

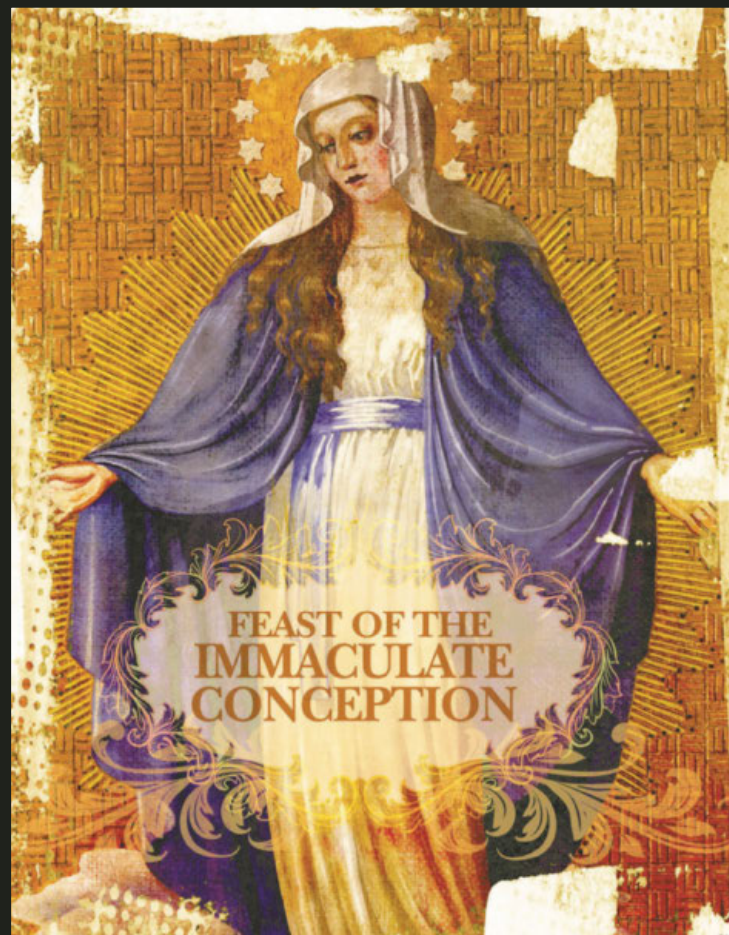
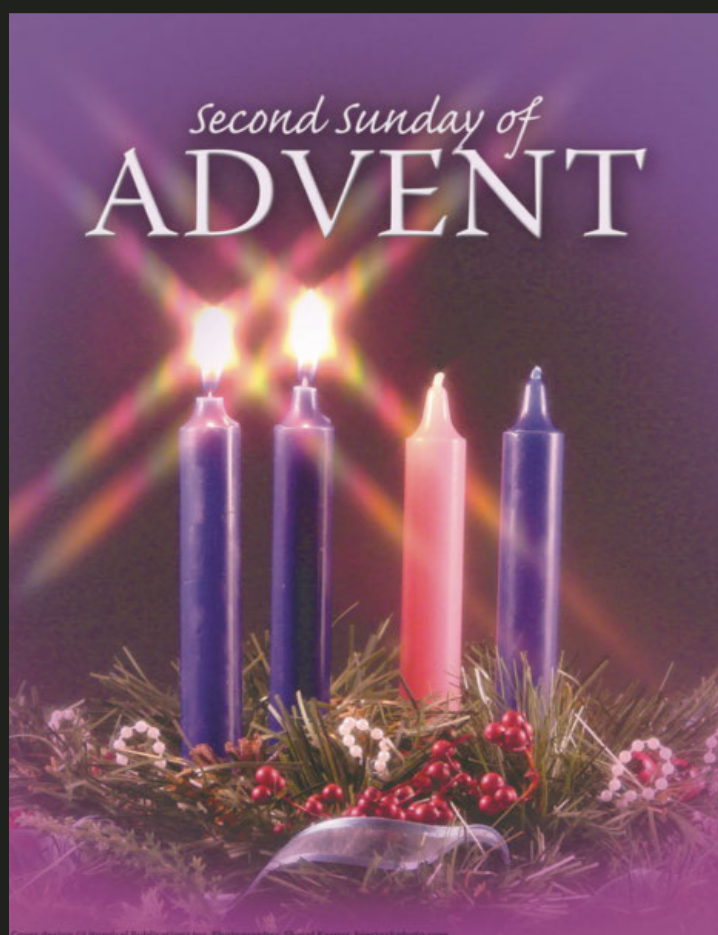


Sunday, 8:00 AM
 Sunday, 11:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 December 8, 2024
 Second Sunday of Advent*



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



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.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

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
Thurs & Sat.
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

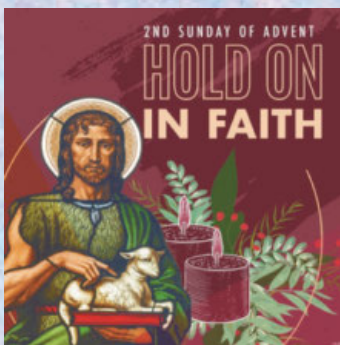
SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

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, December 8, 2024

8:00 - Christiano Victoria — 17th Anniversary

11:30 - David LaCouture — 2n Anniversary

6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:00 - Joseph Guarino, Jr. — 4th Anniversary
& Birthday Remembrance

11:30 - Rosalyn Ingoldsby — Birthday Remem.

6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 7, 2024

4:00 - Benjamin Andrea — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:30 - Kathleen Climo & Fred Climo — Mem.

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00 - Donna Payton — Memorial

Saturday, December 14, 2024

4:00 - Rose Talabach — 3rd Anniversary

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:30 - Richard Murray — 4th Anniversary

CONLEY FUNERAL HOME 13TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

**Thorney Lea Golf Club
159 Torrey Street
Brockton, MA 02301**

We are please to invite you to our 13th Annual Holiday Remembrance Service as our way of remembering your loved one and honoring you, our valued families. Our hope is that this service will help ease your grief through the holidays in some special way. Feel free to share this invitation with your family or anyone you know who may be grieving, whether or not Conley Funeral Home provided their care.

**Refreshments at 1:00. Service begins at 1:30
RSVP on or before Dec 6th. 508-586-0742**

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR



My Dear Friends in Christ,

When John the Baptist came upon the scene, he was unlike anything anyone had seen before. Yes, he spoke of repentance, as other prophets had. Yes, he spoke with authority and clarity, as other prophets had. Unlike other prophets, however, his arrival was heralded by those before him. No other prophet could lay claim to this.

When Isaiah spoke of John (without naming him), there was an immediacy to the proclamation that had never been heard of before. This is why many thought that John was “THE ONE”. By his unusual nature (wearing camel hair in the desert, feeding on locusts and wild honey), many people thought that John was the Messiah. They thought that these characteristics were surely the “hallmarks” of the Promised One of God. After all, no prophet had been spoken of before his arrival, and certainly no other prophet spoke with the level of authority with which John spoke.

Luke, however, in today’s gospel puts that notion to rest. Speaking of “a voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths” (Lk 3:4, by way of Isaiah 40:3-5) Luke was obviously alluding to someone else *other than John*...and this, I’m sure, is perfectly fine with John. He knew he was just a messenger, and not The Message. John knew that his job was to lay the groundwork for one who is coming, one far greater than he.

John the Baptist’s “job” was to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah; this is our job as well. As Catholic-Christians, we are called to let the world know that not only is the Messiah coming, but that He is already here. This is the great mystery of the Incarnation, which we will celebrate in a few short weeks. Jesus, who is to come to us as the “babe in the manger”, is already in our midst. Yes, we celebrate Christmas as the promise of God fulfilled, the “Word made flesh”. We cannot forget, however, that Jesus is in our midst, here and now. If we walk through the Advent Season thinking that we’re doing so alone, we are sadly mistaken. Our “walk of faith” towards the Kingdom can only be realized if we come to recognize the presence of Jesus in our world here and now. It is this “two-fold coming” (the coming of the Christ Child and the coming of the King of Glory) that we celebrate each and every time we gather as a family of faith, a community of believers.

May we come to celebrate Jesus when He comes to us at Christmas, but may we also celebrate His presence with us now. May we look to the Lord to lead us to deeper understanding of Him...and ourselves. May we use this Advent Season to deepen our relationship with the Lord, who calls us to share His presence with all whom we meet.

Wishing you continued Advent Blessings,

Fr. Paul

MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

December Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is December 8 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.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday 12/15 at 1 pm, St. Ann's Parish Center

Join us as our children share the story of Jesus' birth and we have a birthday party for him!

There will be plenty of food and fun. Please bring a non-perishable food item as a birthday present for Jesus and the Food Pantry!

December Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is December 15 at the 6:15 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.

December Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

December 16 at 6:30 pm, St. Ann

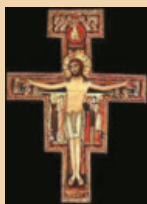
Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team from Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge. All are welcome!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Monday December 9, 2024

This year, December 8th is the Second Sunday of Advent. As a result, the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America, will be transferred to Monday, December 9th.

In previous years when December 8 has fallen on a Sunday it was the practice in the United States to indicate that the obligation to attend Mass does not transfer with the liturgical observance. Currently, both the 2025 Ordo and [USCCB 2025 Liturgical Calendar](#) reflect this past practice.

Given recent clarifications on this practice from the Dicastery for Legislative Texts and the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, we now know that the feast "must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred." In light of this information, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9, 2024 is to be observed as a holy day of obligation, contrary to what was published in the Ordo and USCCB 2025 liturgical calendar before receipt of the clarification.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today's gospel, our focus is on John the Baptist, the "cousin" of Jesus and the "herald" of the Messiah. At this point in the career of John, we hear how he offers a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (John 3:3). In doing this, John stands out and is seen as "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (John 3:4). The image that these phrases convey can be daunting, demanding, and (even) lonely ones. To make such a bold proclamation, to offer such a life-changing encounter, one must be sure in their mission and confident in their message. The thing with John the Baptist, like with most preachers, is that the message that he is conveying is not his. The message of the preacher is called to have God as its focus. This is true of John the Baptist, and it is true of St. Francis of Assisi.

When one looks at the life of St. Francis, one sees a man who is not lacking in confidence. He is bold in his actions and movements, especially before his conversion. As a soldier, Francis is seen as a "man of the world". As a young man, Francis had no lack of "social" friends (I put that in quote because I wonder how many of them stuck around when he disavowed himself of his father's riches!), and no lack of confidence. After his conversion, the hallmark of Francis' life was humility. This humility, however, was coupled with a boldness when it came to embracing things antithetical to the world, and contrary to his former way of life. He took on "Lady Poverty" as a companion in the same way he took on those around him as companions. His acceptance of this new way of living, being one with the leprous and the poor, was as bold as when he took on the life of a soldier.

John the Baptist was used by God to further His mission, the building up of the Kingdom of God. In much the same way, Francis was used by God to further that same mission. Francis was called to walk with the poor in a particular way. Francis saw the poor as "living stones", with which he could build up the Body of Christ and the Church. Francis saw Christ in the poor, and strove to be Christ for them. In recognizing Christ in all things, Francis was often (like John the Baptist) a "voice of one crying out in the desert". John the Baptist's cry was to "make straight the path" for Christ; in serving the poor and in seeing God in all created things, Francis' was called to "rebuild" the Church. May we have the courage of men like John the Baptist and Francis of Assisi. May we attune our minds, hearts, and lives to who God is calling us to be. May we know His voice, even if it means being a "voice of one crying out in the desert", knowing that we are never alone and that God is always with us.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul OFS

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR

EXTRA HOLIDAY EXPENSES

A special thank you to Sandra Ross for donating the cost of the missals for St. John's Parish this year in memory of her loved ones. Thank you Sandra for your generosity.

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. 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!

We will again 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 send in your donations ASAP so the order can be placed.

Thank you for your support.

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.

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 Church 85ill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Prviti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella, Stephen D'Guisepe, Ann Bortolopto, Elaine Landolfi & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



Christmas Sharing

We are in the final stage of our distribution of gifts to our families and senior citizens. This afternoon the parents will be choosing from the toys you have donated, and gift cards will be distributed. Senior Citizen deliveries will be made in the coming week. If you would still like to donate gift cards, toys or senior citizen gifts, please let me know as soon as possible.

Through your generosity, we have provided gifts for 25 Teen Moms and their 32 babies and toddlers. Today 32 families in West Bridgewater will receive gift cards and toys, and this week deliveries will be made to 55 Senior citizens. If you know of anyone whom we may have missed, let me know. It is never too late!

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Second Sunday of Advent:

Check out a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME.org). It can help you to grow in intimacy and grow in faith with one another. Some of the dates to sign up are:

January 7-February 18, 2025, Virtual 3RE, NY

January 24-26, 2025 in North Easton, MA

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Matt & Julie King at 978-870-5646 or <https://wwwmema.org/>.

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.

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 SDVP 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: December 10, 2024

St Vincent de Paul (St. Ann's Church) is holding a Scratch ticket raffle to help raise money to help others. \$250.00 worth of tickets. Tickets are 1-\$20 or 3 - \$50

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

December 2, 2024

December 16, 2024

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

Please remember in your prayers:

*Jeannette Shalginewicz
Who recently was called home.*



*Jeannette was very good to Saint John's
by funding many CCD scholarships
through the Bike Run she and her sons
organized in her husband, Chet's honor.*

*May she rest in peace, and may her family
find comfort from their wonderful
memories.*



Merry Christmas

St. John's is once again partnering with East Bridgewater HUGS to host a Giving Tree for our families in need.

Please stop by the tree and select a tag or tags, sign the sheet, shop for the gifts, and return them to any drop off location by Dec 13th. EBHUGS also accepts gift cards, cash, checks, venmo and paypal on the HUGS website www.ebhugs.org

If you wish to volunteer or would like more information, please contact us at wishes@ebhugs.org

Thank you for your support! Happy Holidays!

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