



*SAINT JOHN*

***Together in Christ  
Collaborative***

***The Third Sunday of  
Advent***

*December 12, 2021*



*SAINT ANN*



**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 9-4 M-Th  
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: [stjohnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://www.stjohneb.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

### Priests In Residence

**Fr. Peter Francis**

**Fr. Michael Diochi**

### **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**

## **EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES**

### **St John's**

**Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday: 10:30 a.m.**

**Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.\***

**Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday**

**9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice**

**In the Chapel**

### **St Ann's**

**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday: 8:30 a.m.**

**Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.\***

**Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.**

**9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice**

**\*Alternating between the two worship sites, refer to website for details.**

## **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 p.m. These baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required.

Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

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 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 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: Nancy Goggin**

directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

617-639-4215



## MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 11, 2021

4:00 - Christiano Victoria — 14th Anniversary

#### Sunday December 12, 2021

8:30 - Charles Matthews — 23rd Anniversary

6:15 For those who have no one to pray for them

#### Saturday, December 18, 2021

4:00—Erminia Victoria — Birthday Remem

#### Sunday, December 19, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For those who have no one to pray for them

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 11, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

#### Sunday, December 12, 2021

10:30 - Richard Murray — 1st Anniversary

#### Saturday, December 18, 2021

5:30 - Suzanne Shepard

#### Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:30 - Eva Morawski — 27 th Anniversary



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent. It has a particular name, Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” comes from the Latin, and it means “Rejoice”.

We “rejoice” on this Sunday because we are that much closer to the Christmas celebration. Today’s celebration gives us a bit of a “breather”, a chance to “take stock” as to where we are in our Advent journey and preparations.

Once again, John the Baptist is highlighted in the gospel. In the passage from Luke’s gospel, John has just “dressed down” the crowds that came out to see him. John was certainly different than any prophet that had come before, but he was no “sideshow attraction”. His words were sharp, and so was his prophetic vision. He knew that people were “sizing him up” to see if, perhaps, he could be the Messiah. In giving the people a “blueprint” on how they were to conduct themselves, he did not make it easy on them. John knew that the teaching of the Messiah would be tough to take, so he (like a good messenger) was preparing the crowd for Jesus. John also knew that if they could follow him, they could follow Jesus.

John’s words are so powerful, in fact, that the “buzz” was going around that John might be the Messiah. It is understandable that people might think John was the Messiah, because his words have a power and attraction that few, if any, prophets have brought. The idea that John is the Messiah is not a farfetched one, just an incorrect one. John puts this notion to rest, however, and with strong words. In calling himself “not worthy to loosen the thongs of his (Jesus’) sandals” (Lk 3:16), he places himself at the service of Jesus and His message. The message that Jesus will speak will bring about repentance and healing, for the message that Jesus will bring will bear the mark of the Messiah.

Let us truly “rejoice” in the fact that God loves His people so much that He sent us a messenger such as John the Baptist. Let us “rejoice” in the “wake-up call” that John gives us this day, one that makes us aware that we must prepare with all our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Let us “rejoice” that our Messiah will soon be with us, as the Christ Child and the King of Glory. Let us be ready for the coming of the Lord by looking into our hearts and clearing out the “spiritual dead-wood”, those things that are not of God, and putting into our hearts the good things that God wants for us – the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

A Blessed Continued Advent,

Fr. Paul

### THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

#### Weekly Offertory

Nov 23 - Nov 29, 2021

ST ANN		ST JOHN	
Online	N/A	Online	\$ 610
Mail	\$ 290	Mail	\$ 265
Mass	\$ 1,729	Mass	\$ 2,728
TOTAL	\$ 2,019	TOTAL	\$ 3,603
Restoration Fund	\$75	Restoration Fund	\$62

**TOTAL RESTORATION FUND TO DATE — \$22,407**

**We are returning to the process of passing the basket during the Offertory .**

**Some people have expressed concerns as to how the money will be separated for each church.**

**If you are giving cash and you want it specified for your church, please put it in an envelope with the church name on the envelope. Otherwise money collected at a mass will be designated for that church.**

**Ex. If you attend the 8:30 at Saint Ann and do not specify that you want your offertory to go to Saint John by using an envelope for your cash, it will be counted as offertory for Saint Ann.**

**RENOVATION FUNDS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Like John the Baptist, from whom we hear in today's gospel, St. Francis was one who would give practical advice. Francis encouraged his followers to be (as I like to say) "*in* the world while not *of* the world". One of the most famous quotes attributed to St. Francis, although there is much question as to whether or not he actually said it, is that one should "preach the gospel always and, when necessary, use words".

This Sunday our Church celebrates, on this Third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday". The word "Gaudete" means "Rejoice". We show rejoicing by lighting the rose-colored candle and wearing rose-colored vestments. Another way to look at rejoicing is to offer the world "peace". When we offer peace, we do so as Christ did, by giving of oneself unconditionally. You may have noticed that I sign off on each column with "Pax et Bonum" ("Peace and All Good"). This is a traditional salutation offered by Franciscans of all stripes. St. Francis looked at peace by challenging his followers to be "instruments of peace". The "Prayer of St. Francis" is one which is a "blueprint" for this way of peace. In offering it here, I would call on us to reflect on how we can be that "instrument of peace" that Francis encouraged us to be. Here, now, is that prayer for your reflection:

### PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

**LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR  
PEACE:**

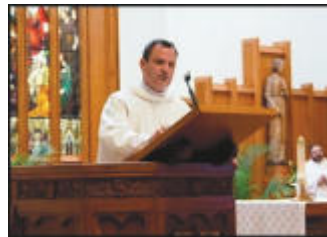
**WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;  
WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;  
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;  
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;  
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;  
WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.**

**O DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO  
MUCH SEEK  
TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE,  
TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND,  
TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE.  
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,  
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED,  
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO  
ETERNAL LIFE.  
AMEN.**

May we rejoice with the Lord, always, by being instruments of His Peace! A Blessed Gaudete Sunday to you all!

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



## **THE DEACON'S COLUMN**

### **Feasts and Traditions honoring St. Joseph**

On Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, on the Feast Honoring the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Church concluded the "Year of St. Joseph." Most people are familiar with some of the major Marian Feast Days honoring the Blessed Mother and the apparitions she has made over the course of history. But some may be surprised to learn that in some of these apparitions, St. Joseph, appears with his Blessed Wife.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> the Church remembers the apparition at Fatima to three children. Sr. Lucia wrote in her diary that on October 13<sup>th</sup>, as promised, the Blessed Mother appeared and there was the Miracle of the Dancing Sun. St. Lucia also writes that next to Mary was St. Joseph holding the Child Jesus with his hand extended in a blessing. When families are facing particular struggles they are invited to turn to the Holy Family of Fatima and ask for their intercession and grace to be with them in hope.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> the Church celebrates Our Lady of Knock. During this apparition in County Mayo, Ireland, St. Joseph appeared to the right of the Blessed Mother, looking at his Blessed Wife with loving devotion and respect. Though no word was spoken, there was a cloud of light and peace that covered the area and continues to draw people to its site 150 years later. St. Joseph of Knock invites us to turn to Mary and ask for her intercession.

On May 1, the Church honors St. Joseph under the title, "St. Joseph the Worker." This widely known feast day was added by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to counter the Communist celebration of workers on the first of May (May Day). By honoring St. Joseph the Worker on May 1<sup>st</sup> the Church invites us to reflect on the Dignity of Work and its place in God's salvific Plan.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates and honors St. Joseph as a Solemnity. A Solemnity is the highest ranking "feast" day and is celebrated by the Church with all the pomp and celebration of a Sunday. St. Joseph's Day usually falls during the season of Lent but because it is a solemnity the Lenten laws of fasting and abstinence are suspended. In Italy (particularly in Sicily), this day is also Father's Day. It is tradition to make cream filled pastry called zeppoles. Another tradition is to set up a "St. Joseph's Table" where the Table is decorated with homemade pastry and breads. The tradition is a communal celebration and reminds families of the bonds of family and the need to care for the poor.

The Church has dedicated every Wednesday to St. Joseph. Make it part of your prayer life, even if it is just on Wednesdays, to ask for St. Joseph's intercession and perhaps pray his litany. St. Joseph, Pillar of Families and Patron of Workers, Pray for Us.

## ATTENTION ATTENTION

**DECEMBER 1ST IN-PERSON DAILY MASSES  
WILL RESTART AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT  
JOHN'S AT 9 AM (in the church, not the Chapel)**

**THESE MASSES WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO  
BE LIVE-STREAMED**

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY AT SAINT JOHN  
THURSDAY & SATURDAY AT SAINT ANN**

**CONFESSIONS WILL BE AT SAINT ANN'S  
BETWEEN 3:00—3:30 OR BY APPOINTMENT  
WITH ONE OF THE PRIESTS AVAILABLE.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**



### THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SAINT ANN

SAINT JOHN

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM	4 PM
6 PM	6 PM
MIDNIGHT	

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30	10:30
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The Masses on Sunday, December 26th will be as  
Usual: Saint Ann — 8:30; Saint John — 10:30



## Let's Kick Off Christmas Fundraiser

On December 19th our Collaborative is having a "Let's Kick Off Christmas" Event for the collaborative at St. John's from 11:30-4:30.

The day will be packed with many fun-filled family activities for all ages. These events include:

Teams of Christmas Carolers that you can order to come to your house to sing for your family or you can request them to go to a friend or family member's house to sing.

In addition to this there will be many activities happening back at St John's including:

- Pony rides
- Christmas Caroling Hay Rides
- Face painting
- Christmas Craft Tables
- Raffles
- Door Prizes
- Food

It promises to be a fun-filled day.

Monies raised will support our Faith Formation Program and our Collaborative Parish Center Renovation Fund. We will also make a donation to the Baker Family Scholarship Fund.

How can I help you might ask?

You may help in the following ways:

Order Christmas Carolers to come to your home or send them to a friend or family member's home as an early Christmas present.

Take an ad out in our Christmas Carol Advertisement Book.

Help sponsor the cost of the hay ride or pony rides

Rent a craft table

Come to the event and have fun!

Questions, please call  
617-639-4815





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

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy & 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  
Hotline—508-378-3760

**Winter dates and hours** will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and the **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

### THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

*Saturday, December 18 — 10—11:30 AM*

*Tuna, pasta, pasta suase, soups, canned goods, etc are always great additions to the shelves.*

As we begin Advent we are called to "wait" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

**Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas**

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

**WE ARE RETURNING TO COLLECTING THE OFFERTORY BY PASSING A BASKET AS WAS DONE FOR SO MANY YEARS. THEREFORE, WE NEED USHERS TO HELP US WITH THIS TASK. PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY IF YOU CAN HELP.**

### 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](mailto: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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL  
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095 or [jchbaker@msn.com](mailto:jchbaker@msn.com)  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379

Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.

### Christmas Giving Tree

**Gifts should be returned  
ASAP**

**So that they can be distributed to the families to be wrapped.**

### GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

**SAINT JOHN'S WILL BE  
PAIRING WITH THE HUGS  
ORGANIZATION IN  
TOWN TO PROVIDE  
GIFTS FOR THE  
CHILDREN OF THE  
TOWN.**



**PLEASE TAKE A TAG OFF THE TREE AT THE  
BACK OF THE CHURCH**

**GIFTS ARE FOR CHILDREN UP TO 18, UNLESS  
THE CHILD IS IN COLLEGE AND HAS  
SIBLINGS.**

**PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT,  
THE FAMILIES WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR TAG ON  
THE GIFT AND THE AMOUNT ON THE GIFT  
CARD. And be sure to sign up on the list!!!**

Hello,

At times during the pandemic congregational singing was discouraged and congregants were ushered out of the church in a safe manner at the end of mass during the closing hymn. Now that restrictions have been lifted it is a good time to remind ourselves that a liturgy begins with the first notes of the opening song and ends with the final notes of the closing song. We ask that you stay and participate in the closing song if you know the words or stay and enjoy it if you don't know the words. The closing song is one last opportunity to sing God's praises in church before we leave to go about our week. We are thrilled to have hymn books back in the pews so everyone can read along and SING!!!

Thank you and God Bless.

-The Together in Christ Collaborative Music -Team.



## DECEMBER 12TH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade 1 — Class At 9:25 @ St. John's  
Mass at 10:30 @ St. John's

Grades 3 & 4 — Mass at 10:30 @ St. John's  
Class at 11:30 @ St. John's

Grades 7 & 8 — At home work. Dec. 12th  
No class December 19th due to  
Christmas Kickoff Event

Grade 9 — Mass at 6:15 @ St. Ann's —  
Rite of Election  
Class from 7:00— 8:00 @ St. Ann's


Grade 10 — Mass at 6:15 @ St. Ann's  
(1 service hour for showing support of Grade 9  
In reception of their Rite)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES FOR MORE SPECIFIC  
DATES AND TIMES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

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