



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

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 December 10, 2023  
 Second Sunday of  
 Advent*



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



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,  
 MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.  
 EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED  
 AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5

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

OLPI

### 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: [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**



**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
"Prepare the way of the Lord" - Mic 1:3

## **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



## MASSSES FOR THE WEEK



\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 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

#### Saturday, December 16, 2023

4:00 - David LaCouture — 1st Anniversary

#### Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

6:15 - Teens of the T.I.C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:00 - Richard Murray — 3rd Anniversary

11:30 - Rose Talabach — 2nd Anniversary

#### Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:00 - Suzanne Shepard — 34th Anniversary

11:30 - Ewa Morawski — 29th Anniversary



#### GERMANY

Starting in the 16th Century, Germans hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of their Christmas tree. Whatever child finds it receives a gift!

#### VENEZUELA

Every year, roads are closed to traffic in the city of Caracas to let people participate in *las pantinatas* — "the skating" where everyone roller skates to Christmas Mass.

My Dear Friends in Christ,



The figure of John the Baptist is quite an imposing one. Yes, he was a prophet but he was unlike any that had been seen before. With a tunic made of camel's hair fastened by a leather belt, and dining on a diet of locusts and wild honey, John was unique. On top of all of this John resided in the desert, his life taking on a hermetic or monastic tone. It's no wonder that people stood up and took notice of this unusual man.

We would do well to notice John the Baptist as well. John is a seminal figure in the Advent journey, as he serves as a herald for Jesus' coming into the world. In the gospel passage we have before us this weekend, John is spoken of (by the prophet Isaiah) in his role as herald. He then comes into the spotlight, but one which he will not have for long. In speaking of the coming of the adult Jesus, the One who is already in the world and ready to begin His public ministry, John immediately sets the record straight, placing himself as messenger...not the message. He proclaims himself unworthy of that title, recognizing that he is "not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his (i.e. Jesus') sandals" (Mk 1:7). This gospel passage is a clear indicator of the roles that each is to play. John is the messenger, Jesus is the message.

This is where we come in. In our Advent journey, we are preparing our minds, hearts and lives for the coming of the Christ. In this preparation, there is a two-fold waiting: the waiting for the Christ Child, yes, but also the waiting for Christ as the King of Glory. It is this second "waiting" that is highlighted for us in the encounter we have with John the Baptist. It is by virtue of our baptism that we are called, like John, to be "heralds" of Christ. We are called to let people know that Jesus is coming, but we are also called to let people know that Jesus is already here. We let people know of Jesus' presence among us by how we conduct ourselves, how we live our lives. In proclaiming Jesus' presence, and by living our lives in union with Christ, we show in word and deed the place Jesus has in our lives.

May we continue on this Advent journey to prepare our minds, our hearts, our very lives for the coming of the Lord. May we also recognize Jesus' presence already among us and may we be unafraid to proclaim (and claim) Jesus in word and deed to all whom we meet.

A Blessed (Continued) Advent to All,

Fr. Paul

*Please welcome the following children into our Collaborative.  
Pray that this is the first step in a wonderful journey with God.*



*Bella Rose Conaty  
Eleanor Louise Gilbert  
Grace Lee DePolá Wang*

## 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 Today**

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.**



#### **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.

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

Returning to St. John on 12/13.

All are welcome to join us!

#### **Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries**

Our next sandwich making for Fr. Paul to distribute to the homeless in Boston is:

**Monday 12/18 at 6:30 at St. Ann.**

This counts as a service opportunity for anyone who needs it. All are welcome!



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

As we move through our Advent journey, coming now to the Second Sunday of Advent, our gospel introduces us to John the Baptist. John was an interesting figure, to say the least. His iconoclastic ways set him apart from what people usually thought of when they thought of a prophet. His living arrangement (i.e., choosing to seclude himself in the desert), his clothes (camel's hair and a leather belt) and diet (locusts and wild honey) all caused him to stand out from the norm, even for prophets.

St. Francis was cut much from the same cloth. He claimed to have visions in which God spoke to him ("rebuild my church, which is falling down"). After his conversion, he eschewed worldly ways by choosing to live in simple, humble surroundings and wear simple clothing (almost ragged to the eye). He spoke with a force and power that had rarely been seen (much like John the Baptist). He lived a mendicant lifestyle, subsisting by begging for food and money to undertake his mission (given to him by God, who told him to "rebuild my church" (a call to restore not the physical nature of the church, but its spiritual base).

Both John the Baptist and St. Francis of Assisi had a deep love for the Lord. John the Baptist was Jesus' herald, proclaiming him as the "Lamb of God" to those who would have ears to hear. St. Francis proclaimed Jesus' love for the "poor in spirit" by seeing Christ in them and being Christ for them. In both John and Francis, we see how we are to proclaim our relationship with Jesus in both word and deed. May this Advent Season, this journey towards Christmas, be a time of discovery for us. May we discover who Jesus is for us, not only as the one who calls us into relationship with Him here and now, but who also leads us to the Father and to God's Eternal Kingdom of Peace and Love.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



**THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
Outstanding bills**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
Outstanding 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, 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 added, Please call the Rectory .*



### 4th Sunday of Advent

**SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 2023— 4 pm**

**AT St. Ann's**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023**



**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**



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.*

**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.**

## PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### The World Is Pregnant

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye. "For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." — 2 Peter 3:13

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