



*Together in Christ Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John*



*July 28, 2019  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



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

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” - Lk 11:9

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

**Saint John the Evangelist**  
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333  
Office – 103 N. Main Street, West Bridgewater  
508-378-4207  
E-MAIL: [stjohnbridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnbridge@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

Brendan Fitzgerald  
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

### Permanent Deacons:

Joe Hopgood  
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

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

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

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

Teen Mass -6 p.m., September—March

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—6:30, September—March

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

## SAINT ANN'S STAFF

**Business Manager:** Brian Manning  
bmanning.stjohns@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Arlene Stefano  
stanns@comcast.net

**Director of Religious Education**  
Charlotte Leines  
stannscsd@comcast.net  
**508-588-7140**

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

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

### Joe Hopgood

deaconjoeh@comcast.net

## 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. 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:** Brian Manning  
bmanning.stjohns@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad  
stjohnbridge@comcast.net

**Director of Religious Education**  
Lorraine Hopgood  
repstjohn@gmail.com  
**508-378-1521**

**Director of Music:** Paul Hoffman  
p.hoffman@stjohnb.org  
**Music Minister:** Erica Wasil

## PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

**Deacon Joe Hopgood**  
**Paul Hoffman**  
**Denise Robichaud**

**Ben Williams**  
**Nancy Maloney**  
**Margaret Mary Williams**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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Saturday, July 27, 2019

4:00 - Maria C. Bragga Luz — 26th Anniversary

Sunday, July 28, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners of St. John

10:30 - Richard Hutchins, Sr. — 7th Anniversary

Saturday, August 3, 2019

4:00 - Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, August 4, 2019

8:00 - Catherine Ricardi — 2nd Anniversary

10:30 - Peace in the Middle East

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### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

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Saturday, July 27, 2019

4:00 - Geraldine Kearns — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, July 28, 2019

8:30 - Caroline Mary Oliviere — Memorial

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Monday, July 29, 2019

9:00 - Joseph Ritucci — Memorial

Saturday, August 3, 2019

4:00 - John Cusack — 3rd Anniversary

Sunday, August 4, 2019

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

10:30 - Joseph Lepro — Month's Mind

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**"Why Should I Go To Mass Every Day?"  
"The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!"**  
(Pope Paul VI)

For each Mass we hear with devotion, Our Lord sends a saint to comfort us at death.(revelation of Christ to St. Gertrude the Great)

St Padre Pio, the stigmatic priest, said "Every holy Mass heard with devotion, produces in our souls marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know. It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

St. John Vianney said that if we knew the value of the Mass, we would die of joy.

Your prayers are strongest at the Consecration in Holy Mass (raising of Host and Chalice).

Each time we look at the Most Blessed Sacrament our place in heaven is raised forever (revealed by Our Lord to St. Gertrude the Great.)

"The Holy Mass would be of greater profit if people had it offered in their lifetime, rather than having it celebrated for the relief of their souls after death." (Pope Benedict XV)

Once St. Teresa of Avila was overwhelmed with God's Goodness and asked Our Lord: "How can I thank you?" Our Lord replied, "ATTEND ONE MASS".

*From the Original Pieta Prayer Book*



My Dear Friends in Christ,

The "Our Father" is one of the most, if not THE most, central prayer in the Catholic-Christian faith. It is the only "formal" prayer taught to the Twelve by Jesus. Jesus gave them this prayer after being requested by the Apostles for a way to pray; they had known of/experienced John's disciples praying and that John had given them "formulas" to pray. The prayer which Jesus gives them is a perfect blend of adoration, petition and thanksgiving – it has all of the elements of a great prayer. The "version" given in Luke's gospel is somewhat truncated, but it gets the point across that the sentiment and power of the full prayer (which we offer in our liturgy).

The other benefit of having prayers like the "Our Father" is that they give us words to put to the feelings which we experience which we would have a hard time otherwise expressing. When words fail us, prayers such as the "Our Father" give us the opportunity to put forth our inmost desires and thoughts. The beautiful thing about using the "Our Father" in our liturgy is that we realize that, when we pray in community, that we are not alone in our need for God or our desire to receive those things from God which will help us to grow in faith, hope and love.

Jesus further elaborates on this prayer by extolling the virtue of being persistent in prayer. This is not to say that if we ask often enough, we will get what we want. I remember as a child asking (on long car trips), *ad nauseam*, "are we there yet?"; it was if had I asked often enough that the answer would change. The only thing that changed was my mother's level of patience, decreasing with each petition! I think what Jesus is getting at in the gospel passage for today is that each time we ask for something and are told "no", then we have the opportunity to "nuance" our request and think about what we truly *need* (and not just what we *want*). If we "ask...seek...knock" (Lk 11:9), then we will "receive...find...be opened" (Lk 11:10). These are persistent actions with concrete results; they are opportunities to grow in faith, hope and love.

May we have the courage and patience to be persistent in prayer. May we be focused in our prayers so that we may ask for those things which we need, not just what we want. May we always know in our heart that God hears our prayers, gives us what we need and helps us to grow in faith, hope and love.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

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

### The Next Second Collection September 15, 2019 — Clergy Health & Retirement

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      7/14/19	\$ 3,412	\$ 3,680	\$ 5,333	\$ 5,625
GRAND ANNUAL	\$21,338	\$32,000	\$20,570	\$32,000

**ECHOS: a Forum of Catholic Thought**  
By *Greg Erlandson*

How far would you drive for Mass?

I don't know if anyone has ever done a study of such a pedestrian topic, but it is a question that will become increasingly relevant.

Once upon a time, driving farther than your local parish was simply a matter of choice. For example, when I was a child, my parents took strong exception to our curmudgeonly pastor.

As kids, we had no idea why so many Sundays were an adventure: We would pack into our VW bus and go anywhere but our home parish: from Our Lady of Malibu to Corpus Christi to St. Monica's. It was a great opportunity to see the diversity of worship spaces, even in the one, holy and Catholic Church. Only years later did I find out the reason for our road trips.

As a parent myself, I fall in the camp of "stick to the parish in whose boundaries you reside."

I know many people decide otherwise, choosing to find a parish that satisfies their taste in music or homilies or even language. To which I respond: Who am I to judge? But if being Catholic means "here comes everybody" (to quote James Joyce), then all the messy diversity of "everybody" is to be found in my parish.

In the future, however, driving long distances for Mass may not be optional when the number of priests available is not enough to staff all the parishes and all the Masses to which people are accustomed.

Some Catholics in rural areas are already experiencing this shortage, as are folks in the military. There are dioceses now that have almost the same number of priests as parishes. When one gets sick or dies, it isn't just an inconvenience; it means people may go without.

As our priestly population ages and populations shift, this will only get more dramatic. Dioceses like Pittsburgh are already facing this reality, going from 188 parishes to 57. Other dioceses are consolidating priests so that three may serve five parishes or four serve six.

We laity have been pretty spoiled, to tell the truth, believing that whatever our schedule or inclination, the church will be available to us. For too many years, we've treated parishes as the spiritual equivalent of service stations. We pull in at our convenience. We get the Mass time, the music, the liturgy, even the language we want, and then we sail off into the work week.

In many of our dioceses in the not too distant future, we may soon resemble much of the rest of the world. Masses may take place in shifting locations and larger venues. It may not be a 10-minute drive and a one-hour Mass. It may mean a time commitment we readily accept for travel soccer or 18 holes of golf.

How far would you drive to receive the Eucharist, go to confession, baptize your child? Would you go 30 miles away? Would you go to the next county? Would you do the readings with your family on those weeks when no Mass may be available?

I've heard stories already of parishioners shouting at parish staff because they can't get the funeral date they want or the wedding time they want. A priest simply isn't available. How many people will simply wander away, not a "none," but a "not worth the bother?"

Some dioceses are already calculating the sliding scale: Closing parishes to save money means X number of Catholics will simply stop going, which means a further drop in revenue.

The calculation we laity may have to make is how far we will drive for the Eucharist.

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



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095  
or jchbaker@msn.com

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



### 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.

## 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.



As part of Prophett Funeral Home and  
Pillsbury Florist;

### "Bring our Community Together"

We are hosting a  
Night at the ROX.  
Come see the Brockton Rox  
Play the Bristol Blues  
TUESDAY, JULY 30TH AT 6:30

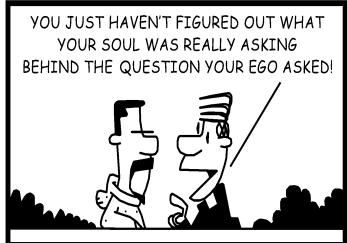
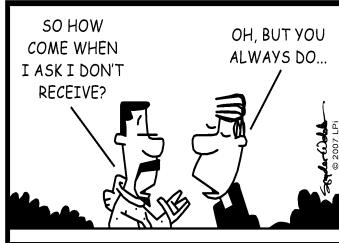
Bring the kids.  
Fun for the whole family from St. Ann's & John's

Tickets can be picked up at  
Will Call the night of the game  
**RSVP by JULY 23rd**  
Call 508-671-4332  
or Saint Ann's 508-586-4880  
Or Saint John's 508-378-4207

Thank you, Mark, Bill, Maggie, Denise and Carol

**We had a great time last year.**

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### Everyday Stewardship

My father would always say to me when I was growing up, "Whatever is mine is yours." He was always very generous toward me and, if I am being truthful, probably spoiled me. We were not a rich family by any measure, but I never really wanted for anything. If I asked, I would receive.

In Luke 11, Jesus tells us our heavenly Father is similar to my father, but God is profoundly more generous. However, I am not sure many of us really believe that. When growing up we ask our earthly parents for all sorts of things, some requests being large but many being small. I know my own three children might ask me for anything at anytime. If God is more generous with me than I am with my own three children, how come I find myself mostly asking God for things when all my other options have run out or my back is against the wall? We make deals with God in our moment of despair or fear, but when things were great we asked for little or sometimes nothing at all.

We need God and his generosity 365 days a year. Better than that, God wants us to ask for things and learn to rely on him. There is no strength in walking in this world alone. God wants to be the source of all our strength. That is one reason why at every hour of the day, somewhere in the world, Mass is being celebrated and his children are receiving him in the holy Eucharist. If God can become man, die, and rise again, and then humble himself in the elements of bread and wine to be close to you, do you not think he will respond to your everyday simple requests? May God's generosity flow to you in great abundance for his love knows no limits.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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**AUGUST**  
**BOOMERS**  
**MAKE A**  
**DIFFERENCE**  
**MONTH!**



## NEWS FOR THE PARISHES (St. John)

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Karen Debenedictis, Harry Hewins, 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, Scott Dolan, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Christopher Laursen, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Maureen Campbell, Diane Nicolai, Paul Martin, Kerri Fabrowski, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

TICKETS FOR THE PARISH PICNIC  
ARE ON SALE!!!!

At the doors of the church or at the Rectory in WB

After each Mass at St. John OR At the Rectory Office  
at St. Ann's

THE PICNIC IS SCHEDULED FOR  
AUGUST 25TH (rain or shine)

PLEASE BUY YOUR  
TICKETS EARLY. IT HELPS IN ORDERING THE  
FOOD.



WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF A SET UP CREW.  
TO:

SET UP THE TENT (the week before the picnic)  
&  
MOVE TABLES & CHAIRS FROM THE HALL  
OUTSIDE

Please contact the Rectory if you can help. 508-378-4207

Thank you to the anonymous donor of the window fans. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!!!

A special thank you to the anonymous donor at the 10:30 Mass two Sundays ago for the very generous Offertory donation. We greatly appreciate your kindness.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after daily Masses.

Divine Mercy every Thursday after daily mass.

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

Baptismal Prep — Wed. before the Baptismal Date—7 PM

### PARISH PICNIC — AUGUST 25, 2019

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

### July 28: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that God is our "Father" and just as a parent's love for their children is unlimited, so is God's love and care for us unlimited.

In the month of July, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist many families, Providing in food, for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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.

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

July 28, 2019      17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Are you guilty of spiritual stockpiling? Spiritual stockpiling isn't an endless rotation of rosaries and novenas. It's accumulating emotional "goods" to meet your needs. Perhaps it's a collection of material objects you treasure. Maybe it's a preoccupation with money. It could also be relationships, making sure there's always enough friends and connections to never really feel alone. It's our tendency to let things add up so that we won't quite need God to fulfill our inner life. Yet in this Sunday's Gospel, we have that inescapable petition from the Our Father. "Give us each day our daily bread."

This life isn't an immediate arrival. And as much as we might try to shore up possessions and pleasures, we know the journey is unpredictable. Give us this day our daily bread implies enough for the next set of steps, but not enough to stockpile. So here's the big question: Do we trust God to give us what we need? After all, "What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?... how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" At the Last Supper, Jesus said he would never leave us orphaned. God will not abandon us. And surely He wouldn't ask us to pray for what He does not intend to give.

Of course, sometimes our prayers for daily help can seem to go unanswered. Today's Gospel has advice for that, too. "I tell you... he will give up to him whatever he needs because of his persistence." Our spiritual stockpiling increases our self-reliance and decreases our openness to God's possibilities. Be persistent in your pursuit of God! Trust that He will keep His promises to provide for us, today and always.

**About the Archdiocese of Boston:** The Diocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of 1.8 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 286 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 36,000 students in its Catholic schools and 156,000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of 200,000 individuals through its pastoral and social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week. For more information, please visit [www.BostonCatholic.org](http://www.BostonCatholic.org).

Prayer to  
**St. Michael the Archangel**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

## The Spiritual Direction Training Program at St. Anthony Shrine

is accepting applications for the 2019-2021 program beginning in September in Downtown Crossing, Boston. Have you become increasingly interested in developing your own spiritual life, and/or called to the ministry of spiritual companionship to others?

Classes meet on Saturdays, eight times a year for two years. For more information, please contact Carol Mitchell at 727-492-8315 or [cmitchell@stanthonyshrine.org](mailto:cmitchell@stanthonyshrine.org), or visit [stanthonyshrine.org/Franciscan Spiritual Companionship](http://stanthonyshrine.org/Franciscan%20Spiritual%20Companionship) page for further information.