



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

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 January 12, 2025
 The Baptism of
 The Lord*



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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a



I PRAY THAT THEY
 WILL ALL BE ONE.

JOHN 17:21

Church of Saint Ann

**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater
 02379**

508-586-4880 (24 hour service)

E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net

Website: 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: stjohnnebridge@comcast.net

Website: www.stjohnne.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

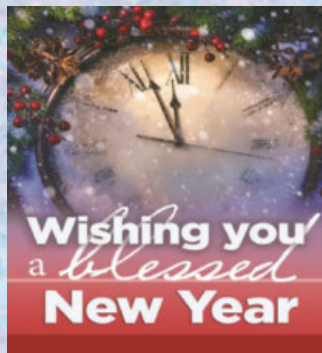
SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

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 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

Sunday, January 19, 2025

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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

Saturday, January 18, 2025

4:00 - Vivian Pircio — 10th Anniversary
Joseph Pircio — 5th Anniversary

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:30 - Parishioners 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

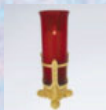
Including a Memorial Mass, Suggested donation \$80

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK

\$85; or including the mass Suggested donation \$110

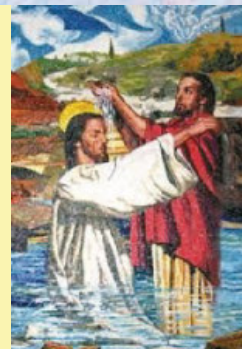
HOSTS, WINE & SANCTUARY LAMPS, FLOWERS

\$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 dare say that most of us don't remember our Baptism (save for those baptized as adults through the RCIA), as we were a bit young at the time. When I was entering the seminary, one of the documents I needed was a copy of my baptismal certificate. When I looked at the date (8/9/64), it dawned on me that I was baptized on my brother's (Tom's) fifth birthday. Perhaps that's why, growing up, he and I had a bit of an antagonistic relationship (e.g. he "taught" me how to ride a bike by taking me up the steepest hill in South Boston with the sole instruction to "hold on tight to the handlebars" and then proceeded to hurl me down the hill, headlong! Hmm...). In any event, we've overcome those differences and have become good friends!

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (and, thus, conclude of the Christmas Season!). Jesus, to the protestation of John, is baptized in the Jordan so that he can "solemnize" what has been, up until this point, a ritual of purification rather than salvation. In our Sacraments which we celebrate in the Church, Jesus is at the center; Baptism is no different. In being baptized by John, Jesus "raises" the celebration of Baptism to the sacramental level, thus making it the "gateway" to other Sacraments. Throughout the centuries, the Church has wrestled with the question of baptism. The "when" of Baptism has been debated for centuries, with the question centering on the readiness of the child to receive such a gift. In our Church, it is the parents who answer for the child in infant baptism; many wonder if this doesn't alter, if not negate, the power of the sacrament. I tend to think not, as we have other opportunities (such as First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation) throughout our lives to validate our faith.

In any event, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord gives us, as a Church, an opportunity to reflect on the gift that Baptism is for us. One of the great joys I have, as you might imagine, is to celebrate a baptism. It is made even more special when it can be celebrated at Mass, with the full support of the people. It highlights the importance of the community in the life of faith of the individual Catholic. While we, and we alone, receive the Sacraments of the Church, they are a sign and symbol of a larger reality. That reality is that it is in and through the community that we live our faith and it is in and through the community that this faith is sustained, nourished and strengthened. May we realize the gift that Baptism (and all Sacraments) is for the Church, the People of God. May we know God's love through the Sacraments, and may we share that love with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed (Conclusion of the) 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



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 26 Mass 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.

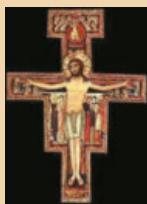
Paint Afternoon Fundraiser

January 26th 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.

January Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

January 20 at 6:30 pm, St. John

Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team from Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge. All are welcome!



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

I love Christmas! I know that sounds like an obvious statement but I do love the fact that we have an entire SEASON in which to celebrate – a Season which ends today (NOT 12/25!) with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. But as much as I love Christmas, there is a Holy Day/Season which I love even more – Easter Sunday and the Easter Season. Again, like Christmas, the Church gives us an entire Season in which to celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection.

You might be wondering why I am bringing up Easter as we are just finishing the Christmas Season. It is because there is an intrinsic link between Christmas and Easter and that link is, of course, Jesus. Jesus came into the world as an infant at Christmas so that He could grow up in the world and transform it by both His mission and His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. There is a beautiful Christmas song which is titled “Wood of the Cradle”, whose opening verse is:

*Wood of the cradle, wood of the cross,
bearing a lifetime of joy and of loss,
who is your loved one? Who could it be,
born in a manger to die on a tree?*

And whose refrain is:

*This, this is Jesus the Lord,
here in the body and blood outpoured.
Come, come, walk in his ways.
Kneel at the manger and rise from the
grave.*

In this verse and refrain, we see the link between Christmas and Easter, Jesus’ birth and His death. It is also in this connection that we see St. Francis’ creation of the Crèche (that is, the creation of the first manger scene, a Living Nativity) and his receiving the Stigmata (the reception of the wounds of Christ). It is in this “linkage” that we see the connection between Christmas and Easter. Francis’ reception of the Stigmata was born of a desire of St. Francis to unite himself as closely as humanly possible with Christ. In receiving these wounds two years before his death, Francis was more able to relate to Christ and, thus, relate Christ to his Franciscan Brothers and followers.

As we conclude yet another Christmas Season, let us recognize the gift not only of New Birth (of Christ at Christmas) but of New (and Everlasting) Life (in Christ at Easter). Let us link those together in our minds and hearts so that the “Wood of the Cradle” and the “Wood of the Cross” bring about the New Life we find in Christ Jesus.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul

THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS

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

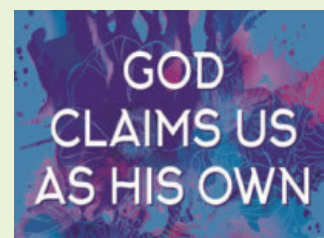
Everyday Stewardship

What have been the most significant moments in your life? You probably celebrate your birthday every year, so the day you were born must be pretty important. How about elementary, high school, or college graduations? Hopefully you do something special on or around your wedding anniversary if you are married. Do you have children? The birth of each child is probably near the top on the list of moments you will never forget. Then there are the sad moments of life: deaths, breakups, and tragedies. As you reflect on all these moments, you can see that you would not be who you are today without having experienced them. Of course as a Christian, you have one moment in time that has had an even greater impact on you and perhaps it didn’t even come to mind: your Baptism.

You might say you don’t remember it because you were an infant. Perhaps you do not even know the date it took place. You might not feel like it has had much impact on you at all. However, it has made all the difference.

Whether you feel the difference or not, on that day you were made a new creation in Jesus Christ. You were marked for Him with an indelible mark that no one can remove, not even you. On that day, you inherited a tradition and lineage of faith that has changed the face of the earth. Today, that baptismal grace beckons you to a real and substantial relationship with the One whose name was invoked on that day. It also calls you to respond with a stewardship way of life, where your gifts make a difference and glorify God. If today is the day you start taking all this seriously, you get to add a new moment to your list.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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, Helen Bomar & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul 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.

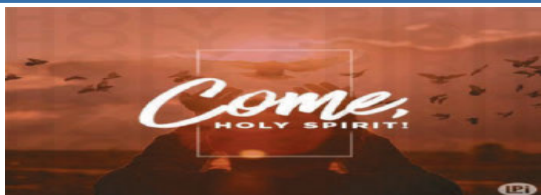
First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30 Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30

January 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



**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

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.

Saint Ann

*The Flowers this week are
donated by*

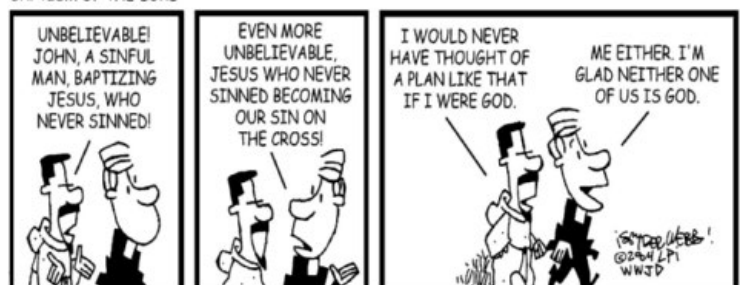
ELAINE ADAMS

In loving memory of

JOHN C. ADAMS



BAPTISM OF THE LORD



BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

Beneath the Surface

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

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