



SAIN'T JOHN

***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

***The Fourth Sunday
of Advent***

December 19 2021



SAIN'T ANN

MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED



***4th Sunday
OF ADVENT***

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." - Lk 1:43-44

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

**Church of Saint Ann
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379**

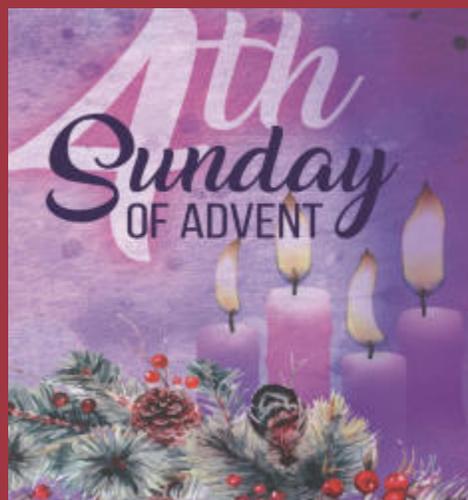
508-586-4880

**E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net
Website: stannswb.com
Facebook: St. Ann-WB
Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th
For both Churches**

**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**



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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice
In the Chapel

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

***Aleternating between the two worship**
sites, refer to website for details.

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 p.m. These baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.
Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is by appointment during the pandemic. 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
stjohnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
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

Director of Ministries: Nancy Goggin
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
617-639-4215

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 18, 2021

4:00—Erminia Victoria — Birthday Remem

Sunday, December 19, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For those who have no one to pray for them

Saturday, December 25, 2021

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday December 26, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 For those who have no one to pray for them

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 18, 2021

5:30 - Suzanne Shepard— 32nd Anniversary

Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:30 - Eva Morawski — 27th Anniversary

Saturday, December 25, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we find ourselves in the “home stretch” of Advent. Christmas is in just a couple of days, and we take these “final days” (presuming the “street-corner prophets” are wrong about the “final days”!) to reflect on this four week journey that we have undertaken. Our readings beautifully link the themes on which we have been contemplating and praying during our Advent Season, namely “promise”, “joy”, “repentance” and “transformation”.

In our first reading, the prophet Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that God will bring to prominence the “unimportant” village of Bethlehem. In doing this, God (through the prophet Micah) shows to us that no one, and nothing that one does, is insignificant. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that Jesus, in doing the will of the Father, shows us that through sacrifice and obedience we draw ourselves closer into the mystery of God. In our gospel, we have the encounter of two *seemingly* “insignificant” women highlighting the fact that nothing that we do in the name of God is ever insignificant. Mary and Elizabeth are powerful models of faith and faithfulness to us all, and their individual “fiats” (saying “yes” to God’s plan) are a reflection of the “yes” that we are called to give to God.

Advent has been, I hope and pray, a time when we prepare our minds, hearts and lives for the coming of Christ. Over the last four weeks this time of preparation has been, please God, not an insignificant journey in which we have been transformed by God’s grace and love. As we stand on the threshold of Christmas (both the Day and the Season), may we use these final days not just to “make a list and check it twice”, but also to continue to reflect on the goodness of God. As we approach the Christmas miracle of the Virgin Birth, may we come to see that Christ is already a part of our lives, even as we prepare to welcome Him once again. May this upcoming Christmas Day (and Season) be a time of prosperity, hope and joy. May we come to see the Christ Child as the One who comes into the world to set us free, so that when He comes in glory, He may find us watching, waiting and knowing that He is Emmanuel....”God With Us”!

A Blessed Advent to All,

Fr. Paul

The Archdiocese is now requiring masks. Please be safe and wear your mask.

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekly Offertory

Nov 30 - Dec 6, 2021

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$ 650

Mass \$ 2,226

TOTAL \$ 2,876

Restoration Fund \$127

ST JOHN

Online \$ 1,072

Mail \$ 2,195

Mass \$ 2,502

TOTAL \$ 5,769

Restoration Fund \$33

TOTAL RESTORATION FUND TO DATE — \$22,567

We are returning to the process of passing the basket during the Offertory.

HOWEVER THE BASKETS AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH WILL BE USED AT ALL THE CHRISTMAS MASSES.

Some people have expressed concerns as to how the money will be separated for each church.

If you are giving cash and you want it specified for your church, please put it in an envelope with the church name on the envelope. Otherwise money collected at a mass will be designated for that church.

Ex. If you attend the 8:30 at Saint Ann and do not specify that you want your offertory to go to Saint John by using an envelope for your cash, it will be counted as offertory for Saint Ann.



In today's gospel, Mary has a beautiful encounter with her kinswoman Elizabeth. When Mary arrives at Elizabeth's home, the child within the womb of Elizabeth (who we know to be John the Baptist) leaps at the sound of Mary's voice. To me, this speaks

volumes about both John (who recognizes the voice of the Mother of God) and Mary (who is carrying the Messiah). Elizabeth then joins in by acknowledging Mary as the "Theotokos", the "God Bearer". It is a powerful testament of faith for all. It also brings into the forefront the role of Mary in salvation history. For the Franciscan community, it also brings into bearing the place that Mary has in the Franciscan ethos.

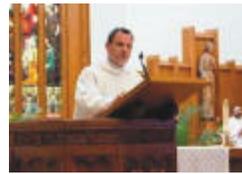
According to a pious legend, one day St. Francis of Assisi had a vision in which he saw his friars trying to reach Christ by a ladder that was red and very steep. After climbing a few rungs, they would suddenly fall back. Our Lord then showed St. Francis another ladder, white and much less steep, at whose summit appeared the Blessed Virgin, and He said to Francis: "Advise your sons to go by the ladder of My Mother." Among those devotions rich in Franciscan tradition is the devotion to the Virgin Mother of God. St. Francis of Assisi was among the greatest Marian devotees in the history of the Church and, according to the *Second Vita of Thomas of Celano*, had a love for her that was beyond words. "Inexpressible," he writes of Francis' love for the Blessed Virgin, "for it was she who made the Lord of majesty our brother." St. Francis chose her as the patroness and Queen of the Friars Minor and exhorted his friars to always possess a true and living devotion to the Mother of God. This loving devotion is imbued in his famous Salutation to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

**HAIL, O LADY,
MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:
YOU ARE THE VIRGIN MADE CHURCH
AND THE ONE CHOSEN BY THE
MOST HOLY FATHER IN HEAVEN
WHOM HE CONSECRATED
WITH HIS MOST HOLY BELOVED SON
AND WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT THE PARACLETE,
IN WHOM THERE WAS AND IS
THE FULLNESS OF GRACE AND EVERY GOOD
HAIL HIS PALACE!
HAIL HIS TABERNACLE!
HAIL HIS HOME!
HAIL HIS ROBE!
HAIL HIS SERVANT!
HAIL HIS MOTHER!
AND (HAIL) ALL YOU HOLY VIRTUES WHICH THROUGH THE
GRACE AND LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE Poured INTO
THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL SO THAT FROM THEIR FAITH-
LESS STATE YOU MAY MAKE THEM FAITHFUL TO GOD.
AMEN**

As we approach Christmas Day (and the Season of Christmas) let us turn to Our Mother to draw us ever closer to her Son and His gospel message of love.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



THE DEACON'S COLUMN

Glory to God in the Highest

In George Shultz's, *Charlie Brown's Christmas*, Charlie Brown and Linus are preparing for their Christmas play when Charlie asks Linus the following question: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about? To which, Linus replies, "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas all is about." Then Linus takes center stage, and quotes from Luke's Gospel, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'" He concludes, "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

I am struck that the Gospel is proclaimed every year by the fifth evangelist--Linus! There are many things going on in the hymn but essentially is an acclamation of joy for the good things God is doing for us in Jesus Christ. In the gospel passage Linus quotes the shepherds are in the fields at night. The shepherds are counted among the public sinners and outcasts because they are not able to go to the Temple and make the required sacrifices. And yet, it is to the sinner, to the outcast, and to all those who feel overwhelmed by the many forms of darkness that puts fear into our hearts. "For unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Though the angel addresses the shepherds, the angel's message breaks through time and space and speaks to all of us!!!! Fear is replaced with Joy and after announcing the Good News, the angels sing a hymn of praise and joy. As Christians set free from sin and death, we are invited to give praise in the angelic song of joy when we gather to celebrate Eucharist.

The Roman Missal indicates that the Gloria is sung or recited on Sundays except during Lent and Advent. Lent and Advent are two seasons that have a penitential character to them. By omitting the Gloria during these two seasons the liturgy invites us to reflect on our need for a savior and our need to be reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of His Son. But during Christmas and Easter, we rejoice because God has broken through the darkness and has given us a savior who frees us from all our sins. During Ordinary Time we are invited to see how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus sanctifies all time -- and in joy we sing, "Glory to God in the Highest."



MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES

THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SAINT ANN SAINT JOHN

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM	4 PM
6 PM	6 PM
MIDNIGHT	

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30	10:30
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The Masses on Sunday, December 26th will be as Usual: Saint Ann — 8:30; Saint John — 10:30



A special Christmas wish and thank you from Fr. Stephen Lusiba.

The construction of the classroom block is underway.

Fr. Stephen writes,

“Kindly share in the bulletin the progress of our classroom block under construction. We do appreciate all the donation we receive.”



Let's Kick Off Christmas Fundraiser

On December 19th our Collaborative is having a "Let's Kick Off Christmas" Event for the collaborative at St. John's from 11:30-4:30.

The day will be packed with many fun-filled family activities for all ages. These events include:

Teams of Christmas Carolers that you can order to come to your house to sing for your family or you can request them to go to a friend or family members house to sing.

In addition to this there will be many activities happening back at St John's including:

- Pony rides
- Christmas Caroling Hay Rides
- Face painting
- Christmas Craft Tables
- Raffles
- Door Prizes
- Food

It promises to be a fun-filled day.

Monies raised will support our Faith Formation Program and our Collaborative Parish Center Renovation Fund. We will also make a donation to the Baker Family Scholarship Fund.

How can I help you might ask?

You may help in the following ways:

Order Christmas Carolers to come to your home or send them to a friend or family member's home as an early Christmas present.

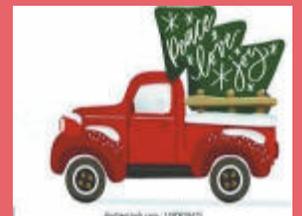
Take an ad out in our Christmas Carol Advertisement Book.

Help sponsor the cost of the hay ride or pony rides

Rent a craft table

Come to the event and have fun!

Questions, please call 617-639-4815



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, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy & 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

Winter dates and hours will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and the **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

*Saturday, December 18 — 10—11:30 AM
2022*

*Monday, January 3 — 1-4 PM
Saturday, January 15 — 10—11:30 AM*

*Tuna, pasta, pasta suase, soups, canned goods, etc
are always great additions to the shelves.*

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 that large sums., ie \$100

Thank you for your continued generosity.

**In-person masses have
Returned!!! To be Live-Streamed as well**

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY AT SAINT JOHN
THURSDAY & SATURDAY AT SAINT ANN**

CONFESSIONS WILL BE AT SAINT ANN'S
BETWEEN 3:00—3:30 OR BY APPOINTMENT WITH
ONE OF THE PRIESTS AVAILABLE.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
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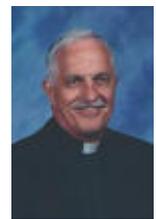
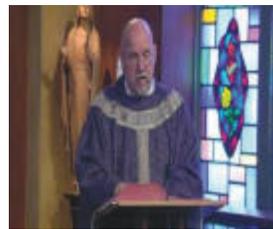
Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.



Thank you to everyone who joined with the Hugs Organization to provide gifts for families in East Bridgewater this Christmas Season.

Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Please remember our dedicated priests.:



Fr. Peter Francis and Fr. Michael Dioche

The upcoming Christmas collection will benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the health and well-being of our 536 active and senior priests in good standing. Whether it is within our parish communities or in the community at large, our priests are making a difference every day.

If you are able, please consider a generous gift to the Christmas collection this year.

Thank you in advance.

The baskets at the doors of the church will be used for this collection at the Christmas Masses.

Hello,

At times during the pandemic congregational singing was discouraged and congregants were ushered out of the church in a safe manner at the end of mass during the closing hymn. Now that restrictions have been lifted it is a good time to remind ourselves that a liturgy begins with the first notes of the opening song and ends with the final notes of the closing song. We ask that you stay and participate in the closing song if you know the words or stay and enjoy it if you don't know the words. The closing song is one last opportunity to sing God's praises in church before we leave to go about our week. We are thrilled to have hymn books back in the pews so everyone can read along and SING!!!

Thank you and God Bless.

-The Together in Christ Collaborative Music -Team.



DECEMBER 19TH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All classes are cancelled except for Grade 10 due to the Christmas Kickoff Scheduled for today!

Grade 10 — Mass at 6:15 @ St. Ann's
(1 service hour for showing support of Grade 9
In reception of their Rite)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES FOR MORE SPECIFIC DATES AND TIMES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE MERRY AND YOUR HEARTS FILLED WITH THE JOY OF THE SEASON AND THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST.

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