



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

December, 20, 2020

**Fourth Sunday
Of Advent
&
CHRISTMAS**



**4th
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 9-4 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



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

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

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. All baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. 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
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net
5085-3784207
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: Stephanie Gaboury
directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com
508-378-1521 or 508-588-7140

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 19, 2020

5:30 - Suzzane Shepard — 31st Anniversary

Sunday, December 20, 2020

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, December 26, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, December 27, 2020

10:30 -- Sean Patrick Coakley — 5th Anniv.

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 19, 2020

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 20, 2020

8:30 — Erminia Victoria — Birthday Remem
Christiano Victoria — 13th Anniversary

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:30 - Christiano Victoria — Birthday Remem

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 25 - Dec 1, 2020

ST JOHN

Online \$1,207

Mail \$1,548

Mass \$1,211

Grand Annual To Date \$7,275

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$1,002

Mass \$1,237

Grand Annual To Date \$8,105

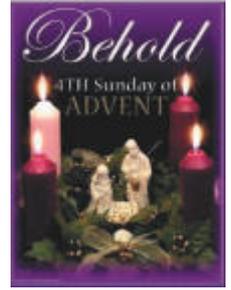
Suggested Sacramental Offerings:

Memorials Masses — \$25

Baptisms — \$50

Funerals — \$600

PLEASE HELP.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Are all of your presents purchased and wrapped? Are all of your cards sent? Are you prepared to meet the Lord for your trip to Heaven? What's that? You weren't thinking of that? Well, truth be told, most folks aren't, but the thing is that is part of Advent and it's something about which we need to think – not only at Advent, of course, but at all times. Our Advent Season is a time of preparation, one in which we ready ourselves for the coming of the Lord at Christmas AND at the end of ALL TIME. This two-fold waiting time is one which happens simultaneously, for while we know the time of Christmas we do not know the day or the hour of the arrival of the Lord at His Second Coming.

Mary is a key figure in all of this, and in today's gospel we hear of her encounter with the angel Gabriel. Mary is told of how she will play a key part in salvation history. I'm sure she wasn't thinking of that when speaking to Gabriel, but her conversation reveals so much about her, her role in the life of Jesus, the world and salvation. She was in the process of marrying Joseph when Gabriel appears to her and reveals that not only is she pregnant, but she is to bear a son...THE SON...THE SON OF GOD. As you can imagine, this comes as a great shock to her since she is not yet married to Joseph and so pregnancy wasn't exactly on her mind when Gabriel appears to her. Furthermore, phrases like "full of grace" (Luke 1:28) and "you have found favor with God" (Luke 1:30) are ones which are heavy-laden with great meaning, great importance not only for her but also you and me. To be "full of grace" (Luke 1:28) means that she has been set aside for an important role in God's plan for His people; to have "found favor with God" (Luke 1:30) means that she has a special place in the mind and heart of God. These are phrases that are rarely used, and should cause us to look upon Mary as someone who has something to say to the Church and to us. Finally, Mary's humility ("Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word" shows to us what true discipleship is and places her in a unique place in the Church and in God's plan of salvation for His people.

As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, let us not lose sight of the fact that we must also prepare to meet the Lord in His role as the King of Heaven and Earth, the King of All Creation. May we be as ready (if not more so) for the Second Coming as we are for the First. May Mary, the Mother of God and Our Mother, stand before us as an example of faith and grace, and an intercessor for each one of our prayerful intentions so that she may present them to her Son, the Messiah and Savior of the world. May God continue to prepare us for reception of the Son, and through the power of the Holy Spirit may we be ready when He comes in glory to take us home to our Eternal Reward in Heaven.

Have a Blessed (Continued) Advent,

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 Nicolar, 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.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENT

Full of Joy

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to, but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?" What I found out was that these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot, and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for your rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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. People registered, will be seated first as long as they are present 15 minutes before Mass.

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.stjohneb.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:

stjohneb.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

Thank you to all who contributed to the
Christmas Flower Fund.

Your generosity helps to make the season
festive. Something that is very appreciated in
these trying times.



NEW DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

The position of "Director of Ministries", one which will be assumed by Stephanie Gaboury (whose bio is below), is a new one, but it is born out of a recognition of the past as it is an amalgamation/"umbrella" ministry (blending areas such as Faith Formation, Youth/Young Adult Ministry, and Pastoral Ministry). The rich history that each of our parishes (now working jointly as the Together In Christ Collaborative) have in these ministries is one which rely on our recognition of what was, what is, and what is yet to come (building, creating, hoping/past, present, future). In the seven years during which I have served as Administrator/ Pastor, through the various Ministries within/between the parishes/collaborative, we have had great experiences of outreach and presented a wide range of opportunities for faith, discipleship, and ministry to a great cross-section of God's people. Over the last couple of years, however, we have "lost a step (or three)" in our outreach to the families of our Collaborative. There has been a "void" in that outreach, one still being felt (and, sadly, heightened in this challenging time of pandemic). In the creation of this position, it is my hope that these families, once served beautifully and well through these aforementioned outreach opportunities, will once again feel the hands and heart of Christ, Himself, as they once did.

Past...Present...Future. Or to put it another way, to quote the great theologian of our Catholic-Christian tradition St. Augustine, "Trust the Past to God's Mercy, the Present to God's Love, and the Future to His Providence."

The Liturgical Staff and the Administrative Staff of the Together in Christ Collaborative wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. May the love and joy of the season be ever present even though most families will be celebrating in very different ways this season.

Remember to keep Christ in your hearts and to ask him for help with this pandemic. Be strong. Be patient. Spread Love and Kindness and we will all get through this together with the help of God.

Love,



Fr. Paul	Deacon Brendan
Fr. Mike	Deacon Chris
Fr. Peter	Rich
Donna	Stephanie
Erica	Matt
Arlene	Debbie

[Let Your Voice Be Heard – Again](#)

“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.



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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Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
 Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
 This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you



Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
 Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
 When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God

Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?
 Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
 Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
 That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am



Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?
 Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb
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 Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
 That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?

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