



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

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 February 23, 2025  
 The Seventh Sunday  
 In Ordinary Time*

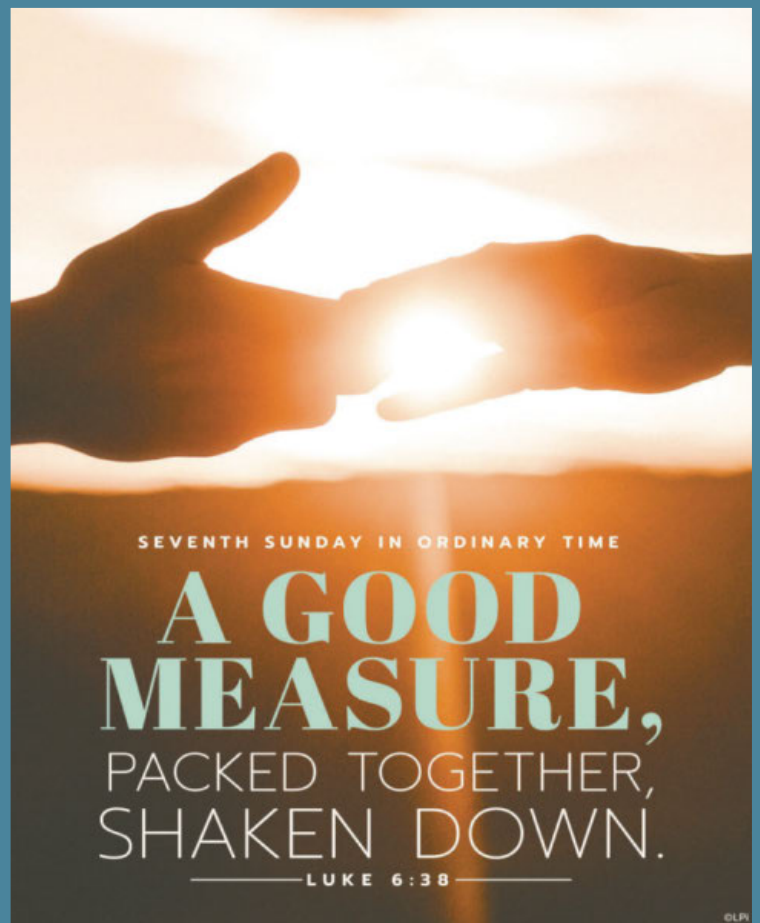


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM

*2025 Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope*



• 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •  
**BE MERCIFUL.**



**Church of Saint Ann**

**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater  
 02379  
 508-586-4880 ( 24 hour service)**

**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  
 Monday through Thursday**

**Saint John the Evangelist**

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater  
 02333  
 Office –103 N. Main Street,  
 West Bridgewater, 02379  
 508-378-4207 or 508 586-4880  
 E-MAIL: [stjohnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://www.stjohneb.org)**

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

# 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

## EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### **St Ann's**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass  
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass  
Thursday & Saturday  
9:00 a.m.

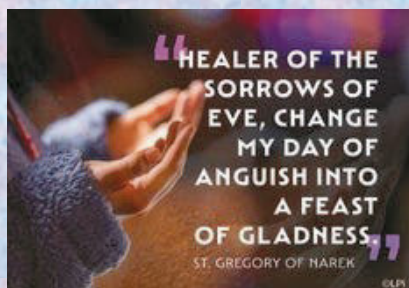
### **St John's**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:  
Wednesday & Friday  
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 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. These baptisms are 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 JOHN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant:**  
**Deborah Conrad**  
stjohnebridge@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

**Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady**  
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com  
774-533-2002



\*\*\*\*\*  
**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

- 8:00 - James "Jim" Baker — 11th Anniversary & Birthday Remembrance
- 11:30 - Rita Giovanoni — 7th Anniversary
- 6:15 - Teens of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Thursday, February 27, 2025**

- 9:00 - James Emmons & Helen Demello — Anniv.

**Sunday, March 2, 2025**

- 8:00 - Jace Joshua Russell — 1st Anniversary
- 11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
- 6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*  
**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

- 4:00 - Robert & Theresa Mason — Memorial
- John & Mary Doherty — Memorial

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

- 9:30 - Maria C. Boreira — 70th Birthday Remem.

**Saturday, March 1, 2025**

- 4:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Sunday, March 2, 2025**

- 9:30 - Families of the Collaborative

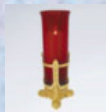
**WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES**

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

**HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK**  
 Suggested donation \$55  
 Including a Memorial Mass, Suggested donation \$80

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK**  
 \$85; or including the mass Suggested donation \$110

**HOSTS, WINE & SANCTUARY LAMPS, FLOWERS**  
 \$140 including the MASS, is a Suggested donation of \$165



Payment for the above memorials would be appreciated TWO weeks in advance, separate from your offertory.

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR**

My Dear Friends in Christ,



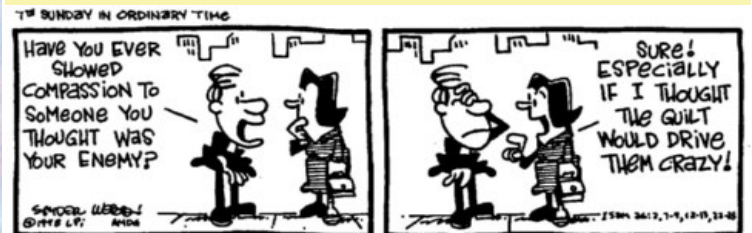
Last week we saw a Jesus that jarred us, one who was not the "warm and fuzzy Jesus" of whom I referred with regards to my seminary training and of whom we often think when we

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 of the end of time as we know it here on Earth.

Have a Blessed Week,  
 Fr. Paul



# MINISTRY NEWS

## Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at [Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### **February Teen Mass**

Our next Teen Mass is February 23 at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann. Similar to Family Mass, we invite our teens to do a reading or bring up the gifts. Fr. Paul also tailors his homily to be relevant to their life and there is contemporary music at the Mass.

If your teen is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

### **IMPORTANT: CORI Forms**

All collaborative volunteers and staff are required to submit at FY2025 CORI form per Archdiocesan policy. Copies of the form can be found in the sacristies of both churches. If you have any questions, please call the office or see a staff member at Mass.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

### **March Family Mass**

Our next Family Mass is March 2 at the 9:30 Mass at St. John. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass. If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY — MARCH 5, 2025**

**9:00 AM MASS AT ST. JOHN**

**4:00 PM — ASHES  
AT ST. JOHN**

**7:00 PM MASS AT ST. ANN**

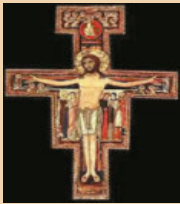


### **Lenten Mission: Pilgrims of Hope**

For the theme of the Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis has chosen the virtue of hope. Why is hope so essential for being a Catholic today? What is hope? How can we grow in hope? Join us for this year's Lenten Mission to find out!

Sunday 3/23: 6:15 pm Mass, 7 pm talk at St. Ann  
Monday 3/24: 7 pm Mass followed by talk at St. John

*Pope Francis: Hope does not disappoint!*



## MY FRANCISCAN 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 judgment upon us when we stand before the judgment 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

## THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

### EASTER IS COMING

#### THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU —Confessions Wednesdays

3/12 @ St. John's	3/19 @ St. Ann's
3/26 @ St. John's	4/2 @ St. Ann's
4/9 @ St. John's	4/16 @ St. Ann's

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS — Fridays at 7:00 PM

3/7 — 6:00 Simple Supper @ St. John's — Stations 7:00	
3/14 — St. Ann's	3/21 — St. John's
3/28 — St. Ann's	4/4 — St. John's
4/11 — 6:00 Simple Supper with First Church & Stations at 7:00 at St. Ann's	

#### HOLY WEEK

4/15 - 7PM — TUESDAY — TENEBRAE — ST. ANN'S

4/17 - HOLY THURSDAY

7 PM MASS — WASHING OF THE FEET  
AT ST. JOHN'S

4/18 - GOOD FRIDAY

9:00 MORNING PRAYERS AT AM AT ST.  
JOHN'S

3:00 PM — SEVEN LAST WORDS WITH EB  
CLERGY ASSOC. AT ST. JOHN'S

7:00 PM — GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — ST  
ANN

4/19 - 9:00— MORNING PRAYERS AT ST. ANN'S

8:00 PM — EASTER VIGIL MASS

4/20 EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

8:00 — ST. ANN'S

9:30 — ST. JOHN'S

11:30 — ST. ANN'S

#### Prayer of Christian Life

Dear Jesus,

Help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard. Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you.

Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me.

Amen.

## 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:

Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, William Neyman, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchll, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella, Stephen D'Guisepe, Ann Bortolotto, Elaine Landolfi, Cathy Hadfield, Helen Bomar, Stacy McCarthy, Mark Neumeier, Johnny MacLaughlin & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



### *Saint Ann*

### *The Flowers this week*

### *Are Donated by*

*Margaret Mary Williams*

### *In loving memory of*

*Rita Giovanoni*



Father Paul would like to have **greeters** at all the masses.

This was done during Covid and it was a wonderful way to welcome parishioners to the masses.

If you would like to be a greeter at the mass you attend, or already perform this service, please let the office know by calling:

St John's 508-378-4207 or St. Ann's 508-586-4880

We look forward to hearing from you.

St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379  
To join please call — TINA ANTHONY  
508-245-5481

Please help St. Ann's, St. Vincent de Paul Committee help our homeless neighbors.

We are looking for donations of:  
Hats, Gloves/mittens, handwarmers, hand sanitizer, cleansing wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, \$5.00 Dunkin donuts gift cards, etc.

To join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony at: 508-245-5481.

**Next meeting: February 11, 2025**

West Bridgewater Food Pantry  
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1  
West Bridgewater 02379

**WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday each month**

**TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM**

**Need: jelly, rice pilaf, pancake mix, syrup, pasta sauce, baked beans**

**Cash donations also accepted.**

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Saint John's Conference  
PO Box 544  
East Bridgewater MA 02333  
Call the Food Pantry Hotline for food / assistance  
Hotline—508-378-3760

### PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

**First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30      Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30**

### **March 3 & March 17**

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

**The Pantry is a little low—needed: any food, especially tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal, toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper.**

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

**Judgment and Love**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

“Oh, well. I’m going to hell anyway, right?”

I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It’s always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churchd ones, too) regarding what constitutes “judging.” It is absolutely not “judging” someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it.

But it is judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today’s Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us— or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the “culture wars.” I certainly don’t disagree that it can often feel like you’re fighting a war when you’re trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?


We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

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