

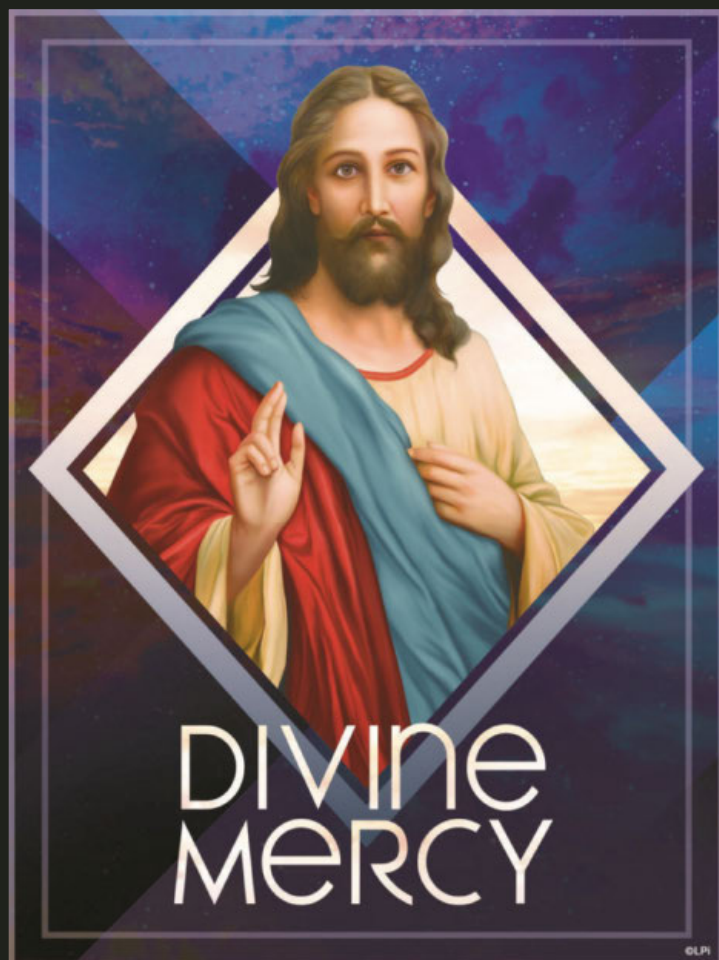


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 April 7, 2024  
 Divine Mercy Sunday*



Sunday, 8:00 AM  
 Sunday, 11:30 AM



**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  
 9:00-3:00  
 Monday through Friday**

**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](mailto:stjohnnebridge@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohnnebridge.org](http://www.stjohnnebridge.org)**

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

# 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.**

**6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass  
w/ Drive up option**

**Daily Mass**

**Thurs & Sat.**

**9:00 a.m.**

### **St John's**

**Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**

**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





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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Saturday, April 6, 2024**

4:00 - Mary and Manny Diaz — Memorial

#### **Sunday, April 7, 2024**

9:30 - Kim Russo — 5th Anniversary

6:15 - Teens of the T. I. C. Collaborative

#### **Thursday, April 11, 2024**

9:00— Dorothy Walsh — Birthday Remembrance

#### **Saturday, April 13, 2024**

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

#### **Sunday, April 14, 2024**

9:30 - Robert Small — 10th Anniversary

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Sunday, April 7 2024**

8:00 - Patrick J. Riel — 43rd Anniversary

11:30 - Meg Weljkovic — 1st Anniversary

#### **Sunday, April 14, 2024**

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

11:30 - Debbie & Lee Conrad — 40th Wedding Anniversary

## **THE MASS SCHEDULE WILL BE CHANGING**

**THE WEEKEND OF  
May 25 - 26**

### **ST ANN'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, — 8:00 & 11:30 AM  
6:15 PM**

### **ST JOHN'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday — 4:00 PM  
Sunday — 9:30 AM**

**This schedule will be in effect  
for 1 year.**

## **MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

My Dear Friends in Christ,



While the Easter Day celebrations have ended, our Easter Season continues.

Today, as a Church, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. This day, which centers around the Divine Mercy our Lord showed the world in offering Himself on the Cross, was instituted 24 years ago by Pope Saint John Paul the Great. He declared that the Church should set aside the first Sunday after Easter for this celebration. This feast, often marked by the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, is a reminder to us that the Easter mystery continues. At the heart of Divine Mercy is our cry to the Lord, “Jesus, I trust in You”. When we recognize that all our trust is to be put in the Lord, we free ourselves to do the work our Lord commanded us, to go out and show others the goodness which God has bestowed on us.

Jesus, in today’s gospel, shows this goodness when He reappears to the disciples in a post-Resurrection encounter. As they are gathered in a room together (quite possibly the same room they gathered in for the Last Supper), Jesus comes to them. Before the disciples can utter a word (they were probably too astounded to speak!), Jesus offers them His gift of peace. It is a peace which only He can bestow, a gift which only He can give. Thomas is not with them, so he doubts that the Lord was present. As a way of quelling all doubt, Jesus reappears to them, this time with Thomas

present. Jesus invites Thomas to examine the wounds He suffered at the crucifixion. In a moment of pure faith, Thomas utters that statement of belief, “my Lord and my God” (Jn 20:28). Notice that Thomas doesn’t approach Jesus and examine the wounds. He doesn’t have to – he knows, through faith, that this IS the Lord.

Where are we in relation to the Lord? Do we have to be shown (like Thomas) who God is for us? Do we “take it on faith” that the promises made by God are being, and will be, delivered? Are we among those who “have not seen and have believed” (Jn 20:29)? Wherever we are on our journey of faith, may we come to know that God is at work in our lives. May we come to trust in His Divine Mercy. May we share that mercy with all whom we meet, not only in this Easter Season, but in every season, in every time and at every opportunity which God provides us to do so.

A Blessed Easter to All,

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)

#### April Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass will be Sunday 4/7 at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann. There will be contemporary music and the teens are invited to do one of the readings or bring up the gifts. Volunteering for either of these roles counts for the parish portion of the Confirmation service requirement, so it's a good way to complete it and get your teen involved in the Mass. If interested please contact Matt Brady.

#### Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

Monday, April 22 at 6:30 pm St. Ann

Every month we make sandwiches to be distributed to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge by Capuchin Mobile Ministries. This is a great service project that anyone can do! All are welcome, especially those in need of service hours.

#### April Family Mass

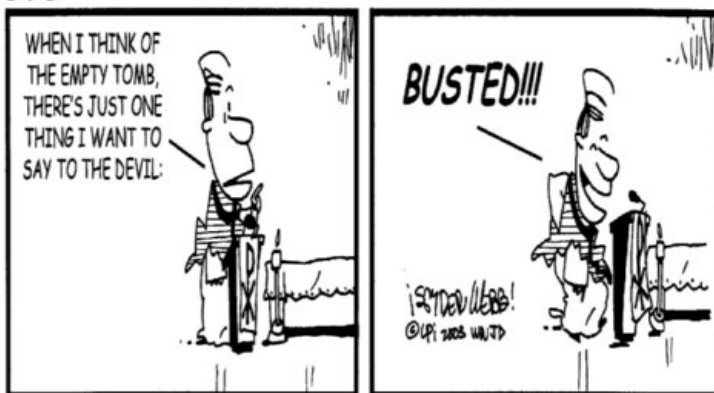
Our next Family Mass is Sunday, April 28 at the 9:30 Mass at St. Ann. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass.

If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading please contact Matt Brady.

**Save the Date!!**  
**Outdoor Mass and Barbecue**  
**Sunday August 18**  
**St. Ann**  
**Time TBD**  
**Stay tuned for more details**



EASTER

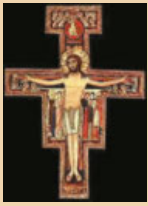


#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What does OCIA stand for?

Answer: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is the name of the process taken to enter into the Catholic Church.

©LPi



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today, the Church celebrates “Divine Mercy Sunday”, which commemorates St. Faustina’s encounter with the Lord in the form of visions. On this Sunday, in which we look at the mercy of God towards St. Faustina, we look at how St. Francis approached this gift of God’s Divine Mercy. Toward the end of his life, Francis of Assisi (d. 1226) wrote a personal reflection entitled the Testament, in which he tells of his encounter with the lepers:

*The Lord gave me, Brother Francis, thus, to begin doing penance in this way: for when I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I showed mercy to them. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body. And afterwards I delayed a little and left the world.*

Francis does not tell us anything about what happened in his life before this encounter with lepers, but it is obvious that Francis was already experiencing a relationship with God. In fact, God is the main actor in his conversion process, as Francis states that God led him among the lepers. He experienced mercy with them and became their brother. His life of self-centeredness was changed in this encounter in which he discovered that he was a brother to them, who were the most vulnerable in medieval Assisi.

Francis’ second encounter was with the face of Jesus on the cross in the church of San Damiano. The early biographies focus on the command that Jesus gives Francis: “Repair my church which you see is falling into ruin.” In his Testament, Francis refers to this encounter with Jesus:

*And the Lord gave me such faith in churches that I would pray with simplicity in this way and say:  
“We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ, in all Your churches throughout the whole world and we bless You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.”*

This is Francis’ recognition that the face of Jesus was one of mercy, and therefore the second encounter in Francis’ conversion experience was with the merciful Jesus who died for our redemption. Francis’ understanding of living a Christian life was to imitate the apostles, and therefore Francis took on the role of an apostolic preacher. His manner of life and his preaching eventually attracted others to want to embrace his way of living according to the Gospel. In the writings of Francis, he claims that the community of brothers is also a place of mercy because the Lord brought them together, as he states in the Testament.

“And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.” The third encounter is Francis’ experience of mercy and compassion with his brothers in community. Francis’ relationship with everyone in the society of his time was also an encounter with mercy and compassion. What was experienced in community life was to be manifested out in the world, as Francis states in the Franciscan Rule:

*“I counsel, admonish, and exhort my brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ not to quarrel or argue or judge others when they go about the world, but let them be meek, peaceful, modest, gentle, and humble, speaking courteously to everyone, as is becoming. Into whatever house they enter, let them first say:*

## **THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR REPAIRS**

### **NEXT WEEK WILL ALSO BE FOR REPAIRS**

*“Peace be to this house.” According to the holy Gospel, let them eat whatever food is set before them.”*

The fourth encounter of mercy was, therefore, anyone the brothers would encounter in the world, especially the most vulnerable (lepers, sick, poor, etc.). They are to have encounters of mercy and compassion because they were to consider themselves brothers to anyone without exception.

The ultimate encounters were with Creation and Muslims in Egypt. These constitute the full flowering of Francis’ relationship of mercy and compassion. Creation consoled Francis at the end of his life, as we see manifested in his Canticle of Creatures. Francis also experienced being a brother to those who were considered enemies to the Christian world in his encounter with the Sultan in Egypt in 1219. From the moment of his first encounter with the lepers to the end of his days, his life was marked by all the encounters in which he experienced God’s mercy and compassion.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



## **ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

April 7th — 7 AM—Noon

GWM Middle School

All net proceeds benefit  
Kiwaniis Charities

Tickets available at the Door

## **The Together in Christ Collaborative is sponsoring a Baby Shower!**

“Cribs” will be set up on **April 6** at both St Ann and St John Parish. Donations will be accepted through **May 5!**

**Donations of NEW UNWRAPPED layette items, toiletries (no powder please), and diapers are needed.**

Items from the Parish Baby Shower helps mothers make life-affirming decisions for their unborn children and supports clients of Pregnancy Help, the crisis pregnancy center of the Archdiocese of Boston. Monetary donations to Pregnancy Help or the Fund for the Unborn are also gratefully accepted.

Please contact Missy Schrader at 508-725-2177 or [missyschrader73@gmail.com](mailto:missyschrader73@gmail.com) with any questions!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!**



## 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, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Karen & 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 Churchill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Eileen Doherty, Louise Ferrari, Dan, Christine Staples & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



### St Ann's

*The Flower Memorial  
this week is donated by  
John Russo  
In loving memory of*

*Kim Russo*



### Should a Catholic Pursue an Annulment?

Question: After a civil divorce, is a Catholic obligated to pursue an annulment?

Answer: Many Catholics are not exactly sure what an annulment does. An annulment does not deny that a marriage took place, nor does it deny that there once was love. It does not mean that people say anything untrue, such as they never loved each other or that everything in their marriage was wrong. An annulment does not negate children, nor make them illegitimate. An annulment addresses the spiritual aspect of marriage. In effect, an annulment says that at the time of the wedding, there was either something present or something absent that prevented the sacrament from taking place. It is a spiritual determination that, if granted in the affirmative, allows a person to marry in the Church.

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**  
**peanut butter, Progresso soups, pasta sauce & brownie mix are needed.**

**Cash donations also accepted**

**St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379**

**To join please call — TINA ANTHONY**  
**508-245-5481**

Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society has provided support for our neighbors that find themselves in need of a little help with utility, fuel or rent bills. There are many ways we can help our neighbors; if not financially, we can help spiritually. The Society cannot help our neighbors without the generosity of our parishioners. Please consider donating by placing the donations in the SDVP boxes located at each entrance. Please make out any checks to St. Vincent de Paul Society, not St. Ann's church.

To Join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony 508-245-5481  
**Next meeting: April 9th, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. St. Ann's Hall.**

**Donations are always appreciated. Place Money and gift cards \$5-\$25 into the St. Vincent de Paul boxes located at the exits.**

**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

### 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**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024**  
**Monday, April 15, 2024**

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.**

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



## Divine Mercy Sunday

As the faithful prepare to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, it is important to review the meaning and historical significance of the day. On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday."

St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. She wrote in her diary that He said:

*I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it...*

***My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.***

Pope John Paul II discussed the significance of the image of Divine Mercy in his homily for the canonization of St. Faustina:

*From that Heart [of Christ], Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the blessed whom from now on we will call a saint, will see two rays of light shining from that heart and illuminating the world. "The two rays", Jesus Himself explained to her one day, "represent blood and water" (Diary, entry 299).*

According to the vision, those who receive communion and attend confession on the Feast of Mercy receive total forgiveness of sins.

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope

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