

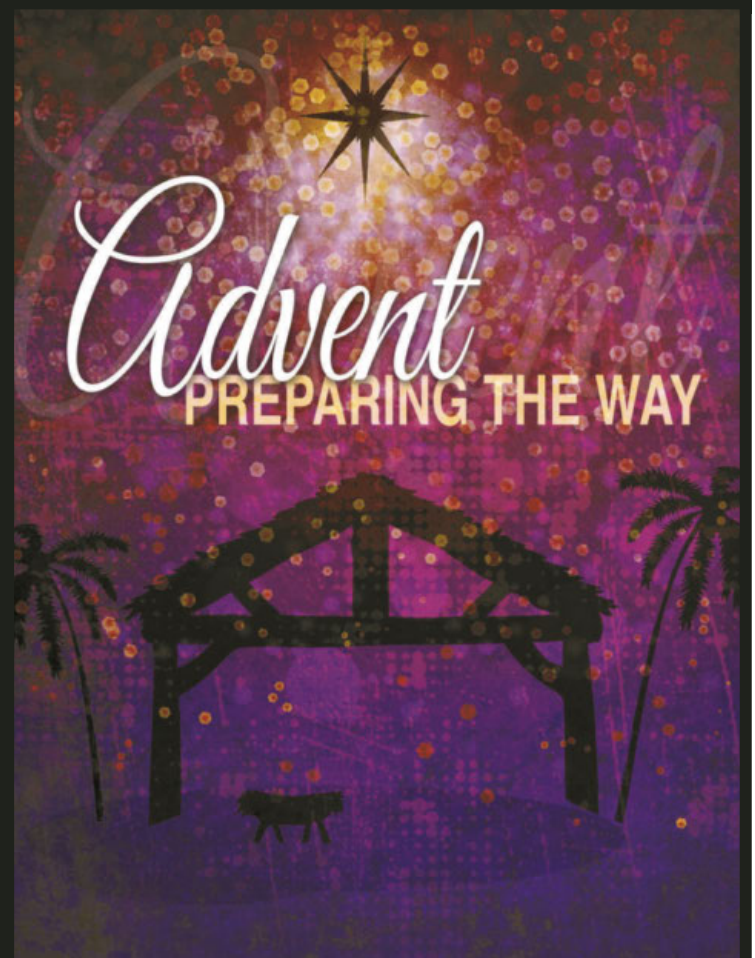
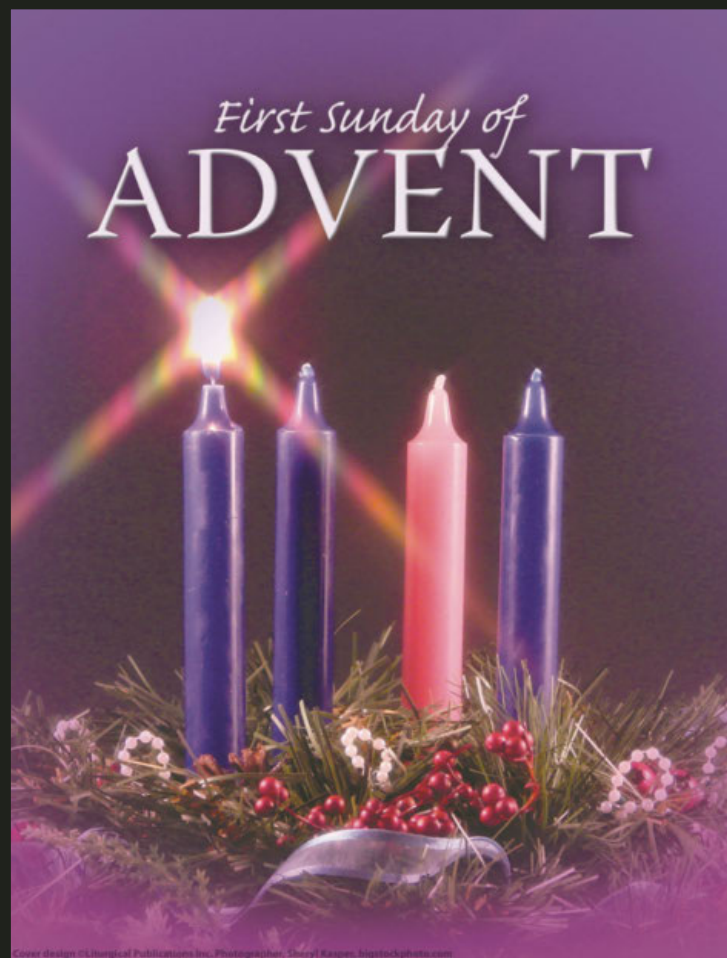


Sunday, 8:00 AM
 Sunday, 11:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 December 1, 2024
 First Sunday of Advent*



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



Church of Saint Ann

**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater
 02379
 508-586-4880 (24 hour service)**

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

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

Saint John the Evangelist

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater
 02333
 Office -103 N. Main Street,
 West Bridgewater, 02379
 508-378-4207 or 508 586-4880**

**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

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

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

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

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

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

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 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

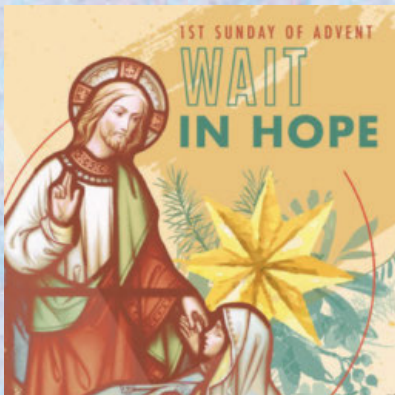
SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

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





NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, December 1, 2024

8:00 - Joseph Guarino, Jr. — 4th Anniversary & Birthday Remembrance

11:30 - Rosalyn Ingoldsby — Birthday Remem.

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

Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:00 - Christiano Victoria — 17th Anniversary

11:30 - David LaCouture — 2n Anniversary

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

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, November 30, 2024

10:00 — Mary Lou Heath — Memorial

Saturday, November 30, 2024

4:00 - Francis Barry & Family — 26th Anniv.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

9:30 - Dorothy Boisclair — Birthday Remem.

Saturday, December 7, 2024

4:00 - Benjamin Andrea — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:30 - Kathleen Climo & Fred Climo — Mem.

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00 — Donna Peyton — Memorial

CONLEY FUNERAL HOME 13TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

**Thorney Lea Golf Club
159 Torrey Street
Brockton, MA 02301**

We are please to invite you to our 13th Annual Holiday Remembrance Service as our way of remembering your loved one and honoring you, our valued families. Our hope is that this service will help ease your grief through the holidays in some special way. Feel free to share this invitation with your family or anyone you know who may be grieving, whether or not Conley Funeral Home provided their care.

**Refreshments at 1:00. Service begins at 1:30
RSVP on or before Dec 6th. 508-586-0742**



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", and ours takes the form of a "Giving Tree", helping out with the needs of our local community this time of year). 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

MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry News

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

December Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is December 8 at the 9:30 Mass at St. John. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass. If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday 12/15 at 1 pm, St. Ann's Parish Center

Join us as our children share the story of Jesus' birth and we have a birthday party for him!

There will be plenty of food and fun. Please bring a non-perishable food item as a birthday present for Jesus and the Food Pantry!

December Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is December 15 at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann. Similar to Family Mass, we invite our teens to do a reading or bring up the gifts. Fr. Paul also tailors his homily to be relevant to their life, and there is contemporary music at the Mass.

If your teen is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

December Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

December 16 at 6:30 pm, St. Ann

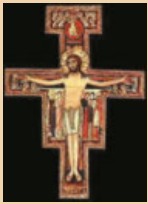
Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team from Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge. All are welcome!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Monday December 9, 2024

This year, December 8th is the Second Sunday of Advent. As a result, the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America, will be transferred to Monday, December 9th.

In previous years when December 8 has fallen on a Sunday it was the practice in the United States to indicate that the obligation to attend Mass does not transfer with the liturgical observance. Currently, both the 2025 Ordo and [USCCB 2025 Liturgical Calendar](#) reflect this past practice.

Given recent clarifications on this practice from the Dicastery for Legislative Texts and the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, we now know that the feast "must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred." In light of this information, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9, 2024 is to be observed as a holy day of obligation, contrary to what was published in the Ordo and USCCB 2025 liturgical calendar before receipt of the clarification.



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.

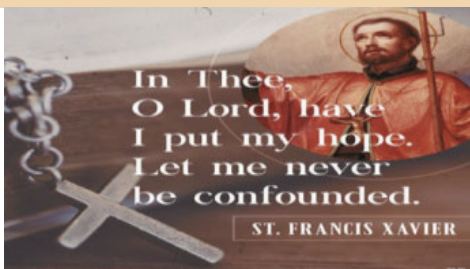
Today to help us focus on the stable at Bethlehem we might set up a Nativity Scene with Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds with their sheep. My personal recommendation would be to hold off placing the Infant Jesus in the manger, as He has not yet arrived, but I will leave it up to each of you to decide. 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, OFS



THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR

EXTRA HOLIDAY EXPENSES

A special thank you to Sandra Ross for donating the cost of the missals for St. John's Parish this year in memory of her loved ones. Thank you Sandra for your generosity.

Boston Children's Hospital

Blood Drive

*Please join us in remembering
Jase Joshua Russell
on his 8th birthday*

St. Ann's Church
103 N. Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Appointments may be made at:
www.bostonchildrens.org/halfpoints
and enter sponsor code: **STAWB**.
For more information contact Cyndi MacKinlay:
ckeane17@gmail.com
781-789-8242.

It's time to think about the Christmas Flowers!



Due to our current financial situation, we are only able to afford as many flowers as we receive donations for. So, we ask that you send in your Christmas flower donation as soon as you can so we can buy the flowers and be fully decorated!

We will again be posting the names of your loved ones for whom you made the donations. This will be similar to the Easter Flower posting. If you are using an envelope from Waltzco, there is a space for the names. If you are not on the envelope system, please use a plain envelope, mark it Christmas Flowers and list your name and in memory of: your loved ones on the back.

Please get your donations in by Dec. 7th so we can place the order.

Thank you for your support.

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, William Neyman, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, 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 Church 85ill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Prviti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella, Stephen D'Guisepe, Ann Bortolopto, Elaine Landolfi & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



Christmas Sharing

After surveying our Christmas Sharing families, we will again ask you for gift cards that will be distributed to the families 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 or senior citizen. We will also need \$25 Trucchi's or Market Basket cards for families and Senior Citizens, and items for the Senior Citizens' gift bags. All gift cards should be placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Sharing" in the **St. Vincent de Paul boxes** at the doors of the church, or sent to Linda Santry. They must be received by **December 5th**, to allow the parents' time to purchase gifts before Christmas. Checks should be made out to St. Ann's, with "Christmas Sharing" in the memo line. There is a box at the rear of the church for Senior Citizens gift bag items.

This year we will also be collecting toys for the parents to choose from for their children. There will be a bin in the back of the church for you to place new toys for children aged 1 to 16.

See the handout on November 9/10th for more details.

If there are any questions, please call or email Linda Santry: 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org

West Bridgewater Food Pantry
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1
West Bridgewater
02379

WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday each month
TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM
Need: jelly, rice pilaf, pancake mix, syrup, pasta sauce, baked beans
Cash donations also accepted.

St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379
To join please call — TINA ANTHONY
508-245-5481

Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society has provided support for our neighbors that find themselves in need of a little help with utility, fuel or rent bills. There are many ways we can help our neighbors; if not financially, we can help spiritually. The Society cannot help our neighbors without the generosity of our parishioners. Please consider donating by placing the donations in the SDVP boxes located at each entrance. Please make out any checks to St. Vincent de Paul Society, not St. Ann's Church.

To join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony, 508-245-5481

Next meeting: December 10, 2024

St Vincent de Paul (St. Ann's Church) is holding a Scratch ticket raffle to help raise money to help others. \$250.00 worth of tickets. Tickets are 1-\$20 or 3 - \$50

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**
December 2, 2024
December 16, 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, toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper.

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



Knights of Columbus Council 488
Cordially Invites You to Our

A Very Special Christmas Party!

December 7
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center, 103 Center Street, Bridgewater MA

The Knights would like to invite special needs children to our annual Children's Christmas Party. Held at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Center our festivities provide a supportive environment so that children can enjoy things like visiting Santa and Mrs. Claus at their own pace, engaging in crafts with necessary assistance, and generally enjoying a supportive environment with the Knights and other special needs families. The party is free to special needs families and siblings are welcome!

Activities Include: Holiday Music, Games, Crafts, Small Gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and pictures with Santa for those who would enjoy time with them.

Space is limited and registration is required. Please RSVP by 11/30 with:

- Full Name of all Children Attending
- Sex of Child
- Age
- Any gifts considerations such as developmental age of child.

Please R.S.V.P. to:
Karin Sullivan at
MrsGumby56@Comcast.net or
call (508) 415-4070



Merry Christmas

St. John's is once again partnering with East Bridgewater HUGS to host a Giving Tree for our families in need.

Please stop by the tree and select a tag or tags, sign the sheet, shop for the gifts, and return them to any drop off location by Dec 13th. EBHUGS also accepts gift cards, cash, checks, venmo and paypal on the HUGS website www.ebhugs.org

If you wish to volunteer or would like more information, please contact us at wishes@ebhugs.org

Thank you for your support! Happy Holidays!

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