



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
September 17, 2023*



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

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
Website: stannswb.com
Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are
9:00-3:00 M-TH**

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.stjohnneb.org**

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

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

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

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



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, September 16, 2023

4:00 - Eli Perrault — Month's Mind

Sunday, September 17, 2023

9:30 - All parishioners who are drawn to be
volunteers for the T.I.C. Collaborative

Saturday, September 23, 2023

4:00 - Alex Doucette—19th Birthday Remem

Sunday, September 24, 2023

9:30 - Joan Mondeau — 7th Anniversary

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, September 17, 2023

8:00 - All Parishioners who are drawn to be
Volunteers for the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 - Kenny Fontaine, Jr. — 4th Anniversary

6:15 - All Parishioners who are drawn to be
Volunteers for the T. I. C. Collaborative

Sunday September 24, 2023

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

11:30 - Michael Bonner — 3rd Anniversary

6:15 - All the children in the world who are
Victims of trafficking.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Friends in Christ,



I've often felt that resentment and forgiveness are "two sides of the same coin". Often times, our inability to forgive is linked with our unwillingness to let go. If we do not let go the hurts of the past, we cannot move forward towards the future. One of my favorite quotes (from Carrie Fisher, in her semi-autobiography "Postcards From The Edge") states that "resentment is like drinking poison, and waiting for the other person to die". So often, the person who has harmed us has moved on from an incident in which we have been hurt and we have not – we are still holding on. Forgiveness can only occur if we are willing to move on into the future. Note that this "moving on" does not mean "forgetting"; if we forget, the possibility of reoccurrence increases and (often) intensifies. Think of the classic example of the child and the hot stove; the child cannot forget the pain of touching the hot stove, lest they get burned again, but they can learn (and even grow) from it. In the same way, we cannot (and should not) forget about getting "burned" by a hurtful incident, but we can (and should) move forward with the knowledge of that incident in our minds so that it doesn't happen again. I think the old maxim of "forgive and forget" could, more aptly be phrased "forgive and move forward".

In today's gospel, Peter asks Jesus "Lord...how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" (Mt 18:21). Jesus surprises Peter by telling him, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times" (Mt 18:22). In saying this, one is not to be counting "seventy-five...seventy-six...seventy-seven...okay, I'm done!" Jesus is reminding Peter (and us, in our listening) that forgiveness is an ongoing thing that it is to happen as often as we are hurt. This is a hard truth, one that is not easy to wrap one's head around. The parable of the master and servant is an illustration of letting go. The servant is forgiven his debt, but does not extend the same courtesy to a fellow servant. He fails to "pay it forward", if you will. In doing so, he incurs the wrath of his master. The master, in turn, requires full repayment from the first servant because he failed to do for another that which was done for him.

We are called, as people of faith, to adhere to the principle of forgiveness in the measure in which we are willing to forgive. If we forgive greatly, we will be forgiven greatly; if we forgive sparingly, we will be forgiven sparingly. We are to extend to others the mercy, compassion, and love which God extends to us. May we come to know this mercy from God, and when we receive it may we be ready willing and able to bestow this gift on others.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

HOLY CROSS RETREAT HOUSE



RETREAT FALL KICK-OFF

September 17th

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS, TOURS, INFORMATION TABLES

490 WASHINGTON STREET EASTON MA
4:00-6:00 PM

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO HAVE ARTIST-EXTRAORDINAIRE, ROB SURETTE, PERFORMING FOR OUR COMMUNITY! ROB HAS APPEARED ON THE TODAY SHOW, AND HE IS A TOP-TIER MASTER FINE ARTIST FOR DISNEY! THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL BE INSPIRED!

TO RSVP OR TO LEARN MORE
Email: nsmith@holycrossusa.org www.retreathouse.org

MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry News

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

****Last Call to Register for Faith Formation****

Faith formation classes begin on September 24th. Please sign up as soon as possible so your children can be added to a class and you can be put on this year's email list. For the registration form, please see the parish website or email Matt Brady.

There will be parent overview meetings on 9/18 at 7:30 at St. John's and 9/19 at 7 pm at St. Ann's.

Catechists Wanted!

As we prepare for the new faith formation year in the fall, catechists are needed for all grades.

The only requirements are love of Christ and a willingness to work with our children.

No experience needed - we will train you and give you all the materials you need.

If interested, please contact Matt Brady.
Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

We especially need teachers for grades 7-9

Ministry Spotlight: **Family Life Ministry**

The Ministry is being revived after being dormant for several years. It will be responsible for planning events for our families, including fun activities, parent formation nights and service projects.

Altar Servers Wanted!

This year we are bringing back altar servers. Any child in grade 3 or higher is welcome as are any adults who would like to serve in this role. There will be a training session on October 22 after the 9:30 Mass. Please email Matt Brady to sign up. If you can't make the training, that's ok, just email Matt to make an alternate time to meet.

Fellowship Hour: Saturday 9/23

Join us after the 4 pm Mass on 9/23 for a Fellowship period to connect with fellow parishioners before you head out to dinner. There will be crackers and cheese, fruit and drinks so it's the perfect (and a free) appetizer! We will be set up in the rose garden between the church and the rectory. Sponsored by our Disciples of Hospitality.

Volunteer Drive

After all the Masses on the weekends of September 23-24 and 30-October 1 we will be holding a Volunteer Drive. As we work to expand our ministries and revive some that have been dormant since the Covid shutdown, we need many more volunteers to make this possible. Please stop by the table to learn about the ways in which you can help our collaborative better minister to all those whom we serve.

In the next few weeks, we will be running a ministry spotlight in the bulletin so you can learn more about our ministries.

All current volunteers should plan on stopping by the table so that they can fill out their paperwork for this fiscal year.

September Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team at Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless of Boston. The September date is 9/18 at 6:30 pm at St. John. All are welcome to join us!



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

St. Francis of Assisi has always been considered a great man of forgiveness. Why? Because he recognized the power of forgiveness and the impact it could have in healing and transforming men and women. He also lived out this truth. Here is a story from his life that demonstrates this in a dramatic way.

One day Francis met an acquaintance of his who looked troubled, and he asked him: "Brother, how are things with you?" The man immediately began to rant against his master, saying, "Thanks to my master — May God curse him! — I have had nothing but misfortune. He has taken away all that I possess."

Francis was filled with pity for the man, and said, "Brother, pardon your master for the love of God, and free your own soul; it's possible that he will restore to you whatever he has taken away. Otherwise, you have lost your goods and will lose your soul as well." But the man said, "I can't fully forgive him unless he returns what he has taken from me." Francis answered, "Look, I will give you this cloak; I beg you to forgive your master for the love of the Lord God." The man's heart was melted by this kindness, and he forgave his master. Immediately, he was filled with joy.

St. Francis was truly a man of forgiveness, a peacemaker who became a channel of God's grace to others. We can become like St. Francis. When we pray for those who have offended us, it frees us to love as God loves. God's grace has power not only to change us, but those who have done us injury as well.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR
THE CLERGY TRUST**

**NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR
THE HEAT AND SNOW REMOVAL FUND.**

Protecting God's Children Training

This training, also known as Virtus, is required for all parish staff and volunteers regardless of role. You are only required to attend this training once, so if you have previously attended this training you can receive credit for it. In conjunction with the Volunteer Drive, all current volunteers will receive an email about their status and info on how to sign up. We are hosting 2 trainings here:

Saturday 9/30 at 10 am at St. Ann
Saturday 10/14 at 9:30 am at St. John

For questions please contact Matt Brady.



SVdP Clothing Collection

Please help Saint Vincent de Paul help our neighbors. Saturday and Sunday September 23-24 SVdP will coordinate a clothing, bed linen / blanket, and shoe collection to help our neighbors in need.

A SVdP trailer will be parked in the St John's Church parking lot from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to accept donations of usable clothes, linens / blankets, and shoes.

Unfortunately household appliances or furniture cannot be accepted.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors.

Ministry Spotlight: Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound/ Nursing Homes

We have a small team of Eucharistic ministers who regularly visit those who are homebound and some of the local nursing homes to bring Communion and provide pastoral care. We would like to expand this group and better coordinate the team to better minister to this population.

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, 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, Fr. Pater Francis's Mother, Barbara, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti & 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 or added, 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 — Small jars only please.
Cookies and crackers are also needed.

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

Forrest Gump Movie Night

*Friday October 13th at 7 pm
at St. John*

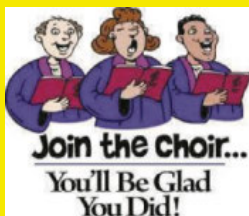
There will be free popcorn and a concession stand with other treats. All are welcome! Sponsored by the Disciples of Hospitality.



The Together in Christ Collaborative Choir wants you!

You do not have to read music.
You do not have to have experience.
You do not have to audition.
If you sing along from the congregation on Sundays then you are qualified!
Rehearsals will begin on Thursday nights in September.

For more info contact our music director, Rich at richcesarini@gmail.com.



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.

*Tuesday September 5 2023
Monday, September 18, 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

NEWS

Boy's Dormitory.

Greetings of love from Uganda. We have done a lot together as far as building the above school. We do appreciate so much.

Why a Boy's Dormitory?

1. We already have a girls dormitory
2. It gives conducive environment for studies
3. It keeps the boys safe from joining wrong groups such as drunkards....
4. To curb the long distances of 4 to 7 miles boys walk to and from school every day
5. We have no buses for students transportation
6. To avoid school dropouts and early marriages.

How to donate?

Write your check to St. John's or St. Ann's. In the memo write St. Benedict school. We shall have a second collection for this noble cause on September 9th and 10th for all masses.

How much do we need?

The boys dormitory is going to cost us close to \$200, 000.00.

Am appealing to your generosity. Kindly help the African child to acquire quality education.

Contact me on my email further information

Fr. Stephen Lusiba

lusteve2012@gmail.com



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