

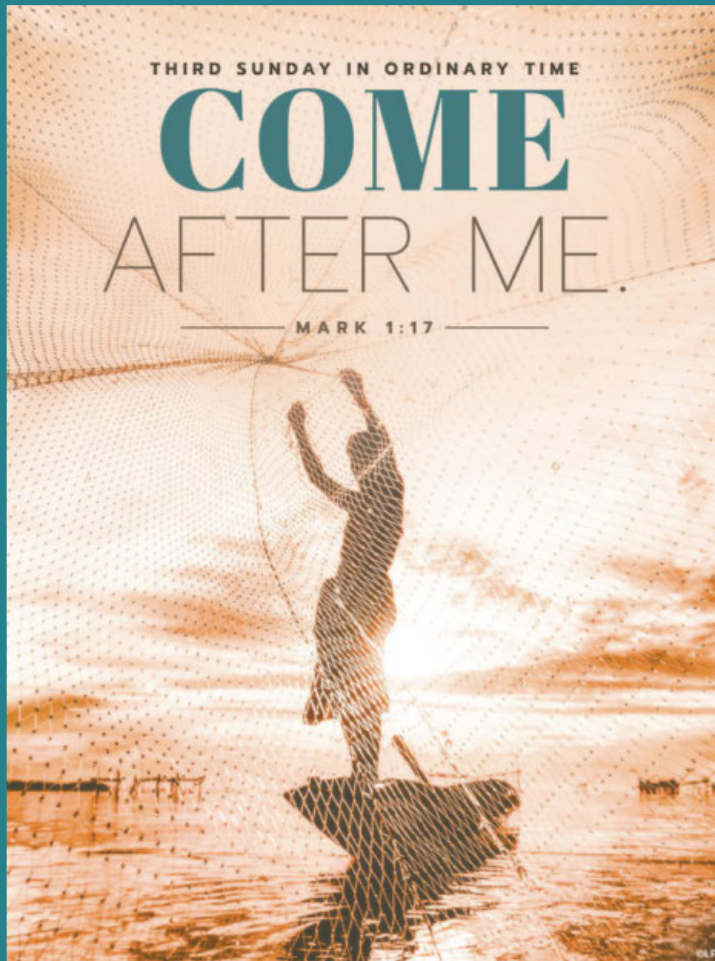


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 January 21, 2024  
 The Third Sunday in  
 Ordinary Time*



Sunday, 8:00 AM  
 Sunday, 11:30 AM



“As the family goes,  
 so goes the nation,  
 and so goes the  
 whole world  
 in which  
 we live.”  
 ST. JOHN PAUL II

Day of Prayer  
 for the Legal  
 Protection of  
 Unborn Children

### **Church of Saint Ann**

**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater  
 02379  
 508-586-4880**

**E-Mail: [stanns@comcast.net](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)  
 Website: [stannswb.com](http://stannswb.com)  
 Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are  
 9:00-3:00  
 Monday through Friday**

### **Saint John the Evangelist**

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater  
 02333  
 Office -103 N. Main Street,  
 West Bridgewater  
 508-378-4207**

**E-MAIL: [stjohnnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnnebridge@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohnnebridge.org](http://www.stjohnnebridge.org)**

**Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB  
 Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —  
 Paul Ring OFS**

# 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-Friday**

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### **St Ann's**

**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday: 9:30 a.m.**

**6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass**  
**w/ Drive up option**

**Daily Mass**  
**Thurs & Sat.**  
**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 private and 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  
**Assistant Music Director:** Matt Cunningham

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





\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, January 20, 2024

4:00 - Brendan Hallisey — 1st Anniversary

#### Sunday, January 21, 2024

9:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

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

#### Saturday, January 27, 2024

4:00 - Carolyn A. Ritucci — 3rd Anniversary

#### Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:30 - Victims of Trafficking and their families

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, January 21, 2024

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 --Gene Biagi — 41st Anniversary

#### Sunday, January 28, 2024

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 - Victims of Trafficking and their families

SAINT ANN'S NEEDS  
LECTORS FOR THE 6:15 MASS

ANYONE INTERESTED PLEASE CALL  
DEBBIE CONRAD 508-378-4207

*SAINT JOHN'S IS HOSTING  
A  
HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE*

*AT 2:00 PM*

*SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST*

*Celebrated by  
Deacon Chris & Deacon Leo*

Just a gentle reminder that "The Mass ends when the priest says, "The Mass has ended, go in peace," after which we reply, "Thanks be to God." It is proper for the congregation to remain in their pews until the completion of the recessional hymn."

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Back in high school, I was asked by my pastor if I had ever considered a vocation to the priesthood. I can remember distinctly the reaction I had to that inquiry: I laughed in his face! There was no disrespect intended, for I was sure that he was joking; when he said that he wasn't I was, to say the least, contrite if not downright remorseful. This encounter was then followed by two other (seemingly, at the moment) unrelated conversations. When the third conversation occurred surrounding this same topic I was, indeed, intrigued. Was God actually calling *me* to the priesthood? Did I dare say yes? When I did, eventually, say yes, my whole world changed. I realized that God was, indeed, calling me to become a "fisher of men" (Mk 1:17).

In today's gospel, the response of the first followers of Jesus was far more immediate and sure. They left everything they had and followed Jesus, which must have taken extraordinary faith and courage. To leave everything you know, everything that holds you secure is an amazing "leap of faith". This is what God is calling us to do, to respond to our baptismal call by following Him. Yes, it does take an incredible amount of faith to do this, but when we do the results can be life-changing. We may not be called to leave everything we know, but that's not really the point of today's gospel. In its wider context, the gospel passage today is calling us to look within our own circles of friends, our own families, to see who needs to be "reeled in". There are many of our own who are "adrift" who are looking for "safe harbor", and we can be the one who brings them "safely to shore".

We can't be sure of what was going through the minds of those first disciples, but we know that there was something alluring about Jesus' call to them. It made them give up everything they knew, everything that held them secure, to follow Him. Is God calling us to something, something beyond ourselves? Is God calling us, by virtue of our baptismal call, to be disciples, to be (in paraphrasing the gospel) "fishers of people"? It could very well be that God is calling us and, for whatever reason – it could be apathy, fear or doubt – we are not responding as fully as we could/should be. Let us have the same trust the first disciples did. Let us attune our hearts to hear the call of Jesus so that others may come to know what we have come to know: that Jesus has come into the world to follow Him, now and into the Kingdom.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

## MINISTRY NEWS

### Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at [Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

#### Adult Confirmation Classes

Classes will be beginning soon for any adult who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation but is looking to do so. Please contact Matt Brady for more information.



#### January Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is January 28th at the 6:15 Mass. There will be contemporary music and Fr. Paul will make his homily relevant to the life of our young people.

We also invite any of our teens who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your teen wants to do one of these things, please contact Matt Brady.

#### February Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is February 4<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 Mass. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass.

If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading please contact Matt Brady.

An offer of invitation from Nancy Smith, Director of the Holy Cross Retreat Center:

Consider yourself invited to discern a wonderful Retreat opportunity at the Holy Cross Retreat House held on various weekends from October-April. Kevin and I have lived in Cursillo, and either of us would be happy to sponsor you!

Cursillo means "a short course in Christianity".

Cursillo is more than a retreat. It is a dynamic Christian seminar. Participants are given practical insights into the everyday life of faith and service. Through prayer, reflection, group activities, and fellowship, the weekend is designed to deepen and round out what one has learned about Christ.

There is time for reflection and silence, and plenty of songs, laughter, discussion, prayer, liturgies, and breaks to make it a most enjoyable experience.

Winter/Spring Dates:

February 1—4 (Men)

February 22—25 (Women)

March 21—24 (Men)

April 25—28 (Women)

October 24– 27 (Men)

November 21-24 (Women)



The retreat costs \$195 for the weekend and includes program materials, lodging, and meals. Please reach out if the cost prevents you from joining us, as help is always available.



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today's first reading, we have God speaking to Jonah, calling him to go to the city of Nineveh with a message of "convert, or else!" It was not, as we used to say in the seminary, a "warm and fuzzy" message. It was a call for the people of Nineveh to convert or risk the loss of their lives. Jonah proceeded to go through the city with this call to conversion...and it worked! The city saw the error of their ways and turned back to God. When we think of St. Francis, we might think of his preaching as "warm and fuzzy", especially since he did things like preach to the birds. Of course, the reason he turned to the birds with his message was because the people turned their hearts away from God and from St. Francis' preaching so he had no alternative but to change his audience

When you ask people, "What was Saint Francis' preaching style like?" they draw from a modern, sentimental view of the man that glosses over this individual who had an amazing conversion, who rebuked his former sinful way of life to radically follow the gospel. And he never forgot that. Thomas Celano, who was the individual who wrote the first biography about Saint Francis had this to say about St. Francis' preaching: "His words were neither hollow, nor ridiculous, but filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, penetrating the marrow of the heart so that listeners were turned to great amazement." (Celano, "First Life of Francis"). This guy didn't preach light and fluffy stuff; he penetrated to people's very hearts with his insights. And now, how did he do that? Well, in Francis' time, the training at universities for homiletics, or how to give homilies, it stressed that you want to be scholarly, you want to be precise, but it just wasn't very pastoral. So, the sermons that people gave were really dry or really harsh. They just didn't really connect well with people. So, the same thing happened with Saint Francis in that he never went to a university to get this kind of homiletic training. Instead of his preaching being academic, however, his preaching came from his own conversion experience. It was deeply personal. And the way that he would preach, it was energetic, he would sing, he would dance, he would weep. He was filled with energy and vibrancy when he preached to people.

In his own way, St. Francis won souls for Christ. He did so in an energetic, pastoral, and personal way. In reaching the people, he worked at "penetrating the marrow of the heart" (ibid.). May we be touched to the heart by the person of Jesus Christ, and may we come to know Him with our whole heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
Outstanding Bills**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
Church in Latin America**

If you are an Amazon Prime Member, you can watch the Sounds of Freedom Free of charge.

**Based on the true story of a man's mission to rescue children from the darkest parts of the world. This action-packed drama shines a light on the painful reality of child trafficking and the valiant efforts of those who work tirelessly to combat it. Co-exclusive with Angel Studios.**

This is the movie that stirred my soul to do something. We took a little break from this subject over the holidays but now that the New Year is upon us, we need to move forward and organize.

I have been in touch with **Detective Cecelia Cacciatore** to put together a program that would inform us on this subject and direct us as to how to make some positive steps to address the problem.



Please watch the bulletin for further information on this subject.

Debbie





## 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, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Karen & Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Eileen Doherty & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



**Please let the Rectory know if your loved ones should remain on the prayer list. Or if someone was removed and should be added again.. Thank you for your assistance.**

### A Good Time for Fulfillment By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

There are some things that always come at the worst time. I've never gotten a telemarketing call and thought, "This is a really convenient moment for me to listen to a sales pitch." I've never seen the compulsory software update notice flash on my computer screen when I *didn't* have a deadline I was struggling to meet. My kids never come down with the flu unless it's the weekend and the line at Urgent Care is stretching out the door.

And I never, ever feel the calm, persistent shoulder-tap of the Holy Spirit without thinking, "Now? Now is not a good time. Can you try again when I'm..."

But then I stop and think: when I am what? When I am stronger? When I am happier? When I am smarter? When I am a different person?

When God calls us, He calls the person He sees in front of Him. "Come on," He says, and He doesn't mean "When you're finished" or "When it's convenient" or "Think about it." He means now. This moment.

This is what Paul is saying when he writes that "the world in its present form is passing away." He is saying that your plans mean nothing, the kingdom of God is at hand. Abandon your nets, let your catch escape into the sea. You're not who you thought you were, and you don't need what you thought you needed.

Your sins do not define you. Your fears are not fate. Your inclinations do not govern you. Your life can be changed. We live in the time of fulfillment, and fulfillment is coming for you — ready or not.

*"Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: 'This is the time of fulfillment.'"* — Mark 1:14

West Bridgewater Food Pantry  
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1  
West Bridgewater

**WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday each month**

**TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM**

**Tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal are needed.**

**Cash donations also accepted**

St Ann's  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

P O Box 474

West Bridgewater MA 02379

To join please call — TINA ANTHONY  
508-245-5481

**Donations are always appreciated. Place Money and gift cards \$5-\$25 into the St. Vincent de Paul boxes located at the exits.**

**Because of your generosity, we were able to put together 16 toiletry bags for our homeless neighbors and were able to donate some toiletry items to the food bank.**

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

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

### 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**

*Monday, February 5, 2024*

*Monday, February 19, 2024*

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, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal.**

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

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**



*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Mary Lou Heath  
William Keady  
Benjamin Andrea*

*May they rest in peace, and may their Families find comfort from their faith in Jesus Christ.*



*Please welcome the following children into our Collaborative.*

*Pray that this is the first step in a wonderful journey with God.*

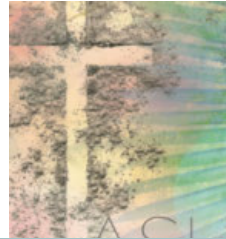
*Olivia Faith Moreau  
Luna Faith Moreau  
Adrianna Winter Brandt Karavetos*

Sun, Feb 11, 2024

World Marriage Day is celebrated every year on the second Sunday in February, sometimes coinciding with St. Valentine's Day.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024



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