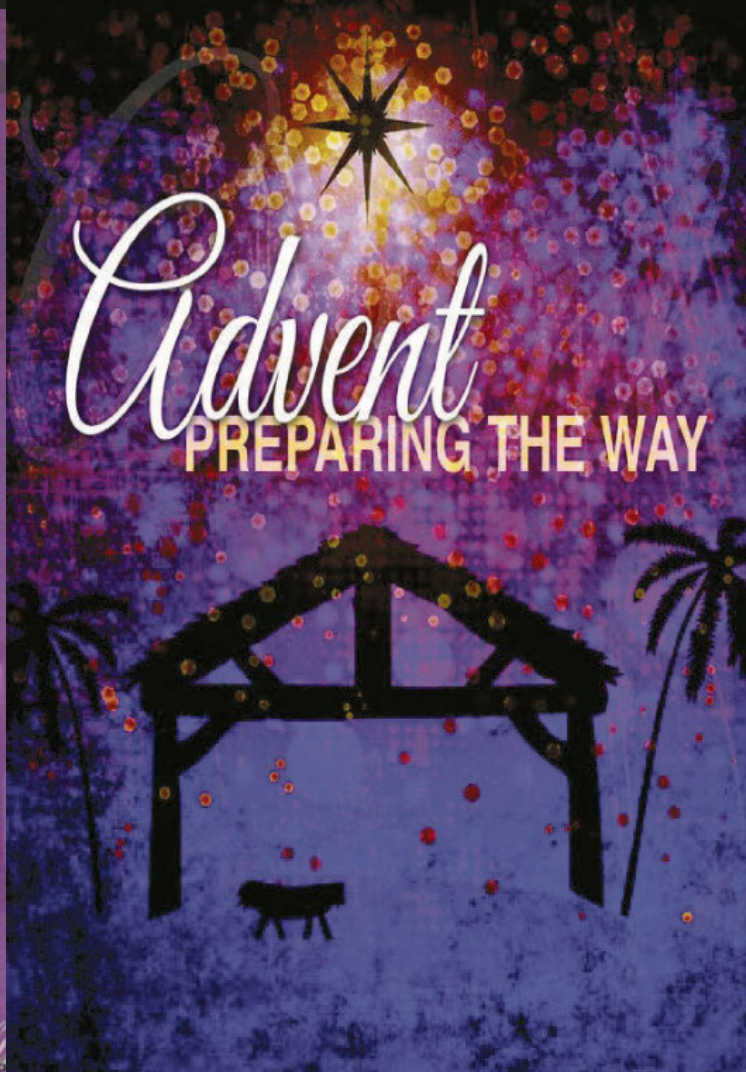
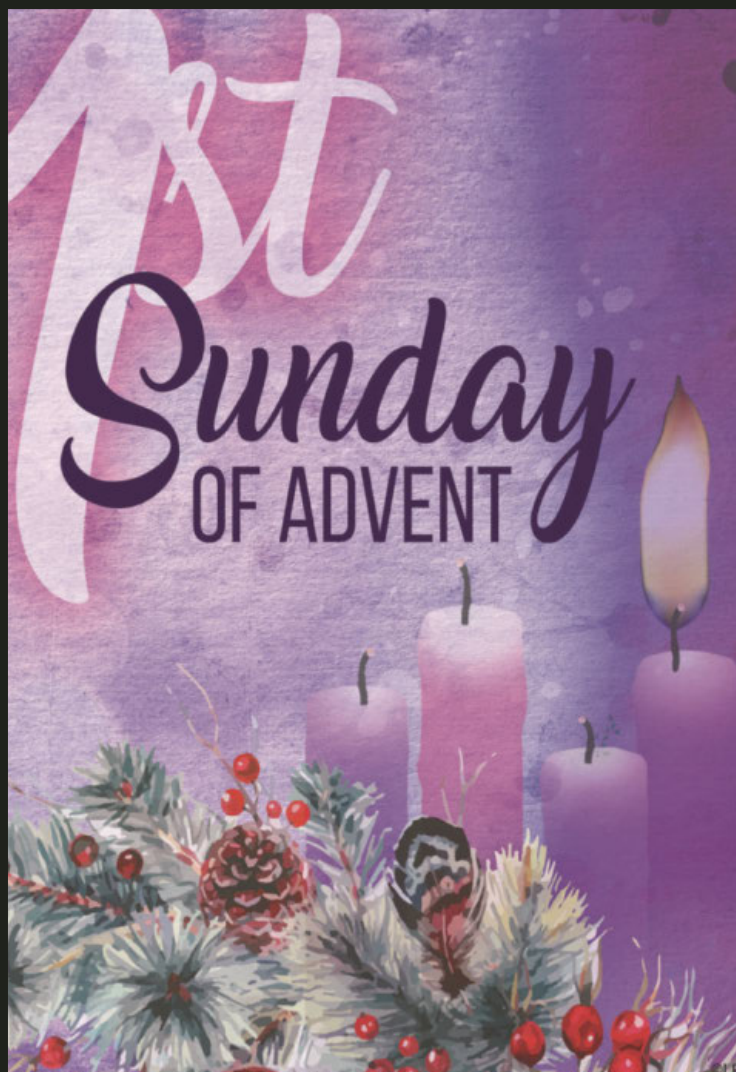




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent*



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.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

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, November 27, 2022

7:30 - David Paul Churchill — Birthday Rem.

11:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann & Saint John

6:15 - Angelina Chaves & Family — Memorial

Sunday, December 4, 2022

7:30 - Joseph Guarino — 2nd Anniversary

11:30 - Michael Shea — 1st Anniversary

Susan Arvidson — 1st Anniversary

6:15 - For the Parishioners of the T.I.C. Coll.

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, November 26, 2022

4:00 — Kathleen Climo — 12th Anniversary

Fred Climo — 5th Anniversary

Sunday, November 27, 2022

9:30 — Francisco & Maria Figueiredo

Saturday, December 3, 2022

4:00 — Dorothy Boisclair — Birthday Remem

Sunday December 4, 2022

9:30 — Kevin Sullivan — 10th Anniversary

Monday, December 5, 2022

9:00 — Sr. Thomasine Knowlton, CST

Gail Douglas — Memorial



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent has arrived! It's hard to believe, but we begin another liturgical year. We begin our use of "Cycle 'A'" for Sundays and "Year I" for Weekdays, for the liturgically-minded in our congregation. We also move into usage of Matthew's Gospel. Thematically, Matthew's Gospel (written, most likely, not by Matthew, but by an anonymous Jewish-Christian) revolves around the Kingdom of Heaven and Jewish elements such as Jesus' lineage to David and Jesus' portrayal as "King of the Jews". These elements, while not unique to Matthew, are stressed most profoundly in Matthew's Gospel.

This "sets the stage" for us to begin our new liturgical year. As we dive headfirst into Advent, we "begin at the end", so to speak. Jesus, in today's gospel, is speaking of the end times, of what will occur as we are called home to the aforementioned Kingdom of Heaven. This is appropriate to our Advent journey, for Advent is a time of "two-fold waiting" – waiting for the Christ Child, born from the line of David, and the waiting for Jesus as the King of Glory who calls us home to fullness of life in the Kingdom (of Heaven). This waiting can be, for many, a test of faith (and patience, if you are of a certain youthful age, waiting for Christmas to arrive!). We want to go to heaven, but we also want to live life to the fullest here on earth. The thing to remember about our lives on earth is that they are but a foretaste and promise of what awaits us in the Kingdom. We can go about working (as is evidenced in today's gospel), but we should be ready, here and now, for Jesus' call to join Him for all eternity. This is the sum of the "two-fold waiting".

Our Advent journey is also a time of preparation of those "waitings". Often times, we think of Lent as the season of "preparation", with its emphasis on reconciliation, of "making straight the path". This language will appear to us next week, with the emergence of John the Baptist. Advent, like Lent, is a time for us to clear out the "spiritual deadwood", those things which are not of God. One way we can do this is by taking advantage of one of the "hidden gems" of our Church - the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we open our hearts to God in this way, we make known to God those things of which we want to rid ourselves.

May we use the opportunities Advent presents to grow in our relationship with God and His Church. May we know God's healing love in the sacraments (of Eucharist and Reconciliation). May we always be aware of God's desire to share the gifts of faith, hope and love with us, and may we, in turn, share these gifts with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Advent Season,

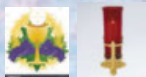
Fr. Paul

WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES



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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

10:30 AM — SAINT JOHN'S





Christmas Sharing For Saint Ann's

After surveying our Christmas Sharing families, we will again ask you to purchase gift cards that will be distributed to the families, Project Grad Teen Moms, and senior citizens.

The following stores are preferred: Target, Walmart, Kohl's, Amazon. We are asking for gift cards in any amount up to \$50. This will allow us the flexibility to give an amount appropriate to the family, teen mom or senior citizen. We will also need \$25 Trucchi's or Market Basket cards for families and Senior Citizens, and items for the Senior Citizens' gift bags.

All gift cards should be placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Sharing" in the St. Vincent de Paul boxes at the doors of Saint Ann's Church, or sent to Linda Santry. There is a box at the rear of the church for Senior Citizens gift bag items. They must be received by November 30th, to allow the parents' time to purchase gifts before Christmas. See the handout on November 6th for more details.

If there are any questions, please call or email Linda Santry: **508-586-6535** or linda@santry.org

Prophets

The Church teaches that, through our baptism, we are made priest, prophet, and king like Christ. What does it mean for us to be prophets in the world today?

We are indeed sharers in the threefold mission of Christ. We live our "kingship" when we serve others in justice, work for the common good in society, and overcome sin in our own lives. Our "priestly" mission is lived when we unite our lives to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, offering them up as a gift of love. We are also called to be prophets. Our lives may not look like Isaiah and Jeremiah of old — and perhaps desert living and locust eating like St. John the Baptist might feel out of reach — but this doesn't nullify our invitation and obligation.

As baptized Christians, we have accepted the Gospel in faith. We're also called to proclaim the Gospel as well. This may mean by giving Christ-centered advice to another person or defending truth when it's threatened. It also means living our faith in deeds.

St. John Paul II writes that we are "*called to allow the newness and the power of the Gospel to shine out every day in [our] family and social life*" (On the Lay Members of Christ's Faithful, 14). A prophet points to a higher truth beyond himself or herself. We live prophetically when we treat others as Christ treated people and when we arrange our schedule to prioritize those to whom we have the greatest obligation, including our families, as well as the poor and vulnerable



East Bridgewater HUGS is ready for the 2022 holiday season.

If you or someone you know from EB has a need, please go to www.ebhugs.org and fill out the online application for assistance. Applications should be completed by Sunday, November 6th.

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 website, 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.

Thank you to every-
and helps us to make
so many families in



one who participates
Christmas bright for
need.

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR HEATING COSTS



With the anticipated increase in fuel costs, we estimate that this winter will be a combined cost of approximately **\$30,000** for the heating bills of Saint Ann's and Saint John's.

Therefore, the second collection until further notice will be directed to those bills.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

around us. We live prophetically when we think critically about the culture around us and we allow our faith to inform our public life. ©LPi



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Francis said this as he was nearing his death, knowing that conversion is never a single moment but a lifelong journey. We constantly need to renew our commitment to Christ, to following the Gospel, to drawing closer to God. Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year, is a perfect time to begin again, a fresh start for each of us.

When I was a child, Advent was a big part of my family's seasonal celebrations. An Advent calendar hung on the wall and we were each given an Advent calendar (filled with candies and chocolates which, truth be told, didn't last very long!). The Advent wreath occupied the center of the kitchen table and every evening we sat around the table and took turns reciting Advent prayers, beginning on the First Sunday of Advent and ending on Christmas Eve. I picked up this tradition when I got my first apartment, and I would put my parents on speaker and we would recite the prayers together.

Advent is a time of resting and waiting. Throughout the season of Advent, we explore the mystery of the Incarnation, Jesus letting go of divine splendor to embrace a human existence. In doing so, he raised all of humanity to its divine destiny. For Francis, meditation on this mystery was at the heart of his understanding of God's saving love for us. It was also at the heart of Francis's wholehearted embrace of poverty, of humility, of all of the divine virtues.

If Jesus could let go of so much, surely Francis could let go of his luxurious lifestyle and his quest for glory and admiration. In doing so, he showed his friends and all of his followers through the centuries how to let go of the pride and possessions that kept them from living the Gospel to its fullest extent. Advent at the time of Francis was a penitential season, much like Lent. The austerities of the season were a reminder to let go of human vanity and embrace a more divine humility. In this spirit, we might focus our Advent activities on prayer, on charity, and on reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Paul, OFS



I Believe in God (Part IV: Against Gnosticism)

How can a God who is defined as "all good" create a world that has evil in it? How can Jesus be considered God if he experiences suffering and death? These are two questions that Christians today struggle with in their own faith life. These are also two of the fundamental questions that challenged the faith of early Christians especially as Christianity spread out from Jerusalem into a world shaped by the culture of the Greco-Roman world. Gnosticism is a Greek philosophy that was popular in the gentile world. By the second century of the Christian era (A.D. 100-200) there were more gnostic thinking Christians than orthodox thinking ones. Unlike Marcionism (discussed two weeks ago) that had a very defined teaching, Gnosticism was as varied as there were gnostics. Yet, here are a few of the main beliefs of gnostics that threatened the apostolic faith.

Gnostics believed that there existed an unknowable and untouchable god (referred to from now on as The One) who was pure goodness. Because the material world is imperfect and evil, The One could not have created it. The creator of the imperfect world had to be a different god than The One. The Demiurge was an opposing "god" who was the source of evil and was responsible for creating the physical world. In some gnostic sects, the God of the Old Testament, is not The One. Instead, YHWH, is a lesser god, who is opposed to The One, and creates the physical world, that traps spiritual beings in human bodies. In this way of thinking, there are at least two gods: The One who is pure spirit responsible for the spiritual realms, and the Demiurge who creates the physical world and the creator of human beings. In some Christian gnostic sects, Jesus was sent, not by the God of the Old Testament, but by The One to undo the evil caused by the Demiurge.

Rooted in the Old Testament scriptures, the Rule of Faith believed by Christians is that there is only one god and who is revealed as YHWH in the Old Testament and the Holy Trinity in the New. YHWH is not a different God, but the name the Father gave to Moses and the Israelites. Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to not only reveal the invisible God, but to redeem humanity and invite them to share in the divine life. In the first two centuries after Jesus' death and resurrection, many Christians began to incorporate gnostic thinking into explanations of the Christian faith as they wrestled with the questions posed at the beginning of this essay. These gnostic teachings threatened the faith preached by the Apostles and threatened to divide Christianity into many divergent sects rather than be "one, holy, catholic and apostolic" church.

In order to reinforce the teachings and faith of the Apostles, the Creed states that there is only one God, Father Almighty, who made heaven and earth and all things visible and invisible. Hopefully one can see the gnostic teachings that the Nicene Creed is trying to correct. The Father, known, to Moses as YHWH, creates all things. The world that God creates is not wicked or evil. It is essentially good because God created it out of his goodness.

In the Greek world, gnostics were certainly influenced by Plato and his thought. For Plato and gnostic thinkers influenced by him, the material world was illusory—not real. The true world existed in the spiritual realm—in ideas. By coupling "things visible" with the invisible, the Creed affirms the goodness of the material world and its place in God's plan for our salvation. In contemporary times, the opposite seems to be true; many people deny the reality of the invisible realm. If we can't see it or measure it, it doesn't exist. Thus, the Creed speaks to us, in our times, reminding us that there are things that exist in the spiritual realm that demand our attention, study, and faith. Therefore, with confidence, we profess our faith in One God, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

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, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, 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, Joe Pigeon, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Gerry Penney, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz & 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.

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.

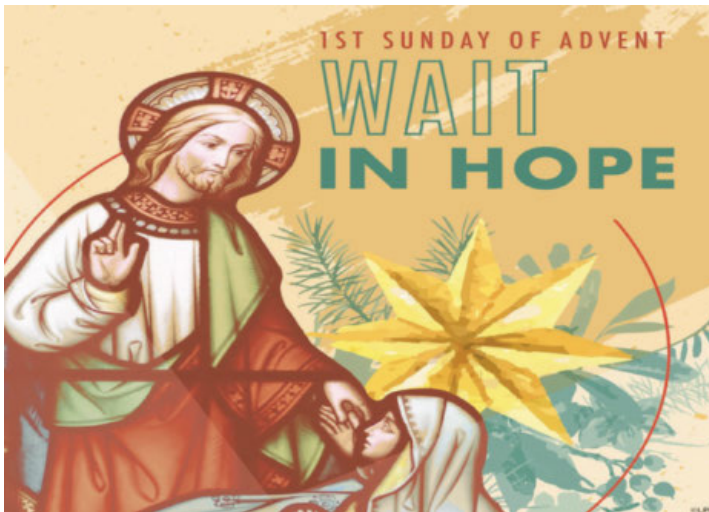
THE FOOD PANTRY

*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.



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**

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.**

It's 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



MINISTRY NEWS

Christmas Pageant is back!

We are very excited to announce that the Christmas Pageant is back this year! All children in the collaborative are invited to participate and all are welcome to attend. The performance will be Sunday 12/18 at 12:30 in St. Ann's Parish Center. Rehearsals are Monday 12/5 and 12/12 from 5:15-6:15 and Friday 12/16 from 5-6 at St. Ann. There are speaking and non-speaking roles and costumes will be provided. If your child wants to participate, please email Matt Brady.

Busy Families Retreat

Looking for a simple but prayerful way to help your family get ready for Christmas? Our Advent Busy Families Retreat is for you! Designed for families to do together but open to all, the Busy Families Retreat consists of a booklet with an excerpt from the daily readings, a reflection on the excerpt, and a question to discuss together. You can do it at home and it only takes a few minutes! The retreat runs from Sunday 12/4 to Saturday 12/17. If interested, please contact Matt Brady to receive the retreat booklet.

Family Mass Dates

This month we started a new tradition of Family Masses at the 9:30 Mass. These Masses will continue on the first Sunday of each month. Here are the full dates:

12/4, 1/8, 2/5, 3/5

It's not too early to sign up to help with the Mass on 12/4. We need readers, gift bearers and ushers, and someone to sponsor the coffee and donuts. If interested, please email Matt Brady.

High School Faith Formation Time Change

In order to better fit the needs of our families, the time of the grades 9 and 10 classes are changing to 7:15-8:15 starting with this Sunday's (11/27) grade 10 class. All 9th and 10th grade parents should have received an email this week about the change. Even though it's only a 15 minute difference, we hope this change will encourage all our high school families to come to the 6:15 Mass and get the kids home a little earlier.

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