



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
May 21, 2023
The Ascension of the Lord*



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you." - Jn 17:1

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

GLPI

God mounts
his throne to
joyful shouts:
a blare of
trumpets for
the Lord.

Psalm 47



ELPI

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

Priests In Residence

Fr. Peter Francis
Fr. Michael Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

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
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton

**THE OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED
ON FRIDAYS**

**DURING THE
MONTHS OF
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST**

**DUE TO FISCAL
CONSTRAINTS**

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, May 20, 2023

4:00 - First Communicants

Sunday, May 21, 2023

9:30 - Fr. Edward C. McDonagh — Month's Mind

Saturday, May 27, 2023

4:00 — Geraldine & John Sullivan & Family -
Memorial

Sunday, May 28, 2023

9:30 — Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, May 21, 2023

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

11:30 - First Communicants

6:15 - All our Parishioners in the Armed Forces

Sunday May 28, 2023

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

11:30 - John Oliveira - Month's Mind

6:15 - All families of the collaborative struggling



Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen. n.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

C.S. Lewis, the great author and philosopher, once said “We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, “Blessed are they that mourn.”” What Lewis understood is that one cannot avoid suffering in this life so one has to figure out a way to handle that suffering. Jesus, throughout his earthly ministry, understood that He must suffer and die for the sake of us all. One might think that, knowing this, Jesus would try and avoid that suffering. What Jesus understood, and what we are called to understand, is that there is a “redemptive” aspect to suffering, both His and ours.

We live in a world that avoids suffering. It promises relief of all kinds of pain. One of the misconceptions the world has about Christian suffering is that we “will” it, that we “ask” for it; this is not the case. Christians aren’t masochists; we don’t invite suffering – but neither do we avoid it at all costs. It is in the aforementioned “redemptive” aspects of suffering that we join our sufferings to those of Christ. My mother (and many of her generation) would invite me to “offer up” any suffering or pain I encountered. Again, this is to say that we are to invite, or prolong, suffering. If there is suffering in the world, be it physical, emotional or spiritual, we are to do our best as Christians to alleviate it. This is the reason we offer special “Prayers of the Faithful” at Mass, or take up special “second collections” for the victims of disasters. There is an understanding that suffering is not to be exacerbated, if at all possible. There can be some good, however, which comes out of these tragedies, this suffering. When one thinks of these natural disasters, for example, one can’t help but recall images of relief workers flying in from other parts of the country and the world offering assistance in helping folks rebuild their lives.

Jesus knew that the Christian life would include suffering. As Lewis reminds us in the quote at the beginning of my column that Jesus, Himself, often preached on suffering, reminding us that God would bless those who mourn, for to mourn is to remember, and to remember is to (on occasion) prevent future suffering. If we remember the human failings that are often at the heart of tragedy and disaster, then we can avoid them in the future. This does not mean that all suffering will end, but it does give us hope that we can move towards a better future, ultimately free from all suffering when we enter into the Kingdom.

When we look at suffering in light of the Kingdom, we realize that human suffering, as painful as it is, is temporary. We also realize that the sufferings of this present age are as nothing, compared to the glories that await us in the Kingdom. May we bear, with patient endurance, the sufferings of this world so that we may, one day, share in the fullness of life that awaits us in God’s Eternal Kingdom of Peace, Hope and Love.

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

Adult Bible Study Continues

Our new Adult Bible Study continues to meet every **Wednesday at 7 pm at St. John.**

We gather in the conference room in the lower church. Our focus is the Sunday Gospel and what it means for us as disciples. All are welcome!

Confirmation

Congratulations to the 44 high school students who will be confirmed this week! As we celebrate this major event in their life of faith, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will descend upon them and empower them to be faithful disciples of Jesus.



13th Annual Family Walk



Saturday, June 10th
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

A short walk around the Stonehill College campus will be followed by family fun activities including inflatable bounce houses and slides, obstacle course, climbing wall, live entertainment, and food vendors.

NO registration fee. FREE t-shirts for all who register on-line by May 31st.

Registration and event details:

www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/FamilyWalk

First Communions



Congratulations to the 24 young people who made their First Communion last weekend and the 14 who will make it the weekend of the 20th and 21st.

We are very proud of you!



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today's second reading, we hear how we are to "rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ" (1 Peter 4:13). One of the most profound ways in which Jesus suffered was when He willingly took upon Himself the Cross, which had within it profound suffering. One of the ways in which St. Francis shared in the sufferings of Christ is when he received the Stigmata, the manifestation of the wounds of Christ on one's own body.

On the day after Francis died, October 3, 1226, the Minister General of the Franciscan Order, Brother Elias, released a letter to all the friars informing them of Francis' passing. In the letter he wrote: "I announce to you a great joy and a new miracle. It is a sign, which has been unheard of from the very beginning of time except in the Son of God, Christ the Lord. Not long before his death, our brother and our father was seen to resemble the crucified Lord, bearing in his body the five wounds which are the marks of Christ."

Yet these were not marks that Francis received on his body while at death's door. He received the marks some two years prior while in prayer on the remote mountaintop of Mt. Alverna (also known as La Verna). Francis had gone there with two other friars, Brother Leo being one. While deep in prayer on a day near the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, a seraph (angel) appeared. The seraph was seemingly crucified on a cross. Thomas of Celano, writing within a few years of Francis' death (ca. 1229), described what happened as Francis contemplated the possible meaning of the vision: "...the marks of nails began to appear in his hands and feet, just as he had seen them slightly earlier in the crucified man above him. His wrists and feet seemed to be pierced by nails, with the heads of the nails appearing on his wrists and on the upper sides of his feet, the points appearing on the other side. The marks were round on the palm of each hand but elongated on the other side, and small pieces of flesh jutting out from the rest took on the appearance of the nail-ends, bent and driven back. In the same way the marks of nails were impressed on his feet and projected beyond the rest of the flesh. Moreover, his right side had a large wound as if it had been pierced with a spear, and it often bled so that his tunic and trousers were soaked with his sacred blood."

St. Bonaventure later wrote: "The sight of it amazed Francis and his soul experienced joy mingled with pain. He was delighted with the sight of Christ appearing to him so graciously and intimately and yet the awe-inspiring vision of Christ nailed to the cross aroused in his soul a joy of compassionate love." May we, like St. Francis, be willing to share in the sufferings of Christ in whatever form that may take. May we know that these sufferings can serve us well if they unite us to the One who came into the world to serve the needs of all.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

Chet & Rob's **15th ANNUAL MEMORIAL RIDE** **SCHOLARSHIP FUND** *Rain or Shine*

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023
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The Ascension of the Lord

Have you ever noticed how often we use "up" and "down" to judge things? Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is "high" art, while professional wrestling is "low." If I'm having a good day, I'm on "cloud nine." A bad day means I am "down in the dumps." A successful career is "moving up the ladder." Failure in work or personal life can be "falling from the heights." Life is filled with "ups and downs" — no one has the slightest problem understanding that means life has both "good and bad."

Now consider Jesus' ascension. He ascends not just to some level slightly higher of goodness, but "above all the heavens," to use the words of Saint Paul (Eph. 4:10). That expression means to the source of all goodness. He has gone all the way down — to the farthest depths of human suffering, and death. And now he has taken our humanity all the way up into God. In doing so he has demonstrated what he says in the Gospel of John to the Father: "Everything of yours is mine." He now reigns over every possible aspect of creation in and through his human nature. That's what the ascension is all about.

So what? No matter what the lows and highs, ups and down we face this week, we are totally encompassed by the one who descended and ascended. So, we should happily and confidently entrust ourselves to him. He has shown us not only his power, but especially his love, in filling all our ups and down with his presence.

Father John Muir

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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, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jack, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher & 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, June 5, 2023
Monday, June 19, 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

The Protecting God's Children Department of the Archdiocese has asked that all volunteers receive a copy of the Code of Conduct Guidelines for all Volunteers.

If you have not received this in your email or have not been able to obtain a copy in the Sacristy, please call the office and arrangements will be made to get one to you.

508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

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



The Flower Memorial this week is
in Memory of
Rev. Edward C. McDonagh

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



A Prayer for the United States of America

Almighty God, Lord of life, we thank and praise You for the freedom we enjoy in our country and pray that our laws and liberties will continue to be protected.

Heal the conflicts which damage our unity and ease our political differences from one another. May our citizens respect religious freedom, the importance of family and the values of human life.

In these times of uncertainty, give us the ability to remain compassionate, patient and resistant. Give us the wisdom to see things from a rational and enlightened perspective, to know right from wrong, to recognize evil from good and to realize truth from lies.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct our political leaders to the preservation of truth, promoting national security, the increase of jobs and industry and to ensure justice and equality for all.

Give us the fortitude to see that our faith in You is the greatest decision we can undertake.

Amen



America the Beautiful

Lyrics Words by Katharine Lee Bates,
Melody by Samuel Ward

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

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