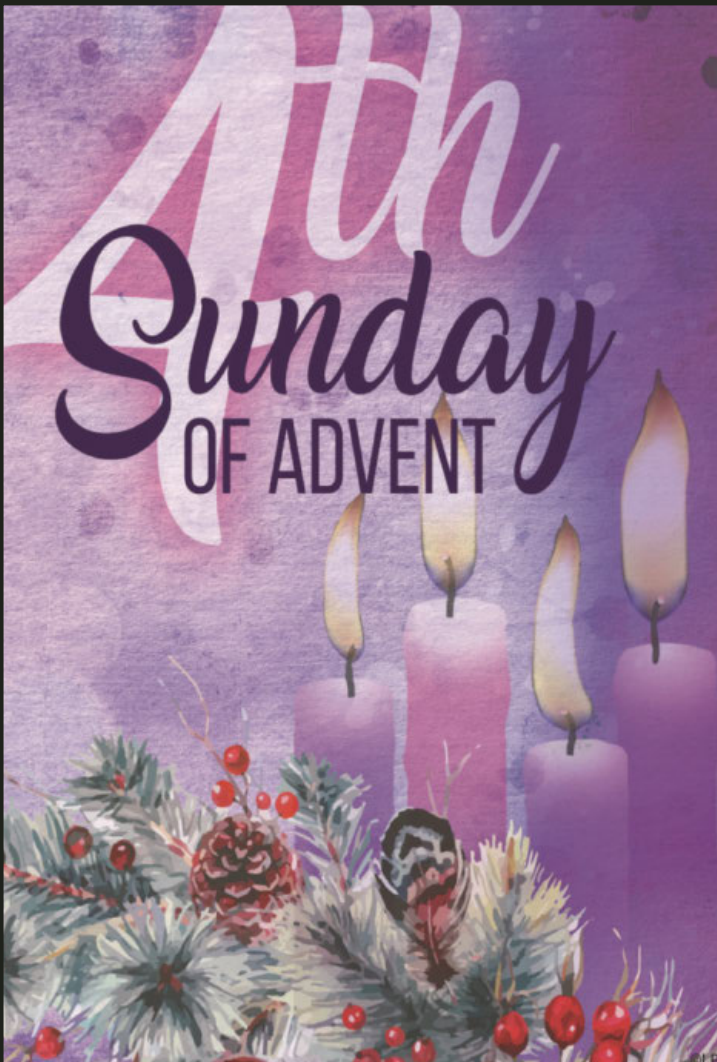




*Together in Christ  
Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John  
December 18, 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

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

CLP

**Church of Saint Ann**  
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379  
508-586-4880  
E-Mail: [stanns@comcast.net](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)  
Website: [stannswb.com](http://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](mailto:stjohnnebridge@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnne.org](http://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

#### Priests In Residence

**Fr. Peter Francis**  
**Fr. Michael Diochi**

#### **Permanent Deacons:**

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

**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



## MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, December 18, 2022

7:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative  
11:30 - Rose Talabach — 1st Anniversary  
6:15 - For the Souls in Purgatory

#### Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative  
6:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Sunday, December 25, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, December 17, 2022

4:00 – Suzanne Shepard — 33rd Anniversary

#### Sunday December 18, 2022

9:30 - Ewa Morawski — 28th Anniversary

#### Saturday, December 24 2022

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative  
6:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative  
Midnight - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

### 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



**BINGO WILL NOT BE HELD ON SATURDAY,  
CHRISTMAS EVE BUT INSTEAD WILL BE  
PLAYED ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT,  
DECEMBER 23, 2022.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

St Ann's is in need of a Lector for a Christmas Mass  
Either the 6:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve  
or the 8:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day.

Please call the Rectory if you can help.  
508-586-4880

My Dear Friends in Christ,



We stand now on the threshold of Christmas, wrapping up our Advent journey in this Fourth Week. We prepare for Christmas with today's readings which speak of God working in human history. Today's gospel especially readies us by giving us Matthew's account of how Jesus' birth came about. In this account, Joseph is the central figure and his encounter with the angel highlights the gift with which he is entrusted, namely the raising of Jesus in the world. Joseph is unwilling at first, and who could blame him? This is not your usual birth account. There is something special at work here, namely the power of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the Advent Season, we have been given challenges to repent, to reform our lives and to make our hearts and homes a receptive and welcome site for the coming of Christ. Joseph is prepared to do this by the encounter with the angel of the Lord (perhaps Gabriel, but that's not noted in the gospel passage). His unwillingness gives way to trust, a trust that comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. What a gift God gives us in this trust, for this is not a gift for Joseph alone. Through our baptism, we are called to trust in the Holy Spirit by including it in our decisions and important "life moments". When we call upon the Holy Spirit, we are calling upon God to take an active part in our lives. This is an important moment, both for us and for the world. It is important for us, as we are giving ourselves over to the will of God (much like Mary and Joseph did); it is important for the world, for it presents to them a new way of thinking, of living.

As we ready ourselves for Christmas in this final week of Advent, let us remember that who we will encounter has the power to change our lives. Let us remember that this Christmas is not just a day, but a Season. It is a time when we encounter Emmanuel – a name which means "God is with us". Let us remember that God is with us not only at Advent, not only at Christmas, but each and every day of our lives. Let us live each day as a gift, knowing that the power of the Holy Spirit is at our disposal, helping us, guiding us and moving us ever closer in relationship with the God who calls us to life, sustains our life and fulfills our life. May we use these remaining days to prepare our hearts, minds and lives for the coming of the Incarnation – Jesus, the Son of God.

Have a Blessed Advent,

Fr. Paul

## MINISTRY NEWS

### Christmas Pageant- TODAY

TODAY 12/18 is our performance of this year's pageant! Join us at 12:30 in the gym at St. Ann's hall. All are invited! In addition to the performance, there will be desserts, a craft table and a guest appearance by Santa! We are very excited and hope you can join us!

### Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

We will be making Sandwiches for Fr. Paul to give out to the homeless in Boston on his monthly volunteer date with Capuchin Mobile Ministries. This month's date is Monday 12/19 at 6:30 at St. John (not St. Ann like usual). Anyone who wishes to volunteer is welcome and can sign up by emailing Matt Brady or filling out this online form: <https://forms.gle/E8uGo87zhENw8Kae7>. This counts as service hours for anyone who needs them!

### Lending Libraries are back!

We are happy to announce that as of last week, the parish library is back at St. Johns and there is now a second library located at St. Anns. The bookshelf at St. John is located at the top of the stairs outside the chapel, and the shelf at St. Ann is in the back left of the church. There's only a small number of books out so far, but more will be added as we go through the exciting stock. New donations are always welcome, so if you have books you would like to donate, please contact Matt Brady.

### Teen Mass Thank You

### **The Story Behind 'Silent Night'**

The lyrics to *Silent Night* were written by Josef Mohr, a man whose name was unloved in his home town of Salzburg. Mohr was one of three illegitimate sons to Anna Schoiberin, while his father, Franz, was a mercenary soldier who eventually abandoned the family. To make matters worse, Josef's godfather was the town executioner.

Perhaps due to his mother's poverty, the curate of the local Catholic cathedral took Josef in as a foster child. Josef had a proclivity toward music, which was encouraged by the church, and he eventually decided himself to pursue the priesthood. He was ordained August 21, 1815, and was sent to Oberndorf, just north of Salzburg. He there met Franz Xaver Gruber, a local schoolteacher who would become organist at Old Saint Nicholas Church the following year.

Gruber came from equally humble origins, and himself took comfort in his music. The friendship of the two is what led to the creation of *Silent Night*.

*Silent Night*—or *Stille Nacht* in the original German—was created because Mohr needed a carol for worship. On Christmas Eve of 1818, Mohr visited Gruber with a poem he had written a few years earlier. Gruber quickly arranged the song to be played on a guitar with a choir because the church organ was broken. That evening at Midnight Mass, Gruber strapped on his guitar and led the congregation at St. Nicholas in the first rendition of *Silent Night*.

The original arrangement was a bit faster than the slow, reflective version of the song we know today. But the song was an immediate hit, later being sung by traveling tours and performed before King Frederick William IV of Prussia. Later in the 1800s, the hymn was translated into English and made its way to America by way of a book called *Sunday School Hymnal*, though with only three of the original six verses.

Today, *Silent Night* is perhaps the most famous Christmas carol in history. It has been translated into most languages, and the Bing Crosby version is the third-best-selling single in history. A rebuilt Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf is now a cultural landmark (a replica can be found in Frankenmuth, Michigan). The song itself was even declared to be an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in 2011.





## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

For many, if not most, of us, a big piece of our Christmas preparation includes the erecting of a crèche, or a manger scene, which depicts the birth of Christ in all its gloried simplicity. But did you know that we have St. Francis of Assisi to thank for this tradition? The story of St. Francis and the Christmas Crib at Greccio focuses on what was really important to Francis – **the poverty of Jesus and his mother, and the discomfort felt by the little baby.** Thomas of Celano also places an emphasis on the three virtues of **simplicity, poverty, and humility**, and leads us to understand that the poverty of Francis is in imitation of the poverty of Jesus. For Francis, the external poverty of Christ's birth at Bethlehem is representative of the **radical poverty of the Incarnation.**

The narrative stresses the importance of "**memory**", which also means "ensuring that we do not forget." Celano repeats the word **memory** at the beginning and at the end of the story and writes of how Francis wished "*to enact the **memory** of that babe who was born in Bethlehem.*" This is an essential duty of our **faith**— a faith that, according to the Bible, can be summed up as "remembering the deeds of the Lord." For all Christians, the "memorial" of the Lord *par excellence* is the Eucharist that we celebrate daily. The parallel between the Incarnation and the Eucharist is often expressed in Francis' thought and writings. At Greccio, the nativity scene does not rely solely on crib figures to evoke the mystery of the Incarnation, instead the Eucharist is celebrated as the supreme memorial.

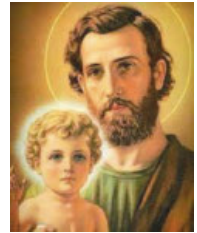
Making memory in this way, however, is not merely an intellectual operation. In the account of Greccio **all of the senses are involved.** The sight of the scene, with countless images of light; hearing songs and Francis' own fine voice; the touch of the baby who awakes and is held in his arms; the sweet taste that has Francis licking his lips! All this speaks of a **healthy relationship with the senses**, which are part of our relationship with God and part of proclaiming the Gospel. There is an interplay between the bodily and spiritual senses in the Christian tradition, and this can serve as a warning against excessive intellectualism. Franciscan spirituality sees the senses as an avenue to God. Francis invites us to **make room for creativity**, which opens us up to the new. We're invited to give space to feelings, to joy, to songs, to festive celebration. He also calls us to enjoy the **beauty of poverty**, which in the story of Greccio is characterized by a dignity and beauty that become a source of joy.

May our use of the crèche be an ever present reminder of the incarnational experience of Christmas. That within it, God takes flesh, becomes one of us in all things (save for sin), and shares in the human nature of us all. As we gaze upon the Holy Family, as well as all the others, gathered at the manger, may we come to invite Christ into our homes and hearts. May this invitation last through the Christmas Season and beyond, to all times and seasons, until we share in the fullness of life of God's Kingdom in Heaven.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS



### St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



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

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Diane Nicolar, 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, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz, Jack & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

*If you know that some of these people should be removed, Please call the Rectory so we can update the list.*

**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.**

### WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES



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

**HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS  
FOR THE WEEK — \$30+**



**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE  
WEEK  
\$75+**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jchbaker@msn.com)  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379**

Due to very low funds, 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

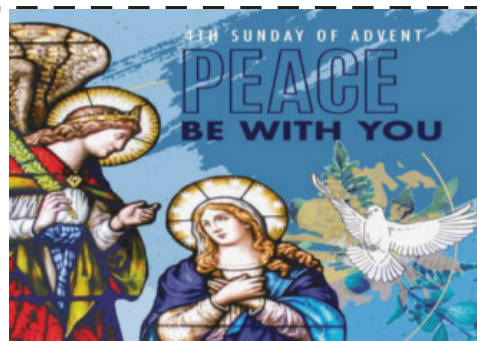
**WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD  
Wednesday each month  
TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM  
(508) 510-5274.**

**Thank you for your donations to  
the  
Christmas Flowers!**



We hope that you will be pleased with the display this year. We are very please with the support given by both parishes.

God Bless you All!!!!



## MINISTRY NEWS



### Christmas Sharing For Saint Ann's

Thank you all for your very generous donations to our families, senior citizens and teen moms. You continue to amaze me with your generosity.

Any late donations will be welcomed and sent out to the families this week. Have a wonderful Christmas!

### Bulletin Bloopers

"Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary."

"Don't let worry kill you — let the church help."

One Sunday morning, I heard snickering from the pews. Quickly grabbing the bulletin, I found the cause. The sermon title for that day was: "What Makes God Sick: Pastor Joe Smith."



East Bridgewater HUGS is ready for the 2022 holiday season.

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](mailto:wishes@ebhugs.org).

If you would like to make a cash donation, you can Venmo at East Bridgewater Hugs, use PayPal on our web-site, [www.ebhugs.org](http://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 everyone who participated and helped us to make Christmas bright for so many families in need.**

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