



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
February 26, 2023
1st Sunday of Lent*



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9

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

GLPI

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SINNED.

PSALM 51



GLPI

Church of Saint Ann

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

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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

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

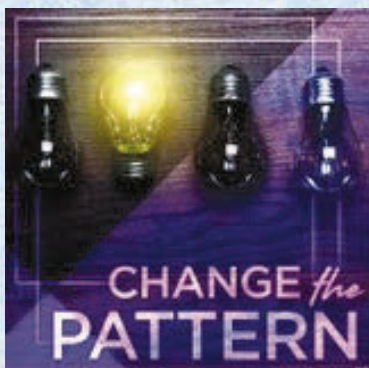
Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton

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



MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

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

Sunday, March 5, 2023

- 7:30 - For all the families in the Parish
- 11:30 - William McCormack — 10th Anniversary
- 6:15 - Mass for those who have no one to pray for them

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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

Saturday, March 4, 2023

- 4:00 - Tony and Lu Cruz — Memorial

Sunday March 5, 2023

- 9:30 - For all the families in the Parish

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

Anyone wishing to give to the Earthquake victims should mark a separate envelope with the word Earthquake and we will get it to the Archdiocese to send.

February 26 — Second collection for The Church Around the World

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 (Vigil Mass)

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,

Oscar Wilde, the late 19th c. Irish poet and writer, was once quoted as saying "I can resist anything but temptation". There is a lot of truth in that statement when it is looked at critically. One of the hardest things to avoid is temptation which, once given into, often (more often than not, truthfully) leads to sin. But while it is hard to avoid, it is not impossible for "nothing is impossible with God" (Lk 1:37). Therein lays the key for us as Catholic-Christians: God.



We begin our Lenten journey through the Sunday readings with the temptations of Jesus in the desert by Satan. Jesus is coming off of a forty day fast and is, no doubt, hungry (keeping in mind the humanity of Jesus). This is why the first temptation that Satan presents is centered on food; the devil knows how to attack someone, in presenting sin in the form of something "good" - in this case, food. We all need food to live, and Jesus is no exception. In giving into this temptation, however, Jesus would be denying a greater good - in this case, "every word which comes from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4). We are "fed", spiritually, by the Word of God, and it is this "food" which will sustain us when we are tempted to give in to worldly desires.

The second temptation, security, is another "good". We all want to be safe and secure, to know that we will make it through the day. That "good" goes awry, however, when we "push our limits" beyond what is safe, believing that we can do anything we want and God will take care of us. As I often remind others (and try to remind myself, as well!), "God 'has our back'", and we would be foolhardy to take liberties with this security, to "put God to the test" (Mt 4:7, paraphrased).

The third temptation, power, is another thing which is "good". It is good to be in control, to have one's destiny figured out, to have the "road ahead" mapped out. This "good" becomes challenging, however, when we think that we do it all, that we have the power. True power, Jesus shows us time and time again, comes from service - serving those ends which God has designed for us (for our own good), serving the needs of our brothers and sisters (and, thus, putting ourselves second to those needs). The beauty of this thinking is that there is a "freedom" to serving God; we don't have to have all the answers, we don't have to have everything all figured out. When we give ourselves over to God, and His Divine Will, we experience a "power" which only God can give: the power to see the gift of Eternal Life which God has awaiting us.

Jesus' temptations are not unlike ones which we face each and every day. If we model ourselves after the person of Christ, we will have mastery over sin and temptation, we will be free to see the good God has in store for us and we will know the fullness of love God has awaiting us - and that is the greatest "good" of all.

Have a Blessed Lent, Fr. Paul

MINISTRY NEWS

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

March Family Mass Next Sunday:

Our next Family Mass is Sunday, March 5th at the 9:30 Mass at St. John. Our kids are invited to participate in the Mass as readers and gift bearers, and Fr. Paul calls them up to gather around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts downstairs after Mass. All are welcome to attend! We need some young volunteers to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and families who are willing to pay for/pick up the coffee and donuts. If interested, please email Matt Brady.

Introducing the Kids Shelf!

The newest addition to our Lending Library at St. John is a whole shelf of books for our young parishioners. Right now we have some books about the saints, Pope Francis and some Lent things, but we hope we will be able to add to our collection. Stop by and check it out and borrow a book!

If you have any religious kids books you would like to donate, please email Matt Brady.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross are back!

One of the most popular Lenten practices is to pray the Stations of the Cross. While we gather together as a collaborative to pray them every Friday, we also have outdoor stations at both parishes for you to visit any time. At St. Ann, they are located in prayer garden behind the rectory. At St. John, they are located along the side of the church next to the parking lot.

Lent Schedule

Stations of the Cross are back!

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

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

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 at St. John's. All collaborative parishioners are welcome to join us, young and old!

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 Parish Center. Thank you for your generosity!



EASTER THIS YEAR IS ON APRIL 9 TH

The three common practices during Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayers:

“God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace.....

“God may my sacrifice of today of (state your Lenten sacrifice) remind me of my dependence on You for all the blessing I enjoy....

“May I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering.”

What are the rules for fast and abstinence in Lent?

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (as well as Good Friday). .

The law of abstinence binds those who are 14 years old or older.

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

According to the Church's official rules:

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat [*Paenitemini*, Norms III:1].

Do you have to give up something for Lent? If you do, can you have it on Sundays?

The traditional custom of giving up something for Lent is voluntary. Consequently, if you give something up, you set the parameters. If you choose to allow yourself to have it on Sundays as to promote joy on this holy day, that is up to you.

Almsgiving:

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on “almsgiving,” which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

This First Sunday of Lent finds us seeing Jesus tempted by the Devil. These temptations come in many forms; for Jesus, it came in the form of hunger, security, and power. Another one of the favorite wiles of Satan is to irritate people against one another, as in the following instance, related by St. Bonaventure: One day the blessed Patriarch Francis went to Arezzo. That city, which had long been a prey to civil dissensions, was verging on its ruin. Francis beheld the demons dancing with joy on the walls of the city, and exciting in the hearts of its people the fire of hatred against each other. Calling to him Brother Sylvester, a man of dove-like simplicity, he said, "Go to the gate of the city, and in the name of Almighty God command the devils, in virtue of holy obedience, to depart immediately."

The Brother hastened to fulfill his orders, and cried out in a loud voice, "All you evil spirits who are gathered together in this place, I command you, in the name of Almighty God and of His servant Francis, depart hence." No sooner had he uttered these words than the discordant voices were hushed, the people's angry passions were calmed, the fratricidal feud ceased, and peace was restored to Arezzo. The pride and jealousy of the infernal spirits had threatened the ruin of the city, but the wisdom of the humble Francis saved it from destruction.

As we enter into another Lenten Season, may we have the courage and strength of St. Francis. May we resist the temptations of the Evil One who seeks to pull us away from Jesus on this Lenten journey. May we, through, the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi, never fail to call upon our Good God to free us from all sin and temptation this (and all) Season(s).

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. Paul, OFS

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

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, Brian Scanlan & 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, March 6, 2023

Monday, March 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 \$50 Gift Card Chateau The Spano Family	28 \$25 Gift Card Market Basket	29 Snack Pack Basket \$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



Fr. Stephen Lusiba sends his prayers and best wishes for a wonderful New Year. He wanted everyone to see the progress on the Boy's Dormitory. He says that the challenge is still quite big. He sends his thanks for all that we have helped him accomplish but the job is not finished. God bless and thank you to all who have helped.

Can you believe Lent is here already? It seems like not that long ago I was decorating a Christmas tree! Time waits for no one and that is why it is important to make a mindful commitment now to not let this Lenten season pass you by. It is a great time to focus on growing as an everyday steward. The temptations are always there to procrastinate or to give in to spiritual laziness, but the Church's observation of Lent offers us so many tools to help us get on track. Increased devotions such as Stations of the Cross, various parish missions, or Lenten-focused literature are all gifts that your parish may be offering to assist you in this season.

With the Passion being the focus of Lent, it is easy to contemplate the value of true generosity. How could someone give more than Jesus? He gave until his life was spent on a cross. When contemplating how we can increase our generosity in all aspects of our life, we only need to look to the cross. Of course, this also brings home to us that more may be asked of us than we bargained. The temptation is to not give too much, out of fear that we might face persecution or worse.

But we take solace in the fact that we are disciples of One who had the same temptations. He overcame those temptations. He rejected the easy way out. His love and generosity could not be contained. He gave it all so that you and I have the chance to do the same. This Lent, look to the

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