



*Together in Christ  
Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John  
July 23, 2023*



*The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom  
of their Father." - Mt 13:43a

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

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We, The Together in Christ Collaborative of St. Ann and St. John the Evangelist, welcome and engage all ages to become the disciples that Jesus is calling all of us to be. United by faith and in the Celebration of the Mass, we embrace the call of Jesus to live our mission to "Go forth and make disciples." Through evangelization, education, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will grow together as One Body of Christ.

**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 M-TH  
Friday the Office is closed**

**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.stjohnneb.org](http://www.stjohnneb.org)**

**Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB  
Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring**

**MASS TIMES**

**St Ann**

**Saturday, 4:00 PM  
Sunday, 9:30 AM**

**St John**

**Sunday, 8:00 AM  
Sunday, 11:30 AM  
Sunday, 6:15 PM**



# 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**

## 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**

**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

## MASSSES FOR THE WEEK



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### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, July 22, 2023

4:00 - Carolyn Mary Oliviere—Memorial

#### Sunday, July 23, 2023

9:30 - Christine Cole - 10th Anniversary

#### Saturday, July 29, 2023 -

4:00 - Conceicao Ponte & Family — 3rd Anniv.

#### Sunday, July 30, 2023

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

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### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday July 23, 2023

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

11:30 - John J. McHugh, Jr. — Birthday Remem.

6:15 - Mass for the Unborn

#### Friday, July 28, 2023

9:00 - Salvatore Gaziano - Memorial

#### Sunday, July 30, 2023

8:00 - Lydia (Couchon) Riel — Memorial

11:30 - For all the people in the world without faith

6:15 - Frances Sousa — Memorial



Please welcome the following children into our Collaborative. Pray that this is the first step in a wonderful journey with God.

Ryder James Davis,  
Isabella Rose Edwards,  
Blake Avery Edwards,  
Ford Xander Edwards,  
Morgan Rae Edward,  
Sienna Carolyn Albanese

*St Ann's  
Flowers Memorial  
this week is for:*

*Christine Cole*



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Anyone who has lived a certain length of time knows that there is evil in the world. Our young people may not know this reality (which is a good thing, for sure), but (sadly) one day they will come to experience this truth. For centuries theologians, philosophers and scholars have wrestled with the question of evil, its existence and how and why it comes about in the world. I'm not sure they're any closer to figuring it out than they were when they first tackled it!

The reality of the Christian life is that, along with the good in our life, there is evil in the world. God does not cause this evil to occur (contrary to what many in the world may think), but He does allow it to exist. This is known in theological terms as "the permissive will of God", and it basically states that God allows suffering and evil in the world as part of God's "overall plan". We may *speculate* as to why this happens, but no one can say with absolute certainty why it does. As my father used to say, "God only knows, and He ain't tellin' ", which I always took as a pretty direct way of saying "Don't worry about it, God will let us know when we get to Heaven". I'm sure for most of us, in fact, that may be on the top of our list of questions that we'll want to ask God if/when we get to the Kingdom. It is one of life's great mysteries, this question of evil and suffering.

In today's gospel, the disciples ask Jesus to explain the parable about "the weeds and the wheat". In doing so, they are trying to probe the mind and heart of someone who knows all and sees all. Most likely, they don't ask Jesus to explain the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, because they speak to the same point: the beginnings of the Kingdom here on earth may be small at first, but they are yielding (and will continue to yield) great results. The "weeds and the wheat" is a little trickier, because it seems that prudent thing to do would be to uproot the weeds when they grow; they are, however, "entangled" in the roots of the wheat and thus would uproot the wheat if pulled. One must allow for evil to exist, for at the harvest (read: the end of the world), the harvest master (read: God) will separate the weeds from the wheat and cast them into the furnace (read: Hell), taking the wheat with him into the barn (read: the Kingdom). This requires great patience on our part, a patience which only comes from God.

Let us pray for patient endurance, recognizing the "bigger picture" at work in the plan that God has for us all. Let us know that God, who knows and sees all, will see the good we do and reward that good. Let us pray that we may gathered up with the wheat (i.e. the good people of God) and put into the barn (i.e. the Kingdom) where we will "shine like the sun" (Mt 13:43).

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](mailto:directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### **Registration for Faith Formation 2023-2024 is now open!**

I am happy to announce that registration for faith formation for the fall is now open! Classes will begin on Sunday 9/24 and run through the first week of May. The schedule remains roughly the same, but there are some adjustments based on your feedback and the current Mass schedule. The 2023-2024 schedule is as follows:

Grades 1-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9 and 10
Sundays 8:20-9:20 @ St. Ann	Sundays 5:00-6:00 @ St. Ann	Sundays 7:15-8:15 @ St. Ann
Mondays 4:30-5:30 @ St. Ann	Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 @ St. John	(Grades 9 and 10 meet on alternate weeks)
Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 @ St. John		

The registration form can be found on the Faith Formation pages of both parishes' websites or emailed to you by contacting Matt Brady

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### **Celebration of St. Ann's Feast Day**

Wednesday, July 26th 6-8 pm at St. Ann

Join us as we celebrate the feast day of St. Ann, the patron saint of our church in West Bridgewater, with a party!

There will be lawn games, board games and a whole bunch of crafts. All the activities are free, and we will be selling a meal of a hot dog, chips, water, and cookie for \$5. If you prefer, you can get 2 waters, 2 chips or 2 cookies or any combination there of for \$1.

The money raised will support our collaborative's Disciples of Hospitality, who plan and organize the social activities for our parishes.

### **August Movie Nights**

We will be hosting 4 movie nights over the course of the summer, 2 at each parish. There will be free popcorn and other snacks available for purchase.

#### **Schedule:**

**8/5: Encanto**

**8/9: Zootopia**

**8/19: Inside Out**

**8/23: Shrek 2**

**7 pm outside at St. John (inside if it's bad weather)**

**7 pm in St. Ann's Parish Center**

### **HAPPY WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY Celebrated July 23, 2023**

"God wants young people  
to bring joy to the hearts  
of the elderly, as Mary did  
to Elizabeth, and gain  
wisdom from their  
experiences."  
- Pope Francis

Message for the World Day for  
Grandparents and the Elderly 2023



[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)





## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today's gospel presents three parables: the "Weeds and the Wheat", "Mustard Seed", and "Yeast and the Dough". All three are meant as "Kingdom-centered" parables, with the focus on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, and what it takes to make it to heaven. While Jesus explains only the parable of the weeds and the wheat, I'd like to focus on the parable of the mustard seed and its relation to St. Francis.

One might think that St. Francis had an abundance of faith, and they would be right...as long as they were talking "post-conversion". So much of Francis' life hinges on his encounter with Jesus at the foot of the Cross at San Damiano. Before this moment of faith, Francis' faith could easily be described as LESS THAN "mustard seed-sized". Francis was so focused on the world and its trappings, that any thought of the Kingdom were purely accidental. After San Damiano, however, Francis' focus shifted from the world to the Kingdom, specifically the "rebuilding" of the Church. All it took for Francis' life to change seismically was this "conversation" which St. Francis had with the Lord at the foot of the San Damiano Cross. Francis had a "mustard seed-sized" amount of faith, but Jesus took that and ran with it. Jesus convinced Francis to radically change his life and begin to follow what the Lord asked him to do.

Have you ever had a "mustard seed" moment, with God taking seemingly little and (with your help) growing it into something amazing? Have you ever prayed for God to change your life, even if you only feel like you have a mustard seed-sized faith? Pray that, like St. Francis, God take that "mustard seed" (or yeast) and help you to focus not on the "weeds" in your life, but the "wheat" – those good gifts from God, which we all have – and use them to build up the Kingdom of God and the Body of Christ. May St. Francis' example of faith be an inspiration to you and to us all to follow Him now, and into the Kingdom.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

## Holy Chauffeur

While the pope was visiting the USA, he told the driver of his limo that he has the sudden urge to drive.

The driver was a good Catholic man and would not ever dream of questioning the pope's authority.

So, the pope sat at the wheel, while his driver got in the back. They were traveling down the road doing between 70 and 80 mph, when a policeman happened to see them.

As he pulled them over, he called in to headquarters reporting a speeding limo, with a VIP inside it.

The chief asked, "Who is in the limo, the mayor?"

The policeman told him, "No, someone more important than the mayor."

Then the chief asked, "Is it the governor?"

The policeman answered, "No, someone more important than the governor."

The chief finally asked, "Is it the President?"

The policeman answered, "No, someone even more important than the President."

This made the chief very angry, and he bellowed, "Now who is more important than the President?!"

The policeman calmly whispered, "I'll put it to you this way chief. I don't know who this guy is, but he has the Pope as his chauffeur."

## Offertory Donations

**If you want your Offertory used for tax purposes, you must use an envelope from the Waltz Co.**

**All cash donations given at a Mass that is NOT your Parish that you want to go in the account for your Parish should be placed in an envelope with the church name on it. Otherwise it goes to the other Parish.**

**Cash  
donations are not recorded in the computer.**

**Loose checks (not in Waltz Envelopes) are very much appreciated but are not able to be tallied in the computer for tax statements.**

**If you like to set up an On-Line Giving Account, directions are on our websites.**

**Any questions, you can call the Rectory Offices  
St. John — 508-378-4207  
St Ann — 508-586-4880**

## 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:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, 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, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Kayla Perry & 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.*



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 Ann's  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**Is looking for new members**

**PLEASE CONTACT — TINA ANTHONY**

**508-245-5481**

**P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379**

**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**



**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**

### WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

**MEMORIAL MASSES  
Suggested donation \$25+**

**HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE  
WEEK — \$30+**



**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK  
Increasing to \$85+**

### 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, August 7, 2023  
Monday, August 21, 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.**



**Please remember to fill out  
the Registration Form to  
update our databases.**



## NEWS



Fr. John Fisher from Uganda is the Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Buyambi Parish. He is currently trying to bring clean drinking water to his community.

This requires getting a solar-powered well that would deliver clean water to storage tanks where the students and villagers could come and get clean water more easily.

Any help you can provide would be extremely appreciated. If you want to donate to this cause, please write a check to St. John's or St. Ann's and put Clean Water Project on the memo line. Cash should be in an envelope marked for the Clean Water Project. Fr. Paul will collect and mail your donations.



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