



*MERRY CHRISTMAS
To you and your family
From the
Together in Christ Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
December 25, 2019*



O COME ALL YE
Faithful



©LPI

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

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 9-4 M-Th
For both Churches

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

Permanent Deacons:

Brendan Fitzgerald
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Joe Hopgood
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., See Schedule

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m.

In the Chapel

Divine Mercy every Thursday
After Mass.

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., See Schedule

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at St John's and the 4th Sunday of the month at St. Ann's. Prep classes are Wednesday before Baptism at St. John's. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Other times as scheduled in the bulletin or 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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St John's - every WEDNESDAY from 7-8 p.m.
in the Church.

St. Ann's - First Friday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Business Manager: Donna Roderiques
Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano
stanns@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Charlotte Leines
stannscdd@comcast.net
508-588-7140

Director of Music: Matthew Cunningham
matthewcunningham@bpsma.org

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Business Manager: Donna Roderiques
Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Lorraine Hopgood
repstjohn@gmail.com
508-378-1521

Director of Music: Paul Hoffman

p.hoffman@stjohnne.org
Music Minister: Erica Wasil

PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

Deacon Joe Hopgood
Paul Hoffman
Denise Robichaud

Ben Williams
Nancy Maloney
Margaret Mary Williams

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Friday, December 27, 2019

9:00 - Rita & Al Matta — Memorial

Saturday, December 28, 2019

4:00 - Addison Bree Barrett — 11th Anniversary

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

10:30 - Sean Patrick Coakley — 4th Anniversary

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 28, 2019

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

10:30 - Regina Carbone — 14th Anniversary

Monday, December 30, 2019

9:00 - Joseph Ritucci — Memorial

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

9:00 - Christiano Victoria — Memorial

Q: What does it mean to have a Mass “offered” for someone?

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

Prayers of Intention are booked through the Rectory Offices of both St. Ann’s and St. John’s. Please call the Rectory to Schedule a Mass for a loved one. It is a wonderful gift for someone you love.



Thank you to all who contributed to the beautiful Christmas Flowers this year. XOXOXO



Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season

And. . . .



Faith is the best gift you can give your child!



My Dear Friends in Christ,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! The time has come. Christmas Day (and the Christmas Season) 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 day/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. There is a beautiful song, called “Wood of the Cradle” (written by Fr. Fran O’Brien), which reminds us that 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



CHRISTMAS FOOD FOR THOUGH

(Instead of the Raindeers!)

Easter is coming! What an odd thing to say at Christmas! For most of us, on this day, Easter is far from our thoughts or imagination. We might be focusing on the gift God gave to us in the Incarnation. God the Father gave to us His only begotten Son. However, our society focuses too much on this one part of the story. The truth is that this is the beginning of a story. This is the start of a gift. The true gift is not that God gave to us His Son in birth, but instead God gave us His Son in death.

If Jesus did not die and rise from the dead, would Christmas be such a wonderful and meaningful time? It would be an interesting and cool story, but Jesus was born to die and then conquer death for all of us. On this day, the true Paschal Lamb was born into the world. This is not a day of innocence but a day that makes true reconciliation for our transgressions possible.

This awareness does not make Christmas a sad time but instead a more joyous occasion. Can there be a greater love than to lay down one's life for another? The crucifixion would not occur for about another 33 years, but on this day, our God laid down the life of His Son. He laid him down in a manger and set into motion a series of events that redeemed all of creation. There is no sadness, because today Jesus is alive and well! May your Christmas be filled with Easter joy for He is today, tomorrow, and forever the greatest gift our God could ever give us.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Disruption of the Incarnation

One December, my oldest son informed us that he would be getting up early on Christmas morning to serve breakfast to homeless people at the nearby shelter. We are a good Christian family, but we never before had that tradition. Christmas had been always the same: go to Mass on Christmas Eve, get up early, open presents, and reflect briefly on the fact that the day was a birthday celebration for Jesus. Then I would run off to my job back at the church. But that year, my son threw a wrench into the plan.

I can't say his siblings were too happy at first. When they woke up, he would be gone. If it were not bad enough that our family wasn't together at the crack of dawn on Christmas morning, they would have to wait to open presents until his return. To them, it didn't seem like this was about serving the poor at all ... it was about my son making Christmas morning all about him!

I couldn't be mad at my other children for feeling the way they did. It was a natural human response. When our routine is disrupted, we feel uneasy. When our expectations are not met, we feel a little cheated. When others stand in our way of happiness, even if they just delay it for a bit, we feel impatient. Of course, he went to the soup kitchen, and when he returned, everything unfolded as it usually does. And we were all proud of him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS