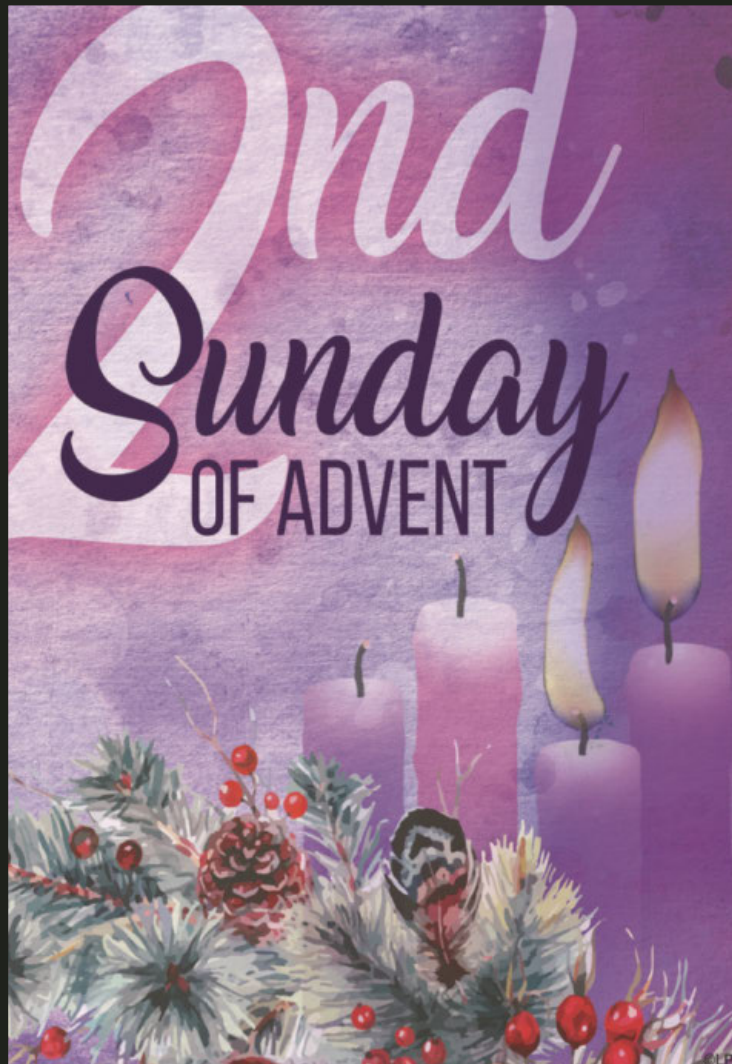




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent*



“
AT THIS CHRISTMAS
WHEN CHRIST COMES,
WILL HE FIND A WARM
HEART? MARK THE
SEASON OF ADVENT
BY LOVING AND
SERVING THE OTHERS
WITH GOD’S OWN
LOVE AND CONCERN.
”

- ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

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, December 4, 2022

7:30 - Joseph Guarino — 2nd Anniversary

11:30 - Michael Shea — 1st Anniversary

Susan Arvidson — 1st Anniversary

6:15 - For the Parishioners of the T.I.C. Coll.

Sunday, December 11, 2022

7:30 - Stephen & Cindy Nyhan — Memorial

11:30 - Lenny Celia — Memorial

6:15 - Parishioners of St. Ann and St. John

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 3, 2022

4:00 - Dorothy Boisclair — Birthday Remem.

Sunday December 4, 2022

9:30 — Kevin Sullivan — 10th Anniversary

Monday, December 5, 2022

9:00 — Sr. Thomasine Knowlton, CSJ & Gail

Douglas — Memorial

Saturday, December 10, 2022

4:00 — Rose Talabach — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 11, 2022

9:30 — John Morawski — 1st Anniversary



My Dear Friends in Christ,

John the Baptist presents to us an interesting figure. While prophetic in nature (by what he says), he is unlike any other prophet who has come before (by how he speaks, as well as how he looks!). John's appearance is something to behold, and it gets the attention of the crowd; like a good preacher, he has a "hook". His message, however, is what really stands out, what separates him from the rest of the "crowd" (the itinerant preachers who people have seen come and go).

John comes to us as a herald of God's Word, as well as God's Promise of the Messiah. There were some in the crowd who thought that John was "THE ONE", the Messiah. He is quick to dispel that thought, however, because while the baptism that John offers is one of water, there is one who will be coming to baptize in water AND the Holy Spirit. This one, of course, is Jesus Christ. This is how John separates himself from the rest of the pack. There might have been others who spoke of the coming of the Messiah, but John does so with an authority and power that has never been seen previously. This is because John has been singled out by God to deliver this message.

John brings a call for repentance to ready oneself for the coming of the Messiah. John's voice is "one crying out in the desert" (Is 40:3); his "cry" is to "make straight the path" (Jn 1:23). We are to clear out that "spiritual dead-wood", those things that are not of God, so that when Jesus comes again (at the end of time) He will find in us a welcome home. We should not wait, however, for that time, for we "know not the day or the hour" (Mt 25:13). We should begin here and now to prepare for that coming. This is what Advent is all about. Advent is, for us, an opportunity to get our-selves ready for the two-fold coming of Christ. We are to prepare for His coming not only at Christmastime, but at the end of ALL time. If we do this here and now, we need not worry about how we will be received by Jesus.

May we use this Advent Season, this time of preparation, wisely and well. May we ready our hearts, homes and lives for the coming of Christ. May we be found ready, so that when Christ comes we may hear those words of Scripture ring in our ears and hearts: "Well done, good and faithful servant...share in your Master's joy!" (Mt 25:23).

A Blessed Advent to You All,

Fr. Paul

WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES



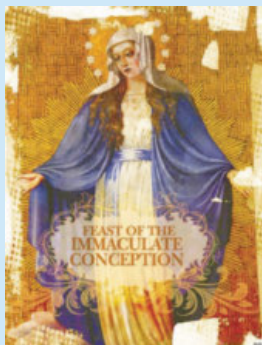
MEMORIAL MASSES
Suggested donation \$25+

HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS
FOR THE WEEK — \$30+



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE
WEEK
\$75+

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH.
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MASS AT SAINT ANN'S
9:00 AM

MASS AT SAINT JOHN'S
7:00 pm



**Christmas Sharing
For Saint Ann's**

This is the final week to make donations for Christmas for our families, Senior Citizens, and Project Grads Teen Moms.

Please leave gift cards in the St. Vincent DePaul boxes at the doors of the church, and small gift items or toys in the box at the back of the church. You also may call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org, and we will pick up any items you wish to donate. Thank you all for your generosity!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

How Much Is Enough?

I've got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn't care what name you bear. He doesn't care where you were born, and he doesn't care what your family tree looks like. He doesn't care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I've also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It's so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That's enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That's enough.

I'm on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That's enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



East Bridgewater HUGS is ready for the 2022 holiday season.

If you would like to adopt a child or family this Christmas, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact me directly at wishes@ebhugs.org.

If you would like to make a cash donation, you can Venmo at East Bridgewater Hugs, use Paypal on our website, www.ebhugs.org, or drop cash or checks or gift cards off at the EB Public Library or any of our drop off locations or mailed or dropped at HUGS, 100 Lorraine Drive, EB. If you have any questions, please call Theresa at 508-350-9811.

Giving Trees will be up by mid November, for those who want to help by taking tags to purchase specific gifts from a child's wish list.

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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE — 12/24
4:00 PM — SAINT ANN'S
4:00 PM — SAINT JOHN'S

6:00 PM — SAINT ANN'S
6:00 PM — SAINT JOHN'S

CHRISTMAS DAY — 12/25
12:00 MIDNIGHT — SAINT JOHN'S
8:30 AM — SAINT ANN'S
10:30 AM — SAINT JOHN'S





MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

As a Secular Franciscan, one strives to live the ideals of St. Francis in their everyday life, bringing into practice the idea that one should...and can...see Christ in everyone. This is especially true when one encounters someone who lives on the “fringe” of society, someone who might be thought of “less than” by society because of some social, cultural, or physical stigma. St. Francis’ life radically changed when he encountered the leper on the road. He had encountered many lepers on the road, no doubt, and most would probably think this encounter to be no different. Francis would see the leper, avoid the leper at all costs, and move on. This encounter would be different. At this moment, something stirred within Francis and he saw nothing less than the presence of Christ in this leper. He dismounted, approached the leper, and kissed him – something unheard of to anyone, certainly Francis! It was at this moment that Francis’ life changed, a conversion took place, and his life would never be the same. To see Christ in the leper, that is to see Christ in the marginalized, disenfranchised, outcast, is something which the members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society strive to do each time they open the doors to the bi-monthly Food Pantry that is found in the basement of St. John’s Church.

One of the members of our Society, in particular, who saw this Christ-like visage in anyone who walked through the doors of the Food Pantry was Vince Adornato. Vince wasn’t just the “Past President” of St. Vincent de Paul, he was a stalwart member who worked tirelessly in bringing Christ’s love to life in a most Franciscan way. Vince was a true Franciscan without ever donning the brown habit of a Franciscan or the Tau Cross of a Secular Franciscan. Vince lived the ideals of the Franciscan life each time he stepped foot in the doors of the Church, whether it was as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or member of St. Vincent de Paul. On November 8, the Lord called Vince to his Eternal Reward. His passing is a loss to all of us here in the Collaborative and to me in particular. I spent many an evening enjoying his cooking, his humor, and his friendship. I have no doubt Vince received a warm welcome from everyone who preceded him in death, especially his beloved wife Pam. I also believe the Lord gave him a place of honor at the Eternal Banquet Table, because of the many times he fed the hungry who crossed the threshold of the Pantry. As he entered through the Gates of the Heavenly Kingdom, he no doubt heard those words we all hope to hear upon our arrival to the Kingdom, “Well done, my good and faithful servant...Come, share your Master’s joy” (Matthew 25:21). Vince will always be loved, never forgotten, and missed until we see him again. God Speed, my friend.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



I Believe in God: *Almighty* Father

If God is all powerful, why doesn’t he prevent or save people from all kinds of sufferings?” Given that the world is marked by all sorts of sufferings (moral and physical) and natural disasters that bring destruction and death, one might wonder if there are limits to God’s power. After all, if God loved us, and if he is all powerful, why would he allow his children to suffer? And yet, our faith tells us that *omnipotence* (fancy word for almighty or all powerful) is an attribute of God. In fact, it is the only attribute of God professed in the Creed.

In the Old Testament, there are a couple of titles of God that reveal his almighty power. A popular title for God, in Hebrew, is *El Shaddai* which is often translated as “God Almighty”. In other places, he is called, *Lord of Hosts*, which, along with *El Shaddai*, is often translated as *pantokrator*. This Greek word literally means “ruler of all” but is usually translated as almighty or all powerful.

In the Old Testament, the activity of God appears to affirm that he is almighty and all powerful. He creates the universe out of nothing. The universe is brought into being by command. God brings life to clay figurines simply by breathing his spirit into them. God demonstrates his power over creation through the ten plagues and through the miracle of the sea. In the desert, God gives the newly freed slaves water from the rock to drink and manna from heaven to eat. These stories, and more, depict a God who has power of all things “visible and invisible”.

Interestingly enough, the title, *Almighty*, is not used for God in the Gospels. Nevertheless, we see the mighty works of God at work in them. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary conceives a Son in her womb even though she never had relations with a man. Through his divine Son, God cures lepers. He makes the deaf hear, the mute speak, and the lame walk. He calms storms and even walks on water. If this was not enough to demonstrate his power, Jesus brings a little girl back to life and raises the brother of Martha and Mary from the dead. When addressing Mary at the Annunciation, the Archangel Gabriel highlights God’s power with these words, “Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God” (Lk 1:37). The most dynamic display of God’s power takes place three days after the Son of God dies on the cross—Jesus is resurrected.

If all this is true, how does one reconcile an almighty God with evil and suffering? The Catechism of the Catholic Church raises this question in its teaching on the almightiness of God and responds to it with these words,

Faith in God the Father Almighty can be put to the test by the experience of evil and suffering. God can sometimes seem to be absent and incapable of stopping evil. But in the most mysterious way God the Father has revealed his almighty power in the voluntary humiliation and Resurrection of his Son, by which he conquered evil. . . It is in Christ’s Resurrection and exaltation that the Father has shown forth “the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe” (#272).

Though God is almighty, he will never force his will upon us. Instead, using his almighty power he is incarnate in Mary’s womb and shares our life. By his almighty power, he takes on the consequences of our sin and suffers the death we all deserve because of that sin. God’s almighty power is at work in each person through the forgiveness of sins. God’s power does more than forgive sins, his grace fills us with his own life making us sons and daughters of the Father, brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus, and temples of the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God becomes a human being so that all people might become like God.

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, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, 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, Joe Pigeon, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Gerry Penney. Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz & 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

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

Monday, December 5, 2022
Monday, December 19, 2022

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.

**THE WINE, HOSTS
SANCTUARY LAMPS AT SAINT ANN'S**



**THIS WEEK ARE
IN MEMORY OF:**



FRAN MCDONALD



**FLOWERS AT SAINT JOHN'S
THIS WEEK ARE IN MEMORY
OF:**

DOROTHY BOISCLAIR

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.

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!

This year we will 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. 11th

Thank you for your support.



MINISTRY NEWS

Christmas Pageant is back!

We are very excited to announce that the Christmas Pageant is back this year! All children in the collaborative are invited to participate and all are welcome to attend. The performance will be Sunday 12/18 at 12:30 in the gym at St. Ann's hall. Rehearsals are Monday 12/5 and 12/12 from 5:15-6:15 and Friday 12/16 from 5-6 at St. Ann. There are speaking and non-speaking roles and costumes will be provided. If your child wants to participate, please email Matt Brady.

Busy Families Retreat

Looking for a simple but prayerful way to help your family get ready for Christmas? Our Advent Busy Families Retreat is for you! Designed for families to do together but open to all, the Busy Families Retreat consists of a booklet with an excerpt from the daily readings, a reflection on the excerpt, and a question to discuss together. You can do it at home and it only takes a few minutes! The retreat runs from Sunday 12/4 to Saturday 12/17. If interested, please contact Matt Brady to receive the retreat booklet.

Family Mass Dates

This month we started a new tradition of Family Masses at the 9:30 Mass. These Masses will continue on the first Sunday of each month. Here are the full dates:

12/4, 1/8, 2/5, 3/5

It's not too early to sign up to help with the Mass on 12/4. We need readers, gift bearers and ushers, and someone to sponsor the coffee and donuts. If interested, please email Matt Brady.

High School Faith Formation Time Change

In order to better fit the needs of our families, the time of the grades 9 and 10 classes are changing to 7:15-8:15 starting with next Sunday's (11/27) grade 10 class. All 9th and 10th grade parents should have received an email this week about the change. Even though it's only a 15 minute difference, we hope this change will encourage all our high school families to come to the 6:15 Mass and get the kids home a little earlier.

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