



Sunday, 8:00 AM  
 Sunday, 11:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 January 5, 2025  
 The Epiphany of  
 The Lord*



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



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.  
 - Mt 2:10

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



**THE EPIPHANY 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

**Church of Saint Ann**

**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater  
 02379  
 508-586-4880 ( 24 hour service)**

**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 Thursday**

**Saint John the Evangelist**

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater  
 02333  
 Office -103 N. Main Street,  
 West Bridgewater, 02379  
 508-378-4207 or 508 586-4880  
 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

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

## EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### **St Ann's**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass  
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass  
Thursday & Saturday  
9:00 a.m.

### **St John's**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:  
Wednesday & Friday  
9:00 a.m.

## 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 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. These baptisms are 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

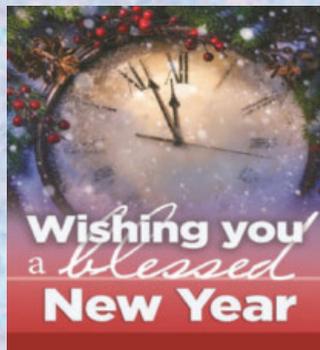
## SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant:**  
**Deborah Conrad**  
stjohnebridge@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  
**Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady**  
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com  
774-533-2002





\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

- 8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
- 11:30 - John Morawski — 3rd Anniversary
- 6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

- 8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
- 11:30 - John C. Adams, Jr. — 2nd Anniversary
- 6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

- 9:00 - Anna M. Ritucci — Memorial

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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, January 4, 2025**

- 4:00 - Bill Pelton — 3rd Anniversary

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

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

**Saturday, January 11, 2025**

- 4:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

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

**WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES**

**MEMORIAL MASSES**  
Suggested donation \$25+

**HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK** Suggested donation \$55  
Including a Memorial Mass, Suggested donation \$80

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK** \$85; or including the mass Suggested donation \$110

**HOSTS, WINE & SANCTUARY LAMPS, FLOWERS** \$140 including the MASS, is a Suggested donation of \$165



Payment for the above memorials would be appreciated TWO weeks in advance, separate from your offertory.

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR**

My Dear Friends in Christ,



I can always remember the Feast of the Epiphany, mainly due to the traditions we held in our household. We would set up the crèche on Christmas Eve (minus the Baby Jesus, of course!), placing Baby Jesus in the manger when we returned home from Midnight Mass. On Christmas Day, the Magi would make their appearance, but not at the manger – they would be placed on the top of the refrigerator! Over the next week or so, they would slowly be moved (in successive weeks) from the fridge, to the back of the oil burner, to the back of the couch (or china cabinet), to the windowsill, and finally into the manger scene. This, of course, gave each of the five children a chance to “relocate” the Magi. The Magi were three in number (as in the song “We Three Kings”); this, we later came to find out, was probably not *entirely* accurate. We came to find, through investigation, that there were as many as a dozen “magi”, which is, not coincidentally, related to our modern word, “magic”. The Magi were a class of palace workers who were part magician, part alchemist, part astrologer (thus their knowledge of, and reliance on, stars for guidance). They were “jacks of all trade” (although “jacks” probably isn’t completely accurate either, as there may have been some women in their company), relied on by the king (such as Herod) for guidance and direction for many things.

Today our Church celebrates the Feast of Epiphany. Growing up, I always understood this to be the “end of the Christmas Season”. This makes sense for many reasons: it speaks of God’s manifestation to humanity in Christ, it highlights the appearance of the Magi, and it is a bit of a “birthday party” for Jesus. How wrong I was! The Christmas Season actually/officially ends with next week’s Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This makes infinitely more sense! After all, our entrance into the Church isn’t marked by our birth but by our baptism. The Baptism of Jesus, about which we will read next week, begins Jesus’ entrance into “public” ministry. It is His “coming out party” as it were.

Now back to today’s feast. The Feast of the Epiphany, a word which has its roots in the Greek word “epiphaneia”, which means “manifestation”, marks and celebrates the appearance of the Magi upon the scene of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. In the classic Greek it was used to mark the appearance of gods. Of course, in our monotheistic tradition, this is adapted to mark the appearance of the One True God in the Person of Jesus Christ. The first reference in Christian literature to the Epiphany would be in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, which speaks of Jesus’ “birth, that is, His Epiphany” by St. Epiphanius of Salamis in his work “Panarion” (written in 361). It was celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup> for the longest time (as is this year’s feast), and currently is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (thus the short “down time” this year between Christmas and Epiphany).

The Feast of the Epiphany gives us an opportunity for a “breather” between Christmas and the Baptism of the Lord. May we, like the Magi, come to the manger and reflect on the good things God has provided for us – namely, Christ the Lord.

Have a (Continued) Blessed Christmas Season,

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)

### January Family Mass

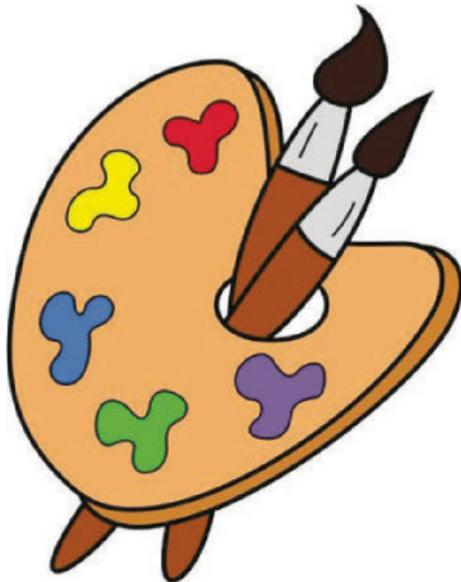
Our next Family Mass is January 12 at the 9:30 Mass at St. John. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily.

There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass. If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

### January Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is January 26th at St. Ann. Similar to Family Mass, we invite our teens to do a reading or bring up the gifts. Fr. Paul also tailors his homily to be relevant to their life and there is contemporary music at the Mass.

If your teen is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.



### Paint Afternoon Fundraiser

January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm, St. Ann Parish Center

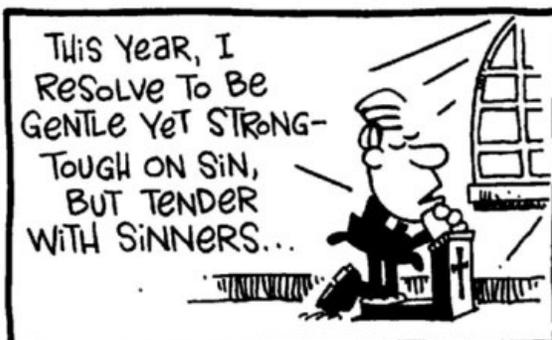
Cost: \$30/person  
20 person event max

Join us for a special afternoon of painting and fun as we learn to create our own wonderful painting from our instructor Sandy Churchill.

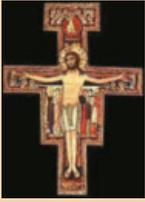
The money raised will support the work of our collaborative Disciples of Hospitality Committee, which organizes all of our social events.

Advance sign up is required. Please contact Matt Brady in the office to sign up.

NEW YEAR



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Feast of the Epiphany, a word which has its roots in the Greek word “epiphaneia”, which means “manifestation”, marks and celebrates the appearance of the Magi upon the scene of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. It can certainly be said that throughout the life and ministry of St. Francis of Assisi, Christ manifested Himself many times. I will take a look at two of those times.

One of the first manifestations of Christ for St. Francis was in the Church of San Damiano in Assisi. When Francis was looking for direction and purpose in his newfound life, he gazed upon the Cross of Christ in this little chapel and was told by Christ to “rebuild my house”. At first, as might be anyone’s natural inclination, Francis thought Christ was speaking of the actual, physical structure of the Church of San Damiano, which was in obvious need of repair. As Francis started this rebuilding, he had an “epiphany” himself, when he realized that Christ was speaking of a “spiritual rebuilding” of the Church (Universal), not the structure of the Chapel in Assisi. This “rebuilding” would take many years, most of Francis’ time of ministry really, and much effort. The Church of Francis’ time was in disrepair, rife with scandal and upheaval. Francis worked tirelessly to fulfill Christ’s call for “repair”, responding to this particular “epiphany” made by Christ to Francis.

Another “epiphany” was Francis’ encounter with the leper. In embracing the leper, St. Francis experienced a singular moment of grace. That act of mercy should encourage us all. St. Francis had a fear and abhorrence of lepers. One day, however, he met a man afflicted with leprosy while riding his horse near Assisi. Though the sight of the leper filled him with horror and disgust, Francis got off his horse and kissed the leper. Then the leper put out his hand, hoping to receive something. Out of compassion, Francis gave money to the leper. But when Francis mounted his horse again and looked all around, he could not see the leper anywhere. It dawned on him that it was Jesus whom he had just kissed. Francis believed in divine synchronicity and saw it as essential in his spiritual life. Surely it was synchronous that Francis showed up at the church of San Damiano and then listened to the guidance he received. No doubt it was synchronous for Francis to notice a leper as he traveled the roads of Umbria. Mortified and disgusted by leprosy, Francis may have wished to pass by on the other side of the road. But God’s still, small voice told him to stop, reach out, and embrace the man with leprosy. Both the man with leprosy and Francis were transformed in that moment.

May we experience similar “epiphanies” as St. Francis did. May this Feast of the Epiphany bring about in us a transformation, moving from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness. May we, like St. Francis, be open to God prompting us to discover who is for us, for the Church, and for the world.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

## **THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR**

### **TO BUILD UP THE SNOW FUND**

**If you call the Rectory for St. John’s from  
January 3rd to January 19th and get no answer,  
please call  
Saint Ann’s at this number**

**508-586-4880**

## **New Years Reflection and Prayer**

As the old year ends and a new one begins, take time.

Time to remember the struggles you faced,  
And mistakes you might have made,  
And maybe even loved ones you lost.

In every year, you experience heartache.  
This one was no different.

And in remembering, find a seed of hope  
hidden in yesterday.

Remember how you’ve been blessed.  
Relive when you found unexpected strength.  
Recall where you saw God’s great Spirit at work.  
And know his mercy kept you going all this time.

Recognize his mercy. Ask for his peace.

The peace that pours out every moment of every day  
from the wounds of Christ.

Prepare us Lord for the New Year.  
Lift us up and place in our hearts,  
A renewed desire to know and worship you more.  
Give us your abundant grace.  
Shower us with your healing love.

May your eternal Kingdom reign in our hearts and our  
lives. May the New Year show us once again your  
eternal mercy and glory.

And let us sing your praises with great joy.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## 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:

Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, William Neyman, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchll, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella, Stephen D'Guisepppe, Ann Bortolopto, Elaine Landolfi, Cathy Hadfield & 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

### PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

**First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30      Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30**

**January 6, 2025 & January 20, 2025**

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

**The Pantry is a little low—needed: any food, especially tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal, toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper.**

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

### Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.

Amen.

**St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379  
To join please call — TINA ANTHONY  
508-245-5481**

Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society has provided support for our neighbors that find themselves in need of a little help with utility, fuel or rent bills. There are many ways we can help our neighbors; if not financially, we can help spiritually. The Society cannot help our neighbors without the generosity of our parishioners. Please consider donating by placing the donations in the SVDP boxes located at each entrance. Please make out any checks to St. Vincent de Paul Society, not St. Ann's Church. To join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony, 508-245-5481

**Next meeting: January 14, 2024**

St. Vincent de Paul Annual conference report  
10/1/23-9/30/24  
\$ received \$6,434.00  
\$ expensed \$11,500.00  
# of visits 7, # of people helped 17

Winner of the Scratch ticket raffle is Mary O'Connell

West Bridgewater Food Pantry  
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1  
West Bridgewater  
02379

**WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD  
Wednesday each month**

**TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM**

**Need: jelly, rice pilaf, pancake mix, syrup, pasta sauce,  
baked beans**

**Cash donations also accepted.**

### Epiphany of the Lord

The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plan, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward - gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ. "Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of his death. "Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice.

### EPHAPHANY



*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Chris Cassidy  
Robert S. Kinsella  
Irene DeLalla  
Ann McGowan  
Michael J. Sheehy*

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



*Please welcome the following children  
Into our Collaborative.*



*Noelle Marie Jasper  
Oliver Attison Pratti  
Sophia Maria DiRocco  
Opal Elizabeth Orduna  
Giovanni Ryan Andreottola  
Asher Robert Nastasia*

*Pray that this is the first step in a  
wonderful journey with God.*

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