

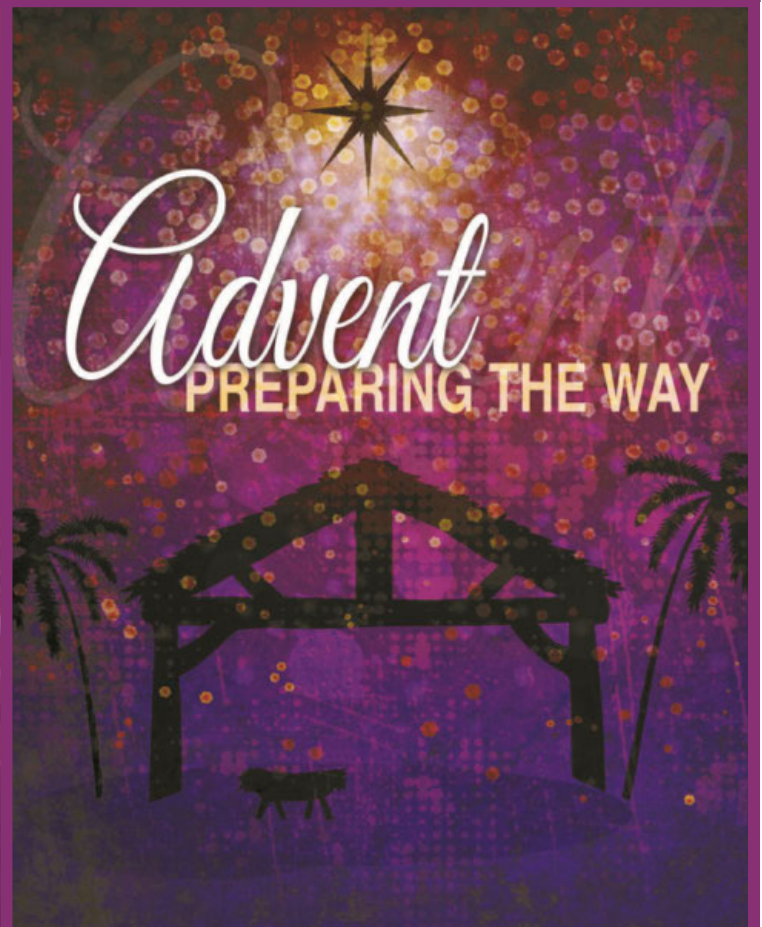
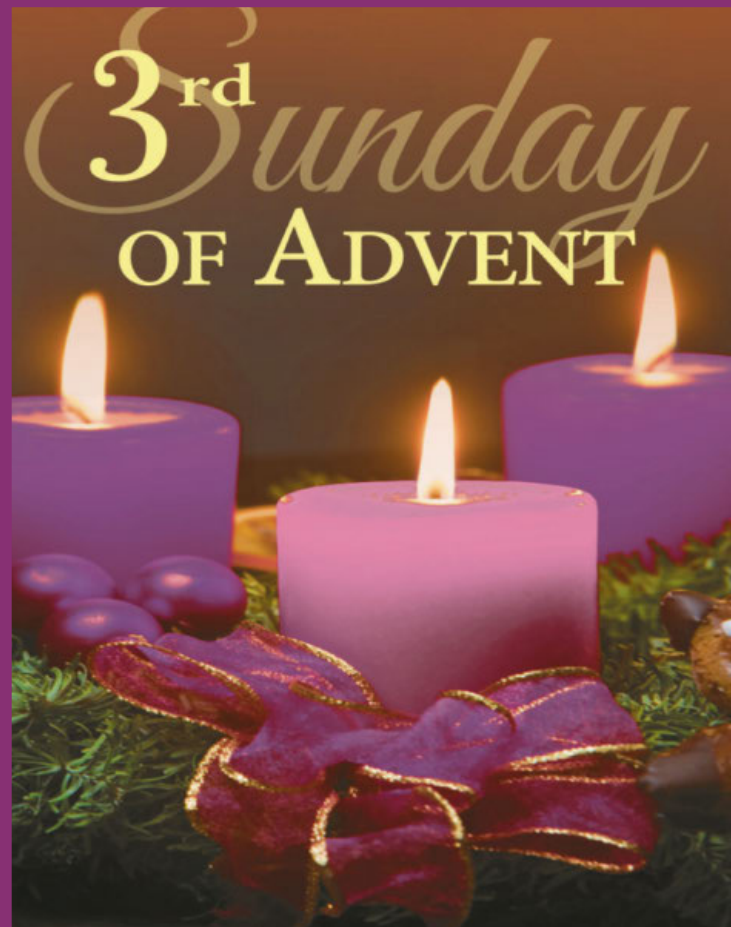


Saturday, 4:00 PM
 Sunday, 9:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 December 17, 2023
 Third Sunday of
 Advent*



Sunday, 8:00 AM
 Sunday, 11:30 AM



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
 9:00-3:00
 Monday through Friday**

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 OFS**

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

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

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

St John's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
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.

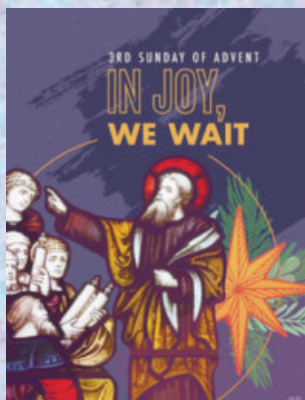
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

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



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 16, 2023

4:00 - David LaCouture — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative
6:15 - Teens of the T.I.C. Collaborative

Saturday, December 23, 2023

4:00 - John C. Adams, Jr. — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:30 - Parishioners of the T. I.C. Collaborative
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:00 - Suzanne Shepard — 34th Anniversary
11:30 - Ewa Morawski — 29th Anniversary

Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative
11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative



“Deliver Us From Evil,” by [Shin Maeng](#)

A Prayer Against Neighbor Hate: O Lord, you who command us to bless our enemies, protect us, we pray, from turning our neighbors into enemies, worthy only of hatred and deserving of nothing but insults and curses, and grant us instead the heart of Jesus, so that we might love our neighbor as you love them.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I cannot look at our First Reading, taken from the Book of (the Prophet) Isaiah, without thinking back to my Ordination to the Priesthood some 28 years ago. This reading was proclaimed at my ordination ceremony, and it is dear to my heart. It speaks eloquently of how a priest is to “tend his flock”. The priest is, indeed, meant to “bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord, and a day of vindication by our God” (Is 61:1-2A). I’ve always striven to do this; admittedly, I haven’t always “hit the mark” but it wasn’t for lack of effort!

This first reading is a “clarion call” to all, as well, who are baptized into the faith. It is by virtue of the “baptismal call”, placed on our hearts at Baptism, in which we are to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters. It is to them that we are to “bring glad tidings...heal...proclaim” and “announce” (ibid). In undertaking these actions, we model ourselves after the many men and women of faith who have gone before us. John the Baptist is one of those who stand before us as a model of faith.

In today’s gospel, John is once again featured. While he eschews claims to be the Christ (n.b. Jn 1:20), he does not shy away from his missionary duties. He proclaims himself to be that “voice of one crying out in the desert” (Jn 1:23); in doing so, John fulfills that prophetic call for which he was born, for which he was chosen. We, ourselves, are called to speak a prophetic word, again by virtue of our baptismal call. If we are worried about what that word is, or how it is to come out, we need not worry! Jesus has promised us that when we are to speak on His behalf, we will be given the words to say. It is the Holy Spirit that will be speaking, using us as a “vessel” for that prophetic word. So if you feel that “tug” on your heart to offer a word of comfort, consolation or correction, let the Holy Spirit “take the wheel” and all will be well.

May we have the courage to be that “voice of one crying out in the desert” (ibid). May we know that it is the Holy Spirit of God which is directing us to speak. May we trust that the word being offered will bring peace to the hearer. May we use this Advent Season to further our relationship with Jesus, who will come “soon and very soon”.

A (Continued) Blessed Advent Season 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 Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is December 17th at the 6:15 Mass. There will be contemporary music and Fr. Paul will make his homily relevant to the life of our young people.

We also invite any of our teens who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your teen wants to do one of these things, please contact Matt Brady.

Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

Our next sandwich making for Fr. Paul to distribute to the homeless in Boston is:

Monday 12/18 at 6:30 at St. Ann.

This counts as a service opportunity for anyone who needs it. All are welcome!



Anyone wishing to purchase a wreath in honor of a loved one, to be placed on the front doors of the churches, please contact the Rectories.

**We need two wreathes for each church.
First come, first served.
Your loved one will be published in the
Bulletin.**

**St. John — 508-378-4207
St Ann — 508-586-4880**



An attentive group of children listening to the Children's homily by Father Paul on December 3rd



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 that “there is cause for rejoicing here” (1 Peter 9). The “here” of which he is speaking is in this life. 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 7, 2024).

May we come to know the joy that the Lord has in store for us by uniting ourselves with a spirit of thanksgiving, by bringing the glad tidings, healing, liberty, and freedom, all of which is spoken of in our first reading this day (see Isaiah 61:1). 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 Outstanding bills

NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR Outstanding bills

“What did the friary call the brother who was instructed to eat more fiber?”



“A BRAN-ciscan.”



Franciscans are men and women who follow the guidelines outlined by St. Francis of Assisi — they embrace poverty, chastity, and obedience to God.

BLP!

**OUR GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION IS UNDERWAY!
IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR ENVELOPE,
THERE ARE ENVELOPES AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES ARE DUE. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY WE HAVE TO SPEND ON THE FLOWERS AND EARLY DONATIONS HELP CONSIDERABLY.

THANK YOU FOR YOU GENEROSITY!



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:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Kayla Perry, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen & 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 or added, Please call the Rectory .**



WE ♥ OUR volunteers

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

Cash donations also accepted

St Ann's

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Is looking for new members

PLEASE CONTACT — TINA ANTHONY

508-245-5481

P O Box 474

Thank you to all whom have donated to the St. Vincent toiletry bags for our homeless friends. If you have not done so Please pick a slip from the baskets located at each door.. Thank you and God Bless. The next meeting will be on December 12th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

4th Sunday of Advent

SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 2023 — 4 pm

AT St. Ann's

SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023



8:00 at St. John

9:30 at St. Ann

11:30 at St. John

No 6:15



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 at St. John (including the choir)

and 4:00 at St. Ann

6:00 at St. John

12:00 (midnight) at St. Ann

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 at St. Ann; 10:30 at St. John



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.

Monday, December 4, 2023

December 18, 2023

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.

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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