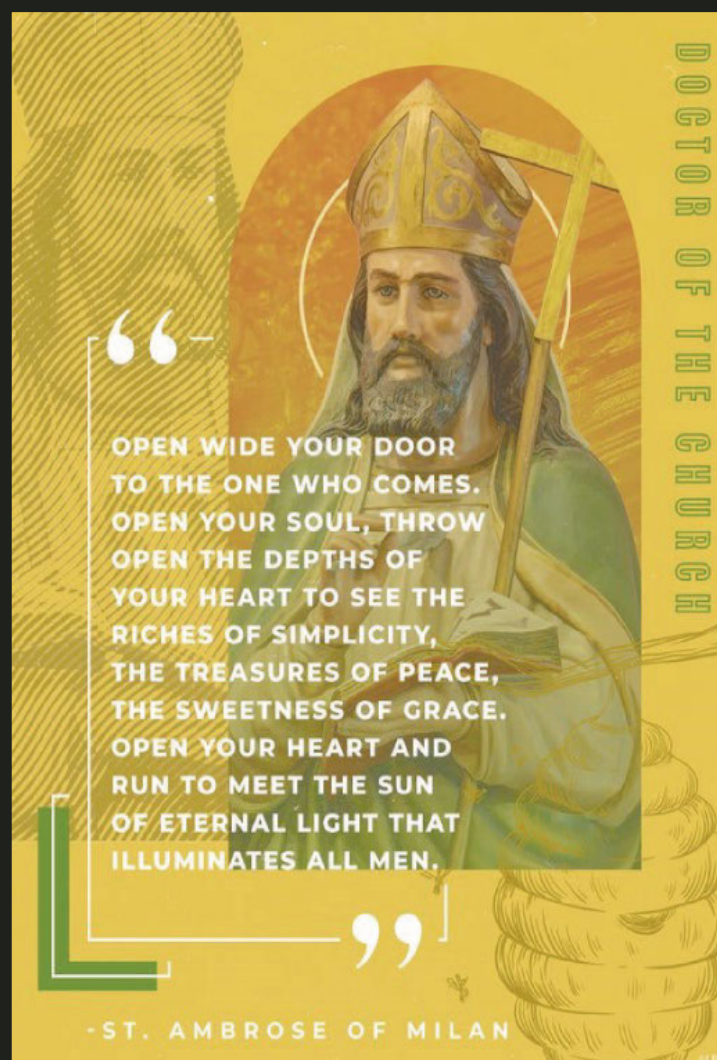
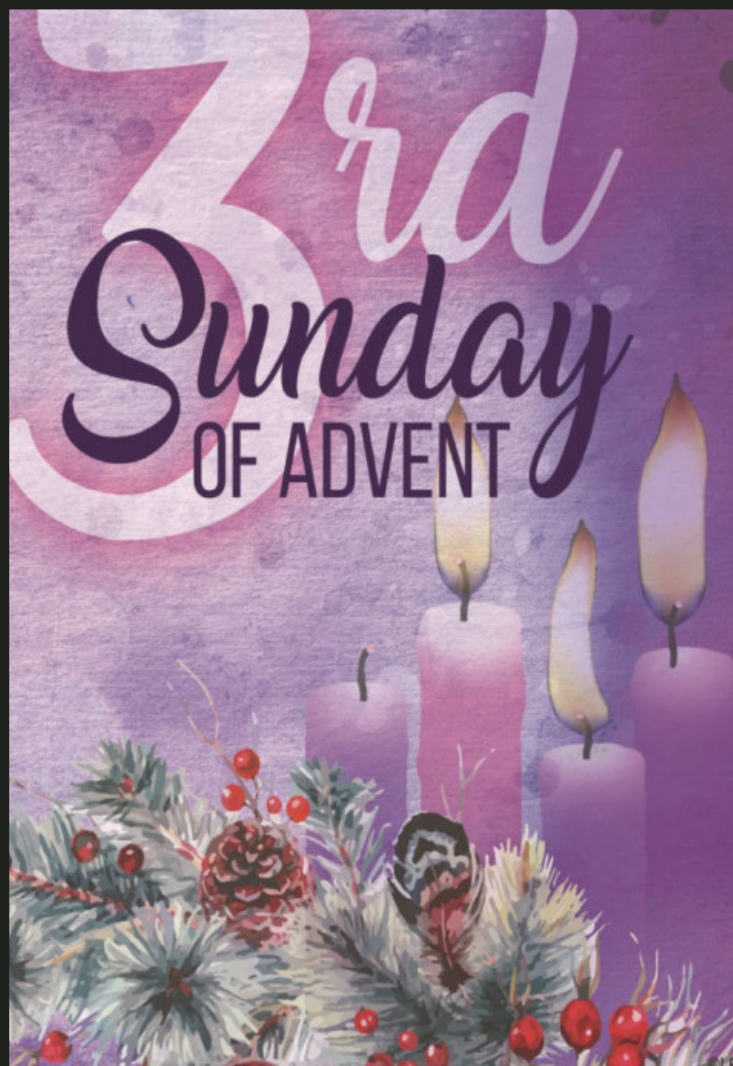




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent*



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 9-3 M-F
For both Churches

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
Website: www.stjohnnebridge.org
Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB
Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring

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 John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.
In the Church

St Ann's

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 &
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.
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

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, December 11, 2022

7:30 - Stephen & Cindy Nyhan — Memorial

11:30 - Lenny Celia — Memorial

6:15 - Parishioners of St. Ann and St. John

Sunday, December 18, 2022

7:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

11:30 - Rose Talabach — 1st Anniversary

6:15 - For the Souls in Purgatory

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 10, 2022

4:00 — Rose Talabach — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 11, 2022

9:30 — John Morawski — 1st Anniversary

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

9:00 — Vince Adornato — Month's Mind

Saturday, December 17, 2022

4:00 — Suzanne Shepard — 33rd Anniversary

Sunday December 18, 2022

9:30 — Ewa Morawski — 28th Anniversary



My Dear Friends in Christ,

It appears, in today's gospel, that we have the beginnings of a "mutual admiration society" with John the Baptist and Jesus. John the Baptist has been imprisoned, and he had heard word of Jesus' works - preaching, teaching, and healing (even raising one from the dead!). The "wheels start turning" for John, and he inquires of his disciples if this might be...the One (the Messiah). John's disciples, in turn, are told by Jesus that John should look at all that is happening within Jesus' ministry. John, no doubt, ponders all of this and becomes more convinced that the work that he began (in proclaiming the Messiah's coming) has come to fruition. Jesus, for His part, extols the work of John, even going so far as to call him the greatest person born of woman (a rather bold statement, in light of Jesus' birth by Mary!).

Jesus and John are intrinsically linked, one to the other. We cannot speak of John without mentioning the purpose and goal of his preaching - to announce the coming of the Messiah and to get people to follow Him. In the same vein, we cannot speak of Jesus without "giving a nod" as to how His public started, namely His baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. In this way, and so many more (let's not forget their kinship, as evidenced by the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth), today's gospel "sets the stage" for the final weeks of Advent and our preparations being made to welcome the Christ Child into our midst.

Our role is not unlike John the Baptist. We are called, by virtue of our baptism, to proclaim Christ. We are called not only to proclaim His coming, but the fact that the Kingdom of God (at the heart of which we find Jesus) is not only to come but is ALREADY AMONG US. Like John the Baptist, we are called to be heralds of God's Word (in Holy Scripture) and Sacrament (of Holy Eucharist). We may not be imprisoned for this proclamation, but we are nonetheless called to "die to self" so that Christ might live in us. This "white martyrdom" is something that places us squarely in the company of Christ. We are called, as Christ was, to not only announce the Kingdom of God but to be Kingdom-centered people. How do we do this? It's quite simple, really - we are to keep our focus on Jesus. When we focus on Jesus, we don't shut out the world; when we focus on Jesus, quite the contrary is true - we enter into the world with Jesus within us.

May we have the courage, like John the Baptist before us, to be heralds of God's Word. May we receive the Sacraments (especially Eucharist and Reconciliation) so as to be open, pure, and ready vessels of God's grace. May we share God's grace with all whom we meet, so that they may come to know what we have come to know - that Jesus Christ has broken the chains of sin and death and won for us newness of life.

A Continued Blessed Advent to All,

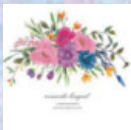
Fr. Paul

WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES



MEMORIAL MASSES Suggested donation \$25+

HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK — \$30+



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK \$75+

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE — 12/24

4:00 PM — SAINT ANN'S

4:00 PM — SAINT JOHN'S

6:00 PM — SAINT ANN'S

6:00 PM — SAINT JOHN'S

CHRISTMAS DAY — 12/25

12:00 MIDNIGHT — SAINT
JOHN'S

8:30 AM — SAINT ANN'S



MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry News

Family Mass Thank You

Thanks to everyone who came to our Family Mass last Sunday! We had some great gift bearers and ushers. Special thanks to the Berlo and Staples families for picking up Dunkin and to Amy Downey for the delicious treats from PV Donuts in Providence!

Christmas Pageant

Next Sunday 12/18 at 12:30 in the gym at St. Ann's hall is our performance of this year's pageant. All are invited! In addition to the performance, there will be desserts, a craft table and a guest appearance by Santa! We are very excited and hope you can join us!

Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

We will be making Sandwiches for Fr. Paul to give out to the homeless in Boston on his monthly volunteer date with Capuchin Mobile Ministries. This month's date is Monday 12/19 at 6:30 at St. John (not St. Ann like usual). Anyone who wishes to volunteer is welcome and can sign up by emailing Matt Brady. This counts as service hours for anyone who needs them!

Lending Libraries are back!

We are happy to announce that as of last week, the parish library is back at St. John's and there is now a second library located at St. Ann's. The bookshelf at St. John is located at the top of the stairs outside the chapel, and the shelf at St. Ann's is in the back left of the church. There's only a small number of books out so far, but more will be added as we go through the exciting stock. New donations are always welcome, so if you have books you would like to donate, please contact Matt Brady.





MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

As we move through our Advent journey, we once again encounter John the Baptist. John was one who was so powerful, so unusual, that many thought him to be the Christ, the Messiah. In today's gospel, Jesus, Himself, extols the virtues of John even going so far as to say that "among those born of women, there has been none greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11). Part of John's appeal was the radical nature of his message. John's prophetic voice was one that had not been heard before, even though there had been hundreds of prophets (both God-sent and self-appointed). His message was one which would pave the way for the coming of THE Messiah, THE Christ...Jesus, Himself.

Francis, of course, in coming well after Jesus, was not thought of as the "second coming". Even though Francis' message was one of "evangelical poverty", and was associated closely with the message and mission of Jesus, Francis himself was not ever put in the same category as Jesus. He could, however, some might argue, be put in the same category as John the Baptist. In many ways, Francis (like John the Baptist) could (and should) be considered a prophetic voice, a "voice proclaims in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3). Often times, Francis stood alone in his pronouncements, sometimes in opposition to his brothers but never in opposition to the Church. He was a staunch churchman, one who was a loyal son of Rome/son of God. When he strove to move the order forward into being, he often had to struggle mightily. He faced ridicule in embracing "Lady Poverty", as well as seeking to establish the Franciscan Order. He later faced the challenges of two failed pilgrimages, the Holy Land and the loss of his eyesight. Throughout his ministry, Francis fought at every turn to establish, and keep going, the Order.

Yet, in all of this, he remained faithful to the call which Christ placed on his heart. Like John the Baptist, he remained faithful to his calling to the Lord with regards to his mission for the Church. May we be like John the Baptist and St. Francis of Assisi. May we, despite roadblocks and detours, remain steady on our Advent journey and our journey to the Kingdom.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



I Believe in one Lord Jesus Christ: Common Titles and Names

In my work as deacon, I have buried people in a multitude of cemeteries that have many different rules and regulations; yet, despite the many limitations cemeteries place on personal memorials, families are able to express, in a few words, symbols, or images, the love they have for their loved ones and their hope in the promises of Jesus Christ. Our ancient Christian forbears did the same when memorializing their deceased loved ones and friends. Many of these memorials can be seen in the underground cemeteries (catacombs) in Rome. Of the many symbols memorialized in the catacombs, fish was prominent and widely used. One might ask, why was the outline of a fish used to mark the graves of Christians. The Greek word for "fish" is IΧΘΥΣ and was used by ancient Christians to express their faith in Jesus. The word is an acronym formed by taking the first letters of the Greek words for Jesus (Ιησους), Christ (Χριστος), God's (Θεος), Son (Υιος), Savior (Σωτηρ). If you combine the bolder letters you get the Greek word for fish: IΧΘΥΣ. By looking at each term more closely we can appreciate the faith our ancient forebears held and passed onto us.

Jesus—In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is told that when the time comes for her to give birth, she is to name the child Jesus. The name Jesus is a Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua which literally means: God Saves. Jesus' name reveals what God is doing in and through him. By his life, death, and resurrection, God saves humanity from their sin and restores humanity back to eternal life.

Christ—Christ, is not a name but a title. It was used in the Old Testament to speak about the Messiah, the Chosen One of God who would bring liberation and salvation to God's people. Literally, Christ means "anointed one." In the ancient world, priests, prophets, and kings were chosen and marked for service by an anointing of sacred oil. Jesus is the Chosen One who, at his baptism, is anointed by the Holy Spirit to be for us, and the whole world, priest, prophet, and king. At our baptism, we too are anointed with Sacred Chrism and become "another Christ" in the world called to share with Jesus Christ his ministry as priest, prophet, and king.

Son of God—The title Son of God has a rich history among ancient Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman worlds. In the Old Testament the title was used to refer to the anointed king of Israel. But in other places it is used to describe the People of God and in other places the angels that make up the heavenly hosts. In the Second Book of Samuel (chapter 7), God promises a son to David that will be God's own Son. This Son, God promised, will establish a royal dynasty who will sit on the throne of Israel forever. At Jesus' baptism, God declares Jesus as his only and beloved Son with whom, he is well pleased. Through our baptism we become adopted sons and daughters of God and are taught by Jesus to address him as "Our Father" when we pray.

Savior—The title "Savior" is a unique term used in the New Testament for Jesus. Many are surprised to learn that of the synoptic gospel (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), Luke is the only one who calls Jesus by this title—and he does so only twice. Upon visiting her cousin Elizabeth, she sings her song of praise to God her Savior. A few verses later, the angels announce to the shepherds that "today, in the city of David a child is born who is both Savior and Lord." Indeed, Jesus is the one through whom we are saved from sin and death so we can enjoy the bliss, joy, and happiness of eternal life.

Christians used the symbol of a fish to reveal what they believed about Jesus Christ. He is our God who saves. He is the one anointed and chosen by God to bring salvation to the world. He is God's own son who shares with God his divinity and invites us to share in the divine life by becoming the Father's sons and daughters at baptism. Finally, Jesus is the savior of the world. He is sent by the father to not only break the chains of sin and death but to lead us to eternal life. Next time you see the Jesus fish do not be afraid to confess your faith in Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Diane Nicolar, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz & 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, Please call the Rectory so we can update the list.

**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.

THE FOOD PANTRY

*Monday, December 5, 2022
Monday, December 19, 2022*

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.

**THE WINE, HOSTS
SANCTUARY LAMPS AT SAINT ANN'S**



**THIS WEEK ARE
IN MEMORY OF:**



LENNY CELIA

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



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.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379**

Due to very low funds, St. Vincent de Paul at St. Ann's is looking for donations for a calendar raffle — any gift cards (store, Amazon, restaurants or whatever you want to donate) wine baskets, movie baskets, just a few ideas, if you want to donate a monetary amount, please put it in an envelope labeled for the raffle and put it in SVdP boxes at the sides and back of St. Ann's Church. Any help you can give is extremely appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless

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
(508) 510-5274.**

Last time to think about the Christmas Flowers!



Due to our current financial situation, we are only able to afford as many flowers as we receive donations for. So, we ask that you send in your Christmas flower donation as soon as you can so we can buy the flowers and be fully decorated!

This year we will be posting the names of your loved ones for whom you made the donations. This will be similar to the Easter Flower posting. If you are using an envelope from Waltzco, there is a space for the names. If you are not on the envelope system, please use a plain envelope, mark it Christmas Flowers and list your name and in memory of: your loved ones on the back.

Please get your donations in by Dec. 11th

Thank you for your support.



MINISTRY NEWS



Christmas Sharing For Saint Ann's

This is the final week to make donations for Christmas for our families, Senior Citizens, and Project Grads Teen Moms.

Please leave gift cards in the St. Vincent DePaul boxes at the doors of the church, and small gift items or toys in the box at the back of the church. You also may call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org, and we will pick up any items you wish to donate. Thank you all for your generosity!



East Bridgewater HUGS is ready for the 2022 holiday season.

If you would like to adopt a child or family this Christmas, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact me directly at wishes@ebhugs.org.

If you would like to make a cash donation, you can Venmo at East Bridgewater Hugs, use PayPal on our web-site, www.ebhugs.org, or drop cash or checks or gift cards off at the EB Public Library or any of our drop off locations or mailed or dropped at HUGS, 100 Lorraine Drive, EB. If you have any questions, please call Theresa at 508-350-9811.

Giving Trees will be up by mid November, for those who want to help by taking tags to purchase specific gifts from a child's wish list.

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