



*Together in Christ Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 February 23, 2020  
 The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary  
 Time*



## 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” - Mt 5:44

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

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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](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://www.stjohneb.org)  
 Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

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 9-4 M-Th  
 For both Churches

# TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

## PASTORAL STAFF

### Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring  
fr\_plrstjohn@comcast.net

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

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

### Permanent Deacons:

Christopher Connelly  
cconnelly@rcab.org

Joe Hopgood  
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

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

## EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., See Schedule

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday  
9:00 a.m.

In the Chapel

Divine Mercy every Thursday  
After Mass.

### St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., See Schedule

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.  
9:00 a.m.

## SAINT ANN'S STAFF

**Business Manager:** Donna Roderiques  
**Administrative Assistant:** Arlene Stefano  
stanns@comcast.net

### Director of Religious Education

Charlotte Leines  
stannscd@comcast.net  
508-588-7140

**Director of Music:** Matthew Cunningham  
matthewcunningham@bpsma.org

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at St John's and the 4th Sunday of the month at St. Ann's. Prep classes are Wednesday before Baptism at St. John's. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Other times as scheduled in the bulletin or 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.

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St John's - every WEDNESDAY from 7-8 p.m.  
in the Church.

St. Ann's - First Friday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

**Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office**

## SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

**Business Manager:** Donna Roderiques  
**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad  
stjohnebridge@comcast.net

### Director of Religious Education

Lorraine Hopgood  
repstjohn@gmail.com  
508-378-1521

**Director of Music:** Paul Hoffman

p.hoffman@stjohne.org  
**Music Minister:** Erica Wasil

## PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

Deacon Joe Hopgood  
Paul Hoffman  
Denise Robichaud

Ben Williams  
Nancy Maloney  
Margaret Mary Williams

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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

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**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

4:00 - Grace Cosgrove — 1st Anniversary  
Mark Cosgrove — 9th Anniversary

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

8:00 - Parishioners of Saint John  
10:30 - Kathy Turke — 1st Anniversary

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

4:00 - Paul E. Norman — 11th Anniversary

**Sunday, March 1, 2020**

8:00 - Robert & Theresa Mason — Memorial  
John & Mary Doherty — Memorial  
10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

**Friday, March 6, 2020**

9:00 - Paul Luddy — 36th Anniversary

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**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

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**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

4:00 - Shirley McDonough — 5th Anniversary

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

8:30 - Arthur & Marilyn Pigeon — Memorial  
10:30 - William McCormack — 7th Anniversary

**Monday, February 24, 2020**

9:00 - Marie C. Fraser — 1st Anniversary

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

9:00 - Michael Llanes — 1st Anniversary

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

4:00 - Jeanette Marinelli — 1st Anniversary

**Sunday, March 1, 2020**

8:30 - James (Jim) Baker — Birthday Remem.  
10:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 26, 2020**

**Mass at Saint John — 9:00 AM**

**Distribution of Ashes at Saint John — 4:30**

**Mass at Saint Ann — 7:00 PM**

**Ashes will be distributed at each mass**

“THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU”

The Lenten Confession Program Schedule

Confession will be available every  
Wednesday @ 7:00 pm.

The Schedule for Churches will be available next week.

My Dear Friends in Christ,



For a number of years I have had the opportunity to attend a Pro-Life Rally sponsored by Massachusetts Citizens for Life (too many years, sadly, given the reason for the Rally). At this rally, there were speakers who reminded us that we are called to value life in all in stages, from pre-birth to our growing years to our “golden years” to the end of our earthly existence. It bolstered my resolve to be a “person of life” in all stages, from conception to natural death. This is the position of the Church and it is one I am proud to hold. I believe that God made all life sacred and that the most effective way that we can convert minds and hearts on life issues is to hold to this principle.

One of the challenges we face in being “people of life” is the radical viewpoints that folks from the “fringes” (“left” or “right”, for lack of a better term) hold when espousing their positions. A conversation can begin – and end – often times with the phrase “this is the way that it is, and that’s that!” This is not to say that we shouldn’t have principles or viewpoints which hold a measure of objective truth; it was Alexander Hamilton who said that “those who stand for nothing will fall for anything.” There is much to be said, for example, for the position that life begins at conception. I believe that by having a “standard” focal point on which we can place ourselves is a key in “converting” those folks who, in their minds and hearts, don’t hold this view. It will be in converting minds and hearts, I believe, that we shall win people over, or at the very least be open to conversation and further discussion. The “radicalization” of conversation, however, can bring a “death knell” to any dialogue.

Jesus, in today’s gospel, confronts the radical nature of such dialogue when he broadens the viewpoint of the Mosaic Law. The adage “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” can be used by both “sides” of a discussion, for example. Jesus moves the conversation forward, however, when he challenges the listener to go beyond the literal interpretation of even Holy Scripture. In “going the extra mile”, one is pressed to see beyond their own viewpoint and to extend themselves to be one with the “other”. In seeing the inherent “personhood” of another, one can no longer engage in demagoguery, “demonizing” the person. They must see the need of the other, and respond to that need. Sometimes, that need is to “convert” a mind/heart; sometimes, it’s simply to listen and to be open to dialogue, conversation and even understanding.

May we hold fast to the truths of our faith, but may we also be willing to “go the extra mile” and get out of our “comfort zone” to truly hear and see the “other”. May we strive for “perfection”, not in the eyes of the world but in the eyes, mind and heart of God.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

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

**The Next Second Collection  
February 23 — Support of the Church Around the World**

Financial Blessings	St. Ann's	Budget	St John's	Budget
SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS	<i>Thank you to those who gave to the</i>		<i>Grand Annual</i>	
OFFERTORY      2/08—2/14/2020	\$ 2,851	\$3,412	\$ 4,242	\$ 5,333
GRAND ANNUAL THROUGH 1/3/20	\$14,210	\$20,000	\$15,391	\$20,000

**THE GRACE OF LENT  
Presented by Allison Gingras**

**The Together in Christ Collaborative is holding a Lenten Mission  
in preparation for Easter. All are welcome!**

**Sunday, March 15th**

**Saint John's  
6 PM — Mass  
7 PM — Presentation By Allison  
With Reception to Follow in Church Hall**

**Monday, March 16th**

**9:00 Morning Mass at Saint Ann's  
9:30 — Presentation by Allison in Parish Center  
7 PM Adoration with Presentation by Allison  
And a Reception to follow in the Parish Center**

**Tuesday, March 17th**

**7 PM At Saint John's  
Presentation with Allison with an opportunity  
For Individual Confession  
And a Reception to follow in the Church Hall**

National Catholic speaker and author, Allison Gingras, joins the Together in Christ Collaborative March 15, 16, and 17 for a Lenten Mission. Allison created the 2020 Lenten Bulletin Inserts for Our Sunday Visitor, featuring the blessing of including prayer, sacraments, and the saints in our Lenten journey. She uses humor, stories everyone can relate to, and a solid faith in her inspiring presentations.

**Save the Dates—join us for one, two, or all three evenings! And stay tuned, complete details in next week's bulletin.**

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES (ST. ANN'S)



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095  
or [jchbaker@msn.com](mailto:jchbaker@msn.com)

New mailing address:  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379

### Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (March 7, April 4, May 30)

*"My spirit was broken and as far as I knew beyond repair. I was consumed with feelings of remorse. During the retreat, I realized the lasting impact of forgiveness. I knew God had forgiven me, and now I needed to forgive myself." – A Project Rachel Retreat Attendee.*

The *Project Rachel* ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat. Winter/spring dates are March 7, April 4 and May 30. Locations are confidential. Limited to ten participants per retreat. For more information, contact *Project Rachel* at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY WHICH IS  
FEBRUARY 26TH THIS YEAR.**

**EASTER THIS YEAR IS ON APRIL 12TH**

### 7. What are the rules for fasting in Lent?

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast. The law of fast binds those who are from 18 to 59 years old, unless they are excused for a sufficient reason (e.g., a medical condition that requires more frequent food, etc.). According to the Church's official rules (as opposed to someone's personal summary of them):

The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing—as far as quantity and quality are concerned—approved local custom [Apostolic Constitution *Paenitemini*, [Norms, III:2](#)].

The system of mitigated fasting that is required by law thus allows for "one full meal" and "some food" in the morning and evening. The Church's official document governing the practice of fasting does not encourage scrupulous calculations about how much the two instances of "some food" add up to, though obviously each *individually* is less than a full meal, since only one of those is allowed.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
REGISTER



### 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](mailto: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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Rosary after Mass on Monday & Tuesday  
Adoration — First Friday of the month following  
the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at  
10:30 a.m.**

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Ann's would love to have some new members! There is work to be done, discussions to have, and decisions to be made and we need more voices and more help.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you have been looking for a way to participate, please come to a meeting and see what we are all about! The next one is March 10th. For more information, contact Chris Baker at 774-240-8095.



**BINGO HELPERS NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH THE  
THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO. IF YOU CAN HELP,  
PLEASE CALL SAINT ANN'S RECTORY OFFICE.  
YOUR HELP WILL BENEFIT SAINT ANN'S  
GREATLY.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE OFFERED EVERY  
FRIDAY EVENING DURING LENT AT SAINT ANN'S  
PARISH AT 7 PM. (except on Good Friday)**



## NEWS FOR THE PARISHES (St. John)

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Karen Debenedictis, Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, JoAnn Micalizzi, 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, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolai, Paul Martin, Kerri Fabrowski, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, Bill Frabetti, George Lepine, Dennis Green, Joseph Rizzitano, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Paul Currie, Dennis Green, John McCovy Murphy, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Mar 13-15, 2020 in Duxbury, MA and Apr 18-19, 2020 in BREWSTER, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

### NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTING

Deacon Joe will be beginning Genesis for our Bible Study on February 24, 2020. All are welcome to join. Please email [Deaconjoeh@comcast.net](mailto:Deaconjoeh@comcast.net) if you would like to join the Bible Study Group. We meet every Monday evening from 7—8 PM in the Religious Education Office of St. John's.

Also on February 17th the Bible Study will be having a special "Ask the Deacon Night" where you may ask any questions you have about the Church.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

All Grandmothers, Parents, and Adults who have children, grandchildren or even themselves who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, classes will begin on February 25, 2020.

Adult Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th at 1 PM. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Joe Hopgood at [deaconjoeh@comcast.net](mailto:deaconjoeh@comcast.net).

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GRAND ANNUAL.**

**YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE YOUR CONTRIBUTION, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after daily Masses.

Divine Mercy every Thursday after daily mass.

**Adoration — Every Wednesday—7:00—8:00 PM (changed)**

**Catholic Womens' Club will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. EXCEPT JAN & FEB.**

The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul  
Saint John's Conference  
PO Box 544  
East Bridgewater MA 02333

### February 23, 2020

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying: "You must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Call the Saint Vincent DePaul HOTLINE at 508-378-3760 if you need food or other assistance.

The Food Pantry is open twice a month. — 1<sup>st</sup> Monday from 3:00-6:00 pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

*Don't forget the need is always there!*

White tuna, cereal, and soups are always needed.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE

Please sign up to pray the Rosary every day during Lent to finally stamp out Roe vs. Wade.

There will be posters on the altars at Saint Ann's and Saint John's, as well as a basket of Rosaries for everyone, Compliments of our Rosary Makers

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

This will start Ash Wednesday.

Let us make a pledge to Our Lady.

Your Easter Sunday will mean a lot more!!!

CAN HEAVEN BE HAPPY WITH SOME MISSING?  
FATHER KENNETH DOYLE

Q. I am a "cradle Catholic" of 75 years, now homebound. We are taught that if one follows the teachings of the Church, is a good person and dies in the state of grace, then that person will go to heaven. But suppose some close loved ones don't make it there? How can we be happy in heaven without them?

I asked an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, and the reply was, "Let's hope God in his mercy forgives them, too." But to me this seems to negate the existence of hell. Please help this confused Catholic. (Atlanta)

A. The question you pose has, I would suppose, challenged every reflective Christian for centuries. Various theories have been suggested. One is that hell exists only as a concept, not in reality, and that God will find a way to forgive everyone and bring them finally to heaven.

But to me that seems to conflict with Matthew 25, where Jesus pictures himself at the final judgment separating the faithful from the unfaithful, casting some into "the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Another suggestion is that our memories will fail us in eternity and that those who are lost will simply vanish from our minds. I'm not enthused about that theory either since it seems unlikely that, once our bodies are perfected in heaven, we will simply lose our minds. What I do feel certain about is that heaven will be better than we can ever imagine it.

In Revelation (21:4), we're told that God "will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." I also believe, along with St. Paul in 1 Corinthians (2:9), that "eye has not seen, and ear has not heard ... what God has prepared for those who love him."

So I guess that my answer to your question is that I simply don't know -- but that I'm not worried about it. It's one of those (many) things that I'll just have to let God figure out.