



*Together in Christ Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John*



*March 31, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Lent*



**“He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’” - Lk 15:31-32**

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

**Saint John the Evangelist  
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333  
Office –103 N. Main Street, West Bridgewater  
508-378-4207  
E-MAIL: [stjohnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://www.stjohneb.org)  
Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB**

**The 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**

# TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

## PASTORAL STAFF

### Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring  
fr\_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Brendan Fitzgerald  
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

### Permanent Deacons:

Joe Hopgood  
deaconjoe@comcast.net

## EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., 4th Sunday of the Mo.

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday  
9:00 a.m.

In the Chapel

Divine Mercy every Thursday  
After Mass.

### St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass—6:30, 2nd Sunday of the Mo.

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.  
9:00 a.m.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at St John's and the 4th Sunday of the month at St. Ann's. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Other times as scheduled in the bulletin or 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.

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St John's - every WEDNESDAY from 7-8 p.m.  
in the Church.

St. Ann's - First Friday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

**Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office**

## SAINT ANN'S STAFF

**Business Manager:** Brian Manning  
bmannings@stjohns@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Arlene Stefano  
stanns@comcast.net

**Director of Religious Education**  
Charlotte Leines

stannscd@comcast.net  
508-588-7140

**Director of Music:** Matthew Cunningham  
matthewcunningham@bpsma.org

## SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

**Business Manager:** Brian Manning  
bmannings@stjohns@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad  
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net

**Director of Religious Education**  
Lorraine Hopgood

repstjohn@gmail.com  
508-378-1521

**Director of Music:** Paul Hoffman  
p.hoffman@stjohnne.org

**Music Minister:** Erica Wasil

## PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

Deacon Joe Hopgood  
Paul Hoffman  
Denise Robichaud

Ben Williams  
Nancy Maloney  
Margaret Mary Williams

Jackie Buccigross

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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#### Saturday, March 30, 2019

4:00 - Grace Cosgrove — Memorial

#### Sunday, March 31, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners of St. John

10:30 - Carmela Bersani — 1st Anniversary

#### Saturday, April 6, 2019

4:00 - Parishioners of St. John

#### Sunday, April 7, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners facing challenges

10:30 - Robert W. Small — 5th Anniversary

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### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

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#### Saturday, March 30, 2019

4:00 - Richard Pratt — 8th Anniversary

Nicholas Pratt — 13th Anniversary

Mark Creedon — 8th Anniversary

Luke Creedon — Prayers for Healing

#### Sunday, March 31, 2019

8:30 - Parishioners of St. Ann

10:30 - Rita Long — 1st Anniversary

#### Tuesday, April 2, 2019

9:00 - George E. Short Jr. — Memorial

#### Saturday, April 6, 2019

4:00 - Mary & Manny Diaz — Memorial

#### Sunday, April 7, 2019

8:30 - Domingos & Sibor Families — Mem.

10:30 - Parishioners of St. Ann

LENT IS HERE.....

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU (Confession Schedule)  
6:30—8:00 PM

*St Ann's*  
April 10

*St John's*  
April 3 & April 17

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
FRIDAYS DURING LENT

At St John's after the 9:00 am Masses  
At St. Ann's — 7:00 PM Except on Good Friday

EASTER SCHEDULE:

Holy Thursday — St John's — 7 PM  
Mass of the Last Supper of the Lord

Good Friday Service— St. Ann's — 7 PM  
Seven Last Words — St. John — 3 PM

(Easter Vigil) — St John's — 8 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

St. Ann — 8:30 & 10:30  
St John — 8:00 & 10:30

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today the Church, on this Fourth Sunday of Lent, "Laetare Sunday". This designation marks the (approximate) halfway point of our Lenten Season/Journey.

I once came across a little (adapted) poem that speaks of this:

Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
The vestments are pink,  
So Lent is halfway through.



A silly rhyme? Perhaps. But it gets the point across that we are at the mid-point of our Lenten journey. It also points out the fact that we have the option, and are encouraged, to break out the rose colored vestments, as the word "Laetare" means "rejoice and rose is the liturgical color for rejoicing. But what are we rejoicing? Are we celebrating the fact that we have made it halfway through Lent and are still able to say that we have kept our Lenten sacrifice intact (which I hope you can say!)? Or, are we celebrating the fact that we are halfway towards celebrating the Paschal Mystery?

Today's gospel ends in celebration, although it certainly doesn't begin in that fashion. Jesus is giving a lesson to the Pharisees and scribes about welcoming the sinner (something with which the authorities of Jesus' day had a problem), and He uses the "Parable of the Prodigal Son". As we know, Jesus often spoke in parables, using them to teach a greater lesson. In the story of the Prodigal Son, a landowner's son wishes to receive his share of the property now (before the father's death); the father gives in to this request, much to his dismay I would imagine. After squandering the riches, and encountering a famine, the son comes to his senses. The son, however, is hesitant to approach the father, feeling unworthy to come home. After practicing what he will say (comparing himself to a hired hand, unworthy of anything more in the father's eyes), he makes his way home. The father does not even wait for his son's speech, embracing and kissing him, thankful to have him home. He sets about to have a celebration for this prodigal son. It is at this point that the elder ("faithful") son hears the revelry and inquires as to the cause. When the elder son is told that his brother has returned and the father has put together a celebration, the son refuses to enter the party. This elder son has been loyal, and is upset that nothing has been done to reward this loyalty. The father tries to convince the (elder) son to join the celebration because this "brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found" (Lk 15:32). We do not know the outcome of this conversation with father and son; one would hope that the elder son would join the celebration.

Where are you in this story? Are you the prodigal son, looking for a way home? Are you the father, praying for your children to return to their (biological or faith) family? Are you the elder (and loyal) son, resentful of those who have come into the family after turning their back on them? Wherever we find ourselves, let us rejoice that God is with us on our journey of faith — ready to restore our hope, renew our life, or reward our fidelity.

Have a (Continued) Blessed Lent,  
Fr. Paul

The Next Second Collection  
Good Friday — Holy Land

| Financial Blessings    | St. Ann's             | Budget   | St John's | Budget   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS | Figures not Available |          |           |          |
| OFFERTORY              |                       | \$3,680  |           | \$ 5,700 |
| GRAND ANNUAL           |                       | \$32,000 |           | \$32,000 |

**Brian Manning has officially joined the staff of the Collaborative. He is currently training with Jackie. When he gets his feet planted firmly in our procedures, offertory totals will be available. Please give Brian a warm welcome.**

SEASONAL REFLECTION

March 31, 2019  
4th Sunday of Lent

St. Vincent Ferrer

Sometimes it can be easy to idealize past ages in the Church. But a look at history shows that the Bride of Christ has never had it easy! In the days of St. Vincent Ferrer, two, then three men claimed to be the legitimate pope. Vincent found himself swept up in the drama. One of his old friends was elected a false pope. While initially supportive, Vincent became disillusioned by the division in the Church. He spent 20 years going back to the basics. He avoided Church politics and traveled Europe as a missionary preacher. Eventually, St. Vincent publicly denounced the man who had once been his friend. Sometimes drama, scandal, and disappointment in the Church can drive us away from our faith. Rather than leave, Vincent clung to Christ. During tumultuous times in the Church, St. Vincent Ferrer, pray for us!

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

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

"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'" - Lk 15:31-32

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998,

Forty days — Forty Items

Wednesday, March 6th is the first day of Lent.

I have a challenge for you!

Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it into the trash bag provided.

At the end of the forty days, donate these items to a place that can share them with someone who can really use them.

The collaboration has made arrangements with The St. Vincent de Paul Society. The week after Easter, bags can be dropped off for pick up at St Ann's.

Specific drop off details to be announced.

LENTEN RETREAT

St. Thomas Aquinas Church  
103 Center St.  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Leader: Fr. Dan O'Connell, Catholic TV's award winning host, will be speaking on a different topic every night.

The Mission will focus on "Luke and the Season of Lent: Today Salvation Has Come." Jesus enters into the world to be its savior, the one who fulfills God's promise of salvation. Luke presents Jesus as the one through whom God offers this renewal. This time of retreat will help us see His love and salvation at work in our lives.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



REPENTANCE  
& GROWTH

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES (ST. ANN'S)



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095  
or jchbaker@msn.com

New mailing address:  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379

## IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after Mass on Monday & Tuesday

Adoration — First Friday of the month following  
the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at  
10:30 a.m.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

March 31, 2019  
4th Sunday of Lent

So you never have been that serious about a stewardship way of life? It's not that you have been greedy or unloving toward others. You give of yourself when you determine there is a real need. However, you haven't intentionally worked toward surrendering all you are, all you have, and all you do to your God. It's hard because when you compare yourself to others, you seem pretty good. You aren't some prodigal child who needs to return to God because you have lived a life full of sin and selfishness.

Yet, there lies the problem. We can easily feel we aren't so bad, so why change anything? We can lull ourselves into a belief that we will probably get to heaven, therefore why do more? Assurance of salvation is another topic, but basically we can look at our life as a series of transactions with God.

However, we shouldn't determine our actions based upon what we get. The actions of a loved one are due to the love for one's beloved. Jesus gave his life out of love for us. He has shown us what complete surrender looks like. He does not need our surrender but wants it because that is what those in love do. This Lent, perhaps our prayer should not be to simply be better stewards, but to love Him more. Then our motivation will not be based upon what we should do but on what we are moved to do out of love.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



### 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.

### CONFIRMATION INFO St. Ann's

Confirmation  
April 3  
7 PM

### First Communion

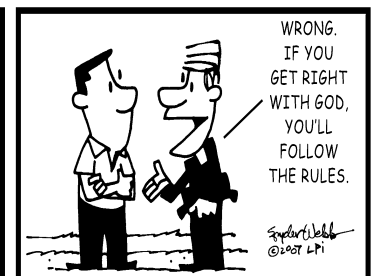
Saturday, May 4, 2019

9:00 AM & 12:00 Noon

KEEP PLASTIC BAGS FILLED WITH HEALTHY SNACKS AND SAMPLE-SIZE TOILETRIES IN YOUR CAR TO GIVE TO THE HOMELESS.

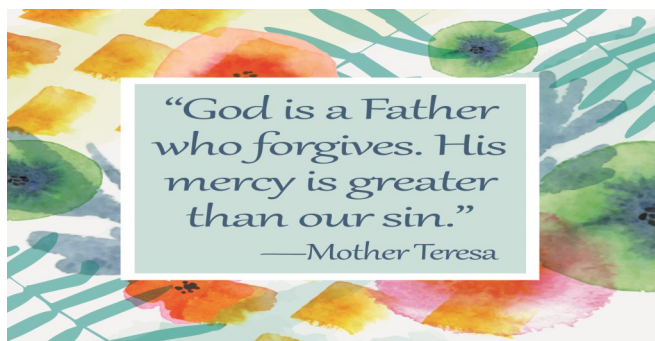


4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

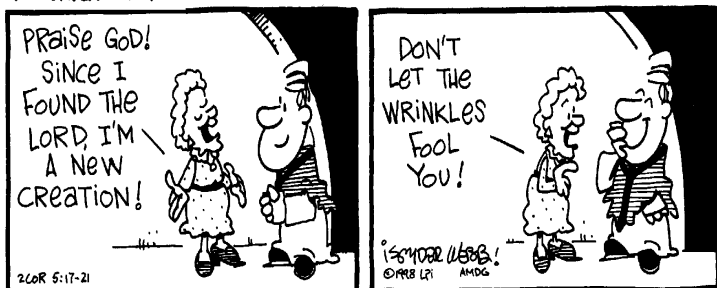
Karen Debenedictis, Harry Hewins, Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Joan Fusco, JoAnn Micalizzi, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Dave Avery, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Patricia Baldassarre, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Scott Dolan, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Christopher Laursen, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Maureen Campbell, Diane Nicolar & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



**Second Scrutiny**

We cannot travel into the darkness without a source of light. Those going through the Second Scrutiny have come seeking light instead of darkness. When Jesus heals the blind man, he not only gives to him a physical sight that is real, but he also provides for him a new spiritual lens through which he can see the world. Those who witness the healing, those who then encounter the man, and even those who maintain a cynicism toward him, all have been offered this new way of seeing the world. Those of us who have been baptized have this gift of new sight, but too often we either choose to put on glasses of sin or despair or act like we cannot see that which exists clearly in front of us. We pray for those who will be baptized at Easter to be freed from their darkness, while we oftentimes choose to live with our eyes closed. As we listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel proclaiming he is the Light of the World, let us resolve to allow God to provide a light for our path so that we may share the good news of this Light with all around us.

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**



**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Rosary after daily Masses.**  
**Divine Mercy every Thursday after daily mass.**  
**Adoration — Every Wednesday—7:00—8:00 PM (changed)**  
**Catholic Women's Club Mtg — April 10th**

The April Baptism scheduled for April 14th (Palm Sunday) has been moved to April 28th.

**The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul  
 Saint John's Conference  
 PO Box 544  
 East Bridgewater, MA 02333**

**March 31: Fourth Sunday of Lent**

In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father.

**In the month of March, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 41 families, providing 102 in food, 3 for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!**

**Call the Saint Vincent DePaul HOTLINE at 508-378-3760 if you need food or other assistance.**

The Food Pantry is open twice a month. — 1<sup>st</sup> Monday from 3:00-6:00 pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

**BAPTISMAL BIBS**

**Do you like to sew?  
 Would you be willing to make the  
 Baptismal Bibs  
 For the children being Baptized?**

**If so, please contact the Rectory at 508-378-4207  
 Or contact Lorry Hopgood at  
 508-378-1521**

**A very special Thank You to Mary Kenn for the  
 many years she provided these bibs.  
 Your generosity and kindness is so appreciated!**

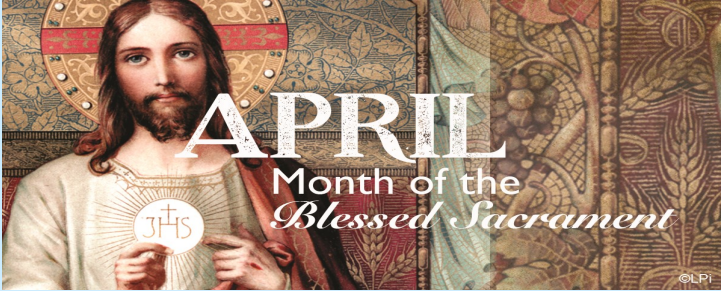
**Easter Envelopes are at the doors of both churches.**



**About the Archdiocese of Boston:** The Diocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of 1.8 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 286 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 36,000 students in its Catholic schools and 156,000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of 200,000 individuals through its pastoral and social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week. For more information, please visit [www.BostonCatholic.org](http://www.BostonCatholic.org).

Prayer to  
**St. Michael the Archangel**  
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Please remember  
Saint Ann's and Saint John's  
When doing your  
Estate Planning!



The prayers to Saint Michael will continue throughout the year.