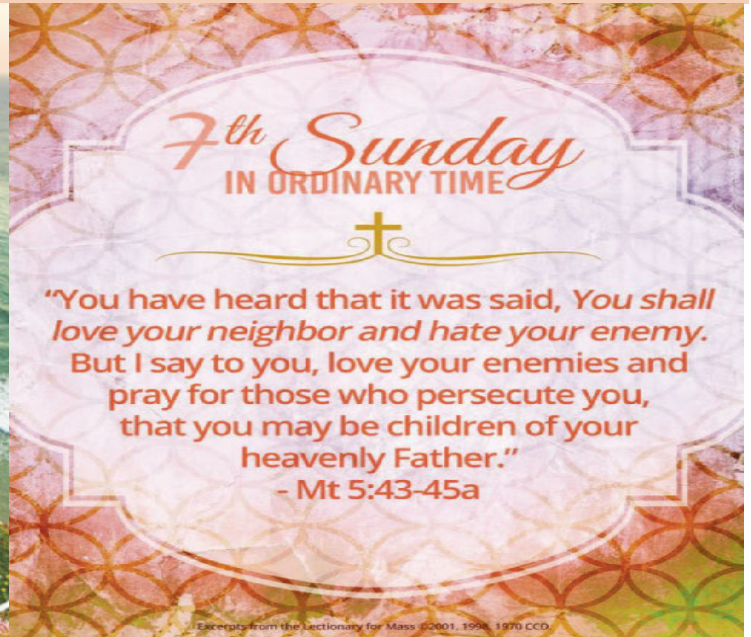




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
February 19, 2023
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

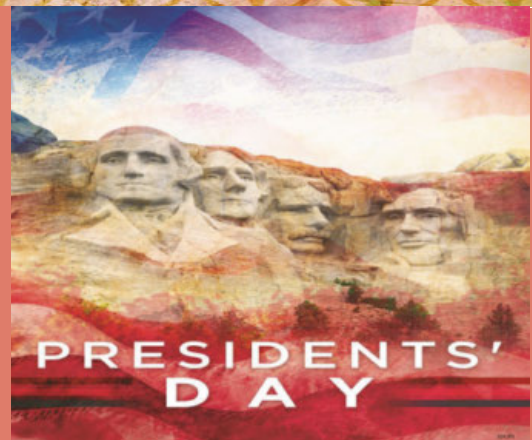


7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Mt 5:44

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

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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.stjohnne.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

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 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 19, 2023

7:30 - Maureen, Marilyn & Arthur Pigeon —
Memorial

11:30 - Rita Giovanoni — 5th Anniversary

6:15 - Frances Sousa — Memorial

Sunday, February 26, 2023

7:30 - Mass for the victims of the Earthquake in
Turkey

11:30 - James (Jim) Baker — 9th Anniversary &
Birthday Remembrance

6:15 - Walter Chase — Memorial

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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

Saturday, February 25, 2023

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

Sunday, February 26, 2023

9:30 - Mass for victims of the Earthquake in
Turkey

This week's (2-19-23) second collection is for the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey.

Next week's (2-26-23) second collection is for the Support of the Churches Around the World.

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 — 2nd
Collection for Catholic Charities**

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,



For a number of years I have had the opportunity to attend a Pro-Life Rally sponsored by Massachusetts Citizens for Life (too many years, sadly, given the reason for the Rally). At this rally, there were speakers who reminded us that we are called to value life in all its stages, from pre-birth to our growing years to our “golden years” to the end of our earthly existence. It bolstered my resolve to be a “person of life” in all stages, from conception to natural death. This is the position of the Church and it is one I am proud to hold. I believe that God made all life sacred and that the most effective way that we can convert minds and hearts on life issues is to hold to this principle.

One of the challenges we face in being “people of life” is the radical viewpoints that folks from the “fringes” (“left” or “right”, for lack of a better term) hold when espousing their positions. A conversation can begin – and end – often times with the phrase “this is the way that it is, and that’s that!” This is not to say that we shouldn’t have principles or viewpoints which hold a measure of objective truth; it was Alexander Hamilton who said that “those who stand for nothing will fall for anything.” There is much to be said, for example, for the position that life begins at conception. I believe that by having a “standard” focal point on which we can place ourselves is a key in “converting” those folks who, in their minds and hearts, don’t hold this view. It will be in converting minds and hearts, I believe, that we shall win people over, or at the very least be open to conversation and further discussion. The “radicalization” of conversation, however, can bring a “death knell” to any dialogue.

Jesus, in today’s gospel, confronts the radical nature of such dialogue when he broadens the viewpoint of the Mosaic Law. The adage “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” can be used by both “sides” of a discussion, for example. Jesus moves the conversation forward, however, when he challenges the listener to go beyond the literal interpretation of even Holy Scripture. In “going the extra mile”, one is pressed to see beyond their own viewpoint and to extend themselves to be one with the “other”. In seeing the inherent “personhood” of another, one can no longer engage in demagoguery, “demonizing” the person. They must see the need of the other, and respond to that need. Sometimes, that need is to “convert” a mind/heart; sometimes, it’s simply to listen and to be open to dialogue, conversation and even understanding.

May we hold fast to the truths of our faith, but may we also be willing to “go the extra mile” and get out of our “comfort zone” to truly hear and see the “other”. May we strive for “perfection”, not in the eyes of the world but in the eyes, mind and heart 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 One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church

As we come to the final installments in the series on the Creed, we turn our attention to its final section beginning with, “I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#811) introduces this topic with these words: “These four characteristics, inseparably linked with each other, indicate essential features of the Church and her mission. The Church does not possess them of herself; it is Christ who, through the Holy Spirit, makes his Church one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, and it is he who calls her to realize each of these qualities.” Thus, the four marks of the Church reveal who the Church is and who she is called to be.

The Church is intimately related and connected to the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity. The Church is the assembly of the Father’s adopted sons and daughters, the Mystical Body of Christ comprised of Jesus’ brothers and sisters, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of the divine origin and source of the Church, we can say that the Church is “One and Holy.” Though there is great diversity in the Church, there are profound sources that bind members of the Church together. The Church professes the same faith handed down by the Apostles; she celebrates the seven sacraments; and she is united together through the college of bishops in communion with the visible sign of our unity, the Pope. Holiness is an attribute that belongs to God. God alone is the Holy One—the one set apart from all other things. Because of her divine origins and of the communion the Church shares with her divine source, she too is holy. God calls all people to holiness and to participation in the divine life. Therefore, God gives the Church all the means to grow in holiness and realize her vocation to be a saintly people.

The third mark of the Church, *catholic*, is properly understood in two principal ways. Catholic means universal. God desires there to be only one family of believers—it is for all people, of all times, of all languages. When we speak of *catholic* we do not mean that the Church is called to be “Roman Catholic.” Instead, the Church is called to be present throughout the whole world, proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating the Eucharist, and caring for the poor. Another aspect of *catholicity* speaks to the inclusiveness of the Church. There are not restrictions of who can be a member of the Church—all are called and all are invited. There is a third aspect of *catholic* that is worth mentioning. When we speak about being the universal sacrament of holiness, we mean that every grace that human beings need are available to the Church to be holy. Every grace we need is given to us to be saved and to be sanctified—nothing is lacking.

The last mark of the Church, *apostolic*, likewise has several different layers of meaning. Firstly, the faith we profess is not “our” faith but the faith handed down to us by the apostles. The Church we believe in is rooted, by the laying on of hands, from bishop to bishop going all the way back to the apostles who were gathered together and sent out by Christ empowered by the Spirit of Pentecost. The word, *apostle*, comes from the Greek verb *apostollein* meaning “to send.” Thus, an apostle is “one who is sent.” Just as the Father sent the Son and Holy Spirit on missions to save and sanctify, the Church is sent into the world to continue and extend the kingdom of heaven on earth.

The Creed affirms that the Church is part of God’s plan for our salvation and sanctification. In the opening chapter of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (See *Lumen Gentium*, 2-4), the bishops of the Second Vatican Council teaches that, as part of the Father’s desire for humanity to participate in the divine life, the Son was sent to redeem humanity and inaugurate the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. The Church is the community of believers called out of the world to be a “light” that reveals to the world the God who creates, saves, and sanctifies. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church continues the creating, saving, and sanctifying mission of God.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

It may seem a tall task to “love your enemies” (Mt 5:44). But that is our calling! That always reminds me of a priest friend of mine who used to say, “I don’t think we should preach that to our people. Let’s just get people to love their friends; that’s hard enough.” That saying reminds me that we should start where we have our first problem; maybe it’s even loving ourselves. If we really could come in touch with ourselves—not independent of God but because of the good that God is doing in us—and see that God even overcomes the evil that’s in us, maybe we can begin to love ourselves. Maybe we can even believe that evil does tend to hang around us all, that the darkness within us will, we presume, be with us all the time, that even with this knowledge we still can love ourselves.

Sometimes when we truly face the darkness in ourselves and become aware of the things we have done wrong, feelings may rise up that could tend to scare us or lead us in the wrong direction. If we can face them squarely and say, “God is with me; God knows that these things are there,” then we begin to know we are not alone in dealing with the darkness in our lives. Perhaps we can even embrace this darkness as part of what makes us grow as human beings. As we really face our selfishness, as we really face our unjust angers, as we really face the grudges that we hold, as we really face the bitterness that is there, we don’t have to sweep it under the carpet. We can look at it and know that God loves us as we are and is willing to help us grow beyond these faults and failings. If we really believe that God loves us exactly as we are now, we can love ourselves. And if we can love ourselves with all that we see within us, shouldn’t we also be able to love our friends, our neighbors, the people we live with, our families, even those who have grudges against us, because we can see them as people like ourselves: struggling, making mistakes, but still loved by God? And then, if we can do that, love those people who are not really enemies, we can even be led to love those who really hate us, who persecute us, who blame us.

In our world today, there are a lot of people like that; maybe some of them even hate us because they have good reason to. Many of us have a way of life that a lot of people can’t—people who hardly have enough to eat, who don’t have the material things that we do, who don’t have the freedom we have in our lives. They have reason to hate us. Maybe instead of getting all upset when some people in those circumstances rebel and get mean, we might try to understand that they’re simply rebelling from a situation that is oppressing and demeaning and dehumanizing them. As we look at the world today, for example, we see people who own companies in other countries. The owners are wealthy, yet they give the workers less than a living wage, sometimes making their employees work in oppressive conditions, simply to be profitable at the expense of the workers. Here we can’t only love the people being oppressed, but we must love even their oppressors. These are the people Jesus tells us to love. Can I love them into a new vision of the world in which they see the most important thing is not profit, but human beings? God desires peace. His servant, St. Francis, taught us this lesson when he was alive. It is our duty to continue that holy mission.

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



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 Scentys	17 \$30 Gift Card Market Basket The Spano Family	18 6 Cupcakes Value \$25 the Cakes by Tina	19 Diffuser with Pods Value \$25 Scentys
20 \$30 Gift Card Grand Slam The Spano Family	21 Assorted Teas with Cup \$25 Value	22 Wax Warmer with Bars Value \$25 Scentys	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 \$30 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.

Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreats (March 11, May 6)

Are you—or someone you know—suffering from post-abortion pain? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Spring dates are March 11 and May 6. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508-651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com

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.

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



PLEASE DON'T FORGET

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR HEATING COSTS

With the anticipated increase in fuel costs, we estimate that this winter will be a combined cost of approximately **\$30,000** for the heating bills of Saint Ann's and Saint John's. Therefore, the second collection until further notice will be directed to those bills.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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