



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
April 23, 2023
The 3rd Sunday of Easter*



3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" - Lk 24:33-34

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

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LORD,
SHOW
US THE
PATH OF
LIFE.

PSALM 16



©LPI

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

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.

Daily Mass
Thurs & Sat.
9:00 a.m.

St John's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
&
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.

Holiday Schedules will vary

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano
stanns@comcast.net
508-586-4880

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 JOHN'S STAFF

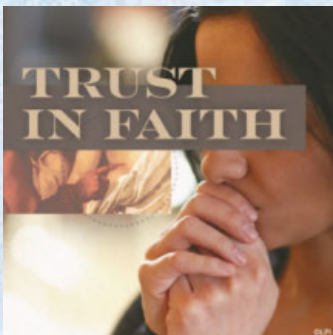
Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton

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

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, April 22, 2023

4:00 - Manny & Mary Diaz — Memorial

Sunday, April 23, 2023

9:30 - Joseph Utko — 7th Anniversary

Saturday, April 29, 2023

4:00 — Norman Lozier — Mass of Remembrance

Sunday, April 30, 2023

9:30 — Pilar Laureta — Birthday Celebration

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, April 23, 2023

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

11:30 - Pat Solakoff — 2nd Anniversary

6:15 - Jordan Meagher — Memorial

Sunday April 30, 2023

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

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

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

A special thank you to Farley Flowers of West Bridgewater for the beautiful arrangements in memory of our loved ones requested by Parishioners.



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

Daily Masses will remain the same.

Daily Masses:

Wed. & Fri. — St. John

Thurs. & Sat. — St. Ann

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Friends in Christ,



"...He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:35). When I was studying for the priesthood, we used to perform "practice Masses"; they obviously weren't "valid" as we weren't yet ordained. This "run through", however, gave us a great opportunity to get the mechanics down for when we would be celebrating Mass for real (after ordination). Fast-forward to my first Mass: I was at the point of the Mass where the host is elevated and the words are spoken (or were spoken, under the former translation), "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, happy are those who are called to His Supper" (the words have been changed with the new translation of the Roman Missal, of course). At that point in the Mass, in my very new priesthood, it was as if I was receiving Jesus for the first time; my hands literally trembled, recognizing that I was holding Jesus in my hands! I believe I understood, in a very real way, what the disciples on the road to Emmaus felt "in the breaking of the bread" (ibid).

This post-Resurrection encounter of the disciples with the Risen Christ is a "watershed" moment in their lives, and in salvation history. It begins with incredulity, with the disciples amazed that someone doesn't know what went on in the days of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. "Where was this guy (who, due to their grief, perhaps, don't recognize Jesus as Jesus) when all of this was happening?? How could he not know what went on these past few days??" they might have been wondering. Jesus doesn't take them to task, however – He takes the opportunity to teach them all about Himself, doing this through Scripture. The invitation is then proffered to Jesus to join them for supper. It is at this point, at this Eucharistic moment, that the disciples finally recognize Jesus!

How often in our own lives, due to worldly anxiety (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), do we fail to recognize Jesus in our midst? How often do we fail to see Him walking with us, teaching us, sharing Himself with us? It is in the breaking of the bread that we most powerfully "see" Jesus, under the appearance of bread and wine. Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples at the table, as He did so often, so that this Eucharist that we share on Sundays and Holy Days might be made all the more "real". When we gather as a community of believers, as a family of faith, (whether physically or, in these days, spiritually) we are made ONE in the one bread and one cup. It is in this common meal that we come together, unity among diversity. We may come to the table with our diverse and disparate "baggage", but we leave the table with the same Jesus. It is in this common worship, in the "breaking of the bread" (ibid) that Jesus powerfully reveals Himself to us. May we recognize Him not only then, but in the "ordinary" moments of our lives.

Have a Blessed (Continued) Easter,

Fr. Paul

MINISTRY NEWS

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

Adult Bible Study Continues

Our new Adult Bible Study continues to meet every Wednesday at 7 pm. We will gather in the conference room in the lower church of St. John's. Our focus is the Sunday Gospel and what it means for us as disciples. All are welcome!

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Wanted!

We are looking to add to our roster of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for both parishes. If you are interested in one (or both) of these ministries, please call the office at:

508-378-4207.

Ministries

Changing Lives ~ Sharing the Love of Christ

There is no better way to make your Parish a home where you can put down "roots", planting yourself in the garden of God's loving care than by becoming involved in your church home.

Please take this opportunity to make our Collaborative Parishes a place where you not only go to Mass but where you enjoy the fellowship of others in a common activity.

The Hospitality Committee has been meeting and would love to have more parishioners participate in the planning of Social Activities for the Parishes.

Bible Study has started — All are welcome!

The Choir has been singing for the past two years and is slowly growing. If you like to sing (even if you cannot read music), we would love to have to join us. We especially need male voices.

If you have a special interest, please let us know so that we can plan a ministry around that talent or skill or interest.

Lighter Side

Palm Sunday

5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter because of a sore throat. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and he shows up."

Riddles

Who was the fastest guy in the Bible?

Adam — he was first in the human race.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

When we look at today's gospel, we see how the two disciples meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and recognize Him "in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:35). While it is true that St. Francis no doubt met Jesus in this way, one cannot say that it was only in this way. A case could be made, in fact, that St. Francis first really "recognized" Jesus at the foot of the cross in that little church in San Damiano. Truth be told, one thing that we see repeatedly in the life of St. Francis it is that he had a series of personal encounters with Jesus Christ. When Francis met God, he did not do so in one particular moment – it was over a series of events. Francis met God in his dreams and desires, while praying in the caves and ruined churches, in giving away his possessions and becoming poor, in taking up a life of penance, in the leper and in serving the poor, in rebuilding ruined churches, in sacraments and in the ecclesial community, in his brothers in fraternity. Through all these experiences, Francis's heart was changed. With a changed heart, he became an evangelist.

Similarly, once we have had an experience of God – an encounter with God –, we are evangelizers. Like Francis, our faith involves submission and surrender to God in his love and forgiveness. We walk the path of penance and poverty, we embrace the cross, we serve the marginalized, we participate in our Church and receive the sacraments, we take part in community and dialogue with others, and we pray. In our walk with him, at some point we change and begin to act differently. We hear more clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit who speaks to us and we see things differently. Our vision has changed and we see more like God. In fact, we have become more like God. We approach life, the world, and others as Jesus did.

So with a changed life, how do we respond to those around us, perhaps those who do not share our faith? There is a popular statement attributed to St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." The story goes something like this: St. Francis once said to a novice, "Brother, let us go into Assisi and preach." Together they went up into the city and quietly walked through the streets. But Francis never said a word to any of the bystanders on the streets, even though many looked on curiously at the strangely clad men. After they exited through the city gate and headed back down to the friary of St. Mary of the Angels, the novice was confused. "And what about preaching, brother Francis?" he asked. "It is done," replied the Saint "when we witness to others the joy and beauty of our evangelical life in our simplicity, in addition to the care and concern we have shown for one another. Thus, our example is often the most eloquent kind of preaching. Remember this young friar: Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

Cont'd

This last sentence is one of the most quoted phrases by St. Francis. It is found all over the internet, on t-shirts, even on bumper stickers (one of my favorite forms of evangelization!). The only problem with it is that St. Francis never actually said it. The story never took place, as it never appears in any of the 13th century sources. Yet, St. Francis could have said it...and we, like the two on the road to Emmaus, can live it.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

"You cannot improve your life in any meaningful way without improving as a human being. And what is true for one person is true for an entire society. Virtue acquired one Holy Moment at a time is the only way for a society to make genuine progress."

FROM MATTHEW KELLY'S BOOK

holy moments

Question: Can anyone offer the Anointing of the Sick to a sick or dying person, or is that only something a priest can do?

Answer: The Letter of James speaks to us of the ancient tradition of a special anointing and blessing of those who are sick: "Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord ... If he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him" (5:14, 15b). This passage forms the foundation for the theology of the sacrament that we call "Anointing of the Sick." In keeping with what we read in the Letter of James and the ancient tradition of the Church, the anointing of a person of who sick or dying many only be performed by a priest or bishop.

Although deacons and other members of the Church are not able to celebrate the sacrament with a person who is sick, we can read Sacred Scripture and pray with and for those who are ill. Resources like the Book of Blessings also contain special blessings that can be celebrated by deacons or lay ministers. In the end, we want to be sure that we show a special care and concern for the sick, helping them to always experience God's loving comfort through made tangible through our acts of charity and service.

©LPi

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 Nicolai, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, 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, Jack, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Meg Weljkvic & 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, May 1, 2023
Monday, May 15, 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 to all who gave to the Easter Flower Fund.
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU
TO THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK GETTING THE
CHURCH READY FOR HOLY WEEK
AND EASTER SUNDAY!

AND TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED
TO HELP WITH THE TRIDDUM MASSES.

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

Is in need of:

Spaghetti sauce, mustard, ketchup, relish, & pickles.
Small jars only please.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
St Ann's

PLEASE CONTACT
TINA ANTHONY
508-245-5481

P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379

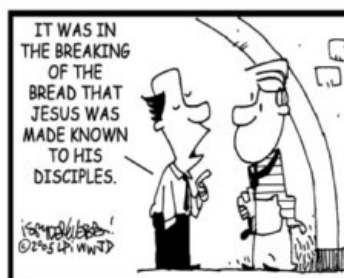
BINGO IS IN FULL SWING



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

3RD SUNDAY IN EASTER



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

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



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

Consider a Priestly Call!

Take a risk for God! Enter the mission field where bold action meets lasting outcomes. Over 750 priest alumni discerned a sacred call later in life. Maturity with God's grace can move mountains. Can you leave it all to follow Christ? Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, MA is offering the latest in its 'First' Friday Visits program on May 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Holy Hour and Evening Prayer. Option to attend in-person or virtually. In-person includes



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