



*St. John the Evangelist*

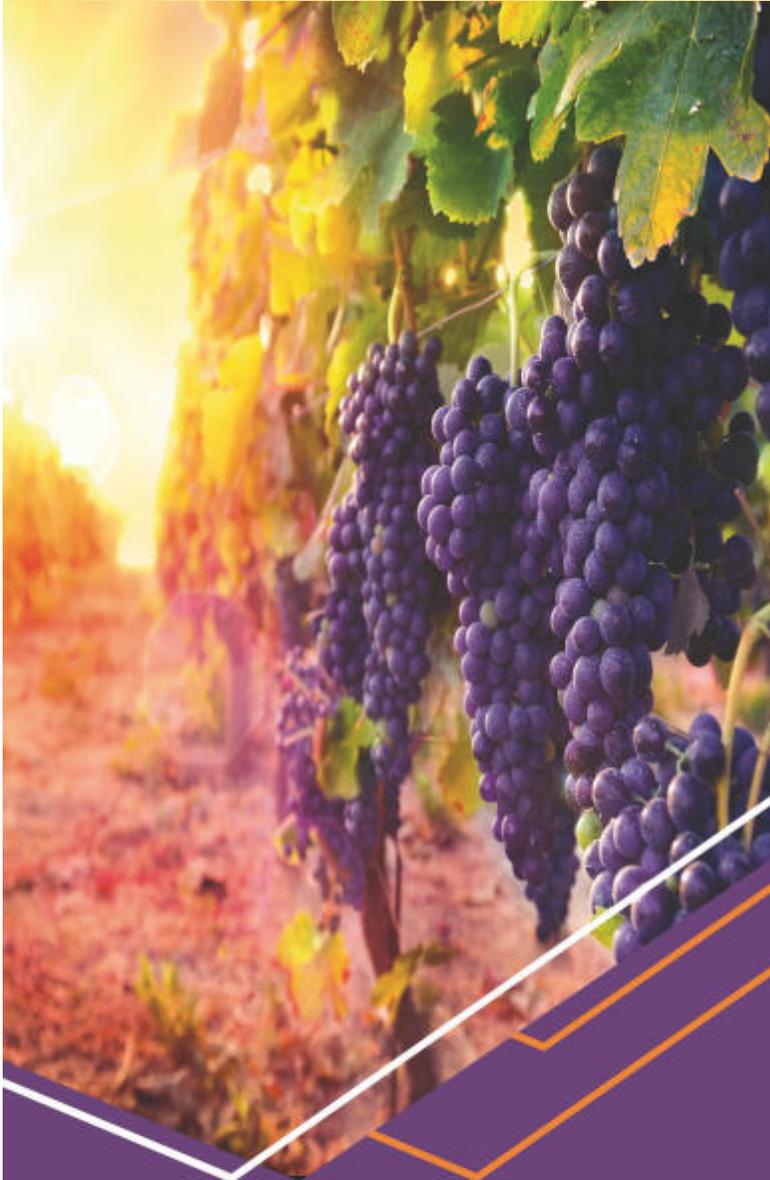
**Together in Christ  
Collaborative**

**May 02, 2021**

**The Fifth Sunday of  
Easter**



*St. Ann*



**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

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](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**

**Currently we are working from home.**

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

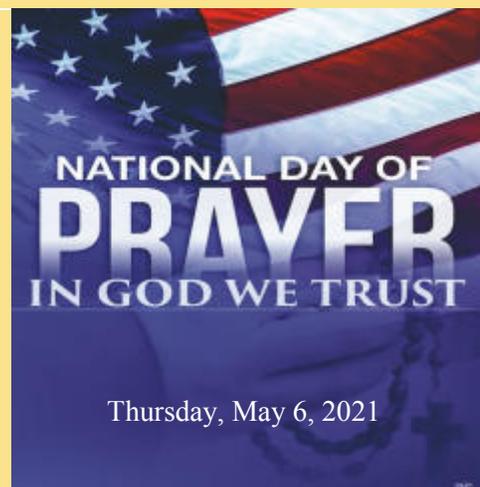
**508-378-4207**

**E-MAIL: [stjohnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://www.stjohneb.org)**

**Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB**

**Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring**



Thursday, May 6, 2021

# 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](mailto:directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com)  
508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday, May 1, 2021

4:00—Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, May 2, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, May 8, 2021

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday May 9, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

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### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday, May 1, 2021

5:30 - Pat Solakoff — Month's Mind

Sunday, May 2, 2021

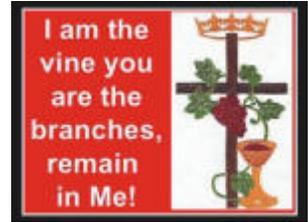
10:30 - Kendra Frabetti — 19th Anniversary

Saturday, May 8, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, May 9, 2021

10:30 - Fred Issa & Carol Wood — Memorial



My Dear Friends in Christ,

My mother was a great gardener; she could take any plant, any flowering thing and bring it back to life. She had the ultimate “green thumb”. One day, I saw her taking perfectly good, growing flowers and cutting the tops of them clear off! She then explained to me the concept of “pruning”, of trimming the heads of flowers to help them grow back stronger and more vibrant than before. It is something, I must admit, remains a bit of a “mystery” to me!

Once again in the gospel, Jesus uses a very “earthy” image to convey His relationship with us. Last week, if you recall, it was Jesus as “the Good Shepherd”. On this week, Jesus uses the image of “the vine and the branches”. In speaking in this way, Jesus conveys the fact that He gives life, and life abundantly. Just as the “branches” cannot live without the nutrients which come from the “vine”, we cannot live without the “nourishment” which comes from Jesus. There are times, as well, when we as “branches” need to be “pruned”. It may feel like the type of pruning which my mother’s flowers received that seemed so foreign to me but which, in the end, we come to realize that it was necessary for our growth.

It was this type of “pruning” that St. Paul received at God’s hands. As most know the story, Paul (then known as Saul of Tarsus) made his living as a lawyer prosecuting (persecuting, really) Christians. It would seem unlikely that God would use such a person to do His work, yet that is exactly what God did. When one thinks about it, Saul/Paul is exactly the type of person God would use to get His message across – after all, who better to promote Christianity than one who used to actively work against it? The conversion of Paul is one of the great “lessons” God offers us in not seeing mere appearance, but seeing into the heart of a person. Paul is symbolic of the power of God at work in the world.

As we move through the Easter Season, let us continue to work towards promoting, protecting and defending Gospel values. Let us help others to see the beauty in the faith, a beauty which transcends all time and brings to us God – the God of both the Eternal and the Eternal Now (the pre-sent age which is situated in eternity).

A (Continued) Blessed Easter to All,

Fr. Paul

### THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Your continued support is very much appreciated.  
Weekly Offertory

Apr 14 - Apr 20, 2021

#### ST JOHN

Online	\$ 999
Mail	\$2,401
Mass	<u>\$1,639</u>
TOTAL	\$5,039

#### ST ANN

Online	N/A
Mail	\$2,198
Mass	<u>\$1,145</u>
TOTAL	\$3,343

Due to the current financial situation of our churches, we are looking at creative ways to fund the maintenance of our grounds. We are so blessed to have parishioners who have volunteered to provide the equipment we need as well as the manpower to get the job done. God does provide!!!

The St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Basil Bereavement Ministers are pleased to announce that our series of **Bereavement meetings (VIA ZOOM) will begin Wednesday, May 5th at 6:30 p.m. and will run for 9 weeks.** All who are grieving the loss of a loved one are invited to join this Bereavement Support Group. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings will be held via Zoom so you need to be familiar with Zoom or be willing to learn if you have a smart phone, iPad or webcam. **PLEASE NOTE: ADVANCE REGISTRATION is required. Contact Roberta at 508-697-4184 or Ginniy at 508-697-7649 to register.**

# How to Pray for America

## WHY PRAY FOR AMERICA?

God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we Pray for America whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are “one nation under God,” and whose currency states that it is “in God we trust,” we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. “He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name.”

—Amos 4:13 NIV

He is the One who gave us this promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we’ll be changed, and we’ll see transformation in America through prayer!

## HOW TO PRAY FOR AMERICA - BY PRAYING INTO SEVEN CENTERS OF INFLUENCE IN OUR NATION: GOVERNMENT

*Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity.*

*(1 Kings 3:28; 1 Timothy*

*2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3;*

*Romans 13:1-2)*

### **Federal Government**

Consider praying for our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices

### **State Government**

Consider praying for your Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders

### **Local Government**

Consider praying for your Mayor, City Counsel, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Judges, County Officials

### **MILITARY**

*“He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them...and encouraged them with these words: ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him only is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles...’” (2 Chronicles 32:6-8)*

Courage and dependence on God (Psalm 91)

Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)

Divine protection from the enemy (Romans 5:1-5)

Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)

Confidence and vision to persist in the face of negative publicity (Psalm 18:31-39)

Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

Chaplains who are divinely appointed to deliver hope and spiritual strength (Proverbs 4:11)

### **MEDIA**

*“...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)*

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing family-friendly projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)

Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

Celebrities to be provided with repeated opportunities to hear and receive salvation (Proverbs 8:35)

### **BUSINESS**

*“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working...” (Exodus 31:3-4)*

Integrity among Christian workers so that they win the right to be heard (1 Chronicles 29:17)

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

*master craftsman, expert in working...” (Exodus 31:3-4)*

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Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

# This Week in Ministry

5.3.21-5.9.21

## Confirmation Season Has Arrived!

Our 10th graders will be making Confirmation on:

Friday, May 7th 5pm—St. John's  
Friday, May 7th 7pm—St. John's  
Monday, May 17th 5pm—St. Ann's  
Monday, May 17th 7pm—St. Ann's

During this very sacred time, we ask all parishioners to offer up a special prayer for the 10th graders and their families. Please keep them in mind as they do not conclude but *continue* on this special part of their faith journeys!



Lord, look kindly on all our Confirmation candidates as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

As we prepare these young men and women for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Help us guide them as they enter this new phase of their faith journeys, and let them become new leaders inspired by Your example. Amen.

## Happy Mother's Day!



Starting with Mary, we all have been given some wonderful female role models. Whether they're our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, friends, or neighbors, let us take the time this weekend to thank those loving women in our lives. We take the opportunity to pray for all mothers, as well as for...

- Children who have lost mothers
- Mothers who have lost children
- Women who are praying to be mothers
- Those who have strained maternal/child relationships
- Women who are role models without the title of mother

At Mass this Mother's Day weekend, make sure to pick up a beautiful prayer card for yourself or for a special mom in your life!

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

[directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com](mailto: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)*

## 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 Nicoliar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Frank Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen Daly, Bryan Senn, Rene Pearson, Linda Joy, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton & 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

### THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

*The Food Pantry has changed its hours for the Spring.*

*Our pantry is open on the first and third Mondays of the every month April through October, 2021. When days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will be the Tuesday of that week.*

*First Mondays = 3:00—5:30*

*Third Mondays = 3:00—4:30*

*The schedule is as follows:*

*May 3rd and 17th*

*June 7th and 21st*

*July \*Tues the 6th and 19th*

*August 2nd and 16th*

*September \*Tues the 7th and 20th*

*October 4th and 18th*

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 than large sums,  
ie \$100**

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

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL



PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER

774-240-8095

jchbaker@msn.com

P O Box 47

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.

Is Gossip a Sin?

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

©LPi

(Continued from page 4)

**EDUCATION**

*“If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:3-6)*

A return to truth and Judeo-Christian ethics (Psalm 1:1-2)

A safe atmosphere conducive to learning

Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

**CHURCH**

*“So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Colossians 2:6-8)*

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)

Unity with and among churches that reveal God’s love to the world (John 17:23)

A return to the absolutes of God’s Word (Psalm 1:1-3)

Integrity—that God’s people look and act differently from the world (I Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

A holy fear of the Lord released in the heart of God’s people (Proverbs 9:10)

**FAMILY**

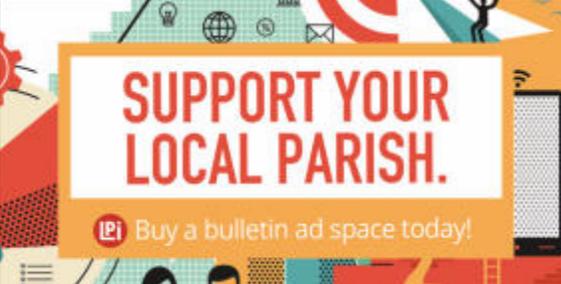
*“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25)*

Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)

The re-establishment of relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

A return to family values that serve the nation as a whole (Job 22:21-22)

A return to the biblical mandate to train their children at home in the fear of the Lord and not leave the responsibility to others (Proverbs 22:6)

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