



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

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 December 22, 2024  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent*



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

*Fourth Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



**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  
Thursday & Saturday  
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





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**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

- 8:00 - Erminia & Christiano Victoria — Birthday Remembrance
- 11:30 - Francisco & Maria Figueiredo & Family Memorial
- 6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

- 8:00 - Pilar & Jamie Laureta — 47th Wedding Anniversary
- 11:30 - William Lopes — 23rd Anniversary  
Manuel Cabrinha — 4th Anniversary  
Jose Rego — 5th Anniversary
- 6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

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**Saturday, December 21, 2024**

- 4:00 - Suzanne Shepard — Memorial

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

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

**Saturday, December 28, 2024**

- 4:00 - Joseph & Christopher Thompson — Mem.

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

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

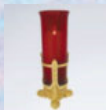
**WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES**

**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.

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR**

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Today we find ourselves in the “home stretch” of Advent. Christmas is in just a couple of days, and we take these “final days” (presuming the “street corner prophets” are wrong about the “final days”!) to reflect on this four week journey that we have undertaken. Our readings beautifully link the themes on which we have been contemplating and praying during our Advent Season, namely “promise”, “joy”, “repentance” and “transformation”.

In our first reading, the prophet Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that God will bring to prominence the “unimportant” village of Bethlehem. In doing this, God (through the prophet Micah) shows to us that no one, and nothing that one does, is insignificant. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that Jesus, in doing the will of the Father, shows us that through sacrifice and obedience we draw ourselves closer into the mystery of God. In our gospel, we have the encounter of two *seemingly* “insignificant” women highlighting the fact that nothing that we do in the name of God is ever insignificant. Mary and Elizabeth are powerful models of faith and faithfulness to us all, and their individual “fiats” (saying “yes” to God’s plan) are a reflection of the “yes” that we are called to give to God.

Advent has been, I hope and pray, a time when we prepare our minds, hearts and lives for the coming of Christ. Over the last four weeks this time of preparation has been, please God, not an insignificant journey in which we have been transformed by God’s grace and love. As we stand on the threshold of Christmas (both the Day and the Season), may we use these final days not just to “make a list and check it twice”, but also to continue to reflect on the goodness of God. As we approach the Christmas miracle of the Virgin Birth, may we come to see that Christ is already a part of our lives, even as we prepare to welcome Him once again. May this upcoming Christmas Day (and Season) be a time of prosperity, hope and joy. May we come to see the Christ Child as the One who comes into the world to set us free, so that when He comes in glory, He may find us watching, waiting and knowing that He is Emmanuel....”God With Us”!

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](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### January Family Mass

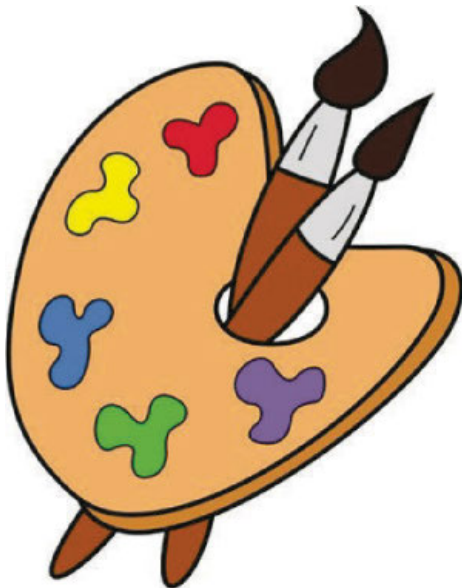
Our next Family Mass is January 12 at the 9:30 Mass at St. John. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily.

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.

### January Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is January 26th 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.



### Paint Afternoon Fundraiser

January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm, St. Ann Parish Center

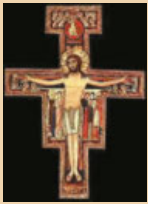
Cost: \$30/person  
20 person event max

Join us for a special afternoon of painting and fun as we learn to create our own wonderful painting from our instructor Sandy Churchill.

The money raised will support the work of our collaborative Disciples of Hospitality Committee, which organizes all of our social events.

Advance sign up is required. Please contact Matt Brady in the office to sign up.

## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



In today's gospel, Mary has a beautiful encounter with her kinswoman Elizabeth. When Mary arrives at Elizabeth's home, the child within the womb of Elizabeth (who we know to be John the Baptist) leaps at the sound of Mary's voice. To me, this speaks volumes about both John (who recognizes the voice of the Mother of God) and Mary (who is carrying the Messiah). Elizabeth then joins in by acknowledging Mary as the "Theotokos", the "God Bearer". It is a powerful testament of faith for all. It also brings into the forefront the role of Mary in salvation history. For the Franciscan community, it also brings into bearing the place that Mary has in the Franciscan ethos.

According to a pious legend, one day St. Francis of Assisi had a vision in which he saw his friars trying to reach Christ by a ladder that was red and very steep. After climbing a few rungs, they would suddenly fall back. Our Lord then showed St. Francis another ladder, white and much less steep, at whose summit appeared the Blessed Virgin, and He said to Francis: "Advise your sons to go by the ladder of My Mother." Among those devotions rich in Franciscan tradition is the devotion to the Virgin Mother of God. St. Francis of Assisi was among the greatest Marian devotees in the history of the Church and, according to the Second Vita of Thomas of Celano, had a love for her that was beyond words. "Inexpressible," he writes of Francis' love for the Blessed Virgin, "for it was she who made the Lord of majesty our brother." St. Francis chose her as the patroness and Queen of the Friars Minor and exhorted his friars to always possess a true and living devotion to the Mother of God. This loving devotion is imbued in his famous "Salutation to the Blessed Virgin Mary":

HAIL, O LADY, HOLY QUEEN,  
MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:  
YOU ARE THE VIRGIN MADE CHURCH  
AND THE ONE CHOSEN BY THE MOST HOLY FATHER IN  
HEAVEN  
WHOM HE CONSECRATED WITH HIS MOST HOLY BELOVED SON  
AND WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT THE PARACLETE,  
IN WHOM THERE WAS AND IS  
ALL THE FULLNESS OF GRACE AND EVERY GOOD.  
HAIL, HIS PALACE!  
HAIL, HIS TABERNACLE!  
HAIL, HIS HOME!  
HAIL, HIS ROBE!  
HAIL, HIS SERVANT!  
HAIL, HIS MOTHER!  
AND, HAIL ALL YOU HOLY VIRTUES  
WHICH THROUGH THE GRACE AND LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
ARE Poured INTO THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL  
SO THAT FROM THEIR FAITHLESS STATE  
YOU MAY MAKE THEM FAITHFUL TO GOD

As we approach Christmas Day (and the Season of Christmas) let us turn to Our Mother to draw us ever closer to her Son and His gospel message of love.

Pax et Bonum,  
Fr. Paul, OFS

## THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR

### EXTRA HOLIDAY EXPENSES

#### The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's there. And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

©LP



## 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 Churchll, 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 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**



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

**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**

**January 6, 2025 & January 20, 2025**

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

Christmas Gifts

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.



Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.


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