

St. John

Together in Christ Collaborative

January 3, 2020

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



StAnn

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 Currently we are working from home.

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

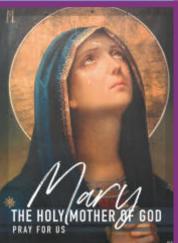
508-378-4207

E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net Website: www.stjohneb.org Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring

THE EPTPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11





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

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 (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. Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday 9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice In the Chapel Divine Mercy every Thursday After Mass.

St Ann's Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri. 9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

> 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 2 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. All baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. 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 JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad stjohnebridge@comcast.net 5085-3784207 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: Stephanie Gaboury directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com 508-378-1521 or 508-588-7140

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, January 2, 2020 5:30 - Suzzane Shepard — 31st Anniversary Sunday, January 3, 2020 10:30 - Sheila Creney — 7th Anniversary Saturday, January 9, 2020 5:30 - Kathy Pool — Memorial Sunday, January 10, 2020 10:30 -- Gene Biagi — 38th Anniversary

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

Our financial situation is getting to a crisis level. The pandemic has taken a very real toll in so many ways.

Weekly Offertory

Dec 9 - Dec 15, 2020

ST JOHN Online \$1,234 Mail \$2,110 Mass \$1,409 Grand Annual To Date \$8,525

ST ANN Online N/A Mail \$1,160 Mass \$2,776 Grand Annual To Date \$8,105

Suggested Sacramental Offerings:

Memorials Masses — \$25

Baptisms — \$50

Funerals — \$600

PLEAE HELP.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Friends in Christ,

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Yes, I'm still wishing folks a Merry Christmas as we're still in the Christmas Season. That is one of the joys of the Christian life, insofar as the fact that Christmas for the Christian isn't merely a day but an entire SEA-SON! It is an opportunity to revel in new birth, new life, new hope! This Season is a chance for us to move into a new year (Happy New Year, BTW!) with the expectation that this year will be full of the promise that Christ's birth brings into the world.

Today, the Christmas Season continues with the Feast of the Epiphany. Wait...continues? If you're like many who I talk to this time of year, you might have thought that this feast marks the end of the Season, but if you did you would be incorrect! I know that I thought that for the longest time. I was disavowed of the that thought (a few years ago now) when I discovered that the Christmas Season goes until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (which is next Sunday). Again, this is the beauty of our faith, that we get to celebrate Christ's entry into the world for so long. The Feast of the Epiphany is our chance to join the Magi at the manger, to worship the Christ Child and to pay Him homage just as the "Wise Men" did so many centuries ago. The Magi do this with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; we do so with our very lives.

The Magi were interesting people. They were a group of folks who served the King by using their gifts for the benefit of him and his people. They were part astronomer, astrologer, scientist, and philosopher. They were "jacks of all trades", as it were, and they used their talents to further the mission of the kingdom which they served. We, for our part, are called to use our gifts to serve a King – not Herod, but Jesus. The Kingship of Christ is evidenced by the gift of gold which is offered, along with gifts of frankincense and myrrh. The frankincense is offered to Jesus as a recognition of Him as "priest", who used incense at the temple services; the myrrh is given to symbolize Jesus' role as prophet, who would often sacrifice himself for the people. Myrrh was used in the preparation for the burial of the dead, so it is fitting that this is offered to Jesus, who will give of His very Life for our sake.

The Feast of the Epiphany (a Greek word, "epiphaneia", which means "appearance" or "manifestation") is one which has its beginnings in the Christian tradition in the 4th century, in which St. Epiphanius of Salmis speaks of Jesus' "birth, that is His Epiphany" in his work "Panarion" (c.361). It was celebrated on January 6th for the longest time, and is now celebrated the Sunday between the 2nd and the 8th. It is on this feast, by tradition, that the Magi made their appearance at the manger and offered homage to the Christ Child. In my house, the tradition was for the Magi to appear on Christmas – but not at the manger. They would move from the kitchen, to the living room, to the manger, and we each had our turn!

I pray that this Season is one of hope and joy. I pray that this Feast of the Epiphany is one which brings you closer to the Lord. I pray that we all may know God's Peace, Joy, and Love this Christmas Season. May God Bless Us, Everyone!

Peace,



Fr. Paul

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, George Lepine, Joseph Rizzitano, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dennis Green, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevtt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen Daly, Baby Abigail & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

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

The Food Pantry is open twice a month. — 1st Monday from 3:00-5:30 pm and the 3rd Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

The Food Pantry is currently accepting donation at the bottom of the ramp. Please make sure you call to let them know you have dropped off food and that it is properly protected from the elements. Cash donations are always welcomed and can be mailed to the address above.

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

The next Food Pantry will be Monday, January 4, 2021

The shelves of the Pantry are depleted and need to be restocked. Your help is needed. Cereal, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, canned goods, etc. are always great additions to the shelves.

THE HOLIDAYS WERE SPECIAL FOR 40 FAMILIES DUE TO YOUR GENEROSITY.

THANK YOU!

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF AN EXPERIENCED CARPENTER/HANDIMAN PLEASE CALL 508-378-4207 TO HELP.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we move into another Christmas Season, and are fast approaching the turning of the calendar to another year (to which many are saying "Thanks Be To God!" I'm sure!), we do so with an addition to our Collaborative Staff. The position of "Director of Ministries", assumed by Stephanie Gaboury, is one which is new but has its roots in work previously done. In my time as Pastor, I have sought to create opportunities for our families to engage themselves in the life of the parishes/ collaborative. One such way, for example, was in the Parish and Youth Ministry, a ministry in which we looked to facilitate experiences which would enliven the faith of the People of God in a multi-generational way. When that Ministry was ended two and a half years ago, there was a "void" which developed and we "lost a step (or three)" in our outreach. This has become heightened in the time of pandemic, and it is one which I hope will be regained by the creation of this position and the addition of Stephanie to our Staff. Sir Isaac Newton is quoted as saying that "if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulder of giants". It is upon the foundation laid by members of this ministry, as well as other ministries that this position will facilitate (such as Faith Formation, Liturgical Ministry (i.e., Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers), and Pastoral Ministry (i.e., Prison Ministry, Bereavement)), which the "Director of Ministries" position is rooted. I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to the many good people who have done this work of ministry, and it is my hope and prayer that we can regain (even in the time of pandemic) our sense of ministry to God's People. Our parish depends on such faithful stewards, and I believe that this position taken up by Stephanie will enliven this stewardship.

I ask your prayers for Stephanie as she begins this new venture. I ask your prayers for the People of God who will be led to minister to God's People. Finally, I pray the words of St. Augustine, who said we must "Trust the Past to God's Mercy, the Present to God's Love, and the Future to His Providence". May God Bless Us All! Finally...

A little about our new Director:



Stephanie Gaboury is a lifelong member of St. Ann's Parish and has been one of its lectors for

nearly 15 years. She attended Cardinal Spellman High School followed by Bridgewater State University, and has a Master's Degree in English Education. Career-wise, she has been a Catholic educator for the last five years, teaching at Coyle and Cassidy High School and Xaverian Brothers High School. In her free time, Stephanie loves board games, painting, and spending time with her husband (Andrew) and newborn son (Henry). Peace, Fr. Ring, Pastor

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS BY ST JOHN'S PARISHIONERS — SAINT ANN'S WILL BE NEXT WEEK.

Donated By :

Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Amaral Joan Anderson

Jean-Paul Boisclair Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cittick Mr & Mrs. James Cosseboom

Mr Mrs. Joseph Curran Mr. & Mrs. Charles Heath Mr. & Mrs. Charles Horan Mrs. Winnie Hutchins Mrs. Eunice Kenn Mr. John Kenneally Mr. Bob Lyons & Kids

Mr. & Mrs. Francis McCarthy Mr. & Mrs. John Moynihan Mary Moore Miss Evelyn Nevaras O'Malley Family Mrs. Carmen Pearson Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Rando

Sarah Reardon Lauren Roche Sandra Ross Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Thompson

Ken Fontaine Paul & Barbara Toczko Carol Venesky



Donations for St. Vincent de Paul at Saint Anns are still be taken at the church. As you come in the front door of the church, there are shelves to the right of the door.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Memory Of:

Manuel & Maria Moura & Son, John & Maria Amaral Thomas, Grace, & Mark Cosgrove, Frank Barry The Cosgrove & Barry Families My wife, Dorothy Boisclair Alice Batchelor & Annette Chittick James Cosseboom, The Nolan Family, Marian Donovan Sheila Connolly, Ann Contada Heath and Kenneally Families Adele Horan McLaughlin & Hutchins Families My Loved Ones Elizabeth, John & James Kenneally Jean Lyons, Austin & Mary Lyons, Shawn & Carol Lyons, James & Margaret Kelleher, Jack & Nancy Kelleher, Stan & Rachel Rabinovitz, James Kelleher Our Loved Ones Millie Moynihan, Carl DeRocha My Loved Ones **Nevaras & Norkartis Families Our Loved Ones** Robin D. Pearson Dennis Rando; Dominc & Ernestine DiMeo, Louis & Contance Rando; Dominic Demeo, Jr; Phillip Rando; Carol & Ronald Phelps: Judith Demeo: Bernice Repetto; Robert & Rose Duggan; Fr. Cocoran My Loved Ones Dona Roache, Anna Massa, Marion Riley Paul Luddy & Gordon Ross Christopher Thompson, Matthew Hatch, Kuciniski Family Linda & Kenny Fontaine The Downing & Roczko Families Richard Venesky, Albert Jalongo, Kay Grazado, Linda Lynch



Thank you to all who contributed To the Christmas Flower Fund.

THE CHURCHES LOOKED BEAUTIFUL!!



Thank You very much to all those who assisted with the Masses for Christmas; all our Decorators, Musicians, Lectors, Ushers, Seaters, Greeters, Communions Assistants, & Cleaners.

Without your help we would not have been able to serve the Parishes during this most Sacred Celebration of our faith.

To those who have helped us since March as we have navigated through this pandemic and continue to do so, a Special Thank You.

You have been there consistently making it possible for people to be able to share the love of Christ in his home at your own risk. You are special people, the backbone of our Parishes and we are so grateful.

Thank you for your generosity, your selflessness and your loyalty to our faith community.

A special prayer for one of our most loyal ushers who left us in October to join the Holy Father in heaven, Gary Saccocia. We miss your smile, your stories and the joy you brought every Sunday when you served. May you smile down upon us and put a good word in for the rest of us. We miss you.

The Liturgical Staff and the Administrative Staff of the Together in Christ Collaborative wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the love and joy of the season be ever present even though most families will be celebrating in very different ways this season.

Remember to keep Christ in your hearts and to ask him for help with this pandemic. Be strong. Be patient. Spread Love and Kindness and we will all get through this together with the help of God.



Love,

Fr. Paul Fr. Mike Fr. Peter Donna Erica Arlene Deacon Brendan Deacon Chris Rich Stephanie Matt Debbie

"Say No to ROE"

The state legislature has extended the session until January 5th, 2021. Please remind the members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary that you oppose the expansion of abortion in Massachusetts. Please call the Committee at 617-722-2396 and let them know you are **opposed** to H3320 and S1209 – the ROE legislation. Every telephone call helps! Remember these bills would remove:

- The requirement that young girls obtain consent before an abortion
- The requirement that efforts be made to save a living baby who survives abortion
- The requirement that late term abortions be performed in hospitals
- The bills would allow abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy.

For more information about how the ROE legislation would expand abortion in Massachusetts visit <u>www.macatholic.org</u>.





SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER @ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com

> New mailing address: P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379

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.



Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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G Prophett-Chapman Cole & Gleason

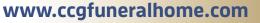
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