



*Together in Christ Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John*



*September 8, 2019  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*



*23rd Sunday*  
IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” - Lk 14:27

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

GLP

**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.stjohne.org](http://www.stjohne.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

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

### Permanent Deacons:

Brendan Fitzgerald  
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Joe Hopgood  
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

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

## EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

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

Teen Mass –6 p.m., TBA

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, TBA

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

## 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 ANN'S STAFF

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

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

### Director of Religious Education

Charlotte Leines  
stannscd@comcast.net  
508-588-7140

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

## SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

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

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

### Director of Religious Education

Lorraine Hopgood  
repstjohn@gmail.com  
508-378-1521

**Director of Music:** Paul Hoffman

p.hoffman@stjohne.org  
**Music Minister:** Erica Wasil

## PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

Deacon Joe Hopgood  
Paul Hoffman  
Denise Robichaud

Ben Williams  
Nancy Maloney  
Margaret Mary Williams

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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

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**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

4:00 - Parishioners of St. John

**Sunday, September 8, 2019**

8:00 - Nancy Saya — 18th Anniversary

10:30 - Jessica Thurston — 6th Anniversary

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**

4:00 - Leonard & Lena Shepard

**Sunday, September 15, 2019**

8:00 - Parishioners of St. John

10:30 - Frederick H. Mitchell — 3rd Anniversary

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**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

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**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

4:00 - Parishioners of St. Ann

**Sunday, September 8, 2019**

8:30 - Eugene Stull — Memorial

10:30 - Parishioners of St. Ann

**Monday, September 9, 2019**

9:00 - John Buckley — 1st Anniversary

**Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

9:00 - Mamie Marochino — Birthday Remem

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

**Sunday, September 15, 2019**

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

**Monday, September 16, 2019**

9:00 - Mary R. Short & Gene E. Short, Jr  
 Birthday Remembrances

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Prayers from the Catholic Devotional

Guardian Angel

Angel of God, My Guardian Dear, to whom His love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.

Amen

For Dependence Upon God

Lord, what we know not, teach us.

Lord, what we have not, give us.

Lord, what we are not, make us.

Amen

Recently there has been a phishing expedition by a computer hacker using priests names — **this is not valid.**

Please check with the Rectory Offices if you receive emails asking for help, services, or products from any of our priests and report it to us.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

You may have heard me compare the difference between involvement and commitment in the analogy of a plate of bacon and eggs. The chicken was involved, the pig was committed! The same is true in the realm of discipleship; when one is a disciple, one is not merely involved – one is committed!

Since becoming the “Together In Christ Collaborative” ( of St. John’s and St. Ann’s), we have really started to take a long, hard look at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The dedication required goes “above and beyond” what it means to simply “volunteer” for something. When one engages oneself in a life of discipleship, the commitment asked for goes beyond the task at hand; discipleship is more that “getting the job done” – it is engaging in a way of living, a way of life in which God comes first.

Jesus illustrates this point by reminding the listener that God must come first in all that we do, above even family. This can be a hard thing for many, for the commitment to family is important. It cannot be so important, however, that it supersedes the commitment to God. It is from this commitment, this relationship that all other commitments and relationships stem and flow. Jesus further makes the case for committing to discipleship by citing the example of a builder and a king going into battle. Before engaging in either pursuit, one must look at the cost (financially in the first case, availability of soldiers in the second) and ask oneself “is it worth the cost”? If one isn’t ready to “pay the price” (even to the extent of one’s own life), then one must look at whether they are ready to be called a Christian.

This is a “hard line” which Jesus is taking. This is not, as we would say in the seminary, a “warm and fuzzy Jesus”. This is a prophet who is unafraid to speak the hard truth, regardless of whether one wants to hear it or not. This is a messiah who lays out for folks what it takes to be His follower. If one is ready, however, then the rewards are amazing (one might say “out of this world”!)

May we have the courage to both hear and follow Jesus. May we come to know Jesus as Messiah and Lord, calling us to a new way of living. May we strive to follow the teachings of Jesus, and be unafraid to share them with our brothers and sisters. May we put God first in our lives and allow all other relationships be guided by that one. May we trust that God has set the path before us, and may we have the courage to walk that path 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      8/18/19	\$ 3,111	\$ 3,412	\$ 4,017	\$ 5,333

The summer is coming to a close and it's time to think about some of the programs at the Together in Christ Collaborative.

First the Bible Study will be restarting after the Summer Break. This year we will be digging into Paul's Letter to the Romans. This group is open to any level of biblical knowledge. It is a safe and supportive group to share your thoughts without judgement. I hope you will consider joining us. We meet every Monday evening from 7– 8 pm. If you are interested, please contact me at [DeaconJoeH@comcast.net](mailto:DeaconJoeH@comcast.net). We will be starting the Monday after Labor day and I will need to know the headcount so I may order enough books.

For those Adults who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, we will be beginning RCIA Classes in September. I would like to know of anyone interested in this program so that I may order the study materials. We will decide upon the best meeting times when I know the schedules of those who are interested. RCIA is for those adults who have never received 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Confirmation as well as possibly not having been baptized at this time. If you are interested please contact me at [DeaconJoeH@comcast.net](mailto:DeaconJoeH@comcast.net)

Adult Confirmation is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> this year. We will be having classes to prepare for this sacrament beginning in October and will entail six classes. We currently have three candidates and would love to have more. Perhaps you never completed Religious Ed as a child and now wish to be Confirmed. Here is your opportunity. If you are interested please contact me at [DeaconJoeH@comcast.net](mailto:DeaconJoeH@comcast.net). Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested, so that I may order the study materials.

#### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**September 8, 2019**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

It's said that upon reading the Gospels, Gandhi commented that he very much liked Jesus Christ. It was Christ's followers he found troublesome. One wonders who Gandhi had met and if these Christians had truly counted the cost of their faith. Following Jesus, *really* following Jesus, is much more challenging than we may think. He emphasizes this with strong language in this Sunday's Gospel. He compares discipleship to the carrying of one's own execution device — "*his own cross*" — and for the need even to "*hate*" what could disrupt one's commitment. Some of this is standard hyperbole, exaggeration for effect common to the time period. Some of this should make us wonder how deep our discipleship goes.

*"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost?"* Jesus imagines this construction project gone wrong. Someone may lay the foundation but not have enough resources to finish. We've received the firm foundation of the sacraments — our baptism, for one, along with weekly Mass attendance and regular confession. Yet how often do we find ourselves too distracted, exhausted, or uninterested to truly build our lives on our faith? We have all met such Christians. Some days, we may be those Christians ourselves. We become the incomplete tower that confuses and baffles the onlookers. *"This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish!"*

For some of us, our cross may feel heavier than we expected upon the first lift. Building a tower means laying stone upon stone. It's a process. We don't arrive at completion overnight. Grace is always sufficient to provide the resources, but we need to keep saying yes to the task. This week, consider your own discipleship. What is one area where you've become distracted or discouraged? How can that improve this week? Let God lay another brick on the tower.

## 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

### 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE BUSINESSES IN  
WEST BRIDGEWATER BEING IMPACTED BY  
THE SEPTIC WORK IN THEIR PARKING LOT.

THE SUCCESS OF THEIR BUSINESS  
DEPENDS ON YOUR PRAYERS AND  
SUPPORT. PLEASE HELP THEM TO  
MAKE UP WHAT THEY LOST.



#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 15

SUNDAY 9:30 - 10:15 Grades 1—6  
(Kindergarten will be Every other week. Begin. 9/22/19)  
SUNDAY 6:00 — 7:00 PM GRADES 7, 8 & 9  
SUNDAY 7:30 — 8:30 PM GRADE 10

All classes will begin Sept 15th for grades 1-8

Classes will begin Oct. 6th at St. Ann's Parish Center for  
grades 9 & 10

Confirmation Classes will be combining with Saint John's  
students and will meet in St. Ann's Parish Center. Their first  
Teen Mass will be on Sept 15th at St. John's Church at 6:00  
PM. with a REQUIRED DINNER MEETING to follow for  
Confirmation Students and Parents OUTLINING THE  
PROGRAM AND ITS REQUIREMENTS.

#### SAINT ANN'S NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

Please silence your phones during Mass.

If you take a bulletin before Mass, please don't leave  
it in the pews.

And finally, please place the missals back in the  
holders on the back of the pews.

We appreciate your help!!!

#### 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.

#### Everyday Stewardship

It took five years of marriage before I was ready to have that first baby. Of course, now that I have three children I cannot imagine a life without them. After twenty-five years, I cannot imagine life without my wife as well.

And I know that I am lucky. I know those who have lost children or have been widowed. They couldn't imagine life without their loved ones either.

The tough reality to digest is that we don't own those whom we love. They are all gifts from God, entrusted to each of us as good stewards. If we cling too tightly, we become like the steward who buried his talents in the ground. If we don't care enough, we become like the prodigal son who squandered his gifts on gambling and frivolous living.

But can we love our loved ones too much? I am not sure it is possible to love others too much if it is genuine love. However, if we truly love them, then we will want to lead them to the One that gave them to us in the first place: God. We do that by demonstrating that no one comes before God in our lives, not even our family.

In this world, our loved ones make living meaningful. But this world is not the end. As much as we love them here, our ultimate goal is for them to live eternally with God. May my wife and kids never think I chose them over God, so that they may choose God over all else, as well.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
© Liturgical Publications Inc

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers are needed to bring communion to the Homebound.

Training will be available for anyone who is interested and

Current Eucharistic Ministers serving who are already trained may want to participate, as well.



## 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, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Kerri Fabrowski, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Baby William, John Gilbride, David Warren & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

## St. John Religious Education

### Registration for 2019 - 2020

**It is time to start our registration process for our 2019 - 2020 year.**

There are two ways to register:

Use our website [www.stjohnsb.org](http://www.stjohnsb.org) to find the registration forms or Come to the CCD office (in the basement of the church) Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 - 4:00.

St John's classes begin the week of **October 15th**.

Schedule of Class:

Grades 1-6 T,W, Th — 4:30—5:30 & Sat 9-10 a.m.

Grades 7 & 8 Weds.— 6-7 pm or Thurs. 7-8 p.m.

**Confirmation Classes, grades 9 & 10 will be combined with St. Ann's this year. They will meet on Sunday nights at St. Ann's Parish Center And will begin October 6th. Grade 9 will meet from 6:00—7:00 and Grade 10 from 7:30—8:30**

**The first Teen Mass is September 15th at St. John's**

**We will have a Required meeting for Parents and Students from both churches after the Teen Mass on at 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall to explain the program and its requirements.**

St Vincent de Paul Society of St John will be having their **annual food drive** on Sat, September 21st and Sunday Sept 22nd.

We will be distributing SVdP bags after Mass on the 14th & 15th.

Non-perishable food items such as pasta, tuna, soups, rice and canned vegetables are greatly appreciated.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Rosary after daily Masses.**

**Divine Mercy every Thursday after daily mass.**

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

**Catholic Womens' Club will meet on the second Wednesday of each month.**

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Catholic Women's Club will celebrate its opening season with the Holy Sacrament of the Mass at 12:00 followed by a pizza lunch in the chapel.

Welcome to new members as we start our exciting new year!!!



Thank you to

**Carmen Pearson  
And all her  
Helpers**

**For making this  
Year's Parish Picnic such a success  
despite the rain!!!**

**Thank you also to the many  
Volunteers of the Parish  
For your continued service!**

Join our choirs!



New members welcome for Adult, Teen and Childrens Choirs. Contact Paul Hoffman, Music Director, for more information.

**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).

TEEN MASS SCHEDULE  
FOR  
SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

A special teaching mass will be celebrated once a month of Sundays beginning in September. Dates will alternate between St. Ann's and St. John's. The masses are in lieu of the regular Sunday night classes.

DATE	LOCATION
9/15/19	Saint John
10/20/19	Saint Ann
11/17/19	Saint John
12/08/19	Saint Ann
1/12/20	Saint John
2/09/20	Saint Ann
3/08/20	Saint John

We are encouraging parents and families to attend these Masses with your children. It will give you the opportunity to witness first-hand how we are trying to teach your children to become active members of their church communities.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

In honor of  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA

At  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH  
103 CENTER ST, BRIDGEWATER  
ON THE 13TH OF THE MONTH  
MAY THROUGH OCTOBER  
RAIN OR SHINE

GUEST SPEAKER  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

**REV. THOMAS SULLIVAN**  
PAROCHIAL VICAR  
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH  
NORWOOD, MA  
7:30 PM

All are welcome to come and lay all their burdens at the feet of our Lady during the recitation of the rosary so that she may present them to her beloved son.