

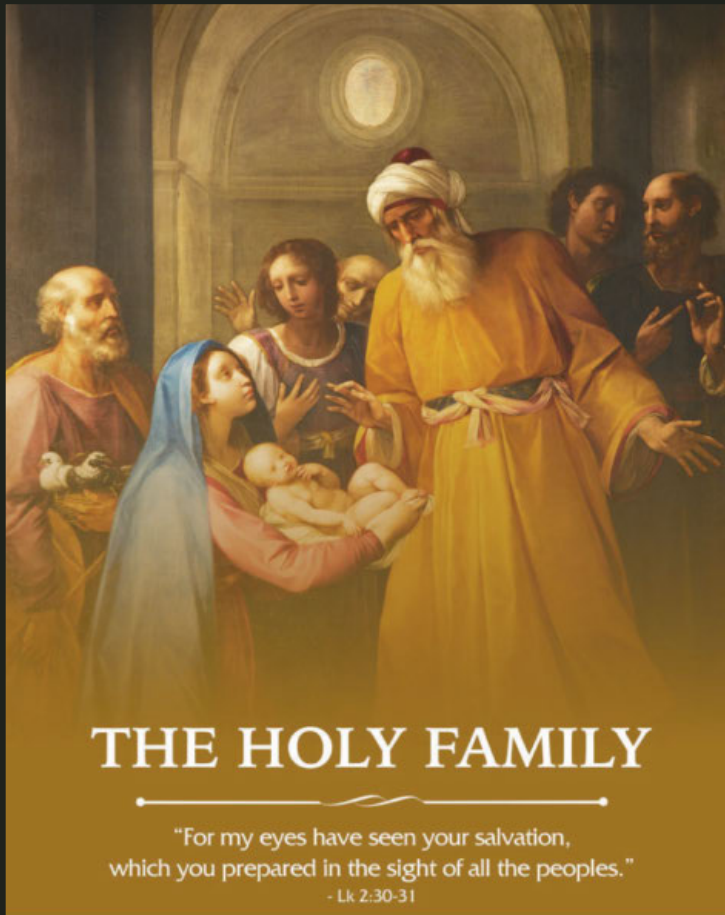


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 December 31, 2023  
 The Holy Family of  
 Jesus, Mary & Joseph*



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



**THE HOLY FAMILY**

"For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
 which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."  
 - Lk 2:30-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



**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  
 9:00-3:00  
 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](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 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.

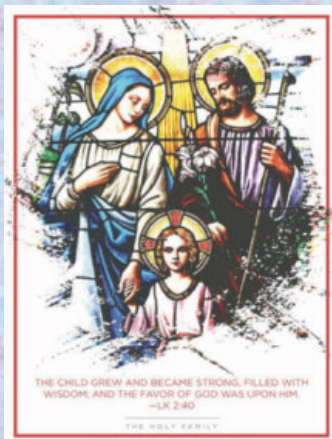
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

## **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





\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, December 30, 2023**

4:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

9:30 - Jamie Pilar — 46th Wedding Anniv.

6:15 - B. Ann Sullivan — 1st Anniversary

**Saturday, January 6, 2024**

4:00 - Bill Pelton, Jr. — 2nd Anniversary

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

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 31, 2023**

8:00 - Eleanor Amaral — 24th Anniversary

11:30 - Dorothy Boisclair — Birthday Remem.

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

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

9:00 - John D'Arpino — 5th Anniversary

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

*Wine, hosts and sanctuary lamps  
At St. Ann's  
this week are in memory of  
Joseph Utka*



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

From

**Our entire Staff:**

**Fr. Ring, Deacon Brendan, Deacon Chris.**

**Rich, Matt, Kevin, Arlene and Debbie**

**May the New Year bring you good health, wealth, peace,  
of mind, the joy of family & friends and fill you and your  
family with joy and gratitude for the  
Lord's love.**

Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your  
dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about  
your unfulfilled potential. Concern not yourself with  
what you tried and failed in, but what it is still possible  
to do. Now is the time to put aside past and present  
setbacks and failures and look with confidence to the  
new day called tomorrow. —Pope John XXIII



**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Robert Frost once wrote that “home is the place, that when you go there, they have to take you in”. A rather wry statement, it should “ring true” for most (if not all) of us. I know that at the end of my day, when I come home I have at least one who is happy to see me – my dog, Nellie. Nellie and I are, for all intents and purposes, family. When I had my picture taken a couple of years back for the parish website, more than one person asked if Nellie was going to be in the photo; I said, “Of course – she’s family!” This may be stretching what one thinks of as family, but when I think of the qualities which Nellie has – unconditional love, loyalty, a sense of belonging – it fits what I think of when I reflect on family life.

This day, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family (of Jesus, Mary and Joseph), a celebration of what, and who, God calls us to be. The Holy Family is for us the most perfect image we have here on earth of what it means to be a family. When one thinks of the sacrifices they made to maintain the “family unit”, it boggles the mind! They endured long journeys, unsettled accommodations and (for Mary and Joseph) the loss of an only child. I look at the families of our parish and see the struggles they endure in this day and age – an unsettled economy which threatens the livelihood of one (or both) of the adults, the assault of conflicting, often vulgar, media images on our children and the stress of balancing family life with the many commitments the world puts upon them (parents and children alike). I often wonder how the Holy Family would have handled it, and I keep coming back to one answer – trust in God. It is only through trust, born of faith that kept the Holy Family intact. The same is true for us; the main thing which will keep the “family unit” whole and undivided is faith – faith in God, faith in one another. This is certainly not an easy thing to achieve or maintain. It takes hard work, day in and day out. It takes a level of commitment that the world neither understands nor appreciates. We have “glimpses” of the family unit being honored and celebrated, but by and large the family is often held up to ridicule. Just look at how the media portrays most families – fathers are all too often portrayed as overbearing tyrants or lame simpletons, mothers are often seen as either lazy or manipulative, and children are seen as either greedy or entitled. This may happen at times but it is not (thank God) the norm, nor should it be celebrated as such.

The Feast of the Holy Family gives us a better perspective of how family life should be. It is not without challenges, as we see in the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is not without work, as we reflect upon our second reading regarding how we are to conduct our lives. And it is not without God, as we see throughout the scriptures. If we are to model ourselves after the Holy Family, let us put on our hearts all the things of which St. Paul speaks – “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Col 3:12). Let us not waste a moment to ponder, as did the Holy Family, all the good things the Lord has done for us!

A Blessed Christmas Season to One and 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 January Family Mass is 1/7 at the 9:30 Mass. Fr. Paul will call all the kids up to join him in front of the altar for the homily, and there will be coffee and donuts afterwards.

We also invite any of our kids who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your child wants to do one of these things, please email me.

### January Teen Mass

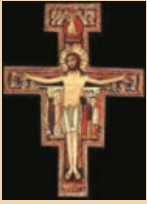
Our next Teen Mass is January 28th at the 6:15 Mass. There will be contemporary music and Fr. Paul will make his homily relevant to the life of our young people.

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.





## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. We are called to look to Mary, Joseph, and (the Child) Jesus as the model and exemplar for family life. When one looks at the life of St. Francis of Assisi, it is a “mixed bag” of both holy and secular living. Francis was born on September 26, 1181 in Assisi to Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, a very wealthy cloth merchant, and his wife Giovanna also known as Pica Bourlemont, about whom little is known except she is said to have belonged to a noble family of Provence, France. He was one of seven children.

Pietro was in France on business when Francis was born, and Pica had him baptized as Giovanni di Bernardone to honor San Giovanni Battista (Saint John the Baptist), in the hope he would grow to be a great religious leader. She even staged the birth of her son in a stable built for the occasion on the ground floor of their home to honor the birth of Jesus. Later the stable will be known as “*stalletta*” or “Chapel of baby Saint Francis” and it is located in the main square of Assisi. When Pietro returned to Assisi, he decided to add Francesco (Francis) to his son’s first name. This name was the medieval equivalent of francese, i.e. “French” and was chosen to honor France, his favored business destination and to honor the child’s maternal heritage.

Pietro’s worldly success and the imperial privileges granted by the city governor Duke Corrado di Lützen had secured for the young Francis a care-free life of material comfort. He received his education at the catholic school of San Giorgio, spoke fluent Latin and Provençal and was considered by his father the natural heir of his family business. Francis was short and skinny, and had dark hair. He was a popular youth, often the center of attention that could be found engaged in sport, frequenting the piazze of the city and leisurely spending his father’s money. His nickname was “*rex iuvenum*” (king of banquets).

After the death of the German Emperor Enrico IV (1165-1197) and the election of a new pope, Cardinal Lotario di Segni, later known as Innocenzo III (1198-1216), the political landscape changed and the pope took under his control additional territories which also included Spoleto and Assisi. The people of these towns revolted against the nobles who took refuge in the nearby town of Perugia. Francis who had dreams of being a knight took part in this war and when the Assisians were defeated in Ponte San Giovanni, he became a prisoner of Perugia and spent one year in prison. His family was able to get him out after paying a substantial ransom but his health had already been compromised.

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

**THIS WEEK’S COLLECTION IS FOR  
The Heat and Snow Fund**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
Outstanding Bills**

MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY cont’d



This started a spiritual crisis where he abandoned his former life to embrace meditation, nursing lepers and begging for the poor. His father Pietro attempted to bring him to his senses, first with threats and then with corporal punishment. After a final interview in the presence of the bishop Guido II, Francis renounced his father and his wealth, laying aside even the garments he had received from him while the bishop covered him with his mantle. He lived as a beggar around Assisi. Returning to the town, he restored several ruined churches, among them San Damiano, San Pietro alla Spira, and the Porziuncola in Santa Maria degli Angeli, just outside the town, which later became his favorite refuge.

On this feast of the Holy Family, let us strive to live like Francis, not seeing the world as a place to conquer, but as a place to offer God’s love to all peoples. Let us go into this new year with a heart like Francis, striving to see Jesus in all and be Jesus for all.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund. We hope you think the altar looks beautiful and displays the joy we feel in the coming of the Christ Child.



**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, Denise Robichaud, 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, Joe Pigeon, 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 you want to have someone 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**  
**Tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal  
are needed.**  
**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 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**

*Monday, January 2, 2024 (Tuesday)  
January 15, 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 foods: 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.**

*THE WREATHS FOR ST. JOHN  
FOR THE FRONT DOORS  
WERE DONATED BY  
DIANE FORTUNE  
IN MEMORY OF*

*HER MOTHER, PATRICIA FORTUNE  
AND HER FATHER, JOHN FORTUNE.*

*NANCY & KEVIN SMITH  
ALSO DONATED WREATHS  
IN MEMORY OF THEIR*

*PARENTS:  
JACQUELINE & CLINTON HENNEBURY  
ALICE & WILLIAM SMITH*



*THE WREATHS FOR ST. ANN  
FOR THE FRONT DOORS  
WERE DONATED BY  
EILEEN MCINTYRE  
IN MEMORY OF  
HER HUSBAND AND SON  
KEVIN AND JAMES MCINTYRE*

**PUZZLE**

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY	SHEPHERDS	LISTENED
JOSEPH	JESUS	WONDERFUL
BABY	ANGEL	NAMED

B	N	J	D	N	B	M	A	W	G	C
F	A	N	U	E	O	R	I	O	K	T
S	M	Y	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	D
L	E	H	A	M	H	F	J	D	V	O
P	D	A	N	G	E	L	P	E	S	F
I	L	R	B	V	P	Y	A	R	U	C
J	O	S	E	P	H	A	G	F	N	B
D	H	Y	W	T	E	K	W	U	J	M
W	G	K	O	T	R	C	S	L	H	A
E	I	M	R	C	D	U	P	E	D	R
A	J	E	S	U	S	L	B	A	B	Y

**MISSION**

Ask your parents what they enjoyed about you as a little baby. You might also want to look at some baby pictures together.

**GROWING WITH THE Gospel**  
CYCLE B

**COLOR**

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Mary, Mother of God • Luke 2:16-21



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