



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

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 December 15, 2024  
 Third Sunday of Advent*



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

*Third Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



Cover design ©Liturgical Publications Inc. Photographer, Sharyl Kasper, iStockphoto.com

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
**IN JOY,  
 WE WAIT**



ELP

**Church of Saint Ann**

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

**E-Mail: [stanns@comcast.net](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)  
 Website: [stannswb.com](http://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](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://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

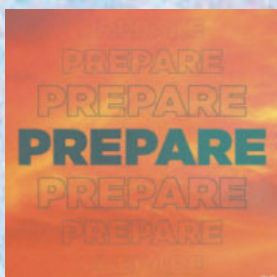
## **SAINT JOHN'S STAFF**

**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 15, 2024

8:00 - Florence Ross — 10th Anniversary

11:30 - Jonathan Correia — 10th Anniversary

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

#### Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:00 - Irminia & Christiano Victoria — Birthday Remembrance

11:30 - Francisco & Maria Figueiredo & Family Memorial

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 14, 2024

4:00 - Rose Talabach — 3rd Anniversary

#### Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:30 - Richard Murray — 4th Anniversary

#### Saturday, December 21, 2024

4:00 - Suzanne Shepard — Memorial

#### Sunday, December 22, 2024

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

### Christmas

Q: With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

A: Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the home-bound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent. It has a particular name, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" comes from the Latin, and it means "Rejoice". We "rejoice" on this Sunday because we are that much closer to the Christmas celebration. Today's celebration gives us a bit of a "breather", a chance to "take stock" as to where we are in our Advent journey and preparations.

Once again, John the Baptist is highlighted in the gospel. In the passage from Luke's gospel, John has just "dressed down" the crowds that came out to see him. John was certainly different than any prophet that had come before, but he was no "sideshow attraction". His words were sharp, and so was his prophetic vision. He knew that people were "sizing him up" to see if, perhaps, he could be the Messiah. In giving the people a "blueprint" on how they were to conduct themselves, he did not make it easy on them. John knew that the teaching of the Messiah would be tough to take, so he (like a good messenger) was preparing the crowd for Jesus. John also knew that if they could follow him, they could follow Jesus.

John's words are so powerful, in fact, that the "buzz" was going around that John might be the Messiah. It is understandable that people might think John the Messiah, because his words have a power and attraction that few, if any, prophets have brought. The idea that John is the Messiah is not a farfetched one, just an incorrect one. John puts this notion to rest, however, and with strong words. In calling himself "not worthy to loosen the thongs of his (Jesus') sandals" (Lk 3:16), he places himself at the service of Jesus and His message. The message that Jesus will speak will bring about repentance and healing, for the message that Jesus will bring will bear the mark of the Messiah.

Let us truly "rejoice" in the fact that God loves His people so much that He sent us a messenger such as John the Baptist. Let us "rejoice" in the "wake-up call" that John gives us this day, one that makes us aware that we must prepare with all our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Let us "rejoice" that our Messiah will soon be with us, as the Christ Child and the King of Glory. Let us be ready for the coming of the Lord by looking into our hearts and clearing out the "spiritual dead-wood", those things that are not of God, and putting into our hearts the good things that God wants for us – the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

A Blessed Continued Advent,

Fr. Paul

Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

©LPi

# MINISTRY NEWS

## Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at [Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### 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.

### 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!



**SAINT ANN & SAINT JOHN'S  
MISSES YOU!!!!**

### 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!

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve — Saint Ann  
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM**

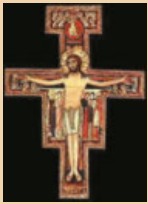
**Christmas Eve — Saint John  
4:00 PM  
Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day  
8:30 at Saint Ann's  
10:30 at Saint John's**



**PAY IT FORWARD THIS SEASON, PUT A SMILE IN  
SOMEONE'S HEART.**





**MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY**

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent. As we find ourselves at around the midpoint of our Advent journey, we celebrate a day known as “Gaudete Sunday”. The word “gaudete”, taken from the Latin, means “joy” or “rejoicing”, and we are joyful and rejoicing that Christmas is almost here, and the Birth of Our Savior, which we celebrate on the 25th of December is right around the corner. St. Francis of Assisi felt, as most Franciscans feel, that Christmas is the most important holy day of the Church year. This may be in conflict with traditional Church teaching (which places Easter above Christmas in the “hierarchy” of holy days) but, as I made mention a couple of weeks ago, a case could be made for this when one looks at Christmas through the “lens” of Gaudete Sunday.

Scripture tells us to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4). The “always” of which the writer is speaking is not only in the life to come, but in this life also. He goes on to remind us that while there may be suffering, the end result will be glorious. St. Francis would contend that the Incarnation (the Word made flesh, dwelling among us) is a glorious reminder that our Jesus wanted to share in the fullness of our humanity, and He did so in all things but sin. This is a cause for great joy that our Savior found us worthy enough to share in our human nature with us. This is the point of Gaudete Sunday, this time of joy which the Church gives us on this Third Sunday of Advent. It is a time when we can see the “finish line” of Advent and can start to think about Christmas Day and the Christmas Season (which lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 12, 2025).

May we come to know the joy that the Lord has in store for us by recognizing that even in the midst of suffering, alluded to in our first reading from the prophet Zephaniah, there is cause for rejoicing. May we share the joy we feel, the joy which led St. Francis to celebrate Christmas with such fervor, with all whom we meet.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



**THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR**

**EXTRA HOLIDAY EXPENSES**

**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. 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 send in your donations ASAP so the order can be placed.**

**Thank you for your support.**

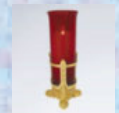
**WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES**

**MEMORIAL MASSES**  
Suggested donation \$25+

**HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK**  
Suggested donation \$55  
Including a Memorial Mass, Suggested donation \$80

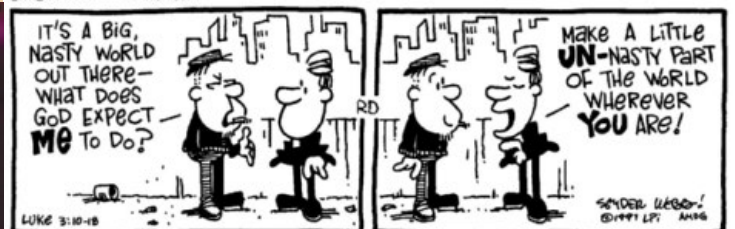
**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK**  
\$85; or including the mass Suggested donation \$110

**HOSTS, WINE & SANCTUARY LAMPS, FLOWERS**  
\$140 including the MASS, is a Suggested donation of \$165



**Payment for the above memorials would be appreciated TWO weeks in advance, separate from your offertory.**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 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](mailto: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.



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 SVDP 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: January 14, 2024**

St. Vincent de Paul Annual conference report  
10/1/23-9/30/24  
\$ received \$6,434.00  
\$ expensed \$11,500.00  
# of visits 7, # of people helped 17

Winner of the Scratch ticket raffle is Mary O'Connell

### Christmas Sharing

We are in the final stage of our distribution of gifts to our families and senior citizens. This afternoon the parents will be choosing from the toys you have donated, and gift cards will be distributed. Senior Citizen deliveries will be made in the coming week. If you would still like to donate gift cards, toys or senior citizen gifts, please let me know as soon as possible.

Through your generosity, we have provided gifts for 25 Teen Moms and their 32 babies and toddlers. Today 32 families in West Bridgewater will receive gift cards and toys, and this week deliveries will be made to 55 Senior citizens. If you know of anyone whom we may have missed, let me know. It is never too late!

If there are any questions, please call or email Linda Santry: **508-586-6535** or [linda@santry.org](mailto:linda@santry.org)



**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 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

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LOOK FOR THIS BANNER THROUGH DECEMBER TO SEE WHAT'S ON SALE



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](http://www.ebhugs.org)

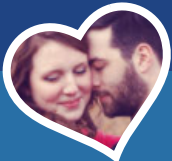
If you wish to volunteer or would like more information, please contact us at [wishes@ebhugs.org](mailto:wishes@ebhugs.org)

If you have not dropped off your gifts, Please do so ASAP.

Thank you for your support! Happy Holidays!



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