



Together in Christ Collaborative

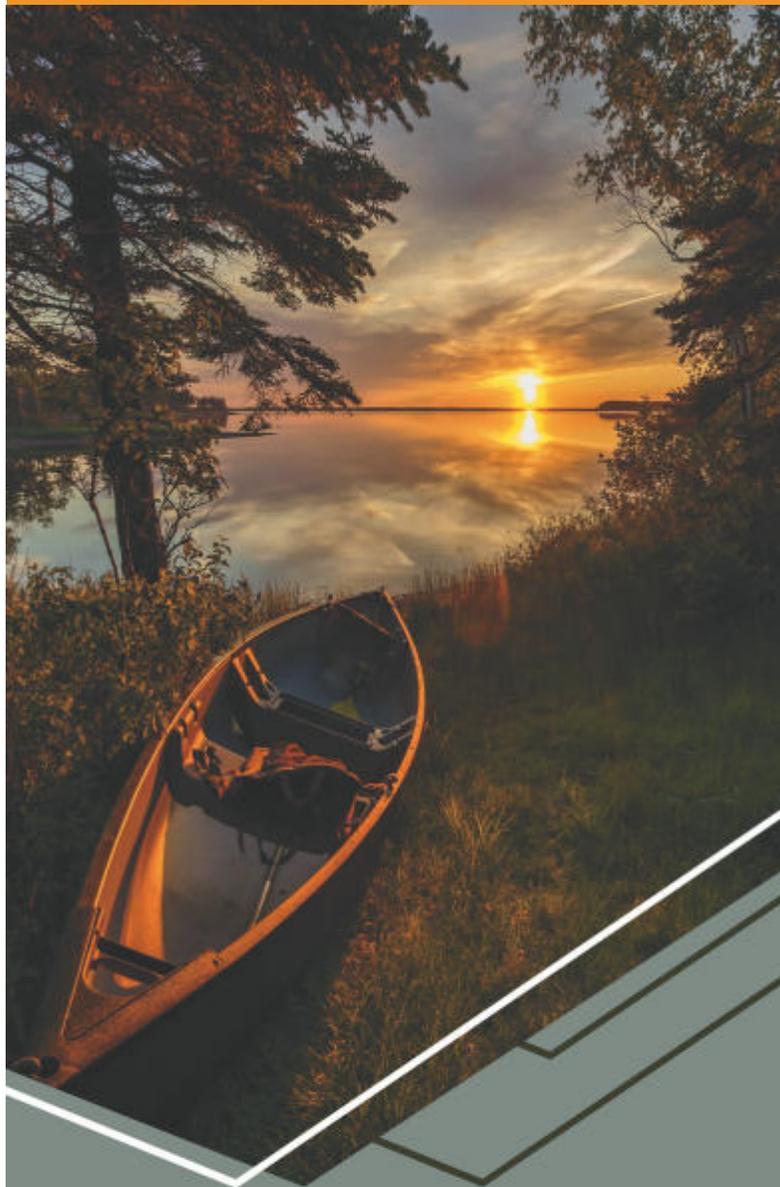
January 24, 2021

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. John the Evangelist

St Ann



**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.stjohnne.org

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

**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 9-4 M-Th

For both Churches

Currently we are working from home.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1990, 1970 CCD.

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TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

Permanent Deacons:

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

Christopher Connelly
cconnelly@rcab.org

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice
In the Chapel
Divine Mercy every Thursday
After Mass.

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. All baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. Prep classes will take place before the Baptism. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is by appointment during the pandemic. 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 Wasil

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager: Donna Roderiques
donna.stannstjohn@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini
richcesarini@gmail.com

Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham

Director of Ministries: Stephanie Gaboury
directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com
508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, January 23, 2020

5:30 - Ralph Ortenzi — Memorial

Sunday, January 24, 2020

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, January 30, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, January 31, 2020

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, January 23, 2020

4:00—Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, January 24, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, January 30, 2020

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, January 31, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Back in high school, I was asked by my pastor if I had ever considered a vocation to the priesthood. I can remember distinctly the reaction I had to that inquiry: I laughed in his face! There was no disrespect intended, for I was sure that he was joking; when he said that he wasn't, I was, to say the least, contrite if not downright remorseful. This encounter was then followed by two other (seemingly, at the moment) unrelated conversations. When the third conversation occurred surrounding this same topic I was, indeed, intrigued. Was God actually calling me to the priesthood? Did I dare say yes? When I did, eventually, say yes, my whole world changed. I realized that God was, indeed, calling me to become a "fisher of men" (Mk [1:17](#)).

In today's gospel, the response of the first followers of Jesus was far more immediate and sure. They left everything they had and followed Jesus, which must have taken extraordinary faith and courage. To leave everything you know, everything that holds you secure is an amazing "leap of faith". This is what God is calling us to do, to respond to our baptismal call by following Him. Yes, it does take an incredible amount of faith to do this, but when we do the results can be life-changing. We may not be called to leave everything we know, but that's not really the point of today's gospel. In its wider context, the gospel passage today is calling us to look within our own circles of friends, our own families, to see who needs to be "reeled in". There are many of our own who are "adrift" who are looking for "safe harbor", and we can be the one who brings them "safely to shore".

We can't be sure of what was going through the minds of those first disciples, but we know that there was something alluring about Jesus' call to them. It made them give up everything they knew, everything that held them secure, to follow Him. Is God calling us to something, something beyond ourselves? Is God calling us, by virtue of our baptismal call, to be disciples, to be (in paraphrasing the gospel) "fishers of people"? It could very well be that God is calling us and, for whatever reason – it could be apathy, fear or doubt – we are not responding as fully as we could/should be.

Let us have the same trust the first disciples did. Let us attune our hearts to hear the call of Jesus so that others may come to know what we have come to know: that Jesus has come into the world to follow Him, now and into the Kingdom.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

**THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST
COLLABORATIVE
NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!**

**Our financial situation is getting to a crisis level.
The pandemic has taken a very real toll in so many ways.**

Weekly Offertory

Jan 6 - Jan 12, 2021

ST JOHN

Online \$599

Mail \$2,221

Mass \$1,721

Grand Annual To Date \$11,510

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$575

Mass \$967

Grand Annual To Date \$12,405

Suggested Sacramental Offerings

Memorial Mass — \$25

Baptisms — \$50

Funerals — \$600

COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, George Lepine, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dennis Green, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen Daly, Baby Abigail & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

**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

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

The Food Pantry has changed its hours for the winter.

Monday, Feb. 1 - 1:00—4:00

Saturday, Feb 20. - 10:00—11:30

Monday, Mar. 1 - 1:00—4:00

Saturday, Mar. 20 - 10:00—11:30

The Food Pantry is currently accepting donation at the bottom of the ramp. Please make sure you call to let them know you have dropped off food and that it is properly protected from the elements. Cash donations are always welcomed and can be mailed to the address above.

**Gift cards are also a great help.
\$5—\$25 cards are easier to distribute than large sums, ie \$100**

Cereal, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, canned goods, etc. are

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mary of Nazareth

Guided Retreat!

Via ZOOM

January 31 through February 5

Mary of Nazareth: Graced Woman and Spirit-filled Friend and Prophet of God

This retreat is an opportunity to reflect and deeply listen to Mary, who embraced the call of Spirit-Sophia to co-labor with God in bringing to fullness the coming new and ever-evolving realm of God. As friends and prophets of God we, too, are lured by God to co-labor and share in God's vision for the universe

Welcome Session Sunday at 7:00 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
10:00 AM - Talk; 3:00 PM - Talk;

4:30 PM - Prayer Service by Fr. Mark Schramm with music accompaniment by Bro. Donald Champagne.

Fee is \$250. You do not need to be computer literate - the link is very easy.

To register please visit www.MiramarRetreat.org.

For further details concerning sign-in or attendance, please call

Mary-Fran

at

781.585.2460

or email

MaryFran@MiramarRetreat.org

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

Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.



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.



STRENGTH FOR THE WEEK

Hello, our friends!

In these days of turmoil in our country, I've been drawn increasingly to think of Saint John Paul II, someone who played a dramatic role on the world's stage and firmly believed that we need to **take seriously the very tensions found in governments, political ideologies, and radical secularism as an opportunity for proclaiming the Gospel.**

I still remember the power of the new Pontiff's voice as he proclaimed to the world: "To [Jesus'] saving power open the boundaries of states, economic and political systems, the vast fields of cultures, civilization and development. **Do not be afraid. Christ**

This past Sunday we celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and listened as God proclaimed the same message: "This is my beloved Son. **Listen to him.**"

Unfortunately, we Christians, along with everyone else, have fallen for the illusion that political strategies are what ultimately drive history and re-build civilizations. Saint John Paul II, however, the saint who experienced both totalitarian regimes — Nazism and Communism — reminds us that we need more now than ever, to **take hold of the words of the Risen Christ: "Be Not Afraid."** He said in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Man who, even after the fall of Communism, has not stopped being afraid and who truly has many reasons for feeling this way, needs to hear these words. ...People and nations of the entire world need to hear these words. **Their conscience needs to grow in the certainty that Someone exists who holds in His hands the destiny of this passing world; Someone who holds the keys to death and the netherworld (cf. Revelation 1:18).... He alone can give**

No matter what "team" you are on, whether red or blue, John Paul II would have us remember that it is ultimately not political strategies but Jesus Christ to whom we must listen. The new evangelization John Paul II proposed to the Church is rooted in the power of grace for the transformation of culture and the building up of the civilization of love. John Paul II would invite us to a dialogue with this culture, not condemnation or retreat. **The key to this dialogue is to appreciate and center on the dignity of the human person.**

Jared Staudt, of the Augustine Institute, points the way when he encourages us that the renewal of culture will come only from a renewal of holiness—think your holiness and mine, lay people, priests and religious, renewed parishes, dioceses, and religious communities.

It is what holy people do that attracts others to a way of life that will ultimately transform the world with the power of love.

This is the power that the saints wield in the world. **"Love is like a great force hidden within cultures in order to urge them to overcome their incurable finiteness** by opening themselves to him who is their Source and End, and to give them, when they do open themselves to his grace, enriching fullness" (Pope John Paul II in his Letter Establishing the Pontifical Council for Culture, May 20, 1982).

Sr Kathryn J. Hermes, FSP

This Week in Ministry

1.25.21-1.31.21



First Communion Candidates: Special OUTDOOR Mass!

All grade 2 students and their families are invited to a special outdoor Mass on Sunday February 7th at 12:00 PM in the St. John's parking lot. Families are invited to bring chairs to sit outside, or can listen to Mass from inside their cars!

At the end of Mass, all First Communion candidates will be given important materials to celebrate and prepare for their sacred Sacrament. We look forward to seeing all of you there!



Thank You to Our Volunteers!

You did a great job taking down the Christmas decorations and transitioning to Ordinary Time!



Reminder: Upcoming Virtual Book Club!

We will be discussing Matthew Kelly's book, *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity* on Sunday, February 21st at 1:00 PM. All are welcome!

Click here to join the discussion: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81724087967>

Need to find a copy of the book? Check out:

[East Bridgewater Library](#) [West Bridgewater Library](#)
[Barnes and Noble](#) [Amazon](#) [DiscoverBooks](#)

Stephanie Gaboury
Director of Ministries, T.I.C. Collaborative

directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only; Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith" (James 1:22; 2:18)

Communion Wafer

Question: Do Catholics always need to receive communion in wafer form, or can it be different kinds of bread?

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the most common form for the eucharistic bread is the small white communion “wafer” that is a ubiquitous part of the Catholic Mass. The instructions of the Church have been very specific regarding the make-up of the bread used in the Mass: “The bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made ... it follows therefore that bread made from another substance, even if it is grain, or if it is mixed with another substance different from wheat to such an extent that it would not commonly be considered wheat bread, does not constitute valid matter for confecting the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament” (see Redemptionis Sacramentum by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, no. 48).

The Church’s tradition of using a wheat-based bread is based on the bread that Jesus would have used at the Last Supper and is considered to be an essential part of the “matter” of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As we consider the question of whether a “wafer” — which is properly called a “host” — should be used, we also must keep in mind that in the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, leavened (i.e. “raised”) bread is more often used. And so, while the thin, white “wafer” is most commonly used in the Roman Rite of the Church, the full expression of the Catholic tradition does allow for a more substantial form of bread to be used, but the tradition of using a simple wheat bread with no other additions or additives is considered essential.

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