active anticipation". May we recognize the Season the Church gives us to prepare for the coming of Christ as the Infant King as a time when we can ready a home for Jesus in our own hearts, as well as in our Nativity Scenes. May we do our best to avoid the "Christmas Rush" – not only the rush to buy presents, but also the rush to "get through" Christmas. May we recognize the Advent Season as not a "sprint" but a "marathon". May we be in it for the "long haul", to Christmas...and to the Kingdom.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



THE DEACON'S COLUMN

"Called to Beatitude but wounded by Sin"

I wonder if you were asked in a poll to name the hardest words to say to another human being what your response would be. My guess is that for some the hardest words to say are, "I love you." How many children (young and adult) long to hear those words from their parents? For others I suspect the hardest words to voice are, "I am sorry." Saying that we are sorry demands that we take an honest look at our words and actions and see how they effect the people around us. It is hard to admit when we are wrong and harder still to admit it to ourselves and to others.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states our fundamental need for grace in this way, "Called to beatitude but wounded by sin, man stands in need of salvation from God. Divine help comes to him in Christ through the law that guides him and the grace that sustains him." (#1949) The Eucharistic Liturgy is how Christians come to experience the singular act that reconciles us to God—the crucifixion. Jesus meets every sinner on the cross. After living a full human life and experiencing the ugliness of our sin he does what only he can do—take them to himself so that when he dies, we are freed from sin. It is fitting that the Liturgy begins with God's people recognizing their sin and making a public act of penitence in which we say, personally as Christians and publicly as the Church—we are sorry for our sins and stand in need of grace that comes to us in Jesus Christ.

There are three forms of the penitential rite—there is the *Confiteor* where the assembly admits publicly that they are sinners, takes responsibility for their actions, and for help to avoid falling back into sin. The second form is rarely used in liturgy. The substance of the second form takes place in a dialogue between the presider and the assembly. The third form is the one we primarily use at Sunday Mass. It begins in the usual way and then the priest, a deacon, or the cantor will make three invocations each followed by the Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy). All three forms conclude with a prayer of general absolution by the priest saying, "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life." Once this rite is performed, the Christian community is now prepared to celebrate the sacred liturgy.

Just as it is hard to say the words, "I am sorry." It is perhaps even harder for us to say to another, "I forgive you." Around the Eucharistic table our Father in Heaven is not stingy with his words nor does he delay in his response to our act of penitence. God forgives us generously every time we turn to him with true contrition. But to receive this forgiveness we must be equally generous in offering it to others who have the courage to say to us that they are sorry for hurting us. Brothers and sisters, next time you come to Mass, take the time to name your sin and give them to Christ on the cross. As you receive his reconciliation, do not be afraid to share that new life by offering forgiveness and mercy to those who ask.

ATTENTION ATTENTION

BEGINNING IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 1ST IN-PERSON DAILY MASSES WILL RESTART AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S AT 9 AM (in the church, not the Chapel)

THESE MASSES WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE LIVE-STREAMED

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY AT SAINT JOHN
THURSDAY & SATURDAY AT SAINT ANN**

CONFESSIONS WILL BE AT SAINT ANN'S BETWEEN 3:00—3:30 OR BY APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF THE PRIESTS AVAILABLE.

DECEMBER 2ND THERE WILL BE AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT SAINT JOHN'S AT 6:00 PM FOLLOWED BY THE LIGHTING OF THE COMMON AT 6:25.

ALL ARE WELCOME.



THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SAINT ANN SAINT JOHN

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM	4 PM
6 PM	6 PM
MIDNIGHT	

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30	10:30
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The Masses on Sunday, December 26th will be as Usual: Saint Ann — 8:30; Saint John — 10:30



Let's kick off Christmas Fundraiser

On December 19th our Collaborative is having a "Let's kick off Christmas" Event for the collaborative at St John's from 11:30-4:30.

The day will be packed with many fun-filled family activities for all ages. These events include:

Teams of Christmas Carolers that you can place an order for them to come to your house to sing or you can request them to go to a friend or family members house to sing.

In addition to this there will be many activities happening back at St John's including:

- Pony rides
- Christmas Caroling hay rides
- Face painting
- Christmas Craft tables
- Raffles
- Door prizes
- Food

It promises to be a fun-filled day.

Monies raised will support our Faith Formation program and our Collaborative Parish Center Renovation fund. We will also make a donation to the Baker Family Scholarship Fund

How can I help you might ask?

You may help in the following ways:

Order Christmas Carolers to come to your home or send them to a friend of family members home as an early Christmas present.

Take an add out in our Christmas Carol advertisement book.

Help sponsor the cost of the Hay ride or pony rides

Rent a craft table

Come to the event and have fun



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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

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

Winter dates and hours will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and the **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

Monday, December 6 — 1—4 PM
Saturday, December 18 — 10—11:30 AM

Tuna, pasta, pasta suase, soups, canned goods, etc are always great additions to the shelves.

As we begin Advent we are called to "wait" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas

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 that large sums., ie \$100

WE ARE RETURNING TO COLLECTING THE OFFERTORY BY PASSING A BASKET AS WAS DONE FOR SO MANY YEARS. THEREFORE, WE NEED USHERS TO HELP US WITH THIS TASK. PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY IF YOU CAN HELP.

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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379

Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.

Christmas Sharing

After surveying our Christmas Sharing families, we will again ask you to purchase gift cards that will be distributed to the families, Project Grad Teen Moms, and senior citizens. The following stores are preferred: Target, Walmart, Kohl's, Amazon. We are asking for gift cards in any amount up to \$50. This will allow us the flexibility to give an amount appropriate to the family, teen mom or senior citizen. We will also need \$25 Trucchi's, Market Basket or CVS cards for families and Senior Citizens. All gift cards should be placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Sharing" in the St. Vincent dePaul boxes at the doors of the church, or sent to Linda Santry. They must be received by November 30th, to allow the parents time to purchase gifts before Christmas. See the handout on October 31st for more details. If there are any questions, please call or email Linda Santry:

508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org

SAINT JOHN'S AND SAINT ANN'S IS RESUMING THE PRACTICE OF USING EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT THE MASSES. IF YOU WERE OR WOULD LIKE TO BE A EUCHARIST MINISTER, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORIES TO SIGN UP OR SIGN UP ON THE LIST AT THE SIDE DOOR. FOR ST. JOHN'S

ST JOHN 508-378-4207

SAINT ANN 508-586-4880

GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

SAINT JOHN'S WILL BE PAIRING WITH THE HUGS ORGANIZATION IN TOWN TO PROVIDE GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE TOWN.



PLEASE TAKE A TAG OFF THE TREE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

GIFTS ARE FOR CHILDREN UP TO 18, UNLESS THE CHILD IS IN COLLEGE AND HAS SIBLINGS.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT, THE FAMILIES WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR TAG ON THE GIFT AND THE AMOUNT ON THE GIFT CARD. *And be sure to sign up on the list!!!*

We had an incredible opening Prayer Service for the Confirmation Candidates of grades 9 & 10 and their parents. It was an extraordinary faith-filled evening. Thank you to all who attended and all the teacher that assisted.

We are looking forward to the opening of grades 1 –8 on December 5th . Classes for grades 1-6 will meet at Saint John's upper church.

Grade 1 & 2 will meet alternating weeks from 9:25—10:20 Parents are welcome to attend mass with their children either at 8:30 at Saint Ann's or attend the 10:30 Mass at Saint John's or any other mass that works for your family.

Grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 will have class at the same time on alternating weeks after the 10:30 mass in Saint John's Church from 11:30—12:30. Ex. One week grades 3 & 4, the next week grades 5 & 6.

Grades 7 & 8 will meet alternating weeks at Saint Ann' from 5-6pm . (one week grade 7, the next week grade 8)

We encourage 7th & 8th graders and their families to attend the 6:15 mass at Saint Ann's, however, they may attend any mass that works for their family.

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