



**Together in Christ  
Collaborative**

**CHRISTMAS &  
THE FEAST OF THE  
HOLY FAMILY**

*December 25 & 26, 2021*

**MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED**



GLORY  
TO GOD  
IN THE  
HIGHEST  
AND ON  
EARTH  
PEACE TO  
THOSE  
ON WHOM  
HIS FAVOR  
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

**Church of Saint Ann  
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379**

**508-586-4880**

**E-Mail: [stanns@comcast.net](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)**

**Website: [stannswb.com](http://stannswb.com)**

**Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th  
For both Churches**

**Saint John the Evangelist  
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333  
Office –103 N. Main Street,  
West Bridgewater**

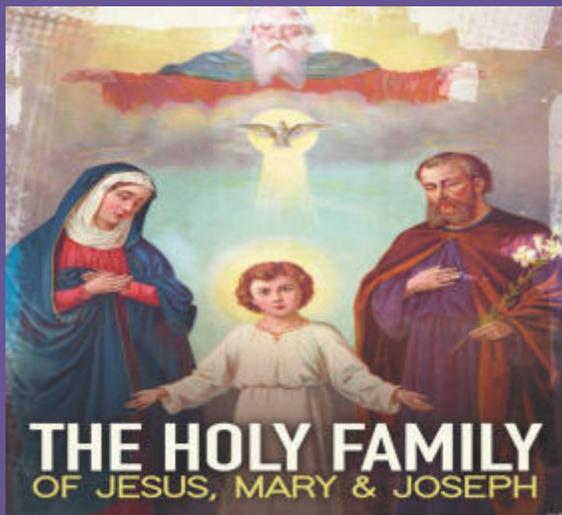
**508-378-4207**

**E-MAIL: [stjohnebridge@comcast.net](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**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE 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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday**

## EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### St John's

**Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday: 10:30 a.m.**

**Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.\***

**Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice**  
**In the Chapel**

### St Ann's

**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday: 8:30 a.m.**

**Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.\***

**Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.**  
**9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice**

**\*Aleternating between the two worship**  
**sites, refer to website for details.**

## 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 p.m. These baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required.

Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.  
Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is by appointment during the pandemic. 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 Wasil

## COLLABORATIVE STAFF

**Finance & Operations Manager:** Donna Roderiques  
donna.stannstjohn@gmail.com

**Director of Music:** Rich Cesarini  
richcesarini@gmail.com

**Assistant Music Director:** Matt Cunningham

**Director of Ministries:** Nancy Goggin  
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com  
617-639-4215

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 25, 2021

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

#### Sunday December 26, 2021

8:30 - Christiano Victoria — Birthday Remem

6:15 For those who have no one to pray for them

#### Saturday, January 1, 2021

4:00—Erminia Victoria — Birthday Remem

#### Sunday, January 2, 2021

8:30 - Caroline Ritucci — 1st Anniversary

6:15 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 25, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

#### Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

#### Saturday, January 1, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

#### Sunday, January 2, 2021

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

### THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekly Offertory  
Dec 7 - Dec 13, 2021

TOTAL RESTORATION FUND TO DATE — \$22,913

ST ANN		ST JOHN
Online	N/A	Online \$ 932
Mail	\$ 685	Mail \$ 2,443
Mass	\$ 1,930	Mass \$ 1,880
TOTAL	\$ 2,615	TOTAL \$ 5,255
Restoration Fund	\$346	Restoration Fund \$33

We are returning to the process of passing the basket during the Offertory.

**HOWEVER THE BASKETS AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH WILL BE USED AT ALL THE CHRISTMAS MASSES.**

Some people have expressed concerns as to how the money will be separated for each church.

If you are giving cash and you want it specified for your church, please put it in an envelope with the church name on the envelope. Otherwise money collected at a mass will be designated for that church.

Ex. If you attend the 8:30 at Saint Ann and do not specify that you want your offertory to go to Saint John by using an envelope for your cash, it will be counted as offertory for Saint Ann.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

The time has come. The day, and season, of Christmas is upon us. Our Advent journey is at an end, and the time to welcome the Savior has arrived. Hopefully, we can take at least a moment on this day, if not in this Season, to reflect on what we are doing here.

Christmas – the *holy* day, not the *holiday* – is a, for us as Catholic-Christians, an entire season in which we reflect on the goodness of God. The long reign of sin has ended, and our vindication is at hand. The Savior promised to us has arrived, and we are glad, indeed, for it.

So what is it that we are celebrating? It is more than just giving thanks to God for giving us the gift of His Son. It is an understanding that this day, as great as it is, points to an even greater reality – the hope and promise of “new life” found in the *Resurrection*. Yes, resurrection. You may wonder why I am speaking of this at Christmas, given that this day/season focuses on the birth of Christ, not His resurrection. If it does, than only half of the work is being done. The other half (the half not focused on the birth) is centered around the fact that Jesus came into the world to offer His life for us on the Cross. As one of our songs reminds us, the “**wood of the cradle**” is intrinsically linked with the “**wood of the cross**”. This is because the birth of Christ is intrinsically linked with the death, and resurrection of Christ.

The reality that the birth and death of Christ are linked come as a shock for many – but it shouldn’t. It shouldn’t because our own life and death are “linked”. When Catholic-Christians are brought into the world, they are baptized shortly thereafter. When we are baptized, we are baptized not only into the life of Christ, but also into the death of Christ – and into His Resurrection. This fact shouldn’t strike dread or sadness into us; on the contrary, it should bring great joy, peace and hope into our hearts. If we are linked into the life, death and resurrection of Christ, then we fear nothing and we want for nothing. We fear and want for nothing because our hope is then in the Lord and His promise of new life.

May we come to see in this Christmas Season the promise of new life and new hope come to fruition. May we recognize that in the life, death and resurrection of Christ we have our hope and salvation. May we, as we approach the manger of Christ, be “fed” by the One who has come into the world to bring life, and life abundantly. May we have the courage to share this new life with all whom we meet.

A Blessed Christmas to All,

Fr. Paul

**The Archdiocese is now requiring masks. Please be safe and wear your mask.**



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

This weekend, our Church celebrates TWO great feasts: the Feast of Christmas (December 25<sup>th</sup>) AND the Feast of the Holy Family (December 26<sup>th</sup>). We celebrate Christmas to commemorate the great gift of God's abiding love made flesh in Christ Jesus, and we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family as a reminder that, through Baptism, we are born into this great family who serves as a model for all families. For Francis, these two Feasts come together beautifully on a pilgrimage to Greccio.

So passionate was Francis about the Feast of Christmas that in 1223, three years before he died, he did something altogether novel: he set out to recreate the birth of Jesus. The setting was Greccio, a small village in the Rieti Valley about 90 kilometers (55 miles) from Rome. With the assistance of a local knight named Giovanni, Francis chose a cave on a cliff for the Mass.

Nothing like this had ever been done before. In the early Church, the "feast of feasts" had always been Easter – the Paschal Mystery that saved humanity from sin. Yet Francis neither changed nor intended to change this order of precedence among the feasts. His desire was simply to highlight and relive the historical, human dimension of the birth of Christ. Francis told Giovanni: "I wish to enact the memory of that babe who was born in Bethlehem: to see as much as is possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and a donkey standing by, he rested on hay." Through the visual presence of the animals, the hay, and the manger, the scene came to life. The people gathered were able to enter into the mystery of the Incarnation in an entirely new way. In Francis's era, religion tended to be lofty. Masses were difficult to understand for most people, as the liturgies were in Latin and the preaching was theological. Yet St. Francis preached to the people "about the birth of the poor King and the poor city of Bethlehem. When he looked down at Christ, he saw a little child sleeping soundly in the manger." Afterwards, an altar was constructed over the manger and a small church built around the grotto. A tradition began each year of recreating the Nativity scene of Jesus in Greccio. In time, the tradition spread to other parts of Italy and people everywhere began to adopt the reenactment of Christmas.

May we have the same excitement as Francis did as we celebrate these two great Feasts (of Christmas and the Holy Family). May we come to see ourselves in the family of Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus. May we know the love that they knew, the love from God Himself, which draws all love together. May the blessings of Christmas be yours, now (in this holy Season) and always.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



## THE DEACON'S COLUMN

### ***The Nativity and the Eucharist***

Of all the Christmas decorations, my most cherished is the nativity set Jen and I received as a gift on our first Christmas as a couple. Traditionally, we told the Christmas story as we unwrapped the ceramic figurines and placed them around the hand-made wooden barn. Though most of us focus on the Christmas story when setting up our nativity sets, the gospel writers wanted to tell a different story—the story of Jesus' death and resurrection by which he saved the world.

In Matthew's gospel the wise men come to Mary and Joseph after following the Star of Bethlehem. Though we do not know how many magi there were in procession, we do know they offered three gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. All three gifts symbolize the identity and mission of the baby born in Bethlehem. Gold symbolizes Kingship. Jesus is the King and Lord of the Universe. But instead of forcing people to serve him, he comes to serve thus revealing how we are to live in the world as a kingly people—love one another. Frankincense symbolizes sacrifice. Frankincense is an incense that was used in the Temple when sacrifices were made for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus is the high priest who offers to the Father the ONE sacrifice that forgives sins and restores humanity back to friendship with God. Myrrh is an oil that was used in the burial rites of ancient Jews. Imagine Mary's reaction when she unwrapped a gift that can only be used at death! Yet, this gift points to the reality that Jesus will die for our sins. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks to God for the gift the King of Kings makes as the high priest who offers himself to the Father and dies so that we might all live!

The next image in the Nativity scene is the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths. Parents remember well the cocoon infants are wrapped in in their blankets. Jesus is secure in the comfort of his blanket, but it symbolizes the burial cloth that Mary, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus uses to wrap Jesus' body as it was laid in the tomb.

Finally, we are told that Jesus was born in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough. It is the place where the animals come to eat and nourish their souls. Wrapped in swaddling cloths Jesus is placed in a manger to be food for wounded and weary souls! Every time we come to communion and form a throne with our hands to receive the King of Kings—we receive the one who lays in a manger waiting to be received in the Eucharist.

As you gather around your Christmas trees and gaze upon your nativity scenes, know that in our Churches, the same Jesus is present waiting to meet you, save you, nourish you, and be with you. May the hope of this season be with you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas.

## Deacon Chris Connelly

### Calling all Holy Families

Today, on this Feast of the Holy Family we are invited to pause and reflect on what it means to be a family—not just any family but a holy family. All of our families are called to be holy. What flows out of the heart of a holy family are holy lives that bless, heal, redeem, and sanctify. But for these things to flow out of the heart they need to be put into the heart—we need to learn and grow in holiness.

Jesus was the Holy One of God, but he had to grow in holiness and wisdom just like you and me. God came to us in a little baby because the nature he is as God had to find a human heart to find its fullest human expression. Jesus had to grow in the human virtues if the divine attributes were going to be fully demonstrated and accessible to us. Jesus had to learn how to be compassionate, kind, humble, persevering, forgiving, and peaceful and he learned these virtues at home.

Jesus learned a lot from his Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary—but as I have been showing you through my articles during the Year of St. Joseph, he learned a whole lot from the man he called—ABBA—Daddy—St. Joseph!

Joseph taught Jesus how to treat women by the way he treated Mary. Is there any surprise then that Jesus reached out to many, many women and approached them with gentleness and love? Joseph taught Jesus the value of hard work and perseverance as he taught him how to be a carpenter. Joseph taught Jesus how to be kind and generous for surely the heart that didn't want to expose Mary to shame was the heart that taught Jesus to look for the best in people to free them from condemnation. Joseph taught Jesus how to be righteous and just. We learn that Joseph is a just man and righteous one—a man who honors the sacred traditions but is open to the mysterious wonder that God is in his midst! Joseph taught Jesus how to be obedient and faithful—not by demanding it—but by loving and honoring him. Joseph taught Jesus to face adversity with hope, nurtured in deep faith. Like Mary, Joseph could have said NO. He could have handed Mary over to die. He could have broken off their engagement. He could have run away from it all—but he didn't—nor does Jesus, his Son. Joseph taught Jesus how to lay down his life for another by the way Joseph continually put the needs of Mary his bride and Jesus his Son before his own.

I am sure there were times when Jesus' family life was not easy. But the lessons taught by Joseph were rooted in the reality that God was in his midst. It was Mary and Joseph's task to form his human heart so that what flowed out of it was full of the power of his sacred heart. Over the remaining days of Christmas take the time to consider the home Joseph formed for Mary and Jesus. Ponder the truth that what flows out of hearts finds its source on what we put into our hearts. Therefore, approach this altar with confidence that by welcoming Jesus into your hearts and into your families you will become holier families, we will become a holier Church—and perhaps, dare we say, a holier world.



★  
JOY  
NOEL  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
PEACE HOPE  
WISEMEN  
CHRISTMAS  
BELIEVE FAITH  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
THANK YOU

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to you and your family.

From

Fr. Paul, Fr. Diochi, Fr. Francis,  
Deacon Brendan, Deacon Chris,  
Donna Roderiques, Nancy Goggin, Rich Cesarini,  
Arlene and Debbie



Thank you to everyone who joined with  
the Hugs Organization to provide gifts for  
families in East Bridgewater this  
Christmas Season.

Your generosity is truly appreciated.

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S

**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

**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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL  
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379

Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.

**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

**THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:**

*Monday, January 3 — 1-4 PM  
Saturday, January 15 — 10—11:30 AM*

**Winter dates and hours** will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month ,except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and the **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

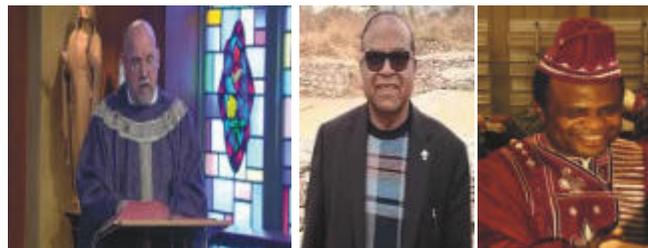
*Tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, canned goods, etc are always great additions to the shelves.*

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 that large sums., ie \$100

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

This Christmas The Collaborative could use a gift from you — to become a more active member of the Parish-es. Please share your time and talents with us in any way you can to make our Collaborative stronger, more active, and a place you enjoy being with your families. We welcome your suggestions.

Please remember our dedicated priests.



Fr. Paul, Ring, Pastor  
Fr. Peter Francis, Saint Ann  
Fr. Michael Dioche, Saint John  
Priests in Residence

The upcoming Christmas collection will benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the health and well-being of our 536 active and senior priests in good standing. Whether it is within our parish communities or in the community at large, our priests are making a difference every day.

If you are able, please consider a generous gift to the Christmas collection this year.

Our priests depend on our generosity.

**The baskets at the doors of the church will be used for this collection at the Christmas Masses.**

Hello,

At times during the pandemic congregational singing was discouraged and congregants were ushered out of the church in a safe manner at the end of mass during the closing hymn. Now that restrictions have been lifted it is a good time to remind ourselves that a liturgy begins with the first notes of the opening song and ends with the final notes of the closing song. We ask that you stay and participate in the closing song if you know the words or stay and enjoy it if you don't know the words. The closing song is one last opportunity to sing God's praises in church before we leave to go about our week. We are thrilled to have hymn books back in the pews so everyone can read along and SING!!!

Thank you and God Bless.

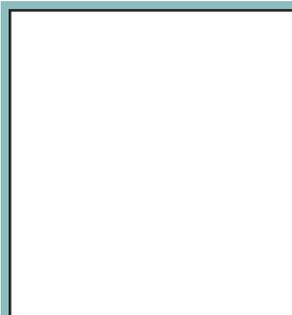
-The Together in Christ Collaborative Music -Team.



Go to this site to add your prayers.  
LPi <lpiconnections@4lpi.com>

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*Relief*

Dear God, rest your hands on recovery efforts in the Kentucky communities. Let all people find relief and healing in you.  
Amen.



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