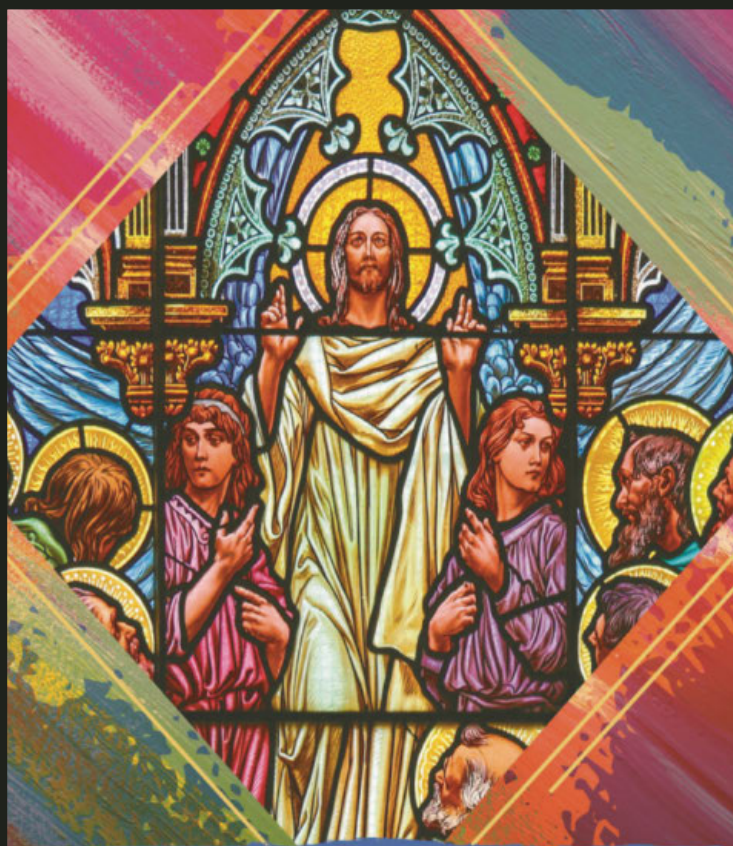




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
February 12, 2023
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother
will be liable to judgment." - Mt 5:22a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 C.O.D. ©LPI

WIFE, MOTHER, AND PHYSICIAN

“
LOVE AND
SACRIFICE
ARE AS
INTIMATELY
CONNECTED
AS SUN
AND LIGHT.
”

- ST. GIANNA MOLLA

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 9-3 M-F
For both Churches**

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

Website: www.stjohnnebridge.org

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

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Priests In Residence

Fr. Peter Francis
Fr. Michael Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Christopher Connelly
cconnelly@rcab.org

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 3PM Monday-Friday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.
In the Church

St Ann's
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 &
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.
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

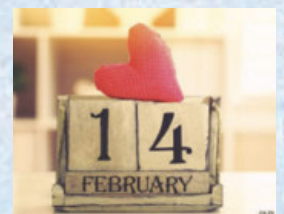
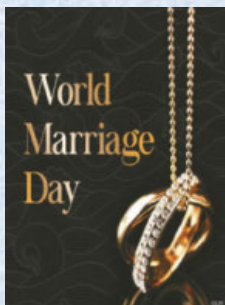
Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton

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



MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, February 12, 2023

- 7:30 - Mass for the intentions of all our parishioners and loved ones.
11:30 - Peter Cogswell — 50th Anniversary
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

Sunday, February 19, 2023

- 7:30 - Maureen, Marilyn & Arthur Pigeon — Memorial
11:30 - Rita Giovanoni — 5th Anniversary
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, February 11, 2023

- 4:00 - Robert DeCosta — 9th Anniversary
Pauline Grady — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, February 12, 2023

- 9:30 - Kim Russo — Birthday Remembrance

Saturday, February 18, 2023

- 4:00 - Mass for our police, firefighters and first responders

Sunday February 19, 2023

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



February 11 — First Reconciliation — St. John's — 10 AM
February 26 — Second collection for The Church Around the World

February 22 — Ash Wednesday — Begins Lent
March 25 — Confirmation Retreat — Glastonbury Abbey

April 2 — Palm Sunday
April 7 — Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
April 8 — Holy Saturday
April 9 — EASTER SUNDAY

April 22 — Ecumenical Bi-Centennial Celebration —
6:30 — 8:00 pm at St. John's

Mass Location/Time Changes effective April 15 & 16

Saturday

3:00 pm — St. Ann's (confessions)
4:00 pm — St. Ann's Mass

Sunday

8:00 am — St. John's Mass
9:30 am — St. Ann's Mass
11:30 am — St. John's Mass
6:15 pm — St. John's Mass

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Somebody once asked Charles Darwin, the proponent of the theory of evolution, the question "Is there anything that is true only of man?" Darwin answered: "Man is the only animal that blushes". What does it mean to blush? Well, basically it is an acknowledgement of being embarrassed over something. When we do something wrong, whether wittingly or unwittingly, we tend to get embarrassed; only the most callous of people would not do so. When we do purposely do something wrong which hurts or harms ourselves, another and/or God, we call that "sin". In the Catholic tradition, this purposeful engagement of wrongful behavior results in a damaging of (in the case of venial sin) or break in the relationship (i.e. mortal sin) which we have with others and God.

Thank God we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation to "right the ship", as it were, restoring that relationship back to where it should be. We also have the Ten Commandments, which are offered to us as a way of living. The Ten Commandments are a "blueprint" for living a life rooted in God's love. More than that, however, the Commandments are mandates (otherwise, they might have been given as the "Ten Suggestions", as I saw alluded to on a bumper sticker a while back!) from God on how we are to treat ourselves, others and God, and how we are to look critically at our lives. When we hear the word "mandate", we shouldn't be fearful; on the contrary, we are given this mandate from God (in the form of the Commandments) so as to live in freedom, a true and lasting freedom which the world cannot give.

Jesus, in speaking of the law and the prophets, tells His audience that He has come to fulfill, not abolish, them. The fulfillment of these comes through Jesus' own life, death and resurrection. When Jesus comes "on the scene", the Scribes and the Pharisees are controlling how the people view and live these realities (of the law and the prophets). The only problem is, they themselves aren't always living them; they are "talking the talk" but not always "walking the walk". This is the difference with Jesus. In fulfilling the law and the prophets, Jesus helps us to live both in the "letter" and in the "spirit" of the law, found in the Commandments and the prophets, found in Him. In doing this, Jesus brings about a radically new way of both perceiving and living life in God.

The Commandments are important both for the revelation of God's presence in the world and for His need to bring order out of chaos. They are also important in that they help us to live in full relationship with Him. May we have the courage to live both in the letter and spirit of the Law. May this Law bring about a freedom to live more fully alive in God, and help us to work toward the building up of the Kingdom here on earth, the betterment of ourselves and our brothers and sisters and for the greater glory of God!

Have a Blessed Week,
Fr. Paul

MINISTRY NEWS

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

February Teen Mass:

Our next Teen Mass is Sunday, February 26th at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann. We invite our teens to get involved as readers and gift bearers, and there is upbeat music and an inspiring, teen-related homily. All are welcome to attend, not just teens and their families!

If your child is interested in reading or bringing up the gifts, please email Matt Brady.

Bible Study Launch:

I would like to start an adult Bible study for the parishioners of our Collaborative. It will be based on the Sunday Gospel and will feature discussion of the passage and how we can apply it to our lives. To find the best time to hold the Bible study, I have created a survey. This is the link: <https://forms.gle/415uB5ZsabXwHzwc7>. You can also find it on the website and our Facebook pages.

Lenten Sock Drive:

As we journey through the season of Lent, we will be collecting new white socks for the homeless of Boston. Fr. Paul will take our donations to Capuchin Mobile Ministries for them to distribute.

Donation bins can be found in both churches, as well as in St. Ann's hall. Thank you for your generosity!

Lent is Coming... Ash Wednesday is February 22!

Ash Wednesday Schedule

9 am Mass at St. John
4 pm Prayer Service at St. John
7 pm Mass at St. Ann

The Light is on for You:

Fr. Paul will hear Confessions every Wednesday in Lent from 6:30-8:00 pm

Locations:

3/1: St. John
3/8: St. Ann
3/15: St. John
3/22: St. Ann
3/29: St. John
4/5: St. Ann

Every Friday at 7 pm we will gather together to pray the Stations of the Cross. Join us as we remember Jesus' journey to the cross.

Locations:

2/24: St. Ann
3/3: St. Ann
3/10: St. John
3/17: No Stations-
See St. Patrick's Day Stations and Potluck
3/24: St. John
3/31: St. Ann

St. Patrick's Day Stations and Potluck: 3/16 at St. John

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we are hosting a special Stations of the Cross on Thursday, 3/16 at 6 pm followed by a potluck supper on at St. John's. All collaborative parishioners are welcome to join us, young and old!



I Believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the Giver of Life

Last week, I made reference to the Council of Constantinople in the year AD 381. Having settled the question of Jesus' true and full humanity, the Council turned its attention to define what she believed about the Holy Spirit. Half a century earlier at Nicaea, the Bishops of the Church were focused on defending the true humanity and divinity of Jesus that it did not feel the need to define the Holy Spirit in its Creed. The creed of Nicaea simply read, "I believe in the Holy Spirit" after outlining what it believed about the Lord Jesus Christ. But by the year AD 381, there were a group of people led by Macedonius, the Bishop of Constantinople from AD 342-360. This group of people denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit—hence they were commonly known as the Spirit Fighters from the greek word, *Pneumatomachi* (pneuma=spirit; machi=battle or combat). The Spirit Fighters taught that, like the Son, the Holy Spirit was a creature who worked on behalf of the Father and the Son. This way of thinking was condemned by Pope Damascus I in AD 374 and at the Council of Constantinople, the following words were added to the Nicene Creed, *"And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son is equally worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets."*

The Council affirmed what most Christians believed about the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit is his own person active not only in creation, but in our redemption and sanctification. The Holy Spirit was active in creation. Genesis speaks about a mighty wind calming the waters of chaos ahead of God's first command, "Let there be light." The Holy Spirit was breathed into Adam and Eve giving them life from his life. In the form of a mighty wind and fire, the Holy Spirit led the Israelites through the wilderness into the promised land. The Holy Spirit anointed judges, kings, and prophets. The Spirit overshadowed Mary and conceived Jesus in her womb. The Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism. The Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert to be tempted by Satan. Simeon, received a message from the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the messiah. In Nazareth, Jesus announces to all in the synagogue that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him to bring glad tidings to the poor. The Holy Spirit is promised by Jesus to the disciples to be their advocate and guide. This promise is fulfilled when the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples after the resurrection. This same Spirit gives the disciples the courage to move out of hiding to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

In the life of the Church the same Spirit is given to us and is with us as our advocate and guide. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Spirit is "in the Scriptures, in the Tradition, in the Church's Magisterium, in the sacramental liturgy, in prayer, in the charisms and ministries of the Church, in the signs of apostolic and missionary life, and in the witness of the saints.

The same Spirit that was in the Old Testament, in the life of Jesus, and in the ministry of the Church, is given to each one of us at our Baptism. The Spirit configures us to Christ. The Spirit gives us the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. The Spirit strengthens our souls with the gifts of wisdom, understanding, courage, counsel, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. The Holy Spirit fills us so that we may bear fruit in the forms of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. The Holy Spirit is the work horse of the Blessed Trinity and we are proud to confess that we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life!



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today's readings focus in on the (Ten) Commandments. Many see the Commandments in terms of "do's and don'ts", "rules and regulations". As a faithful servant of Christ and His Church, I believe that St. Francis would see beyond the "letter of the law", peering deeply into the "spirit of the law" and how it can be applied in society. Francis was always one to be fully "in the world" while still maintaining his focus/vision towards the Kingdom. When we look at all of our fellow human beings and other creatures in light of the Gospel, we will understand why the Church raises certain concerns in its teachings on Social Justice. Too often we fail to recognize what is unjust according to God's way of thinking, because in our experience things have always been that way. Therefore, we tend to accept them as they are, thinking that things are supposed to be that way. We have tended to separate our theological beliefs from our understanding of and our analysis of society. So, we need some training and guidance in applying our theological beliefs to society (our social organization, economy, politics, laws, etc.) which we tend to evaluate according to merely secular values. True social justice is neither liberal nor conservative, neither Democratic nor Republican. It may call for viewing things in a different way than we are used to; it may challenge our familiar attitudes. For that reason, a just vision of society may make us uncomfortable, but Jesus' teachings were never about being comfortable. Following Christ calls us to ongoing conversion. At times, therefore, we need to be made uncomfortable in our thinking in order to move closer to Christ's Gospel message. For those of us who are Franciscan or associated with a Franciscan vision, a socially just vision of reality begins with our Franciscan understanding of Christ. In Franciscan theology, in God's plan of creation, God planned from the beginning that God would become human, so that a human, God's creature, could give perfect love to God.

God as human was not a result of sin, but of God's eternal self-giving plan of creation. God in human flesh was the model after which all else would be created. This is St. Paul's "first born of all Creation." After Adam's sin, the God-Human would have to live in a world infected by sin, and, therefore, endure suffering and death. Nevertheless, Jesus remains as the first of all creatures, the model from whom all other creatures receive their worth. Every human person and every creature, from the lowly blade of grass to the magnificent planets of the heavens, shares in the divine life and worth. That divine worth makes all creatures sacred and stands as the basis for their rights. This worth is conferred by God in creating them and is not based on the behavior of the person or creature. Nor is its value measured by its contribution to either the economy or to the scheme of the universe. The justice due to him, her, or it comes from this sacred existence given by God. The rights of any creature are conferred by God in creating it and not from any human law or other human decision. May we, as our Gospel reminds us, let our "yes" mean 'yes' and our 'no' mean 'no'. May we live fully in Christ by seeing Christ for others and being Christ for others.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Diane Nicolar, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz, Jack & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

If you know that some of these people should be removed, Please call the Rectory so we can update the list.

**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.

Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm**, and the **THIRD MONDAY from 3 pm to 4:30 pm**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

Monday, February 6, 2023

Monday, February 20, 2023

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

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.

BINGO IS IN FULL SWING

**Thursdays — St Ann's Bingo
Doors open at 4 PM
Bingo starts 6:30 SHARP**

**Saturdays — Southeast Cyclone's Bingo
Doors open at 4 PM
Bingo starts at 6 PM SHARP**



**ALL PARISH SECOND
COLLECTIONS
ARE APPLIED TO HEATING
COSTS AND
SNOW REMOVAL**

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.



**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
(508) 510-5274.**

St. Vincent de Paul @ St. Ann's Church

St. Katharine Drexel Conference Calendar Raffle

Calendar Cost: 1-\$20.00, 2-\$30.00, 3-\$40.00 - Special Prizes on Sunday

March 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Bird Supplies Value \$30+ BW	2 6 Cupcakes Value \$25 the Cakes by Tina	3 Rice Cooker Value \$30 BW	4 \$20 Gift Card for 2 <i>Good Days</i>	5 BBQ Supplies Value \$35+
6 Air Fryer Value \$40	7 \$25 Gift Card George's Roast Beef Anonymous	8 \$25 Gift Card Market Basket The Toland Family	9 Skin Care Value \$25 Neora	10 Hand Tools Value \$45+ BW	11 6 Cocoa Bombs Value \$30 the Cakes by Tina	12 Snack Pack Value \$25
13 Queen Size Bed Linen & Comforter Value \$40	14 Assorted Cocoa & Coffee Pods with Cup \$25 Value	15 \$20 Gift Certificate Day Break Restaurant	16 Toiletries Value \$25 Scentisy	17 \$30 Gift Card Market Basket The Spano Family	18 6 Cupcakes Value \$25 the Cakes by Tina	19 Diffuser with Pods Value \$25 Scentisy
20 \$30 Gift Card Grand Slam The Spano Family	21 Assorted Teas with Cup \$25 Value	22 Wax Warmer with Bars Value \$25 Scentisy	23 \$25 Gift Card Market Basket	24 6 Cocoa Bombs Value \$30 the Cakes by Tina	25 \$25 Gift Card Ocean State Job Lot Crazy Deal	26 Assorted Coffee Pods with Cup \$25 Value
27 \$50 Gift Card Chateau The Spano Family	28 \$25 Gift Card Market Basket	29 Snack Pack \$25 Value	30 Cookie Basket \$25 Value	31 Garden Supplies Value \$45		

The Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Katharine Drexel Conference at Saint Ann's is running a fund-raiser to build up the funds available to help people in need.

The above calendar raffle will begin in March and calendars are on sale now. Calendars can be obtained by contacting Chris Baker at 774-240-8095 or after the masses.

NEWS

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.

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 23-26 (Women)

March 23-26 (Men)

April 20-23 (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.

To register/obtain more information, contact:

Holy Cross Retreat House
490 Washington St.
North Easton, MA 02356
508-238-2051



WITH THE LOCATIONS OF THE MASSES CHANGING THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 15 & 16, GREETERS, LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND USHERS MAY WANT TO CHANGE THE MASSES THEY ARE CURRENTLY SERVING.

IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY SO THAT WE CAN MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENOUGH HELP FOR EACH MASS.

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