

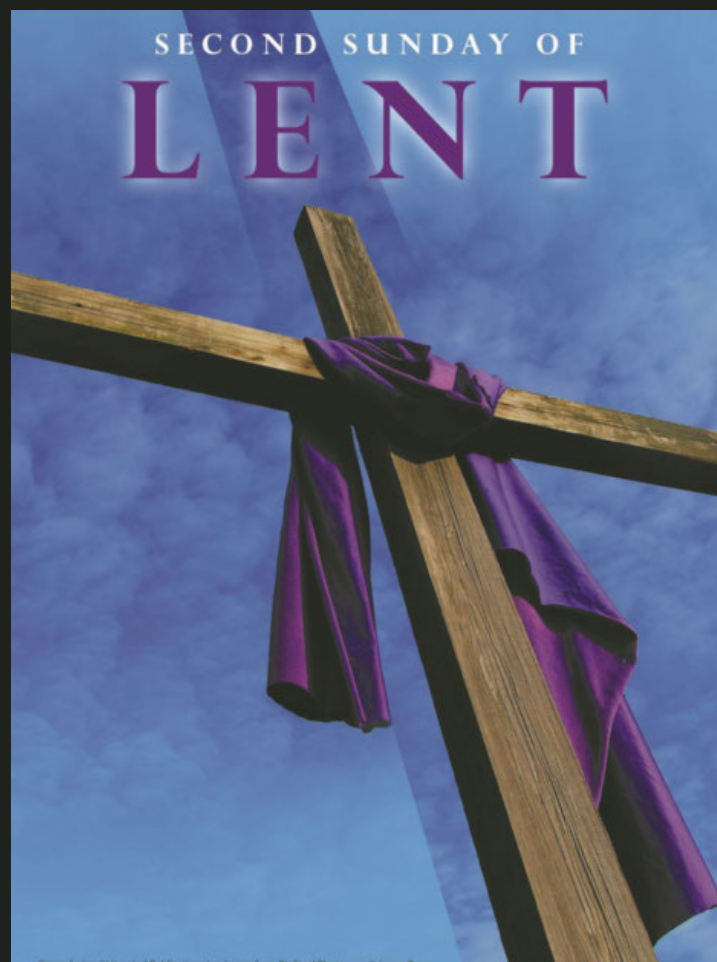


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 February 25, 2024  
 The Second Sunday of Lent*



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



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.  
 - Mk 9:7-8

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

CLP

### 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, February 24, 2024

4:00 - Jeannine Smith — Month's Mind

#### Sunday, February 25, 2024

9:30 - James (Jim Baker) — 10th Anniversary & Birthday Remembrance

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

#### Saturday, March 2, 2024

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

#### Sunday, March 3, 2024

9:30 - Families of the Collaborative

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, February 25, 2024

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

11:30 - Kathy Turke — 5th Anniversary

#### Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 - Patricia S. Riel — 4th Anniversary

11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

## LENTEN INFORMATION

### Ash Wednesday — February 14, 2024

**Mass at St. John's — 9:00 AM**

**Mass at St. Ann's — 7:00 PM**

**Service (with Ashes) at St. John's — 4 PM**

### The Light is On For You (Reconciliation)

**Wednesdays from 6:30—8:00 PM**

**Feb 21 — At St. John's**

**Feb 28 — At St. Ann's**

**Mar 06 — At St. John's**

**Mar 13 — At St. Ann's**

**Mar 20 — At St. John's**

**Mar 27 — At St. Ann's**

### Stations of the Cross — Fridays at 7:00 PM

**Feb 16 — At St. John's**

**Feb 23 — At St. Ann's**

**Mar 01 — At St. John's (simple supper)**

**Mar 07 — At St. Ann's**

**Mar 15 — At St. John's**

**Mar 22 — At St. Ann's (6:00 PM with First Church and hopefully a simple Supper)**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I've never been a firm believer that God does things to "test" us. Today's readings, however, seem to be an "exception to the rule". Our reading from the Old Testament speaks of the encounter Abraham has with God in relation to his son, Isaac. God appears to be testing Abraham to see to what lengths he will go in showing his love and fidelity to God. In the end, however, it is less about the test than it is about the fidelity. God ultimately rewards Abraham for going so far as to be willing to sacrifice his only son (sound familiar?), promising to make his descendants as "countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore" (Gn 22:17). Such are the lengths that we are to go in showing our faithfulness to God.

In our second reading, we are reminded that in sacrificing His Son for us, God shows us that He will give us all the things we need to grow in faith, hope and love. It may seem at times, however, that we are "tested" in this exchange (God giving us life, we giving ourselves) by trusting that God has the "big picture" in His mind and heart, keeping us safe from charges and condemnation from the world. We are to always realize that we owe the world nothing – it is God to whom we owe everything, including our very lives.

In the gospel passage from Mark, we are given the encounter of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor that Jesus has, first with His disciples and then Elijah and Moses. The disciples that are with Jesus are given charge "not to relate what they had seen to anyone" (Mk 9:9) until the Resurrection. What a test this is! How could they not tell anyone and everyone of what they had seen, heard and felt? How challenging it must have been for them! When we reflect on this encounter, we must ask how it is that we encounter Jesus. Do we see Him as "transfigured" (as the disciples did that day), or do we take Him for granted thinking that we can always "have" Him? The challenge in the Transfiguration, for the disciples and for us, is to see the mission of Christ without losing sight of the power and majesty of Christ. Jesus came as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (this is the reason for the presence of Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets)).

May we always know that when we feel "tested" by God, that there is a good reason for this. We should do our best to see the "big picture" that God has in mind for us and for the world. We must never lose sight that Jesus constantly reveals Himself to us, in Word and deed, pointing the way to the Kingdom. May the Christ we encounter today be the Christ we encounter every day, in His promise, power and peace.

A Blessed Lent to you all,

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)

#### February Teen Mass Next Week

Our next Teen Mass is February 25th 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.

#### March Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is March 3rd 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.

#### Soup and Stations Next Friday

On Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> we will be hosting a potluck soup supper at 6 pm at St. John followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7 pm.

Share a bowl of soup with your friends as we gather together for fellowship before we pray. All are welcome and you do not need to bring soup to join us.

#### Soup and Stations with First Parish Church

In conjunction with our annual joint Stations of the Cross with First Parish Church, on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Ann will host a potluck soup supper at 6 pm in the parish center. Stations will follow at 7 pm in the church. All are welcome!

**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)**

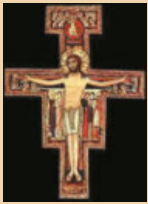
**April 25—28 (Women)**

**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

When one looks at the life of St. Francis, one might point to either his encounter with the Lord at the Church of San Damiano or his meeting the leper on the road as his “moment of transfiguration”, a conversion of sorts. While St. Francis was certainly changed and molded by these moments, for St. Francis his “transfiguration” happened over the course of a lifetime, as it does for us.

The cornerstone of St Francis’ imitation of Christ was simplicity, a wellspring found in the seeming desert of humility. St. Francis longed to be transfigured by the Lord; a transfiguration by the work of divine poverty itself which renews and gives the hope of salvation. In particular, St. Francis calls his disciples deeper into this great treasure through the works of lowly labor and through acts of adoration and the partaking of the Holy Sacrament.

In his second rule, Francis calls out, “Brothers... should seek the most humble jobs so that they are on the lowest rung of the economic ladder. They should be servants rather than masters.” Not long before he died, St. Francis summed up the source of all spiritual transformation when he beseeched his brothers, “to pay all devotion and honor to the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Encouraging his community to receive the Blessed Sacrament more frequently, St Francis was showing us a path to a new knighthood — that of holy service and adoration of the most noble of Kings, the transfigured Jesus Christ. May we strive to be like St. Francis, and seek to find moments of conversion, of true “transfiguration”, in our lives as we grow closer to Christ and who He is calling us to be.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
Support of the Church Around the World**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
The Snow and Heat Fund**

### **2nd Sunday of Lent**

Today we are following Jesus up on a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. There they see Jesus “transfigured,” his face like the sun and his clothes as white as light. Jesus is there conversing with Moses and Elijah.

What are we to make of this image of Jesus, the earthly teacher of this small band of disciples? They were merely followers of a teacher, a rabbi. When they see this and hear a voice proclaiming, “This is my beloved Son...” they begin to realize this man is more than just a rabbi. However, Jesus tells them to keep this a secret until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.

Well, they have no idea what this means. Therefore, they continue to follow him as if he was just a human, a teacher. However, we live in the time after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. Now it is we who must proclaim the good news of Jesus, the Son of God the Father.

Take this week and think about how, in your own way, you can proclaim through your words and deeds that Jesus is your savior, your teacher, and rabbi.

LPI

## ***HOLY WEEK***

***March 24, 2024 — Palm Sunday  
Masses as usual***

***Tuesday, March 26, 2024 — Tenebrae —  
St Ann’s — 7 PM***

***Thursday, March 28, 2024 — Holy Thursday  
Mass at St. John’s — 7 PM***

***Friday, March 29, 2024 —  
Seven Last Words — 3 PM — St. John’s  
7 PM — Service at St. Ann’s***

***Saturday, March 30, 2024 — Easter Vigil  
8 PM — St. John’s***

***Sunday, March 31, 2024 — Easter  
Regular Mass Schedule with the  
Exception of no 6:15 Mass***



## 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, Louise Ferrari & 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**

### Some Lenten Guidelines

The three traditional pillars of Lent are **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. Through the three pillars of Lent we journey to develop a closer relationship to God.

### What are the rules for fasting and abstinence during Lent for Catholics?

Those ages 18-59, in reasonable health, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those 14 and older must abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent. Canon Law does mention that for young children not fasting, parents should still communicate the meaning and penance.

Everyone age 14 and older is to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Meat has always been considered a food of banquets and celebrations. Additionally, for many centuries it was a luxury to have access to and consume meat.

### What can you do instead of giving up something for Lent?

Lent is based on sacrifice, so most Catholics choose to stop eating a favorite food or pursuing a favorite activity. However, you can also choose to do something instead. For example, say an extra prayer every day, go to Church twice a week, or read some scripture verses.

### Can I eat what I gave up for Lent on Sundays?

The Lenten disciplines like fasting are alleviated on Sundays. As the Lord's Day, Sunday is always a feast day not a fast day. Liturgically, Sunday starts with sunset Saturday evening, so yes, you can enjoy your mini-break from fasting on "Sunday", including Saturday evening

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, March 4, 2024*

*Monday, March 18, 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.**

Easter is around the corner. Please remember to have your loved ones remembered by donating to the Easter Flower Fund.



### Lenten Tidd Bits of Information

During Lent the altar is not to be decorated with flowers. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), solemnities and feasts are exceptions to this rule. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent rose colored vestments may be used (CB 252).

### What is the last day of Lent called?

The day after Holy Wednesday is **Maundy Thursday**, which commemorates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. Maundy Thursday is the last day of Lent.

### What is Fat Tuesday?

Fat Tuesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday, Shrovetide, or Mardi Gras, marks the final day of Ordinary Time before the solemn season of Lent commences on [Ash Wednesday](#). This day is synonymous with celebration, often seen as the last opportunity to indulge in rich and indulgent foods before the penitential period of [fasting and abstinence](#) during Lent. Fat Tuesday is a time for revelry and festivities, with people coming together to enjoy sumptuous meals, delicious treats, and vibrant parades. It serves as a joyful farewell to the carefree days of Ordinary Time, emphasizing the imminent spiritual journey of self-reflection and preparation for Easter.

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