

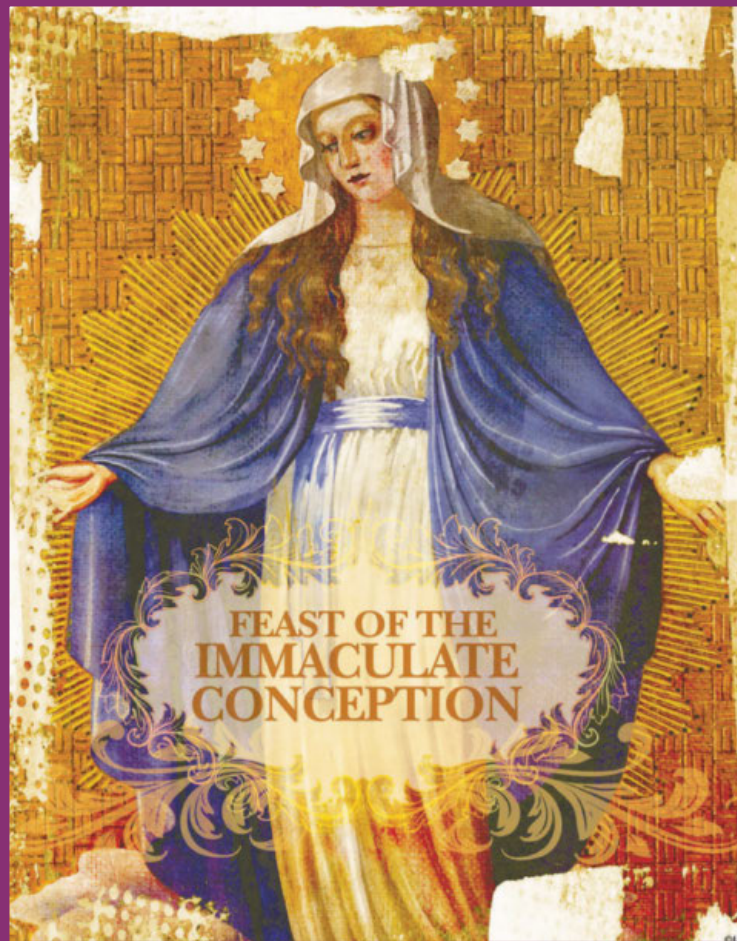


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 December 3, 2023  
 First Sunday of  
 Advent*



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



### **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 M-TH  
 Friday the Office is closed**

### **Saint John the Evangelist**

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater  
 02333  
 Office -103 N. Main Street,  
 West Bridgewater  
 508-378-4207**

**E-MAIL: [stjohnnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnnebridge@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohnne.org](http://www.stjohnne.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**

## EUCCHARISTIC 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.

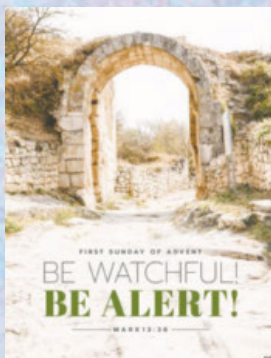
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

## **SAINT ANN'S STAFF**

**Administrative Assistant:** Arlene Stefano  
stanns@comcast.net  
508-586-4880

## **SAINT JOHN'S STAFF**

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad  
stjohnnebridge@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

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK



\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 2, 2023

4:00 - Kathleen Climo — 13th Anniversary  
Fred Climo — 6th Anniversary

#### Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:30 - Joseph Garino — 3rd Anniversary  
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:00 - David LaCouture — Birthday Remem

#### Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:30 - David Paul Churchill — Birthday Remem  
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, December 3, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative  
11:30 - John Morawski — 2nd Anniversary

#### Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:00 - Richard Murray — 3rd Anniversary  
11:30 - Rose Talabach — 2nd Anniversary

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

MASSES WILL BE  
AT  
ST JOHN'S AT 9:00 AM  
ST ANN'S AT 7:00 PM



*Please remember in your  
prayers:*

*Karen Pare  
Robert Bratt*

*May they rest in peace, and may their  
Families find comfort from their faith in  
Jesus Christ.*

My Dear Friends in Christ,



A story is told of the late Cardinal Cushing when he told one of his staff to hold all appointments and calls. When he was asked what they should do if Jesus were to appear at the door, his response (reportedly) was: "Look busy!" Today the Church begins its Advent journey under the banner of "watchfulness". This is challenging when all around us, people are distracted by the sights and sounds of Christmas. Perhaps you've felt that "pull" yourself and even given into it. If this is the case, no worries! Our Church gives us a four week Season in which to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child in the proper way.

As we enter into Advent, we "begin at the end", so to speak. Jesus, in today's gospel, is speaking of the end times, using the image of the master returning home, perhaps at a time that might catch us unaware. This image is appropriate to our Advent journey, for Advent is a time of "two-fold waiting" – waiting for the Christ Child, born from the line of David, and the waiting for Jesus as the King of Glory who calls us home to fullness of life in the Kingdom (of Heaven). This waiting can be, for many, a test of faith (and patience, if you are of a certain youthful age, waiting for Christmas to arrive!). We want to go to heaven, but we also want to live life to the fullest here on earth. The thing to remember about our lives on earth is that they are but a foretaste and promise of what awaits us in the Kingdom. We can wait (as is evidenced in today's gospel), but we should be ready, here and now, for Jesus' call to join Him for all eternity. This is the sum of the "two-fold waiting".

Advent may seem like the "same old, same old". After all, it comes at relatively the same time of year, has many of the same "themes" ("watch", "wait", "be vigilant") and ends up with the same "goal" (namely, to be ready to welcome Jesus as the Christ Child and the King of Glory). We would do well to not fall into the same routines. I would invite us to try something different, to move out of our "comfort zone". If you haven't followed an Advent calendar, try it this year by following the daily readings and prayers. If you haven't made/kept an Advent wreath for your home, now's the time. I would further encourage you to WAIT. It's easy enough to get "caught up" in the hullabaloo of the preparations for Christmas. These are important and need to be tended to, but not at the expense of our peace of mind or our sanity. So many of us "go overboard" with Christmas and its preparations that they fail to see the opportunity that Advent gives us to "pace ourselves" in these four weeks.

May we take this time of the Advent Season to prepare ourselves, spiritually, for the coming of Christ. Whether it is Christ's coming as the Christ Child or as the King of Glory, may Christ find us ready to welcome Him into our hearts, our homes, and our world. May we give Christ His due, giving Jesus the well-deserved welcome that we would a King. Jesus is our King, enrobed not in a royal garment, but in ordinary swaddling clothes. May we go to the manger in a few weeks, having spent this time preparing for that moment in salvation history when "God so loved the world that He gave us His Only Begotten Son" (Jn 3:16).

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)

#### **Christmas Pageant**

This year's Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 10th at 1 pm in St. Ann's Parish Center. We are throwing a big birthday party for Jesus, so it will be lots of fun! All are welcome to attend, young and old. Please bring a non-perishable food item for our local food pantries as a present for Jesus.



#### **Adult Bible Study Location Change**

Due to the rehearsals for the Christmas Pageant, our Adult Bible Study will meet at 7 pm at **St. Ann on 11/29 and 12/6**. It will return to St. John on 12/13.

All are welcome to join us!

#### **December Family Mass**

Today is the December Family Mass 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 contact Matt Brady.

#### **December Teen Mass**

Our next Teen Mass is December 17th 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.

### **Christmas Brunch December 3rd after the 11:30 Mass at St. John**

**Tickets are \$5/person, \$20/family  
Available by calling the office or after Masses starting  
11/5 and must be purchased by 11/27**

**There will be pancakes, sandwiches, fruit, pastries and more. All are welcome!**





### MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today our Church begins its Advent journey, a four week period of preparation for the two-fold coming of Christ: the coming as the Christ Child (which happens in four short weeks) and the coming of Christ as the King of Glory (which will happen at the end of ALL time). St. Francis felt that Christmas was the preeminent holy day in the Church (even if the Church would disagree, putting Easter at the “top of the list”). St. Francis felt this way because of the Incarnation, the coming of God in Christ Jesus in human appearance. St. Francis felt that without the Incarnation, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ could not have happened. This “incarnational theology” has found a home with many Catholic theologians and scholars.

While it is true that God became human to save humanity from sin and eternal death, this is but one dimension of the mystery of the incarnation. Our theology, and hence our spirituality, tends so often to reduce the total mystery of the Christ-event to the final acts of Christ’s life – his death and resurrection. However, the salvation of the human person, and indeed of all creation, begins at the incarnation, in the ontological reality of God entering into the world, into history, and into the human condition. Salvation is first encountered in the very fact of the coming into being of Jesus Christ, God incarnate. And the reality of salvation begins to unfold in the existential reality of Christ’s life: his attitudes and relationships, his teaching and ministry, and the values he embodies in all this. Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection occur within and as a consequence of his life-praxis.

In the incarnation, Jesus of Nazareth is God’s answer to every question we have about ourselves. When we speak about Jesus coming to teach and show us how to be human we do not simply mean this in its extrinsic and practical aspects. We mean it in a way that goes beyond the behavioral and imitative, but into the existential and transformational meaning of what it means to be a human person. While we certainly do learn from Jesus how to be compassionate and forgiving, just and peaceful, it is in his very being that we begin to discover the truth of our being. Our identity is to be found in his identity, and the truth of who we are before God is discovered in him. In the incarnation, God comes to meet us in our humanity. Those who seek God will not find him by trying to escape their humanity or human experience. God is not to be found in some distant and abstract ethereal realm far-removed from the messiness of human life; God is to be found through a generous embracing of our humanity and by entering more deeply into our human experience. When we begin to understand this, we begin to understand the mystery of Christ. When we come to some understanding of the mystery of Christ present in our own humanity we begin to glimpse the meaning of our existence and the purpose of our lives.

May this Advent be time when we discover who Jesus is by our own exploration of our own being. May Advent bring about the discovery that as Jesus shares His humanity with us, we have the opportunity to share in the divinity of Christ. A Blessed Advent Season to you all!

Pax et Bonum,  
Fr. Paul, OFS

**THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
PAST DUE BILLS**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
PAST DUE BILLS**

To inform yourself of the types of human trafficking the following website is very informative.

**<https://gozoe.org/>**

Scroll down on the site to the videos of actual survivors of human traffickers.

The podcast on You Tube  
What is Human Trafficking/Light in the Darkness Ep1.  
Is very insightful and educational.

This season of Advent, please include these victims in your prayers.

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13*

***The Prayer for Protection***

“The light of God surrounds me;  
The love of God enfolds me;  
The power of God protects me;  
The presence of God watches over me.  
Wherever I am, God is!”

*The Prayer for Protection* was written by the late James Dillet Freeman, poet laureate of the Unity movement and director of Silent Unity, Unity’s world-wide prayer ministry.

**OUR GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION IS  
UNDERWAY!**

**IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR ENVELOPE,  
THERE ARE ENVELOPES AT THE DOORS OF THE  
CHURCH.**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER  
ENVELOPES ARE DUE.  
WE NEED TO KNOW  
HOW MUCH MONEY  
WE HAVE TO SPEND  
ON THE FLOWERS  
AND EARLY  
DONATIONS HELP  
CONSIDERABLY.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOU  
GENEROSITY!**



## 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, Amanda Little, 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, 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 & 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 added, Please call the Rectory .**



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**

Is in need of:

Cranberry sauce, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes  
Cookies and crackers, brownie & cake mix, frosting.  
Gift cards for purchase for Thanksgiving Dinners

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 next meeting will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall.*



**SUNDAY, DEC. 24,**  
**2023—**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**8:00 at St. John**  
**9:30 at St. Ann**  
**11:30 at St. John**  
**No 6:15**



### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE** **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00 at St. John and St. Ann**  
**6:00 at St. John**

**12:00 (midnight) at St. Ann**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8:30 at St. Ann; 10:30 at St. John**



### **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.**

Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm**, and the **THIRD MONDAY** from **3 pm to 4:30 pm**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

*Monday, December 18, 2023*

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 than large sums, ie \$100

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**



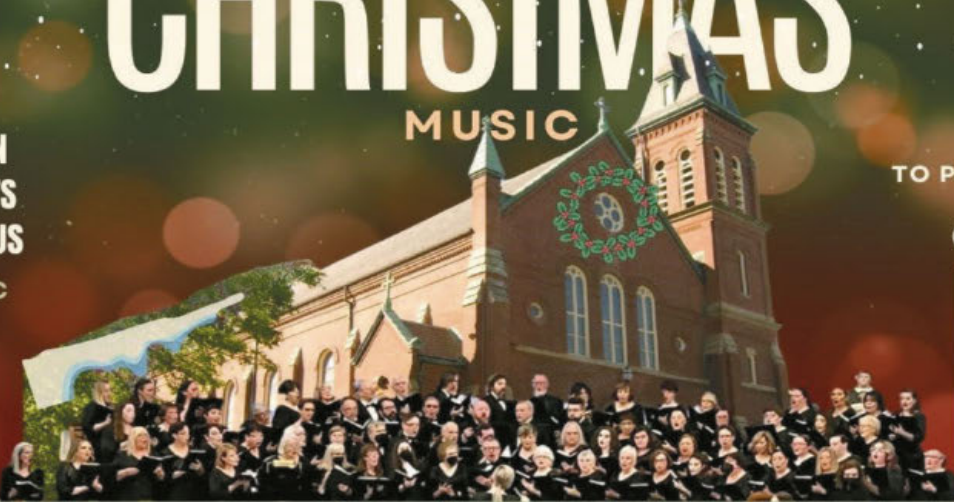
*St. Thomas Aquinas Parish presents*  
AN AFTERNOON OF

# CHRISTMAS

MUSIC

SOUTHEASTERN  
MASSACHUSETTS  
FESTIVAL CHORUS  
CHORAL MUSIC

DEC **03**  
SUN  
2:30 PM



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