



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

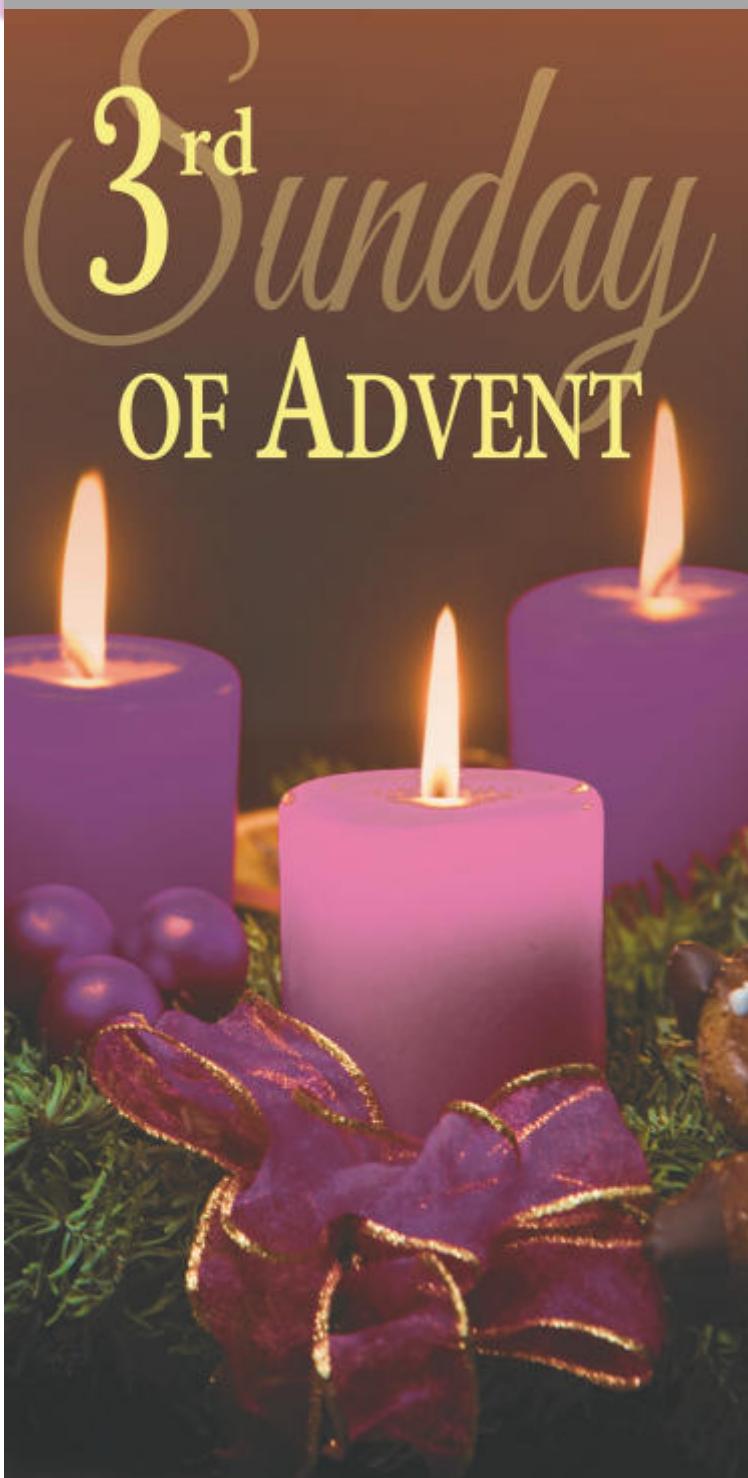
December, 13, 2020



**Third Sunday
Of Advent**

St. John

St Ann



**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 9-4 M-Th
For both Churches**

Currently we are working from home.

**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

Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT
MEANS THERE IS SOMETHING
ON THE HORIZON
THE LIKES OF WHICH WE HAVE
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.**

— JAN RICHARDSON

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

Permanent Deacons:

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.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday

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

Divine Mercy every Thursday

After Mass.

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.

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

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano

stanns@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Charlotte Leines

stannscd@comcast.net

508-588-7140

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad

stjohnbridge@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

TBA

repstjohn@gmail.com

508-378-1521

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 12, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, December 13, 2020

10:30 -- Eva Morawski— 26th Anniversary

Saturday, December 19, 2020

5:30 - Suzzane Shepard — 31st Anniversary

Sunday, December 20, 2020

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 12, 2020

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 13, 2020

8:30 - Charles Matthews — 22nd Anniversary

Saturday, December 19, 2020

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 20, 2020

8:30 — Parishioners of Saint Ann

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

Our financial situation is getting to a crisis level.
The pandemic has taken a very real toll in so many ways.

Weekly Offertory

Nov 18 - Nov 24, 2020

ST JOHN

Online \$769

Mail \$470

Mass \$1,029

Grand Annual To Date \$5,840

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$800

Mass \$1,173

Grand Annual To Date \$8,105

Suggested Sacramental Offerings:

Memorials Masses — \$25

Baptisms — \$50

Funerals — \$600

PLEASE HELP.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I cannot look at our First Reading, taken from the Book of (the Prophet) Isaiah, without thinking back to my Ordination to the Priesthood some 25 years ago. This reading was proclaimed at my ordination ceremony, and it is dear to my heart. It speaks eloquently of how a priest is to “tend his flock”. The priest is, indeed, meant to “bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord, and a day of vindication by our God” (Is 61:1-2A). I’ve always striven to do this; admittedly, I haven’t always “hit the mark” but it wasn’t for lack of effort!



This first reading is a “clarion call” to all, as well, who are baptized into the faith. It is by virtue of the “baptismal call”, placed on our hearts at Baptism, in which we are to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters. It is to them that we are to “bring glad tidings... heal...proclaim” and “announce” (ibid). In undertaking these actions, we model ourselves after the many men and women of faith who have gone before us. John the Baptist is one of those who stand before us as a model of faith.

In today’s gospel, John is once again featured. While he eschews claims to be the Christ (n.b. Jn 1:20), he does not shy away from his missionary duties. He proclaims himself to be that “voice of one crying out in the desert” (Jn 1:23); in doing so, John fulfills that prophetic call for which he was born, for which he was chosen. We, ourselves, are called to speak a prophetic word, again by virtue of our baptismal call. If we are worried about what that word is, or how it is to come out, we need not worry! Jesus has promised us that when we are to speak on His behalf, we will be given the words to say. It is the Holy Spirit that will be speaking, using us as a “vessel” for that prophetic word. So if you feel that “tug” on your heart to offer a word of comfort, consolation or correction, let the Holy Spirit “take the wheel” and all will be well.

May we have the courage to be that “voice of one crying out in the desert” (ibid). May we know that it is the Holy Spirit of God which is directing us to speak. May we trust that the word being offered will bring peace to the hearer. May we use this Advent Season to further our relationship with Jesus, who will come “soon and very soon”.

A (Continued) Blessed Advent Season to All,

Fr. Paul

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolai, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, George Lepine, Joseph Rizzitano, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dennis Green, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen Daly & 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

The Food Pantry is open twice a month. —
1st Monday from 3:00-5:30 pm and the
3rd Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

The Food Pantry is currently accepting donation at the bottom of the ramp. Please make sure you call to let them know you have dropped off food and that it is properly protected from the elements. Cash donations are always welcomed and can be mailed to the address above.

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

**The next Food Pantry will be
Monday, December 21st.**

The shelves of the Pantry are depleted and need to be restocked. Your help is needed. Cereal, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, canned goods, etc. are always great additions to the shelves.

**The Next Food Pantry will be on
December 21st**

Thank you for your generosity, as always.

UPDATES FROM THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekend Masses are being held at both churches, please check the schedule ON PAGE 7.

All guidelines of the Archdiocese are being followed.

Baptisms are being held on Saturday at 10 AM and 2 PM and on Sundays at 1 PM.

Please call the Rectory Office to schedule.

Funerals are now allowed within the guidelines of the Archdiocese. Call the Rectory Office for information.

Memorial Masses can be rescheduled or scheduled within the limitations of the four masses between both churches. Call the Rectory Office to schedule.

Daily masses are continuing to be celebrated on line until further notice.

SAINT ANN'S

Christmas Sharing

Christmas Sharing has to be different this year, due to the Pandemic. This year we are asking 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. All gift cards should be placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Sharing" in the **St. Vincent dePaul boxes** at the doors of the church, or sent to Linda Santry. **Gift cards for groceries are no longer needed. We have an abundance.** They must be received by **December 13th**, to allow the parents time to purchase gifts before Christmas. See the handout on November 21/22 for more details.

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

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095
or jchbaker@msn.com

New mailing address:
P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379



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.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

1:00 pm St. John's
3:00 pm St. Ann's
5:00 pm St. John's
6:00 pm St. Ann's

Christmas Day

12:00 (Midnight Mass) St. John's
8:30 am St. Ann's
8:30 am St. John's
10:30 am St. Ann's
10:30 am St. John's

We hope to accommodate as many people as possible for Christmas. However, people must register for the Mass they wish to attend. Each Mass can accommodate approximately 60 people.

We will be following the same guidelines for Covid Protection that have been in place since May. You must wear a mask, and socially distance in the church. Ushers will guide you to seats and directions for receiving communion will be explained fully for your convenience.

Please check the website, www.stjohnreb.org or stannswb.com for Mass Registrations. If you have difficulty using the site or if you do not have a computer, please call the rectories and someone will assist you in signing up for the Mass.

We will need extra volunteers for all the Christmas Masses to insure that everything flows smoothly. Please call the rectory if you could assist in ushering, checking people in or cleaning. We will train you if you are volunteering for the first time.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MASS

GO TO THE WEBSITE:
stjohnreb.org
stannswb.com

Click on Mass Registration
That takes you to a calendar.

Scroll to the day and Mass time you prefer.
Click on that and scroll down to the bottom of the list
Click sign up under the name, and Submit and sign up at
the bottom of the screen

Fill in the information required
Under your telephone number, click on Sign Up Now

Christmas Flowers have been approved by the Archdiocese during Covid. So although the amount will be somewhat reduced from last year, we will be decorating the altars for Christmas.

Christmas Flower donations are being gratefully accepted.



Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR PEACE

Great God of Peace, our world has been filled with senseless tragedies, torn apart by war and marred by acts of hate and prejudice Today, as never before, we pray for Your loving peace.

May seeking peace be the guiding force in the hearts of our world leaders. May every man, woman, and child respect the sanctity of life and realize how precious all human life is.

We celebrate the birth of Your son, Jesus and remember His words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. My peace I leave with you, my peace I give you." This Christmas and always may we embrace Your wonderful gift of peace with courage and conviction.

Amen

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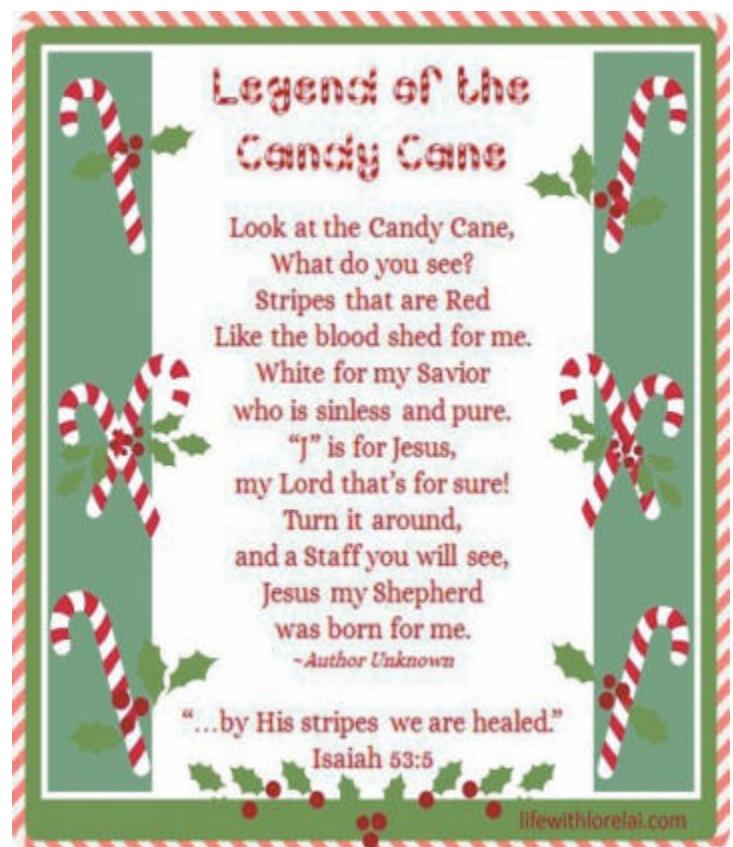
"Say No to ROE"

The state legislature has extended the session until January 5th, 2021. Please remind the members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary that you oppose the expansion of abortion in Massachusetts. Please call the Committee at 617-722-2396 and let them know you are **opposed** to H3320 and S1209 – the ROE legislation. Every telephone call helps!

Remember these bills would remove:

- The requirement that young girls obtain consent before an abortion
- The requirement that efforts be made to save a living baby who survives abortion
- The requirement that late term abortions be performed in hospitals
- The bills would allow abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy.

For more information about how the ROE legislation would expand abortion in Massachusetts visit www.macatholic.org.

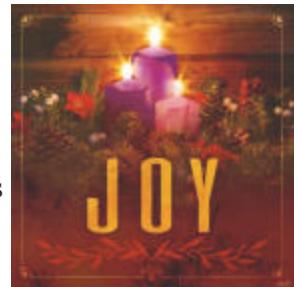


Obligation: Mass or Communion?

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer:

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the “Precepts” of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the *Code of Canon Law*. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2042):



The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor”) requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept (“You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season”) guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: “Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human” (*Dies Domini*, no. 7). ©LPI

As people begin to come back to Mass and those of us who have been attending become more relaxed after having attended Mass for a few weeks, it is important that we continue to follow the guidelines set up to ensure our safety.

The guidelines for the Archdiocese can be found on line at RCAB Office of Risk Management. Rcabrisk.org/covid.

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