



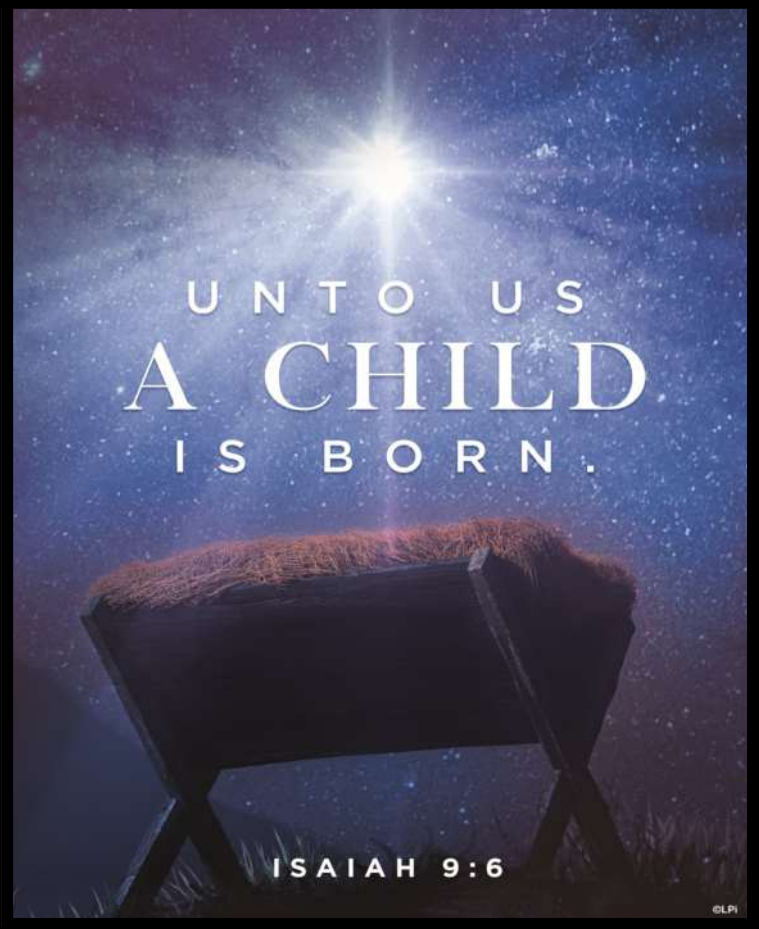
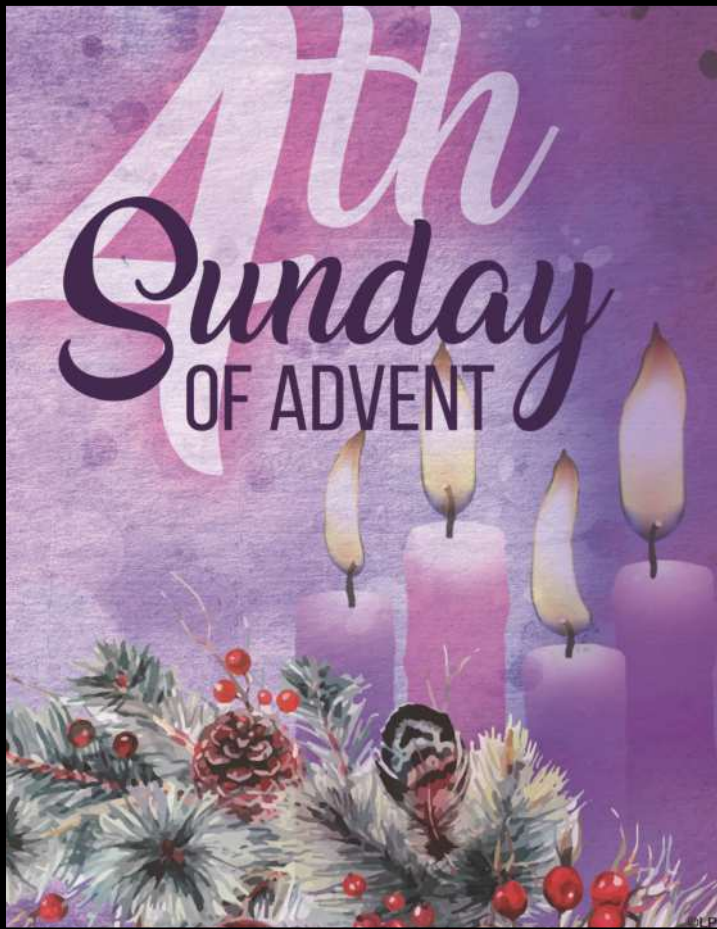
Saturday, 4:00 PM
 Sunday, 9:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 December 21, 2025*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent &
 Christmas
 Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope*



Sunday, 8:00 AM
 Sunday, 11:30 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
 (Account suspended)**

**Collaborative Office Hours are
 9:00-3:00 M-TH**

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
 (Account suspended)**

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-Thursday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St Ann's

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.
Daily Mass
Thursday & Saturday
9:00 a.m.

St John's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
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 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

Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
774-533-2002



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 20, 2025

4:00 - Francisco & Maria Figueiredo & Family —
Memorial

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:30 - Christiano & Erminia Victoria — Birthday
Remembrance

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

Saturday, December 27, 2025

4:00 - David L. LaCouture, Sr. — Memorial
& David L. LaCouture, Jr — Memorial

Sunday, December 28, 2025

9:30 - David J. LaCouture & Family — Christmas
Remembrance

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

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:00 - Cornelius Dahill — Birthday Remembrance

11:30 - Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, December 28, 2025

8:00 - Maureen Meany — 2nd Anniversary

11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

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.

Fourth Sunday

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23



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

Ministry News

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

January Family Mass

January 11 at the 9:30 Mass at St. Ann.

This Mass will be sponsored by our Monday 3rd grade class. They will be doing the readings and bringing up the gifts. We invite all kids in attendance to join Fr. Paul for the homily and everyone to join us at the back of the church afterwards for snacks.

January Teen Mass

1/25 at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann

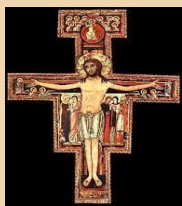
Our next Teen Mass is January 25. At these Masses, we invite our teens to do a reading or bring up the gifts. Fr. Paul also tailors his homily to be relevant to their life and there is contemporary music at the Mass. If your teen is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

A Donation was made to St. John's

in loving memory of:

Anne & John Katilus





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

Fiscal Updates & News

St. Ann — Offertory	\$3,876
Second Collection	\$ 856
Sacramental Donations + Misc .	<u>\$2,630</u>
	\$7,362

Total	
St John — Offertory	\$2,584
Second Collection	\$1,756
Sacramental Donations +Misc .	<u>\$5,524</u>
Total	\$9,864

Our Autumn Fundraiser was a huge success!

**The music from Dan and Mary Clark was amazing.
Some songs brought tears to everyone's eyes.
And everyone left with a smile on their faces.**

We brought in around \$7,000 and after expenses we made around \$5,000.

**The pumpkin raffle was a big smash.
The silent auction with all the amazing things that people donated was wonderful.
And the gift bag raffle made everyone who won, very happy.**

Thank you to all who participated. We hope you had a wonderful time.

A special thank you to everyone who made this such a success:

The incredibly talented crafters for their home made items.

The household items that were a big hit, All our bakers whose tasty items filled our tummies.

The ever dedicated Hospitality Committee for all their work and donations, as well as our family members who helped out.

And last but, not least, all the corporate donors in the East and West Bridgewater Communities:

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**God Bless
&
Merry Christmas!!!!**

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, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Brittany Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella, Stephen D'Guisepe, Anne Bortolotto, Cathy Hadfield, Helen Bomar, Stacy McCarthy, Mark Neumeier, Johnny MacDonald, Marilyn, John Zenus, Peg & Brendan Fitzgerald, Joseph & Anne Campbell, Ronald Menard, Kim, Claire Sullivan, Kathy Hannafin, Sharon Carson & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

Prayers for Christmas

1. Love

Lord, help us follow the way of love—let the love of Christ compel us.

1 Corinthians 14:1; 2 Corinthians 5:14

2. Joy

Restore the joy of Your salvation to us; let us experience the joy of Your presence.

Psalms 16:11; Psalm 51:12

3. Peace

Let Your peace rule and guard our hearts; give us more of You, Jesus—You are our peace.

Ephesians 2:14; Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15

4. Hope

Enlighten the eyes of our heart so that we may know the hope You called us to.

Ephesians 1:18

St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379
To join please call — TINA ANTHONY
508-245-5481

Thank you to all those who continue to make monetary donations to our collection boxes at the door of the church. Without your ongoing generosity to all our fundraising efforts we would not be able to continue to assist our neighbors in their time of need.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

To join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony at: 508-245-5481.

Next meeting: January 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

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: cookies, crackers, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned vegetables, boxed stuffing
Cash donations also accepted.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
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

January 5 & 19

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, jelly, canned soups, canned vegetables pasta & pasta sauce, non-sugar cereal, tooth-paste, tooth brushes, toilet paper.

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

The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace.

At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve:

4 PM at Saint John w/ Choir
4 PM at Saint Ann
6 PM at Saint John

Christmas Day

Midnight at Saint Ann
8:30 at Saint Ann
10:30 at Saint John



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