



*Together in Christ Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
December 22, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent*



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

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

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
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Joe Hopgood
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., See Schedule

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m.

In the Chapel

Divine Mercy every Thursday
After Mass.

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., See Schedule

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at St John's and the 4th Sunday of the month at St. Ann's. Prep classes are Wednesday before Baptism at St. John's. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Other times as scheduled in the bulletin or 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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St John's - every WEDNESDAY from 7-8 p.m.
in the Church.

St. Ann's - First Friday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Business Manager: Donna Roderiques
Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano
stanns@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Charlotte Leines
stannscdd@comcast.net
508-588-7140

Director of Music: Matthew Cunningham
matthewcunningham@bpsma.org

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Business Manager: Donna Roderiques
Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Lorraine Hopgood
repstjohn@gmail.com
508-378-1521

Director of Music: Paul Hoffman

p.hoffman@stjohneb.org
Music Minister: Erica Wasil

PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

Deacon Joe Hopgood
Paul Hoffman
Denise Robichaud

Ben Williams
Nancy Maloney
Margaret Mary Williams

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 21, 2019

4:00 - Suzanne Shepard — 30th Anniversary

Sunday, December 22, 2019

8:00 - All the sick children in the world

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Friday, December 27, 2019

9:00 - Rita & Al Matta — Memorial

Saturday, December 28, 2019

4:00 - Addison Bree Barrett — 11th Anniver.

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

10:30 - Sean Patrick Coakley — 4th Anniversary

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, December 21, 2019

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 22, 2019

8:30 - Joanne E. Hanson — Month's Mind

10:30 - Francisco & Maria Figueiredo — Mem.

Saturday, December 28, 2019

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

10:30 - Regina Carbone — 14th Anniversary

Monday, December 30, 2019

9:00 - Joseph Ritucci — Memorial

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

9:00 - Christiano Victoria — Memorial



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

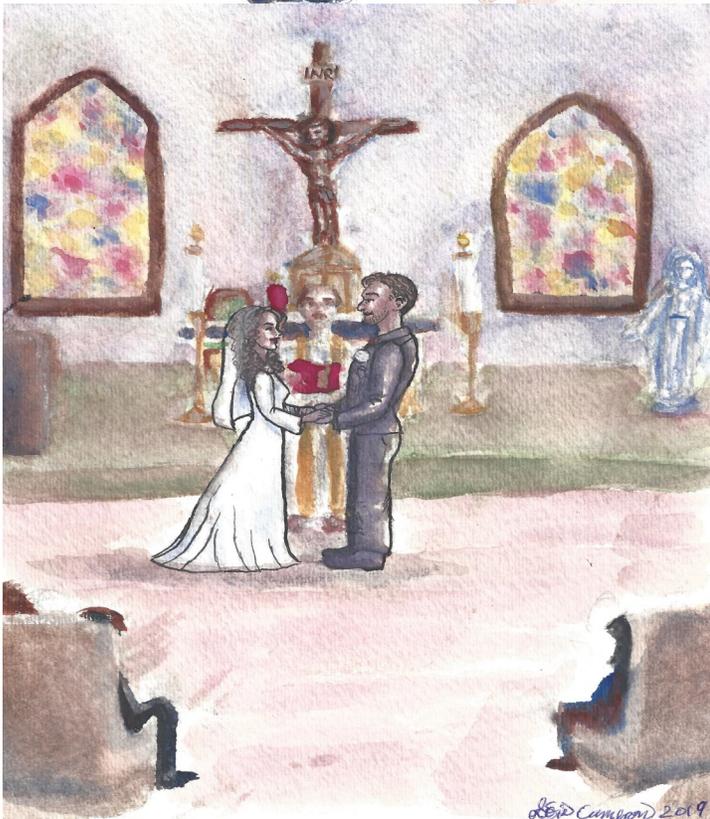


COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT. JOHN'S

**The Next Second Collection
December 1, 2019 — Saint Vincent de Paul Collection**

Financial Blessings		St. Ann's	Budget	St John's	Budget
SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS					
		<i>Thank you to those who gave to the</i>		<i>Grand Annual</i>	
OFFERTORY	9/15/19	\$ 3,352	\$3,412	\$ 4,070	\$ 5,333
	9/22/10	\$ 3,155	\$3,412	\$ 4,544	\$ 5,333
Updated offertories will be available sometime in the future.					

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts: Psalm 95



**Prayer for
Vocations**

Heavenly Father, bless
Your Church with an
abundance of holy and
zealous priests, deacons,
brothers and sisters.
Give those You have
called to the married
state and those you have
chosen to live as single
persons in the world
the special graces that
their lives require. Form
us all in the likeness of
Your Son so that in Him,
with Him and through
Him we may love You
more deeply and serve
You more faithfully,
always and everywhere.
With Mary, we ask this
through Christ Our
Lord.
Amen.

A special thanks to Sophia Cameron for the Art Work.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES (ST. ANN'S)



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

IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after Mass on Monday & Tuesday
Adoration — First Friday of the month following
the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at
10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Each year, this season of Advent comes around. Today we
bless the fourth and last candle on our wreath. Let us ask
God to bless our family on this final Sunday in Advent:

God of surprises,
today we hear about the surprise that Mary experienced.
She is pregnant with your Son!

Help our family to be obedient to your surprises,
however they may spring up in our lives.
All of your gifts work for the benefit of your people.

When we light this final candle on our wreath,
let us bring your surprise gift of love
to our neighbors and friends.

We ask this through Christ,
who is the ultimate surprise gift to the world.
Amen.

Christmas Sharing Tree gifts are due
December 22nd.

Please join us for wrapping and tag-
ging the gifts.



REMINDER THAT THERE
WILL BE NO CCD CLASSES
ON:

December 22nd or 29th.

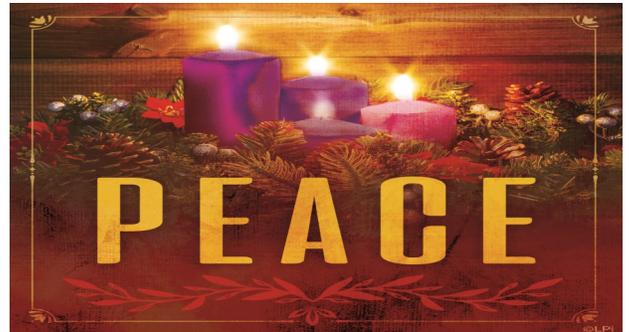


CLASSES WILL RESUME JANUARY 5TH



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.



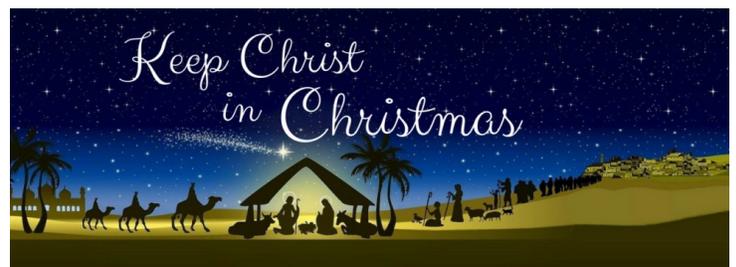
4th Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:39-45

Blessed Advent!

Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related, and
one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other
woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus.

The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in
the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the
way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother
upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the desert is the message that we all need
to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May
our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord
and to prepare the way!



Knights of Columbus Meat Raffle
Saturday, December 28, 2019
1—3 PM
Saint Ann's Parish Center

Raffles will be held the last weekend of each month.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Karen Debenedictis, Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, JoAnn Micalizzi, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Scott Dolan, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolari, Paul Martin, Kerri Fabrowski, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Baby William, David Warren, Bill Frabetti, George Lepine, Dennis Green, Joseph Rizzitano, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Karen Parento, Alice Keymont, Paul Currie & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Afraid, Yet Never Alone

I did not end up being the great parent I had hoped I would be. I am not saying I was bad, but I was not the cool dad who did all things right and led my children by the example of my endlessly good actions. I messed up a bunch. Sometimes I was afraid. I was afraid of decisions I had to make and the possible repercussions. At times, I was afraid that I was not strong enough to lead my family. The fear occasionally led me toward inaction or eventual mistakes. The only thing that got me through the tough times and allowed me to see it was okay was Jesus. Without Jesus, I would never have been half of the father and husband I have been through the years.

When we try to tackle life alone, we can find ourselves in a very lonely position. Just like Jesus' parents, we need God to assist us and provide us with the strength for what lies ahead. Joseph needed God to be with him as he took Mary as his wife and became a father. Every parent needs God to become more than they can be on their own.

How do you treat those who you love? Who is there to help you when a relationship faces an obstacle? We are called to love others as our Father in heaven loves us. That is really an unreachable goal. Yet with God, all things are possible. As this Advent ends, may your Christmas be about more than presents and decorations. May the most profound gifts you give and receive be that of each other, and may your lives be decorated with the fruits of that love.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." — Mt. 1:20-21

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after daily Masses.

Divine Mercy every Thursday after daily mass.

Adoration — Every Wednesday—7:00—8:00 PM (changed)

Advent Mission — 12/ 8, 9, 10 check for times & locations

Catholic Womens' Club will meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

**The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul
Saint John's Conference
PO Box 544
East Bridgewater MA 02333**

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

Call the Saint Vincent DePaul HOTLINE at 508-378-3760 if you need food or other assistance.

The Food Pantry is open twice a month. — 1st Monday from 3:00-6:00 pm and the 3rd Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

**The Catholic Women's Club
Bake Sale
Weekend of Dec 21 & 22
At Saint John's
After all the Masses**



**No time to bake, Donate
All Donations Welcome!!!!**

Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow—proceeds to help with

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FROM EVERYONE AT ST. JOHN'S & ST. ANN'S

Windshield Wiper Sermon

One rainy afternoon, a mother was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, her son Matthew spoke up from his relaxed position in the front seat. "Mom, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant he had been pondering some fact for a while and was now ready to expound all that his seven-year-old mind had discovered. She was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" she asked.

"The rain is like sin," Matthew began. "And the windshield wipers are like God, wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up her arms, the mother was able to respond, "That's really good, Matthew." Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little boy take this revelation?

So she asked, "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

Matthew didn't hesitate one moment with his answer. "We keep on sinning and God just keeps on forgiving us."

A Morning Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

So far today, I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped or lost my temper.
I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or self-centered.
I'm really happy about that so far.
But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed
and then I'm going to need a lot of help. Thank you!

Amen.