



SAIN'T JOHN

***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

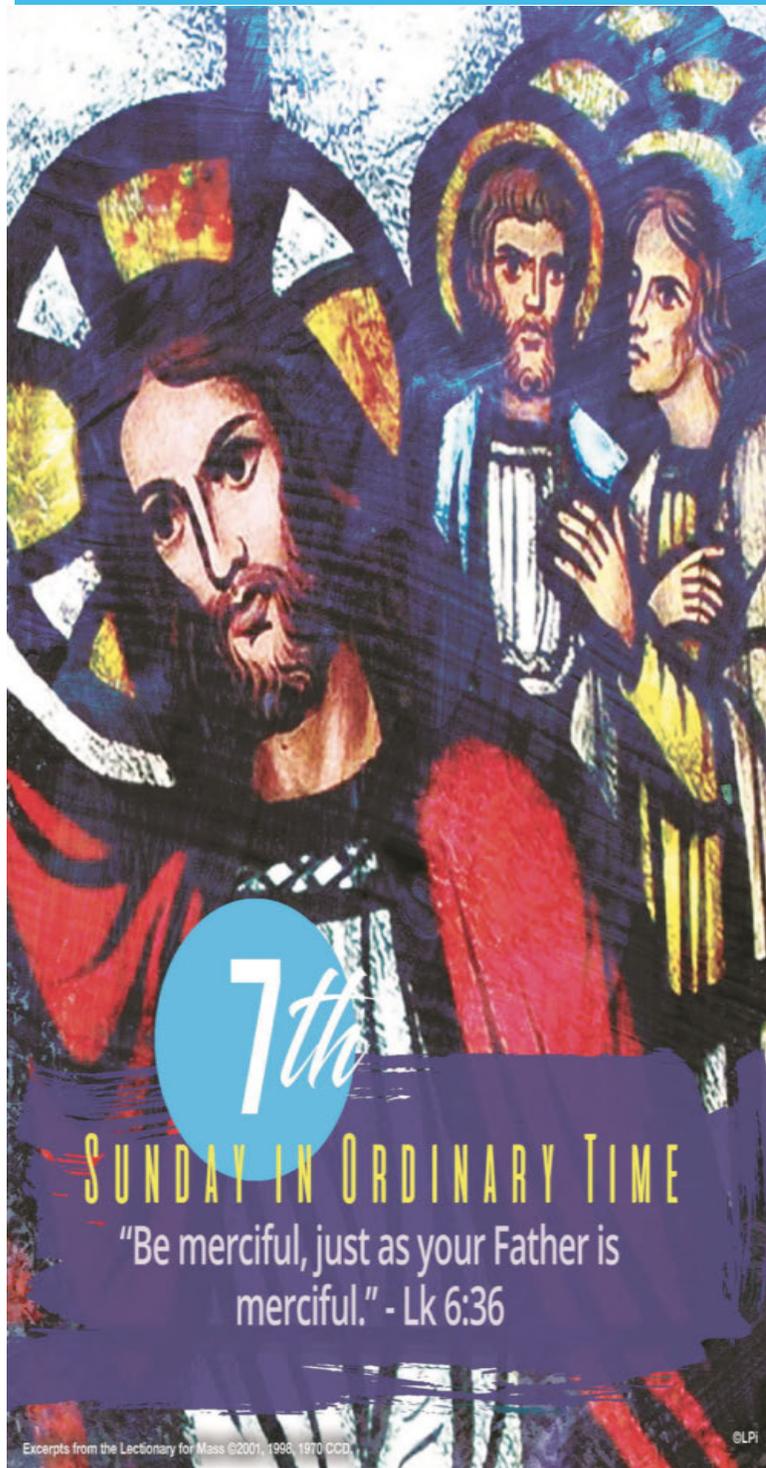
***Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time***

February 20, 2022



SAIN'T ANN

MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED



7th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." - Lk 6:36

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

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**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**

**Saint John the Evangelist
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333
Office –103 N. Main Street,
West Bridgewater**

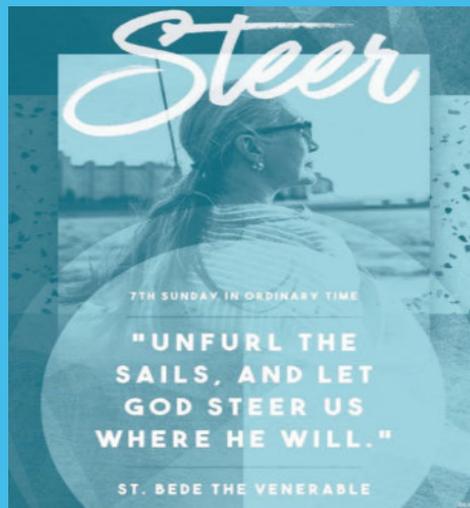
508-378-4207

E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net

Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**"UNFURL THE
SAILS, AND LET
GOD STEER US
WHERE HE WILL."**

ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE

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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.
In the Church

St Ann's
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. &
6:15 p.m. Life Teen Mass
w/ Drive up option

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

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 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. These 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

3:00—3:30 at Saint Ann's Church or
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 JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@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: Nancy Goggin
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
617-639-4215

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, February 19, 2022

4:00 - Gerald Bean — 1st Anniversary

Sunday February 20, 2022

8:30 - Rita Giovanoni — 4th Anniversary

6:15 - For those who have no one to pray for them

Saturday, February 26, 2022

4:00—Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, February 27, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For those who are in power, that they lead with God in their ear.

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, February 19, 2022

5:30 - Patricia McCarthy — 4th Anniversary

Sunday, February 20, 2022

10:30 - William McCormack — 9th Anniversary

Saturday, February 26, 2022

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, February 27, 2022

10:30—Mary Kenn — Month's Mind



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week we saw a Jesus that jarred us, one who was not the “warm and fuzzy Jesus” to whom I referred with regards to my seminary training and of whom we often think when we picture who Jesus is for us. Last week, in the rendering of the Beatitudes, Luke presented a Savior who was not afraid to challenge people’s thinking on who was of value in society (poor/rich, hungry/full, weeping/happy). This week’s gospel presents Jesus as one who is once again not afraid to defy “conventional wisdom” on the ideas of love and forgiveness.

In today’s gospel, which comes on the heels of last week’s gospel passage, Jesus tells the listener/reader that for one to be considered a follower of Jesus, one cannot merely live their lives by the dictates of the world. If one is to be a follower of Jesus, one must “rise above the fray” and think (and act) differently than the world – in essence, one must be BETTER than the world. This should not be a radical thought to the Christian, for while we live in the world we should

never live so much of the world that we forget why we are here. We are here, Jesus and the Church would tell us, to build up the Kingdom here on earth so that one day we may live in God’s Eternal Kingdom. If we are to do this, we must think/act differently. Thus, Jesus speaks of us to “love your enemies...bless those who curse you...” (Lk 6:27-28) and “turn the other cheek” (Lk 6:29, paraphrased), among other things. This is challenging because it makes us seem weak, like “doormats”. Quite the contrary, these challenges make us strong – not in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of God. When we realize that our strength is in God, we are truly free to be the people who God calls us to be, and our “reward will be great” (Lk 6:35).

I realize that when one reads this, one can be disheartened because to live up to these standards can seem impossible. We are reminded in scripture, however, that “with God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26). Our reliance must be on God if we are to “succeed” in living the Christian life. We cannot live as the world lives, even while we live in the world, for our ultimate destiny isn’t the world – it’s the Kingdom. May we strive to live as “Kingdom People”. May we continue to live as

Jesus would call us to live, even/especially when it is difficult. May we trust the Lord’s promise that He would not leave us abandoned, that He would be with us until the end

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekly Offertory

Jan 25, 2022- Jan 31, 2022

ST ANN		ST JOHN	
Online	N/A	Online	\$ 744
Mail	\$ 125	Mail	\$ 1,563
Mass	\$ -0- blizzard	Mass	\$ -0- blizzard
TOTAL	\$ 125	TOTAL	\$ 2,307

Prayer for Government Leaders

God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through you authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed. Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude the President and other government leaders of these United States.

May they always seek the ways of righteousness, justice and mercy. Grant that they may be enabled by your powerful protection to lead our country with honesty and integrity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.



MY FRANCISIAN JOURNEY

In today's gospel, Jesus puts forth the radical notion to love our enemies. It is as radical a notion today as it was in Jesus' time, as well as in the time of St. Francis. We are called to do this because "the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Luke 6:38). It is a stark reminder to us that however we treat others will be the "measuring stick" that will be used by God to render judgement upon us when we stand before the judgement seat of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10). Another key element in all of this is the idea of mercy. Mercy is a concept by which we show compassion or forgiveness towards someone upon whom we can punish or harm. It is, in essence, seeing Christ in them and being Christ for them.

In his "Letter to the Faithful" (which is actually a series of six letters), St. Francis writes this about mercy:

"Let whoever has received the power of judging others pass judgment with mercy, as they would wish to receive mercy from the Lord. For judgment will be without mercy for those who have not shown mercy. Let us, therefore, have charity and humility and give alms because it washes the stains of our sins from our souls. For, although people lose everything they leave behind in this world, they, nevertheless, carry with them the rewards of charity and the alms they have given for which they will receive a reward and fitting repayment from the Lord."

In our society, one might look upon this concept as antithetical to living in our society today. How can one show mercy to someone who "deserves" punishment? If I show mercy, what's in it for me? First, the one who "deserves" punishment can also "deserve" mercy, because ultimately God is the only one who can judge. This is not to say that if someone wrongs us they don't deserve to answer for those wrongs; what the concept of mercy does is not allow that punishment to go to the point of vengeance. Secondly, as for what's in it for the person who has the power to enact punishment (or even the one who wants punishment for another) mercy (by the words of St. Francis) "because it washes the stains of our sins from our souls". Also, if one "carry with them the rewards of charity...they will receive a reward and fitting repayment from the Lord".

Jesus calls us to be merciful, and St. Francis echoes this call in his "Letter to the Faithful". May we always be ready to temper justice with mercy, never seeking vengeance but always seeking the conversion of mind, heart, and life of those who have wronged us. May we see with the eyes of Christ (and Francis), and may we feel with the heart of Christ (and Francis). May this mercy be ours as much as it is those upon whom we can bestow it.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



THE DEACON'S COLUMN

I Believe

During the Liturgy of the Word, the people of God hear how God makes promises to his people in the Old Testament and hears how God fulfills those promises in the New Testament. Then, after hearing how the Word of God makes it relevant for us as we live our lives in the twenty-first century, the Church invites us to assent to the faith revealed to us through the scriptures. This assent of faith is the profession of faith. Through our profession of faith we state, as individual Christians, what the Church believes. The profession of faith is connected to the "Amen" we proclaim at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer and the "Amen" we declare when the Eucharist is presented to us during communion. When we say "Amen" we are essentially saying that we believe, not only in the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, but also in the faith of the Catholic Church that gathers and offers the celebration of the Mass. The Amen we declare when we receive communion is connected to the faith we profess after the homily when we declare, "I believe."

The profession of faith that we proclaim has its roots in the fourth and fifth centuries after the death and resurrection of Christ. The creed was developed to declare what the Church believed in contrast to the false teachings that were common in the fourth and fifth centuries. These false teachings threatened to destroy the common "Amen" or "Yes, I believe" that is implied by the one offering of Christ's body and blood during the Eucharist. In the early Church there were some who did not believe that Jesus is God and that he is co-eternal with the Father in heaven. There were some who believed that Jesus was simply a human person like you and me but because he had a lot of faith, he was considered God's son. There were others that did not believe that the Holy Spirit was God and, therefore, should not be given the same honor, glory, and praise as the Father and the Son. The creed was drafted to declare against those who taught differently what the Church knew in her collective heart — that God is a Trinity of three divine persons sharing one divine nature. The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Son or the Father. Yet, the Father is God; the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our Catholic faith, and it is what we profess as sons and daughters of the Father, brothers, and sisters of the Lord, and as Temples of the Holy Spirit.

It is good remember that the liturgy is the participation of God's people in God's work of salvation. The One God we profess in the creed is the same God at work in our time and place for our salvation. Therefore, it is "right and just" for us as sons and daughters of the Father, brothers, and sisters of the Lord, and as temples of the Holy Spirit to profess what we believe, believe what we read, teach what we believe, and practice what we teach.

Adorers Needed

Can you spend an hour with Jesus?
Please consider taking advantage of
the 24-hour adoration in the lower
church at Holy Ghost Parish. Spending
time in silent prayer before Christ in
the Eucharist can bring peace, joy,
and strength to those praying and
grace to the community. For more
information, visit or call:

loccc.org/adoration 781-878-0900

Holy Ghost, Whitman



Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.

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February Religious Ed Schedule

February 6th: Grades 1, 3, 4 and 9

Grade 1: will meet at St John's at 9:25am, followed by 10:30am Mass. Students will attend Mass as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children are welcome to sit with their Parents at Mass.

Grades 3 and 4: will attend 10:30am Mass at St John's as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children may sit with their parents at Mass. Class will follow Mass and go until 12:30pm

Grade 9: will attend 6:15pm Mass at St Ann's, followed by class until 8:30pm.

February 13th: Grades 2, 5, & 6

Grade 2, 5 & 6 will meet at St John's at 9:25am, followed by 10:30am Mass. Students will attend Mass as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children are welcome to sit with their Parents at Mass.

Grades 5 and 6: will attend 10:30am Mass at St John's as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children may sit with their parents at Mass. Class will follow Mass and go until 12:30pm

Grade 7, 8 & 10: No class due to Super Bowl.

February 20th: No Class due to February Vacation

February 27th:

Grade 7, 8 & 10: will attend 6:15pm Mass at St Ann's, followed by class until 8:30pm.

If your child is registered in the Religious Education Program, you should be receiving notices by way of Constant Contact. A program designed to email-blast all participants. If you are not receiving these messages, please contact Nancy Goggin, our Director of Ministries at directorofministries.tic@gmail.com or at 617-639-4815.

You may also find information on the St. John and St. Ann Facebook pages

St. John the Evangelist –EB
St. Ann—WB

Or notices are also in the bulletin or on the web pages each week.

www.stjohneb.org or stannswb.com

FEBRUARY



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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy, Joan Thompson & 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
Hotline—508-378-3760

Winter dates and hours will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and the **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the challenge to:

“Love your enemies... Give to everyone who asks of you...Do to others as you would have them do to you...Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

*Monday, March 7, 2022 1—4 PM
Saturday, March 19, — 10—11:30 AM*

*Tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, canned goods, etc
are always great additions to the shelves.*

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 that large sums., ie \$100

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
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.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Thanking God for Missing Spears

Imagine how Saul must have felt when he awoke from his sleep and saw his spear missing from its resting place. Now imagine how he felt when he realized that the person who had it was the same person seeking his life — and there he sat, safe and sound. Now there's a day you don't forget your morning prayers.

I think if we look, we can all find a “missing spear moment” in our lives, when it hits us right in the gut that God has kept us safe from an impending disaster. This can be physical disaster, sure — but more commonly, I think it is spiritual disaster. Often the salvation comes through the gift of a person, or people, through whom God reveals His mercy.

When I was in high school, I had a circle of friends who were really into their faith. We were all in youth ministry together, and the bond we shared taught me a lesson that changed me as a person: we become those with whom we associate. I can look back now, all these years later, and see that these people are evidence of God's hand in my life.

Take a look at your life. In whose love has God shown you comfort? By whose hand has God brought you closer to Him, or kept you away from harm? Through whose friendship has God shaped you into the person you are?

Let's strive to remember to thank God for these people — and to thank them, too.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

From the Pandemic Response Team:

Mask Mandate for public Masses to be lifted on February 28th

As of February 28, masks will no longer be required at public Masses in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Priests, Deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are no longer required to wear masks during the distribution of Communion, but the pastor may continue to require it if he wishes to do so.

Masks will also not be required in Parish Faith Formation programs as of February 28.

If a pastor decides that it is not yet time in his community for a dropping of a mask requirement, based on his knowledge of the needs of his particular community, he may continue to require the wearing of masks in his parish. (Fr. Paul does not think the numbers require this.)

If the local municipality continues to require the wearing of masks in public places, the parish must comply with those regulations.

Parishes are also encouraged to continue to exercise and encourage caution in all parish activities, therefore unvaccinated parishioners are required to continue to wear a mask and for those vaccinated, please use your own discretion.



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