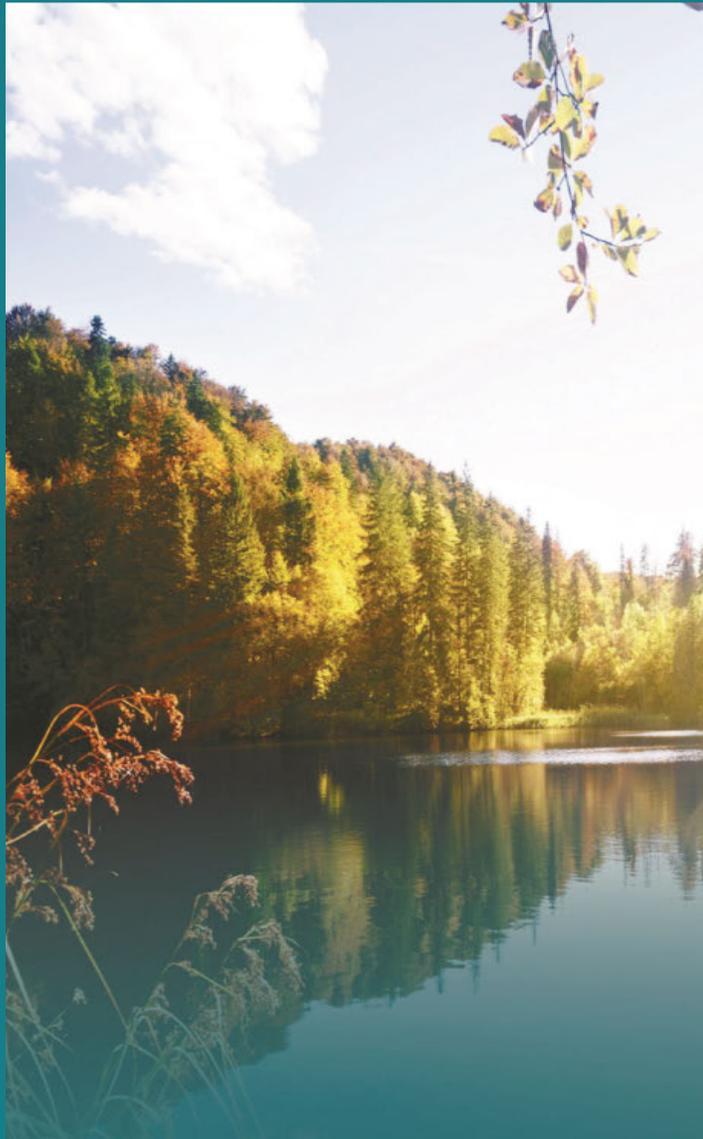




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
July 31, 2022*

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Church of Saint Ann
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379
508-586-4880**

E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net

Website: stannswb.com

Facebook: St. Ann-WB

Collaborative Office Hours are 9-3 M-F

For both Churches

**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

Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

[Jesus] said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed,
for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of
possessions." - Lk 12:15

**IF TODAY YOU
HEAR HIS VOICE,
HARDEN NOT
YOUR HEARTS.**



PSALM 95

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Priests In Residence

Fr. Peter Francis
Fr. Michael Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

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

Christopher Connelly
cconnelly@rcab.org

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 3PM Monday-Friday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.
In the Church

St Ann's
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. &
6:15 p.m. Life Teen Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.
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 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 Saint Ann's Church 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
stjohnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Wasil

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: Nancy Goggin
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
617-639-4815

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, July 30, 2022

4:00 – Maria C. Ponte — 29th Anniversary

Sunday, July 31, 2022

8:30 - For a return to civility in this country

6:15 - Parishioners of St. Ann & St. John

Saturday, August 6, 2022

4:00 — Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday August 7, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For safety from random acts of violence

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, July 30, 2022

5:30 — Kay Levashko — Month’s Mind

Sunday July 31, 2022

10:30—Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, August 6, 2022

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, August 7, 2022

10:30 - Anna Biagi — 27th Anniversary

My Dear Friends in Christ,



I have a lawyer-friend of mine who is fond of saying that “where there’s a will, there’s a way... and greedy relatives!”

While this is humorous, it speaks to the readings we have before us today. The danger of wealth is that it can come to possess us and become the “driving force” in all that we do in life. To have the “best of everything” might get us far in this world, but it won’t “get us through the (Pearly) Gates”, as my mother would say. The treasures we store up for ourselves in this life perhaps will give us comfort and security for a time, but that time eventually runs out. It is at that time that we have to make an accounting of how we spent our time, talent and, yes, treasure.

This final accounting, given to Almighty God, is one that won’t take into account how much wealth we amassed, how many zeros are in our bank account or how “secure” we made ourselves in this life. We might well be asked questions like “how did you spend your time with your family?”, “how did you reach out your hand to a brother or sister in need?” or “what ‘heavenly treasures’ (such as love, justice and peace) did you store up for yourself?” These questions are indicative of how we should be spending our time here on earth. Many have the mistaken notion that “this is all there is”, or that “God won’t care how I spent my time, as long as I was a good person”. These misguided thoughts are fostered as a result of “buying into” a culture that offers platitudes such as “Follow the Golden Rule – the one who has the gold makes the rules!” or “The one with the most ‘toys’ at the end wins”. How sad it must be to live one’s life like this.

The beauty of the Christian life is that it offers so much more than the world can give. The strength of the Christian life is that the “treasures in heaven” which we store up for ourselves are the “bricks” that pave the way to the “road” to the Kingdom. This not to say that we can “earn” our way into heaven, for the gift of Eternal Life is just that – a gift. It is one freely given by God, paid for by Jesus through His death on the Cross. It is not something we merit on our own, but it is something in which we can participate. This participation comes when we offer ourselves as “gift” to the world, using our God-given talents and abilities to their fullest.

May we heed the words of Scripture given to us today by realizing that all that this world has to offer isn’t all there is. May we believe that we are destined for great things and that we can participate in them with the help of the Holy Spirit. May we come to the Kingdom and be welcomed in with those beautiful words, “Well done, my good and faithful servant; come, share your master’s joy.” (Mt 25:21).

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul



Saint Ann and Saint John will be implementing three different ways to member your loved ones at Mass.

By offering the Mass in their memory. The Mass will be dedicated to them alone. You can remember their birthdays or the date of their passing, which is called an Anniversary Mass or simply a Memorial Mass. Some will book two masses, one for each occasion. This is announced at Mass and posted in the bulletin. (suggested donation is \$25)

Give the gift of The Bread and Wine and the Sanctuary Light for the week’s liturgies in memory of your loved one. The name of your loved one will be placed in the bulletin for that weekend. (suggested donation is \$30)

Altar Flower Memorials -- Each weekend you have the opportunity to donate the weekend arrangement on the altar in memory of loved ones. The flower arrangement will be the one piece placed in front of the main altar. The name of your loved one will be placed in the bulletin for that weekend. The parish makes arrangements for the flowers. (suggested donation is \$75)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

"The rest of your life is waiting for you. So, don't let your past rob you of your future. You are more than the worst thing that has ever happened to you. You are more than the worst thing you have ever done. God is never more than one choice away. It only takes one Holy Moment to shift the momentum of your life in the right direction."

FROM MATTHEW KELLY'S BOOK
holy moments



SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Annual Outdoor Mass to Honor Our Lady of the Angels

WHO: Open to All

WHEN: Monday, August 1, 2022
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



WHERE: PORTIUNCULA CHAPEL
Cardinal Cushing Centers, Route 53,
Hanover, MA

QUESTIONS? Email: [Clare Urbanowicz, OFS: cturbanowicz@yahoo.com](mailto:Clare.Urbanowicz@OFS:cturbanowicz@yahoo.com)

Sponsored St. Mary of the Portiuncula and Mary Queen of Peace Secular Franciscan Fraternities

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR PARISH?

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER FOR :

HELP

USHERS
GREETERS
LECTORS
EUCHRISTIC MINISTERS
ALTAR SERVERS

A CLEANER FOR SAINT ANN'S CHURCH EVERY OTHER WEEK

SOMEONE TO MAKE BAPTISMAL BIBS

Please call 508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

THANK YOU — THANK YOU —
THANK YOU

THE BUILDING & MAINTENANCE COLLECTION LAST WEEK WAS A BIG SUCCESS.

7-17-22

SAINT JOHN — \$1,255

SAINT ANN — \$ 711

This weekend the second collection will address our needs with Utilities

WE CURRENTLY OWE APPROXIMATELY \$4,959 IN UTILITY BILLS. THAT IS A HUGE DROP FROM \$14,000. IF WE CONTINUE IN THIS MANNER, THE UTILITY BILLS WILL BE ALL CAUGHT UP SOON.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND COMMITMENT TO YOUR PARISH. IF WE KEEP THIS UP, WE WILL BE BACK ON TRACK.



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





THE DEACON'S COLUMN

This Is No Ordinary Line: Communion

In the fourth grade I began serving the Mass as an altar server. During those formative years, I grew to love the Mass and the many meaningful rituals that are part of its celebration. When I was a senior in high school, the pastor of St. Ann's Parish, Fr. John L. Mansfield, asked me if I would consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. With this new ministry, I began to learn a new lesson as I placed the blessed sacrament into the hands and onto the tongues of the people standing in line—that no matter one's age, gender, looks, or occupation, we are all part of one body—receiving the same Lord.

To receive communion worthily and well, we need to be sure we are in a state of grace. The penitential rite at the beginning of Mass prepares us by forgiving venial sins. If we are in a state of mortal sin, then we can prepare for Mass and communion by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation where we confess our sins, express contrition, do penance, and receive absolution. In addition to preparing our soul to receive communion, the Church still requires us to fast for one hour before reception of Holy Communion (not one hour before Mass). This fast helps us prepare a place in our heart and soul for the Lord. As we abstain from food and drink for the hour leading up to communion, we become aware of our need and desire for food and drink. By denying ourselves bodily food and drink, we are invited to see in our physical hunger a spiritual hunger for Jesus Christ who is true food and true drink.

In addition to being prepared to receive communion, we are to approach the minister of communion reverently. The communion line is not like the line we stand in at the local coffee shop or grocery store. We approach communion as pilgrims moving toward Jesus. The Church instructs the faithful to make an act of reverence before receiving communion. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (3rd Edition) states that, "when receiving Holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence" (#160). The minister of communion raises the host slightly and says, "The Body of Christ" to which the communicant says, "Amen."

This "Amen" is particularly important because it is an act of faith. The Church teaches that Jesus' true body, blood, soul, and divinity is present in the Eucharist. It is a sad truth that many Catholics are not aware of, or do not believe, this awesome reality. Yet, it is true, in every Eucharist, Jesus is "truly, really, and contained in Holy Communion (Council of Trent, *Canones de ss. Eucharistiae sacramento*, can. 1)." When we say "Amen" we are saying, "Truly, I believe." Not only do we say "Yes" to True Presence of Christ in the Sacrament, but we are also saying "Yes" to the faith community that gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. In this way, communion is not only a communion with Jesus, but it builds communion among the individual members of the faith community.

Finally, receiving communion is a foretaste of heaven. What we do on earth at the Mass, the saints do in heaven. The saints in heaven are not simply spectators. Each saint is in a deep communion with Jesus and through him with the other two persons of the Trinity and all the other saints in heaven and earth. At our baptism, we became another Christ in the world. By our reception of Holy Communion, we invite Jesus' into the depths of our being so that his life can be our life and where he is we can be—on earth and eternally in heaven.

MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



Think you're a serious minimalist because you got rid of your television and cleaned some boxes out of the basement? Downsized to a tiny house and now own just three shirts and one pair of shoes? We'll, you still have way more than St. Francis of Assisi did. This is a guy who famously took off the very clothes he was wearing in front of a bewildered crowd

because he refused to be beholden to his father for material possessions. He then became a wandering beggar because even a tiny house would have been too luxurious. It wasn't about minimalism for Francis, though, and his goal wasn't simply to live with less stuff. A person could easily get rid of everything, de-clutter, become an icon of minimalism — and still have an empty heart. It isn't as if emptying out the closet is a magic pill for all that ails you and if you simply toss it all you'll be as happy as Francis. There was actually a method to his madness, and his minimalism was just a by-product of a larger vision he had of human fulfillment.

"Stuff" isn't bad simply because it's stuff; stuff is bad when we have too much of it and it overwhelms us. But even if I'm drowning in an overstuffed wardrobe of clothes that I don't need, it doesn't mean the solution is to throw it all away. Someone else could greatly benefit if I were to share it. Francis didn't live a minimalist lifestyle for his own selfish purposes; he lived that way so that he could be more generous to others. He was unencumbered as he traveled to spend time with and encourage charity for the poor. He got rid of all material restrictions on himself so that he could give his life away in love to others. So, when the cleaning bug strikes, we too can consider how to be generous not only with the things we want gone but maybe to give just a little more than we're comfortable with, because generosity builds up treasure in the heart and wins a far more important possession — the love and gratitude of others.

Francis famously preached a sermon to a group of songbirds because he wanted to emphasize how, even if we fail to realize it, nature is heaven-shaped. The beauty of nature reveals a deeper, even more beautiful world beyond this one. Man-made things aren't always able to convey the same message; some objects might be beautiful and lovely but other products are disposable and utilitarian.

Francis may have given away all his possessions, but he never gave away his appreciation for natural beauty. To be a minimalist doesn't mean we have to only inhabit plain, ugly surroundings. In his "Canticle of the Creatures" Francis enthuses: "Brother Sun, who brings the day ... is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!" The more we're able to share this attitude and see the beauty all around us, whether that be simply noticing the sunrise, taking a walk in the park, or playing catch with your dog in the backyard, the less stuff we'll need in our lives. It takes courage to let go, to loosen your grip on the material possessions that provide comfort. It takes courage not to worry about people making fun of you for being different, or to stand up to the social snobbery of having a house that isn't all that large, or only having one car instead of two. Francis shrugged off his fears, left everything behind and never worried what anybody said about him. If there's one thing that minimalism can teach us, it's that life is what we make of it and if we're brave enough to cut ourselves free from anything that holds us back, the reward is well worth the effort.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. Paul, OFS

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicoliar, Paul Martin, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Frank McCarthy, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Karen McSweeney, Joe Pigeon, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh & 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

Summer HOURS WILL BE IN EFFECT MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm.**, and the **THIRD MONDAY** from **3 pm to 4:30 pm.**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Monday, August 1, — 3:00 — 5:30

Monday, August 15, — 3:00—4:30

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

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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
(508) 510-5274.**

St Ann Prayer Line:

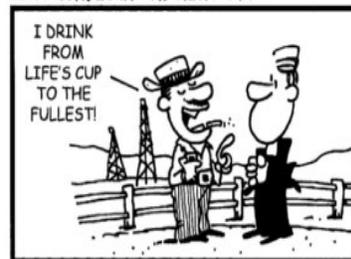
To request prayers from members of Saint Ann's Prayer Line for yourself, another person in need, or a special intention, please call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org. If you would like to join the telephone tree or e-mail distribution list, please contact Linda. We would like to expand our membership for this worthy endeavor.



St VINCENT DE PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
P O Box 474
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.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Father Edward McDonagh is going to be in the West Bridgewater area and is going to be celebrating **Mass at Saint Ann's Church on Sunday, August 14th at 12:00 noon.**

This is an open invitation to all who wish to attend.

Following Mass, there will be refreshments, coffee, and water. At this time, Father McDonagh will be available to meet and greet everyone.

If you are not able to attend Mass, Please drop by to say hello to Father McDonagh from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If anyone wishes to bring a baked good, please drop it off at the parish center before Mass.

**ELECTRONIC RECYCLE DAY——9:00 am—2:00 PM —
AUGUST 20TH—ST JOHN**

Bring these items to the parking lot:

Small electronics items:

Computer towers, Scanners, VCR, Printers, Copiers, DVD, Stereo Equipment, Computer Tower, Lighting, Vacuum, Answering Machine, Fax, Speakers, Compact disc., Circuit Boards, Radios, Record Players, Modems, Word Processor, Fans, Video equipment, Game Console, Xbox, etc., Tape Players, Typewriters (Anything with a plug and more)...\$5 each.

Appliances:

Dishwasher, Dryer, Stove.\$20 Microwave,...\$10(small) Large \$20
Lawn mowers, Ex. Equipment .\$20 Snow blowers..\$40
TV's and Monitors/Flat panel monitors: 18" - 26" ...\$20.00 ea
27"- 35" ...\$25.00 ea / Over 35" Projection TV...\$40.00 ea
Ac,Dehumidifier...\$20, Refrigerators..\$20(dorm) \$40 Large
Gril,20,Empty propane tank \$10. \$10 weight sets...\$10

No charge on these items :Keyboards, Car Batteries , Cables, wire and cell phones.

Also included:

Bicycle Recycle Day, no fee.

Bring your unwanted old or new bicycle and drop it off, it will be reused again. Mountain,Road,BMX, Cruiser, (Old to current)/New, Kids, etc.

Our aim is to keep bikes from being thrown out when they can be reused.
(We can pick up bicycles if you cannot get them there)

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