

## ST. ANNE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Anne Parish, Southborough, in the Diocese of Worcester are called through Baptism to become one faith family. We commit ourselves to embody the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament; by using our ministries to welcome all who are seeking Jesus and to share in the life and work of our Catholic faith. In the spirit and truth of the Holy Trinity, we will use our time, talents and treasure to answer God's command to love one another as He has loved us, in holy worship, prayer, Catechetical formation for all, evangelization and service to others.

# SAINT ANNE PARISH

20 Boston Road Southborough, MA 01772

**We welcome all visitors to St. Anne Parish. If you would like to join our faith community, please call the Parish Office to register:**  
508-485-0141

### Parish Contact Information

#### Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday  
9:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Friday ~ 9:30 am to noon  
Telephone 508-485-0141  
Fax 508-460-0181

#### E-mail:

stanne403@stannesouthborough.org  
Web: [www.stannesouthborough.org](http://www.stannesouthborough.org)

#### Pastor

Fr. Albert Irudayasamy  
fralbert@stannesouthborough.org

#### Parish Council

George Stagno ~ Chair

#### Finance Committee

Rich Flathers ~ Chair

#### Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:

Daniel Doyle

dan@stannesouthborough.org

508-485-0141 ext 225

Monday to Thursday 10:00 to 6:00  
and Sundays

#### Parish Office Manager

Melissa Shields

stanne403@stannesouthborough.org  
Linda Bradstreet (on leave)

#### Bookkeeper

Bridgitte Morgan

bridgitte@stannesouthborough.org

#### Music Ministry

Organist & Choir Director:

Paul Crivello 508-366-0821

pcrivello04@gmail.com

#### Maintenance

Matt Bernier

mbern@stannesouthborough.org

#### Amy Buttiglieri ~ Webmaster

webmaster@stannesouthborough.org



## SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

December 6, 2020

***"Prepare the way  
of the Lord..."***

*(Mark 1:3)*

We are all called to live  
a holy life.

We are all called to invite  
others to live holy lives.

Living a stewardship lifestyle,  
being grateful and generous  
with our gifts, puts us on the  
path to holiness and  
is an example for others  
to be holy, too.

We are responsible not only  
for our own lives,  
but for the lives  
of others as well.

*Would you like to receive a copy of the  
bulletin via email every week?*

*Please send an email to:  
stanne403@stannesouthborough.org with  
"St. Anne Bulletin List" in the subject line.*

### Lord's Day Mass Schedule:

Saturday ~ 5:00 pm  
Sunday ~ 8:30 am, 10:30 am, and  
5:30 p.m.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will  
resume in the spring.

### Daily Mass Schedule:

Week Day Mass  
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am  
First Fridays: 9:00 am

### Healing Mass:

First Wednesday of every month  
suspended until further notice.

**Please see Reopening Guidelines in  
bulletin for protocols for  
Sacraments.**

### Confessions:

Saturday ~ 4:15 pm, or anytime  
on request

### Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesdays: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

### Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office to schedule a  
Baptism. For the time being,  
baptisms will be celebrated  
outside of Masses, rather than  
during a scheduled Mass.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements with a priest required  
at least one year prior to the  
wedding date.

Visitation of the Sick Fr. Albert is  
pleased to bring Holy Communion  
to parishioners who are unable to  
join us for weekly worship. Call the  
Parish Office to arrange a time.

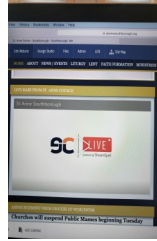
# PARISH MASS INFORMATION AND MINISTRIES

## St. Anne Parish Livestreamed Daily and Weekend Masses

### Livestreamed St. Anne Masses:

**Continued livestream offerings of 5:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday and 9:00 a.m. daily Masses through our parish website!**

- Go to parish webpage: [www.stannesouthborough.org](http://www.stannesouthborough.org).
- Scroll down to "ECatholic Live: St. Anne Southborough". See logo on right. Or click on Quick Link in box on the right of web homepage.
- Click on the arrow in the middle of the logo at 5:00 p.m. for Saturday evening Mass, 10:30 a.m. for Sunday Mass, and 9:00 a.m. for daily Masses Monday through Thursday.



### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

### Liturgical Minister Schedule

*To be trained for a liturgical role, please contact the Parish Office at 508-485-0141.*

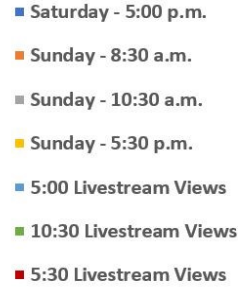
#### December 5 & 6 ~ Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

5:00 pm	Lector	Roger Jolicoeur
	Communion Ministers	Debbie Simon
8:30 am	Lector	Nancy Denardo
	Communion Ministers	Fran Schiebe
10:30 am	Lector	Doug Parent
	Communion Ministers	Joe Cruciani
5:30 pm	Lector	Melissa Shields

#### December 12 & 13 ~ Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

5:00 pm	Lector	Laura Schroeder
	Communion Ministers	Debbie Simon
8:30 am	Lector	Elaine Yetman
	Communion Ministers	Doris Campero
10:30 am	Lector	Joe Cruciani
	Communion Ministers	Steve Buttiglieri
5:30 pm	Lector	Melissa Shields

Mass Attendance  
11/21/20 to 11/22/20



Mass Attendance  
11/28/20 to 11/29/20



### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

with **MASS INTENTIONS (December 5 to December 13)**

*Mass intention can be scheduled for those who have died, and on the occasion of a birthday, wedding anniversary, for healing, for the grace to face the challenges in life, for success in a new job, for those serving in the church and country in different levels, for world peace, in thanksgiving for the blessings received, etc.*

*To request a Mass Intention, stop in the Parish Office or call 508-485-0141.*

<b>SATURDAY 5</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	For the deceased members of our parish family
<b>SUNDAY 6</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	For the people who have died of COVID-19
	<b>10:30 am</b>	For the healing of all especially those mentioned in the prayer list
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	For the students and teachers of St. Anne Parish
<b>MONDAY 7</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	For Zara Daniel (Healing) by Pat Draper
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	For parishioners of St. Anne
<b>TUESDAY 8</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	For Margaret Ann Hostage
<b>WEDNESDAY 9</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	For Roger Godbour by St. Anne staff members
<b>THURSDAY 10</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	For Jesse, Anna, and James Kicks by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Meyer
<b>FRIDAY 11</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	For Cecile Dore (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) Fr. Bernard Dore's mother
<b>SATURDAY 12</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	For God's blessings and wellbeing of Prayer Shawl members
<b>SUNDAY 13</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	For Bob Giblin by Elaine Yetman
	<b>10:30 am</b>	For parishioners of St Anne
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	For the students and teachers of St. Anne Parish

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS - ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



**Advent Season** will begin next **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please make use of this Advent season to prepare yourselves for the coming of our Lord.

You will be receiving short videos and messages from our Parish Office Flocknotes during the next four weekends (Saturdays and Sundays). These messages, songs, videos will help us to prepare ourselves during this season and understand the meaning of Christmas.

## **Sharing Advent Traditions**

We are about to step into the season of Advent. We wish you all a meaningful preparation. As we did two years ago, we are once again inviting parishioners to share the Christmas preparation that you do in your families. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce yourselves to the St. Anne community and deepen your relationship with everyone. We understand that many parishioners are unable to attend Masses in-person due to varied reasons, but please consider writing a short note for our bulletin which we will publish for our parish community to read. We are sure the notes will be inspiring. Also, please send pictures of your family and manger.



## **NEW Confession Times**

Given the need to disinfect the church after each Mass, confessions will no longer be heard between Sunday Masses. Confessions now will be heard ***every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*** If you are unable to come on Wednesdays, please call the office to make an appointment.

## **Common Confession Service**

There will be a **Common Confession** for all parishioners on **Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.** There will be two priests to listen to confessions. All are welcome!

## **Regular Mass on ALL Fridays during Advent season**

We will celebrate Mass on **all Fridays at 9:00 a.m.** during Advent Season.



## **Signup for Christmas Masses**

Please see below the timing of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

For each Mass, we will be able to accommodate 50 parishioners in the church and 30 in the Parish Hall.

For those parishioners planning to attend in-person Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day Masses, please note that registration will be required. St. Anne Parish will be setting up an online sign up for registration to secure an accurate head count.

The sign up was sent via Flocknotes on ***Tuesday, December 1 at 12 o'clock noon*** to all parishioners who regularly receive our parish weekly bulletin. The subject line of the email is "***Our Mass Times for Christmas...Hope To See You There!***". The sign up link also is available on our parish website:

[www.stannesouthborough.org](http://www.stannesouthborough.org) and went live starting on Tuesday, December 1 at 12 o'clock noon. The registration will be on a first come, first-served basis. If you are unable to register on-line, please call the Parish Office to register.

To register, [please click here](#) to select the Mass that you plan to attend. Each signup slot will allow for a maximum of 5 persons. If your family group exceeds 5 persons, please signup for a second slot for the additional family members. Those who have difficulties signing up, please call the Parish Office at 508-485-0141.

## **Christmas Mass Times**

- Christmas Eve Masses: Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. & 8:00\* p.m.  
*\*Due to the state curfew, we are **unable** to have an 11:00 p.m. Mass this year.*
- Christmas Day Masses: Friday, December 25 at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

## **Blessing of Baby Jesus Statue**

For those parishioners coming to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, you may bring "Child Jesus" statue for a blessing during the Masses.



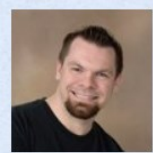


# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## From the Desk of the Director of Religious Education

### St. Anne Religious Education December classes



*Dan Doyle*

If you have not registered, please go to [stannesouthborough.org](http://stannesouthborough.org) or pick up a paper copy of registration forms available at the entrance to the church and in the Parish Offices.

**Grades 1-2 (Non-sacramental):** Starting in December, monthly digital RE home packets will be emailed to Grades 1-2 RE families. Parents are asked to continue reviewing all sent materials with their child.

**Grade 2+ (2020-21 FC preparation) and Grades 3-5:**  
December 6 and 13 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

**Grades 6-8: December 6 and 13** from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
(includes the 5:30 p.m. Mass)

**Grades 9 & 10 (2-year Confirmation preparation):**  
December 6 and 13 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
(includes 5:30 p.m. Mass)

### 2020-21 Catechists:

- ◆ Grades 1-2 (Non-Sacramental): Pat Battles & Jane Wood
- ◆ Grade 2+: Pat Draper & Joanne Flathers
- ◆ Grades 3&4: Laura Schroeder & Christy Williams
- ◆ Grade 5: Julia Denardo Roney
- ◆ Grades 6-8: Beth McGonagle & Rich Flathers
- ◆ Grades 9&10 (Confirmation): Dan Doyle, Steven Jacek, & Jenna Jacek

### We have implemented all the necessary safety protocols:

- Children will enter the Parish Hall through the main glass doors and exit through the white door nearest the stage end of the Hall;
- Children must wear a mask from entrance to exit;
- All chairs are set 6 ft. apart;
- All classrooms will have hand sanitizer and wipes;
- Doors and windows will remain open for proper circulation of air.

**NEW!** Follow St. Anne Parish on Instagram and Snapchat! We will be using these apps to post photos, videos, and other **St. Anne Youth Ministry** content.



Instagram: @stanne.ym  
Snapchat: @stanneym



### Advent Videos for Religious Ed. Families

We know at this time of the year preparing for Christmas can be very hectic, even though the season of Advent should be a time of prayerful preparation for Jesus' birth.

To help with that, starting on the First Sunday of Advent and continuing every week until Christmas, we will be releasing weekly videos to share with your families to help remember the true meaning of the Advent season.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Prayer shawl members are once again meeting every Monday from 10:00 to noon **in the Parish Hall** knitting and crocheting for anyone who is ill or suffering who might welcome a blessed and comforting prayer shawl.

Interested in joining this ministry? Stop in the Parish Hall any Monday or call the Parish Office for more information.

Do you or someone you know need a prayer shawl? Please call the Parish Office to arrange a shawl pickup or delivery. Check out the numbered photos of available shawls on the parish website under "Prayer Shawl".

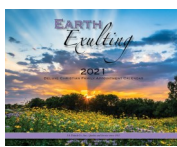


### Baby Crib Quilts

Parishioner Sandy Callinan has sewn beautiful baby quilts blessed by Father Albert which are available in the Parish Office for sick infants and children in need of healing prayers.



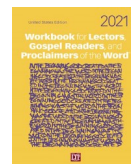
### Religious Calendars 2021



2021 Religious Calendars are available for all parishioners. The calendars are in the foyers of the church. Thank you to Morris Funeral Home for their kindness in donating these nice calendars.

### Attention Lectors

The **2020-2021 Lector books** are in and are available for lectors to pick up. The books are located at the side entrance of the church (Ramp Entrance) in the book case.



### Christmas Gifts to our Seminarians

This year the Vocation Office is adapting the annual "Seminararian Giving-Tree" tradition during the pandemic. It is important for us to keep safety in mind for everyone. The need for our men in formation for the priesthood is still great, and we are once again asking for your support.



If you would like to participate, there are **two** ways:

1. Mail a gift card of any amount in an addressed to:

**Seminarians  
51 Illinois St.  
Worcester, MA 01610**

Suggested stores where the seminarians can purchase both everyday items or the books they need for their education include **Amazon, Barnes & Noble, CVS, Staples, or Walmart**. We will equitably sort the cards sent to the House of Studies and distribute them to the seminarians at Christmas time.

2. Make an online donation through our [portal here](#). Please note that the donation is for the **Christmas Giving Tree (special project)**. Funds will be equitably split amongst the seminarians.

# MINISTRIES AND STEWARDSHIP

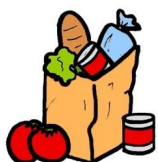
## United Parishes of Southborough Food Pantry

A HUGE thank you to everyone who continues to support the Southborough Food Pantry. You truly put into action Christ's message to "feed the hungry" and to "give comfort to my people". Thank you so very much on behalf of the Southborough Food Pantry.

Donations may be left in the foyer of St. Anne Parish Hall. As most food items are date sensitive, please be sure that your donation is not out of date.

**You did it again!!!** St. Anne parishioners, you are amazing. Even though many are not able to be at Mass in the church building due to the pandemic, you still make sure the Southborough Food Pantry is well stocked. Now at Christmas time you once again give so generously. On behalf of all the Pantry clients, a HUGE thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to the Giving Tree. Also a heartfelt thank you to Orla Wages for all her work in ensuring that this year's Giving Tree was such a big success. There are no words to adequately describe your generosity. Your gifts are being distributed next week. I will have the honor of helping to give your gifts to our clients, receiving virtual hugs. I receive this warmth on your behalf. Please know that you made many people's lives brighter this Christmas season. May you and your family have a joyous, peace-filled Christmas and new year.

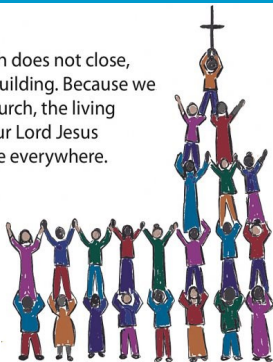
If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Food Pantry, please encourage them to contact the Food Pantry. Safety precautions are outlined in letter on separate page. Pantry hours (located at Pilgrim Church) for CLIENTS are  
Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and  
Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Donations also can be left in bins outside the pantry door at Pilgrim Church anytime other than client hours listed above.

*Pat Draper, St. Anne Parish Coordinator*

The church does not close,  
only the building. Because we  
are the church, the living  
body of our Lord Jesus  
and we are everywhere.

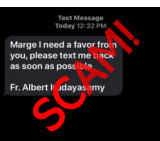


## TEXT/EMAIL SCAM ALERT!

Please be on notice that someone is using a fake email address and text messaging to attempt to run a scam. The sender poses as Father Albert to request that the recipient purchase iTunes/gift cards for a "sick parishioner" or to ask a favor.

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF THIS SCAM AND DO NOT FALL VICTIM TO IT.**

If ever in doubt about an email/text message, please call the Parish Office at 508-485-0141 or email Father directly at [fralbert@stannesouthborough.org](mailto:fralbert@stannesouthborough.org) to confirm its validity.



## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORTS FOR through November 29, 2020

Regular Weekly Offering: .....	\$1,732.00
Capital Improvements: .....	\$ 40.00
All Saints Day: .....	\$ 5.00
All Souls Day: .....	\$ 5.00
Priest Retirement: .....	\$ 10.00
Holy Day: .....	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers: .....	\$ 25.00
Christmas: .....	\$ 25.00

**Online Giving:** St. Anne Parish partners with **WeShare** for on-line giving. WeShare allows both onetime gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website [www.stannesouthborough.org](http://www.stannesouthborough.org) for the link to WeShare.com or call 1-800-950-9952 and use option 1 to answer any questions.

**St. Anne's Website:** With our website we have an **additional resource for online giving and online CE registration.** St. Anne Parish partners with **eCatholic and BluePay** for easy on-line giving. Our one-step on-line form allows both one-time gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website [www.stannesouthborough.org](http://www.stannesouthborough.org) and select the Quick Link to the BluePay On-Line Giving page.

*Thank you for your continued,  
generous support!*



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Yvette, Dianne Higgins, Millie Garden, Seminarian Alex Quach, Pat Moran, Fr. Thirburse F. Millot, Katie Kulik, Elaine Arrison, Jackie Di Buono, Rachel Attaway, Matthew, Susan Cioppa, Anne Comcowich, Lillian Franco, Mary Hunt, Hans, Elisabel Borreani, Peg Nicosia, Dr. Malgorzata McMasters (*Covid-19 Healing*), Tom Livingstone, Bob Seariac (*Covid-19 Healing*), Sheila & Charlie Flathers, Pat Fitzgerald, Anne Meek, Paul LeDuc, Marie Martin, Sheila, Annie Lonzoria (*Healing*), Bryan Boney (*Healing*), Marilou Alvarado-Custodio, Helen Kelly, Janet Mattioli (*Healing*), Jane & Miles Gray, Jim Hegarty (*Healing*), Ellie Creamer (*Healing*), Mikey Lang (*Healing*), Zara Daniel (*Healing*), Julie Flanders (*Healing*)



**Want to add your name or the name(s) of others to the Prayers for the Sick listing? Please email the names to the Parish Office at [stanne403@stannesouthborough.org](mailto:stanne403@stannesouthborough.org).**

*(Names appearing on the list for more than a year are unposted unless a continued need is known. To have a name restored to or removed from the list, please email the Parish Office.)*

## Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Responsibility

It is every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims (any age) by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities. For particular help you may call: The Office for Healing and Prevention, Diocese of Worcester, at 508-929-4363. The Diocese of Worcester requires Safe Environment training for all staff and volunteers.

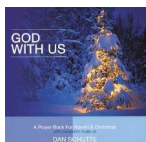


# DIOCESAN INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Advent Reflection For Adults

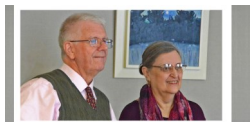
"A Time Will Come for Singing" is a four-session program for adults during Advent. Each weekly session will be online and will include a brief lesson and prayer, a short Advent-related video, and closing comments and prayer. Twenty minutes tops - from your own laptop, tablet, or mobile phone! Login whenever you want to during each of the four weeks. Take a step back from the hectic pace of the holidays to reflect on the true reason for the season. FREE, but you must register ahead of time so you can receive a link each week. Contact Romeo Marquis, Director of Faith Formation, Blessed Sacrament Church, Worcester.

Email [Rmarquis48@outlook.com](mailto:Rmarquis48@outlook.com) for details and to register.



## Facing Fear with Jesus in a COVID-19 World

Our country faces a host of fears: sickness and death from a worldwide pandemic, job, and financial loss, loneliness, and radical changes in our society. But the storm that surrounds us is nothing that we cannot handle with Jesus' help. He is not asleep in our boat. Explore eight concrete tips from the Bible, the Saints, and our Catholic Faith. The session includes prayer, reflection, small group sharing, and presentations. Speakers: John and Therese Boucher, teachers and authors of hundreds of articles and many books.



**Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-9:00 pm**

FREE REGISTRATION (limited spaces available)! Send an email with your name, email, and phone number to Esperanza Oliveras, [cje21@verizon.net](mailto:cje21@verizon.net), by **Monday, December 7, 2020**, to receive the [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) video session link.

(Hosted by the Parish Renewal and Evangelization Committee, Diocese of Worcester.)

## Exodus 90: Young Adult Men's Program

Attention Young Adult Men (ages 18-39)!

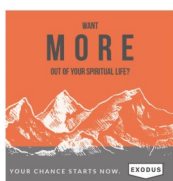
If you missed it this fall, we are offering Exodus 90 again this upcoming spring!

Are you looking to revamp your prayer life, grow in self-discipline, and find community with other men striving to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ?

If so, then we invite you to join us for Exodus 90, a 90 day spiritual program focused on prayer, asceticism, and fraternity.

If you are interested, we will have an informational meeting on **Thursday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom**. The program itself will begin on January 4, 2021 and conclude on Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021).

To get the Zoom link for the meeting and for complete details on the program, go to <https://neworchester.org/exodus-9>



## Roman Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts Statement Regarding House Budget Amendment Expanding Abortion Access

The Catholic Church teaches that life itself starts at conception and ends with natural death.

The Massachusetts state legislature is currently debating the annual budget to fund state government for the balance of the fiscal year. As part of that process many amendments are filed for consideration. House amendment number 759 will be considered by the full House in the coming days. This amendment would expand abortion access in the Commonwealth well beyond what is enshrined in state law.

While we acknowledge the amendment addresses some concerns that were raised about the deeply troubling provisions of the ROE legislation, the fact remains that abortion would remain an option under certain circumstances for the full term of the pregnancy.

That fact alone is in direct conflict with Catholic teaching and must be opposed.

In addition, current law requires a young woman under the age of 18 years old to gain the consent of a parent, guardian or the court to have an abortion. The amendment under consideration would decrease the age of consent to 16 years old. In its simplest terms, a 16 or 17 year old girl would be deprived of the guidance and support of an adult at the time of making this life changing decision.

Finally, although life-supporting equipment would be required to be in the room for abortions performed after 24 weeks, the specific language in the amendment is nuanced enough that the physician would not be required to use the equipment.

Specifically, it would "enable" the physician performing the abortion to take appropriate steps, in keeping with good medical practice...to preserve the life and health of a live birth and the patient.

For these reasons we urge the full House of Representatives not to pass amendment number 759.

His Eminence Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap.  
Archbishop of Boston



Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV  
Bishop of Fall River



## Large Nativity Sets Needed for Notre Dame Long Term Care Facility



Due to the COVID-19 precautions preventing large gatherings in single spaces, Notre Dame Long Term Care in Worcester is looking for two additional nativity sets (on approximately a 1' scale) to put out for their residents to enjoy in different wings of their facility. If you have a nativity set that you would like to donate, please contact the Director of Pastoral Care Erin McCarthy, (508) 852-3011.



## Vocations E-newsletter

The Office of Vocations has launched a monthly e-newsletter, "The Call." Come follow the great things God is doing in the lives of our seminarians. To view past issues or to sign up, go to <https://www.worcestervocations.com/sign-up-for-our-newsletter>.



## A Letter from Bishop McManus

10 November 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Since the first days of the present pandemic, the Priests, Deacons and faithful of the Diocese of Worcester have struggled in an exemplary way to minister to the sick and protect the vulnerable, while remaining safe and close to the Lord. In circumstances we could never have imagined, we have sought to celebrate the Sacred Liturgy with integrity and fidelity.

As we enter, yet again, into an intense struggle with the COVID-19 virus I call upon you to continue these noble efforts. In these days of increased spread of the virus, I ask every priest to assure that the guidelines provided by the Office for Divine Worship be faithfully observed in each of our parishes, including the revised guidelines for singing at the Liturgy contained in this edition of *Orantes*.

As we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, the safe scheduling of Christmas Masses is on the mind of each one of our priests. In the interest of providing the opportunity for as many of our people as possible to participate in a Christmas Mass, I am granting permission for Mass to be celebrated as early as 3:00pm on Christmas Eve, provided that at least two Masses are also celebrated on Christmas morning. This permission is granted after consultation with my fellow Bishops and applies only to Christmas Eve of this year.

Finally, on March 16, 2020 I announced my decision to suspend the obligation to take part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation due to the specific danger presented by this virus to older people and those with certain health conditions. **With this letter I continue that suspension until the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021, at which time I will reconsider the question as circumstances may require it.**

In last month's issue of *Orantes* you read the carefully considered letter of the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Cardinal Sarah. As His Eminence so beautifully reminded us, "we cannot be without the banquet of the Eucharist, the table of the Lord to which we are invited as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to receive the Risen Christ himself, present in body, blood, soul and divinity in that Bread of heaven which sustains us in the joys and labors of this earthly pilgrimage."

It is my prayer that through our continuing and fruitful celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our lives, the Lord will give us the graces we need to be his faithful and obedient servants in these challenging days.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Robert J. McManus Bishop of Worcester*

## READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

### READING I Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

#### A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim  
to her  
that her service is at an end,  
her guilt is expiated;  
indeed, she has received from the hand of  
the LORD  
double for all her sins.  
A voice cries out:  
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway  
for our God!  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill shall be made low;  
the rugged land shall be made a plain,  
the rough country, a broad valley.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be  
revealed,  
and all people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.  
Go up on to a high mountain,  
Zion, herald of glad tidings;  
cry out at the top of your voice,  
Jerusalem, herald of good news!  
Fear not to cry out  
and say to the cities of Judah:  
Here is your God!  
Here comes with power  
the Lord GOD,  
who rules by his strong arm;  
here is his reward with him,  
his recompense before him.  
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;  
in his arms he gathers the lambs,  
carrying them in his bosom,  
and leading the ewes with care.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### Luke 3:4, 6

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight  
his paths:  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#### Psalm 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

### READING II 2 Peter 3:8-14

#### A reading from the second book of Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years  
and a thousand years like one day.  
The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard  
“delay,”  
but he is patient with you,  
not wishing that any should perish  
but that all should come to repentance.  
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar  
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,  
and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.  
Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,  
what sort of persons ought you to be,  
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,  
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,  
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames  
and the elements melted by fire.  
But according to his promise  
we await new heavens and a new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.  
Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,  
be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him,  
at peace.

*The Word of the Lord.*



## GOSPEL FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B



OUR  
purpose  
IS TO Partner  
IN  
Preparing  
THE WAY.

### **GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.*

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:*

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside

and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem

were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River

as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair,  
with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

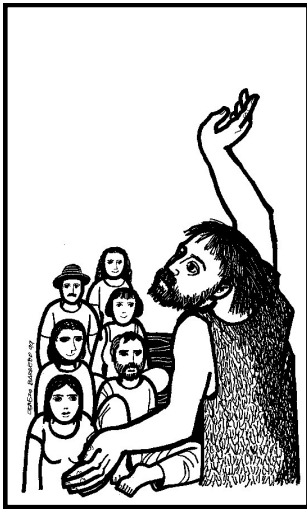
*“One mightier than I is coming after me.*

*I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.*

*I have baptized you with water;*

*he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## A Long Road Ahead

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

December 6, 2020

Ann Naffziger

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

Reading II: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah addressed the Jewish people, who were captives in Babylon. It was a time of great darkness in the history of our Jewish ancestors. Their country had been conquered, and their people were captured and taken away to a foreign land. Isaiah was speaking to people who knew what hopelessness felt like, people who understood personal and national darkness and despair. They didn't know if their nation would survive the conquest or if they would ever see their homeland again. Home was 500 miles across the wilderness as the crow flies, but a 900 mile trek because of the terrain. Isaiah proclaimed words of comfort, and promised that their ordeal was about to end. He knew the journey back home would be long and hard. The people would have mountains to climb and valleys to cross as they passed through the rugged landscape, but Isaiah promised that God would be with them to smooth the way. He assured them that their God was coming with power, and like a shepherd, would feed his flock and lead them with care.

### **Questions of the Week:**

1. Of all the disturbing situations in the year 2020, which one(s) disturb you the most and make you long for God's relief or comfort?
2. In what personal situation(s) are you experiencing mountains, valleys, and rough country?



## Prayer in Time of Pandemic

O God, Whose only begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial. Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: ***Be not afraid, for I am with you always.***

Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your Mercy.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen





**SYFS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

# **HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM GIFT CARD DRIVE**

*Your donations are imperative for this program's success!*

**SEEKING DONATIONS TO TARGET, WALMART,  
AMAZON, TRADER JOES, STOP & SHOP, OLD  
NAVY, CVS, PRICE CHOPPERS, MARSHALLS,  
WALGREENS, MICHAELS, BARNES AND NOBLE  
AND OTHER STORES**

Prefer to give a monetary donation? You can donate through PayPal or by sending a check made out to Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission with "Holiday Giving" in the memo. All donations of gift cards, checks or PayPal donations must be received by November 30th to be used for this year's program and can be mailed to:  
Southborough Youth and Family Services,  
17 Common Street, Southborough, MA 01772.  
Prefer to drop it at our office? Please email or call first!

**Questions or want to apply for this year's program?**

**Please call Christina**

**at 508-481-5676**

**or email [cmccarthy@southboroughma.com](mailto:cmccarthy@southboroughma.com)**

## United Parishes of Southborough, Inc.

### Food Pantry

c/o Pilgrim Church

P.O. Box 281

15 Common Street

Southborough, MA 01772

[southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com)

508-485-4847

Dear Food Pantry Clients,

In this changing environment, due to the increased impact of the Corona Virus, we are once again implementing a new procedure effective immediately for your safety as well as the safety of all our volunteers. We will continue this procedure as long as we are able.

The **latest** schedule for the Southborough Food Pantry will be:

Thursday evenings **from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** (Clients only, please!)

Friday mornings **from 9:30-10:30 a.m.** (Clients only, please!)

Please note: we **will not** be open on Tuesday evenings.

By 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, please provide us by e-mail ([southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com)) a list of your needs, being as specific as possible. Give us a preference for the meat you would like. We will fill it if we have it or when you pick up your order, we will offer you an alternative meat selection. If you do not have access to an e-mail, please call us at 508-485-4847, wait for the Pantry prompt and then leave your name and phone number. We will call you back to get your order.

**NEW!** When you come to the Pantry on Thursday evening or Friday morning, please stay in your car. Someone will direct you where to park. Masks are required from this point on. When directed, get out of your car and go into Fellowship Hall. Follow the arrows inside to look at the selections and get your grocery bags which will be on a cart. Take your cart with all your groceries to your car. Return the cart to the Pantry person outside. All carts will be sanitized before use by the next person. **\*\*If you do not feel safe coming inside at this time, we will bring your groceries out to you.**

**IMPORTANT:** This pick up service is for all clients unless you are sick or personally unable to get to the Pantry. For these clients, we will deliver to your outside door or patio.

We thank all of you for your cooperation. We pray that the impact of this virus will quickly come to an end.

Sincerely,

The Food Pantry Coordinators

***Please keep these times for Pantry Clients only. Donations can be made at any other time by leaving items in bins by the pantry door at Pilgrim Church (or at local parish collection sites). Please secure donation bin lid, especially during inclement weather.***

SOUTHBOROUGH YOUTH AND FAMILY  
SERVICES

# we are still here to serve

While our building is closed to the public, SYFS is still available to the residents of Southborough.

Our need-based services are here to help all families affected by Covid-19. If you are worried about a bill, heat, a car payment or food, our Emergency Fund may be able to help you.

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**For more resources, check our website:**  
**<https://www.southboroughtown.com/youth-and-family-services>**

**For questions about how to apply for help,  
please call/text Shannon at (978) 310-1182  
or email [skinayman@southboroughma.com](mailto:skinayman@southboroughma.com)**



**SOUTHBOROUGH YOUTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING ITS FAMILIES





John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

Use the graph code to write the letters on the blanks.

⬆	E	O	I	H	T
⬆	R	W	P	N	S
⬆	L	M	Y	B	U
⬆	A	C	F	Z	D
	●	●	●	●	●

And this was his message:

" A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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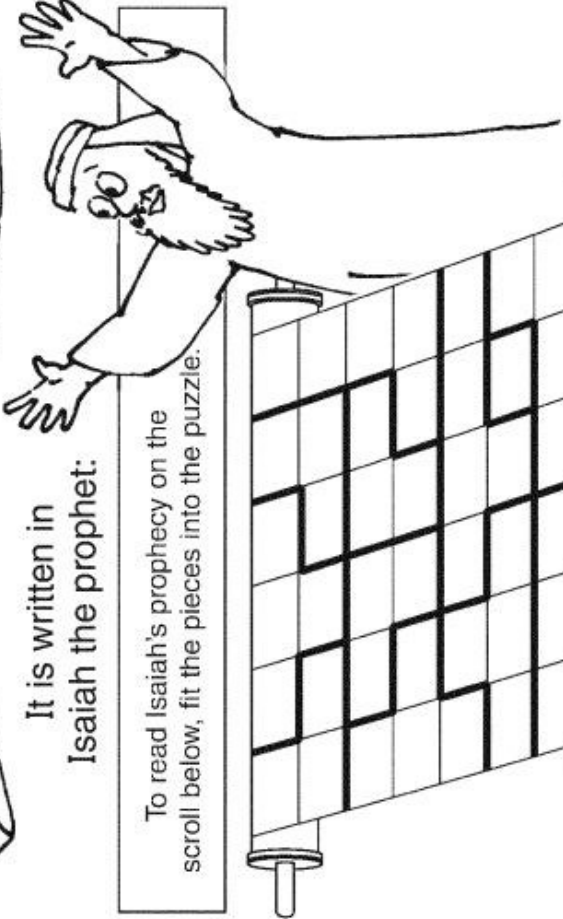
Ages 7+

December 6, 2020 • Mark 1:1-8

# John Prepares the Way

It is written in  
Isaiah the prophet:

To read Isaiah's prophecy on the scroll below, fit the pieces into the puzzle.



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pare

St. Anne Church  
20 Boston Road  
Southborough, MA 01772

2.

Write a word to fit each definition. Transfer letters to the numbered boxes. Find the answer to fill in the blanks below.

Furry body covering

3 9 12

Happiness

1 2

Worn on head

6 9 14

Insect that makes honey

8 7 7

A camping shelter

5 7 4 11

Halt!

13 14 2 10



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

So \_\_\_\_\_ appeared  
in the wilderness.

3.

What did John do?

Circle the two letters in each line that come together in order in the alphabet. Write the first letter of each pair on the line.

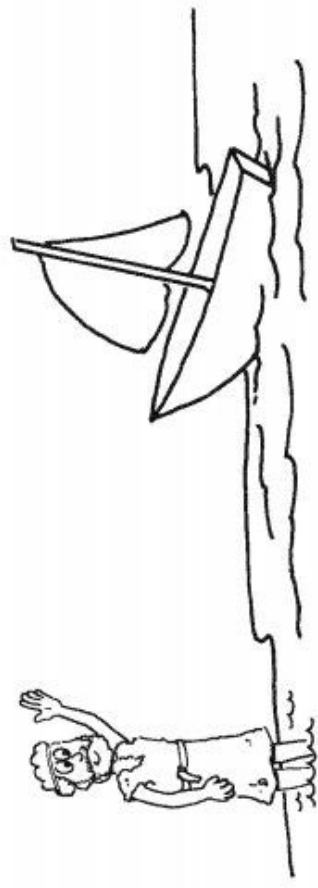
- 1. D G B C W Z 9. D G K P Q N
- 2. K M S A B T 10. C E R S G V
- 3. L P Q K A H 11. B E F J L S
- 4. A E I O T U 12. F A B H T Y
- 5. D F M Q I J 13. M R C D H T
- 6. K S V X Z A Z 14. V C E H I K
- 7. B L N R E F 15. B H E F M Q
- 8. A I K M D E 16. A D E J R V

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

AND

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

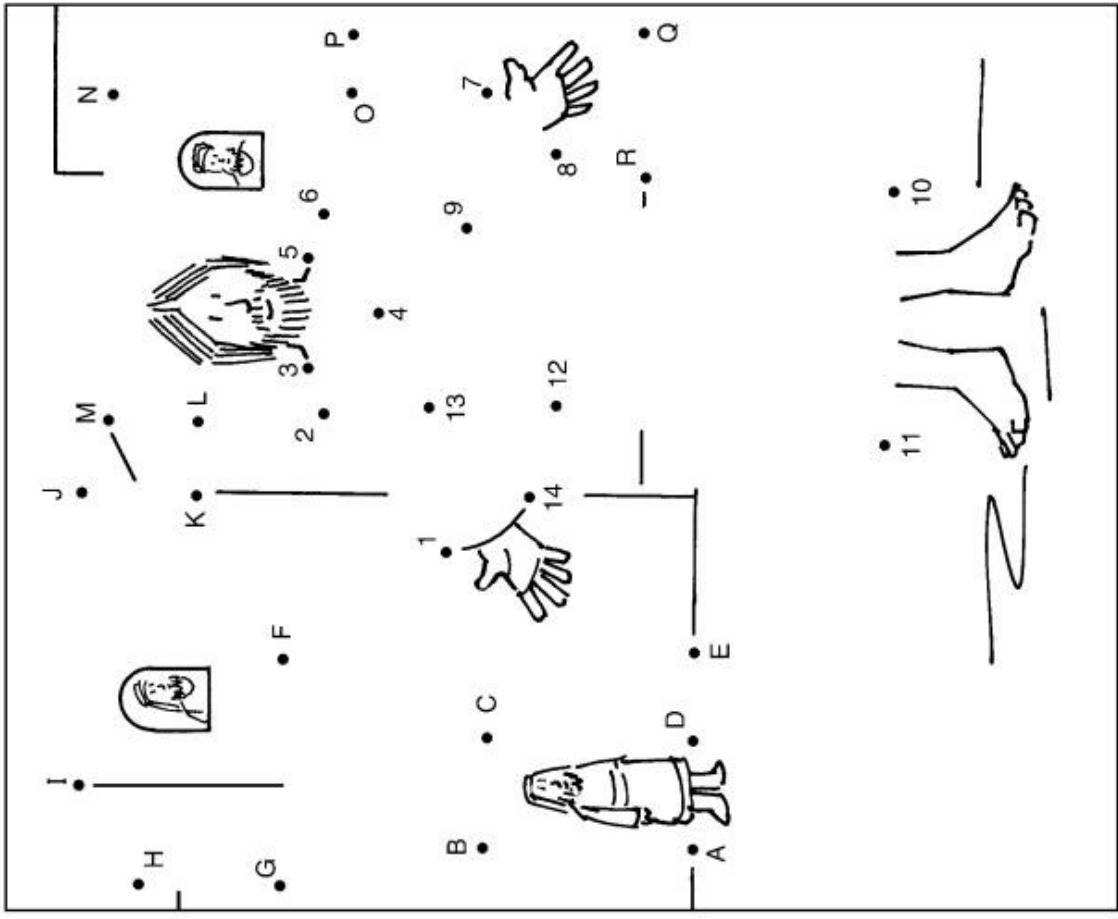
the forgiveness of sins.



John said, "One more powerful than I will come."

Connect the dots.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				



Ages 3+

December 6, 2020 • Mark 1:1-8

# Preparing the Way for Jesus

John the Baptist told that Jesus was coming.

Circle these hidden objects:



St. Anne Church  
20 Boston Road  
Southborough, MA 01772



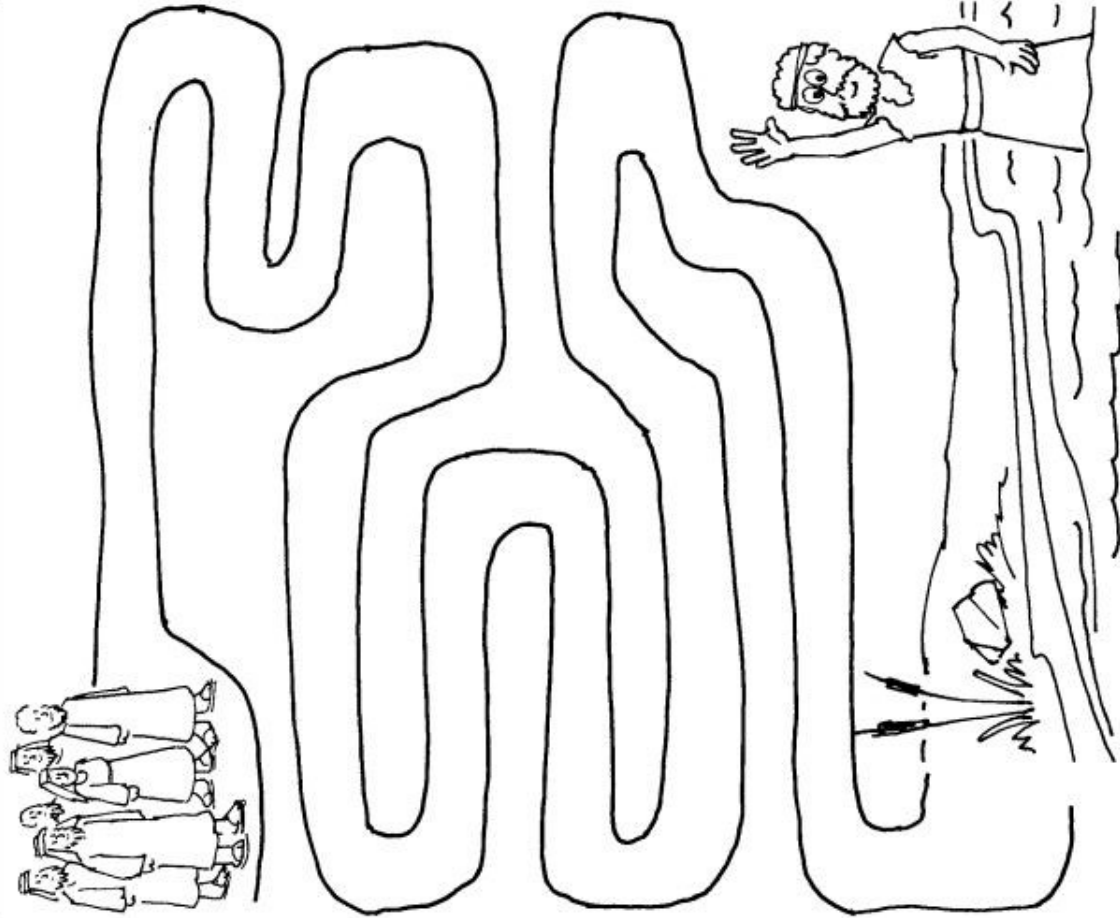
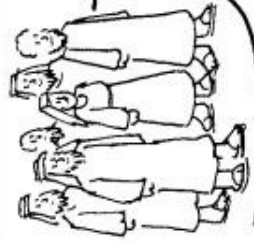
2.



John said,  
"Prepare the  
way for the Lord."



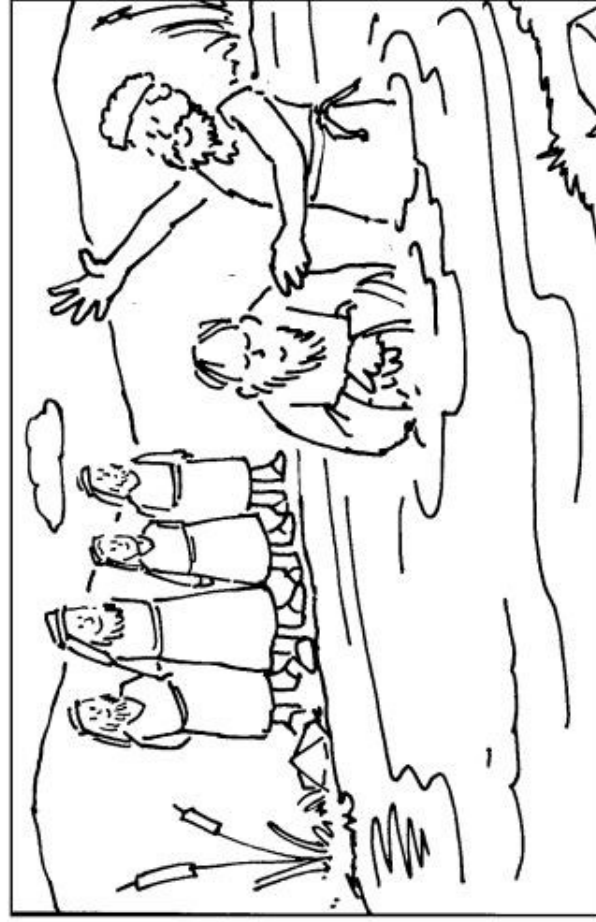
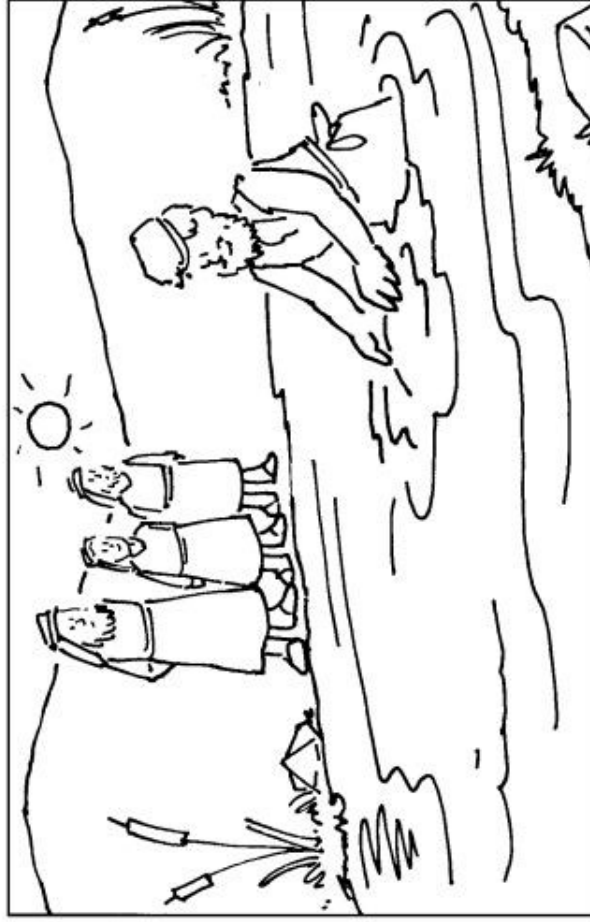
Help people get to John.

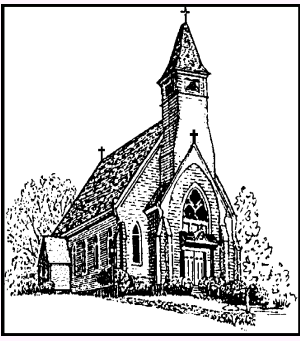


3.

The people came to John to be baptized.

Circle 5 things that are different in the 2nd picture.





## St. Anne Response to Phase One of the Reopening

St. Anne Parish is committed to the health and well-being of our people and community. Please find the guidelines that are intended for use in the first phase of lifting the suspension on public celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy, as announced by Bishop McManus on May 18, 2020. (*Updated 11/30/20*)

**Restriction on the size of Public Gatherings:** In his updated order of October, 2020, Governor Baker mandated a strict limitation of fifty percent of the building occupancy permit of any public gathering, an increase from the forty percent mandated during the first phase of reopening in May. Any public celebration of the Liturgy or public devotions should be limited to fifty percent of the capacity of the church, as recorded on the occupancy permit, including liturgical ministers, the faithful and all support personnel. Keeping this fifty percent policy in mind, our church can hold only 50 parishioners. Once there are 50 parishioners in the church, an usher will direct the faithful to the Parish Hall abiding by the same restrictions in the church.

**Continuing Suspension of the Sunday Obligation:** Because older adults and those with underlying health conditions continue to be advised to avoid public assemblies, *the suspension of the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays has been extended to the first Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021.*

**Protocol Education:** Parishioners will be reminded of the continuing necessity of social distancing and what they expect when they return to church with the appropriate educational materials in the form of bulletin inserts, Flocknote, social media and parish websites. There will be reminders at the start of the Masses too.

### THE CHURCH BUILDING

**Holy Water:** All standing Holy Water will be removed from all fonts. Small individual bottles of Holy Water might be appropriately provided for parishioners at their request. Holy Water is also kept in larger closed container in front of the altar, from which the faithful might draw a personal supply.

**Hymnals and Missalettes:** Hymnals and Missalettes are removed from the pews and are stored for possible future use. Please use online sources for the daily readings, etc. which may be accessed on their cell phone.

**Marking the Floor:** The floor will be marked with removable tape at six-foot intervals approaching all communion stations and approaching the rest rooms in the parish hall.

**Cleaning:** Pew backs and surfaces in bathrooms will be disinfected after every Mass. Door handles and other surfaces will also be disinfected daily. Parish staff will disinfect the church buildings after each Mass with a fogger machine.

## **PEOPLE ARRIVING AT CHURCH**

**Masks and Social Distancing:** All members of the congregation should be masked and required to observe a minimum of a six-foot social distance. Liturgical ministers are not masked, except for the isolated instances noted below. People with medical/disabling conditions are exempted. We request them to go to the cry room or foyer at the main entrance of the church. It is mainly to avoid the unnecessary anxieties that would create among other parishioners.

**Seating:** In order to promote social distancing, we have taped every other pew. As you enter the church, you will notice blue taped pews which should not be occupied. Please occupy the ones that has small blue square tape. We recommend that only three people should be seated in a pew, unless it is a family.

**Ushers:** We would like to have two ushers for every Mass and would appreciate if you could volunteer. We hope to have younger and healthier parishioners. Their tasks would be:

- Wear a mask and assure that everyone entering the church has a mask or other suitable face covering;
- Direct those entering the Church to observe social distancing;
- At the time for Distribution of Holy Communion, direct communicants to leave their pews one row at a time while observing the requisite social distancing.

**One Entrance:** There will be only one entrance to the church in order to reduce the overflow of parishioners. The door near the ramp will be open and all other doors will be locked.

## **THE MASS**

**Singing:** A cantor and organist may lead the music. No congregational singing is allowed, with the exception of the Gospel Acclamation, Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen and Agnus Dei. The Opening and Closing music are instrumental or sung only by the cantor/organist. All the other parts of the Mass are recited.

**Seating of Liturgical Ministers:** Liturgical ministers should be seated at a minimal distance of six feet from each other. The first pew in front of the ambo is reserved for lectors and Extra ordinary ministers. Please find acnearby seat if someone comes with a wheel chair.

**Processions:** Entrance and recessional processions will be suspended. The Priest will be entering the sanctuary directly from the sacristy.

**Collection:** Instead of passing collection baskets, please place your weekly donations in the basket, kept near the entrance of the church.

**Offertory Procession;** The offertory procession is suspended.

**Preparation of the Gifts:** The priest will take care of the preparation of gifts. In case we have altar servers, they will be asked to keep a social distance of six-foot. Servers bringing the gifts to the Priest or washing the hands at the lavabo should wear a mask. This is the only time during the Mass when the servers will wear a mask.



**Reception of Holy Communion in the church:** Hand sanitizer will be kept in the middle of the church, approximately at the fourth pew near the sanctuary. As each person leaves their pew to come for Communion, use the hand sanitizer to sanitize one's hands before receiving Holy Communion.

**Reception of Holy Communion in the Parish Hall:** The extra ordinary minister will bring Holy Communion to you and so you do not need to stand in queue. The usher will give you the hand sanitizer before you receive Holy Communion.

**All Physical Contact Avoided:** The invitation to exchange the Sign of Peace and the shaking of hands with parishioners at the end of Mass are suspended.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Both Species:** The distribution of the Precious Blood to all is suspended.

**Communion on the Tongue:** We encourage all the parishioners to receive Holy Communion on their hands. If someone still wishes to receive on the tongue, the priest and extra ordinary ministers will **not** refuse.

**Ministers of Holy Communion:** Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be masked but not gloved. They will use hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of Holy Communion;

**During the Distribution of Holy Communion:** While the distribution of Holy Communion takes place in the usual manner, care should be taken to avoid all contact with the hands or tongue of the communicant. To this end, a small table should be placed in front of the altar with an unfolded corporal and a bottle of hand sanitizer. Whenever the minister of Holy Communion senses that he/she has touched the hand or tongue of a communicant he/she stops immediately, places the ciborium on the corporal, purifies his/her fingers, and returns to the distribution of Holy Communion.

**Cleansing Vessels:** All Communion Vessels should be thoroughly washed after each Mass once they have been purified.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS**

**The Sacrament of Confession:** Traditional confessionals are unsafe due to the closeness of the Priest and penitent separated only by a grill not designed to prevent virus transmission. Likewise, the transmission of the virus from one penitent to another is possible via the surfaces touched and the dangers from aerosolization of the virus in a small space. The small size of most "Rooms of Reconciliation" present similar potential dangers. We will use our **cry room** as confessional room for time being. If the weather is good, we might have it near the ramp of our parish office. Whether the confession is heard in the cry room or near the ramp, both priest and penitent should wear a mask or face covering. The confession should not last longer than **three to five minutes**, in order to limit exposure of both Priest and penitent.

**The confession** will be heard from 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturdays. You are welcome to call and make appointment at any other time.

**Anointing of the Sick:** The priest will begin to return to administering the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to their parishioners. He will discuss with the person or family with regard to Covid+ and non-Covid+ patients before going to anoint.

**Funerals:** Funeral Masses may be celebrated with the same restrictions as for any Mass, including the appropriate provisions for social distancing and liturgical adaptations. The family should be seated by the Funeral Director upon arriving in Church. Only 50 people are allowed to attend the funeral. If there are more than 50 people, the Parish Hall will be set up with closed circuit TV.

**Weddings:** The Sacrament of Matrimony may be celebrated with the same restrictions as for any Mass, including the appropriate provisions for social distancing and liturgical adaptations. Only 50 people are allowed to attend the wedding. The Parish Hall will also be available.

**Baptisms:** Only individual Baptisms may be celebrated with a prudent limitation on the number of people present and the requisite considerations for social distancing. All rites should take place with the family remaining in the pew, with the exception of the moment of Baptism, when either the parents or godparents approach the font while carrying the child and then, after the explanatory rites, return to their pew. All who are present wear masks throughout, with the exception of the Priest and the child to be baptized. Only 50 people are allowed to attend the baptism. All baptisms will be celebrated **outside** of the Mass until further notice.

**Confirmations:** Our Religious Education Director and Confirmation teachers await from the diocese the date and protocol for the Confirmation Mass in the spring of 2021. Updates will be provided to families as soon as verified. Retreat plans will be sent out to families as soon as possible taking into account best health practices.

**First Holy Communion:** Our Religious Education Director and First Holy Communion teachers are in constant discussion about the scheduling of First Holy Communion Mass(es) in the spring of 2021. We will update plan taking into account family input and best health practices.

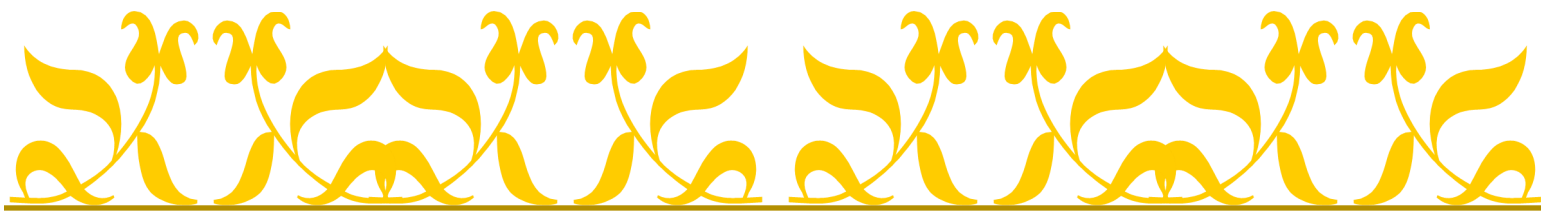
**Adoration on Wednesdays:** We have resumed Holy Hour on Wednesdays. Signup is located in the church foyer bulletin board. The revised hours are from the conclusion of daily Mass until 6:00 p.m.

**Parish office will be open:** The Parish Office will be open from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and from 9:30 am to noon on Fridays. Please remember to wear a face covering and to follow social distancing rules. We encourage our parishioners to come and be seated in the couch placed at the entrance of the Parish Office rather than walking in to the secretary's office.

**Seminarian for pastoral exposure:** We anticipate having a seminarian for the summer of 2021 to have pastoral exposure. Any updates will be posted in the bulletin and in the parish website.

**Masses:** We have regular Mass at 9:00 am from Monday to Thursday. We will accommodate only 50 parishioners for the weekday Mass. We also have weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, and 5:30 pm. The 5:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses will continue to be livestreamed.

**Live Streaming:** Regular Masses and Weekend Masses will still be live streamed and so our parishioners who are unable to participate in the Eucharist physically, will be able to have spiritual participation.



## Additional Questions on Phase I Re-Opening

In the course of the first week of reopening, priests and other pastoral leaders have worked assiduously to faithfully implement the guidelines mandated by Bishop McManus in his decree of May 18, 2020. As many of these priests have also sought the guidance of the Office for Divine Worship in implementing these guidelines, the following clarifications are offered for the benefit of our readers.

### **Should bulletins be distributed at the end of Mass?**

Epidemiologists caution against the distribution of printed materials to the faithful at Mass. The risk if such materials are left on a table or in a box is that repeated accidental contact with surfaces may leave traces of the virus. The risk if ushers pass out bulletins at the end of Mass stems from the additional violation of social distance between the usher and members of the Congregation and the interruption of an ordered and socially distant exit from the Church. Therefore, we continue to distribute bulletins by emails only. If you would like to receive a bulletin, please inform the office.

### **How should hosts for the faithful be safely consecrated?**

A ciborium or other vessel with hosts for distribution to the faithful should be placed on a corporal at some distance from the breath of the celebrant. The ciborium should be covered with a pall except from the epiclesis through the words of consecration.

### **Is the true maximum capacity of a Church always forty percent of building capacity?**

No. The true maximum capacity should be the number of seats possible while maintaining a minimal social distance of six feet up to a maximum of forty percent of building capacity.

### **Can the family provide readers for funerals?**

Reservations concerning the use of readers or other ministers seated in the congregation grow from the repeated contact with surfaces on the pew and ambo. Priests may choose to discourage ministers from sitting in the congregation or find a way to wipe down the pew and ambo immediately after their service is completed.

