



ST. JOHN

***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

**24th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**



ST. ANN

**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 9-4 M-Th
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: stjohnnebridge@comcast.net

Website: www.stjohnnebridge.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take
up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his
life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that
of the gospel will save it." - Mk 8:34-35

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

(LRI)



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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday

9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

In the Chapel

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.

9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

***Alternating between the two worship sites, refer to website for details.**

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 can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required.

Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

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: Nancy Goggin

directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, September 11, 2021

4:00—Elda Lawrence — 10th Anniversary

Sunday, September 12, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, September 18, 2021

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday September 19, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, September 11, 2021

5:30 - Leonard Shepard — 29th Anniversary

Lena Shepard — 19th Anniversary

Sunday, September 12, 2021

10:30 - Michael Bonner — 1st Anniversary

Saturday, September 18, 2021

5:30 - Nancy Saya — 20th Anniversary

Sunday, September 19, 2021

10:30 - Kenny Fontaine, Jr. — 2nd Anniversary

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

**Your continued support is very much appreciated.
Weekly Offertory**

Aug 24 - Aug 30, 2021

ST ANN

Online N/A
Mail \$ 955
Mass \$ 1,703
TOTAL \$ 2,658

ST JOHN

Online \$ 722
Mail \$ 740
Mass \$ 2,347
TOTAL \$ 3,809

DONATIONS FOR ROOF REPAIRS:

Roof Repair Donations \$1,150 (total to date \$5,840) (Total Project Cost \$5,395)



\$5,840

We are so very grateful for the generosity bestowed upon the Parish to complete the roof repairs. We have exceeded our goal and the additional funds will be used toward the humane removal of some bats that have taken up residency in the Hall.

Thank you for your generosity to make this happen.

My Dear Friends in Christ,



St. Francis de Sales was once quoted as saying that “God does not give us a cross that is an ounce too heavy or an inch too long”. This thought gives rise to the notion that God does, indeed, allow for crosses in our life. What St. Francis is alluding to, however, is that they are not unbearable. We realize that when we look at the life of Christ. Christ was able to bear His cross because He knew that it must be done, not only in His life, but in ours as well.

In today’s gospel, Jesus looks to His disciples to gauge how His earthly mission is going. When Jesus asks the question about who people say that He is, Jesus is not taking a “popularity poll”. Jesus doesn’t really care if people like Him or His message, just that they’re getting it. Jesus wants to know this so as to be able to “fine tune” His message. Jesus then turns to His disciples and asks the same question, but in a much more personal way. When Jesus inquires of the Twelve, “who do you say that I am?” (Mk 8:29, italics added), He wants to know if they get it, if they understand what He is all about. Jesus needs to know this because He will soon be entrusting His message and mission to them.

This is where we come in. Jesus, in asking the question of His mission to the Twelve, is talking to us in this gospel passage. Jesus is placing the question on our hearts this day so that we can think about where we stand in light of Jesus’ mission and message. Do we know who Jesus is? Do we get it? This is a vitally important thing, this knowledge of who Jesus is and about what Jesus is trying to teach us.

This is also where the idea of the cross comes in for us. Each one of us has a “cross” to bear, often many of them over the course of a lifetime. They come in all shapes and sizes, unique to the person. We may have corporate experiences, but even then the cross we bear in them is ours and ours alone. We may help one another (much like Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry His Cross), but the burden of carrying one’s cross lays squarely on one’s own shoulders. We do have help, though. We have the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as well as the model of Christ Himself.

May we know that the crosses we bear assist us in drawing ever closer in union to Christ. May we trust that these crosses are never “an ounce too heavy or an inch too long”. May we know that our God will be with us on this journey – through our life and into the Kingdom.

A Blessed Week to All,

Fr. Paul

MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



Twenty years ago our nation suffered a devastating terrorist attack, the likes of which had not been seen in our land. As I was speaking recently to someone of the events of 9/11, I spoke in terms of “my generation’s ‘Pearl Harbor’, times three”. This was due to the fact that a foreign entity had breached our national security, caused significant loss of life, and shaken us to our core; it was also a “rallying point” for our nation, much like Pearl Harbor had been in 1941, because we really had never experienced something of this magnitude (especially considering that it happened in three locations (New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington (DC))).

In reflecting on the events of 9/11 in light of my Franciscan journey, I couldn’t help but think of the “Prayer of St. Francis”:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

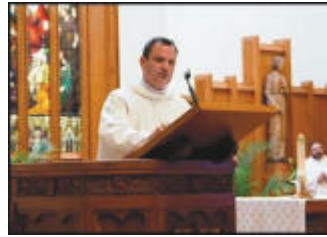
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Now, while the Prayer of St. Francis was more likely than not *not* written by Francis, it has been so widely associated with him that it is usually included in the “canon” of St. Francis. When we look at the word choices use and the counterbalance of the negative (i.e., hatred, injury, doubt, despair, darkness, sadness) and the positive (i.e., love, pardon, faith, hope, light, joy), it certainly reads like the “spirit” of Francis and his work in the world to bring “Gospel to life and life to Gospel”.

The Christ-like (and positive) attributes found in the poem are an antidote/response to the (negative) actions of 9/11. Franciscans are called, as a body, to mirror their lives after Francis, who mirrored his life after Christ. We are not called to be “doormats” in response to violence, but we are to answer violence with a Christ-like love. As we commemorate this 20th anniversary of 9/11, let us strive to be “instruments” of love, pardon, faith, hope, light, joy...and Peace.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



The Deacon’s Column

Deacon Chris Connelly

The Eucharist: A Real Food for a Real Hunger

Several weeks ago we finished hearing the Bread of Life Discourse from the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. It began with Jesus taking five loaves and two fish and after taking it and giving thanks he distributed it to the crowds gathered around him. A miraculous multiplication of loaves and fish that was sufficient to satisfy the hunger of all the people following Jesus. After giving a lengthy discourse describing his flesh as true food and his blood as true drink, many turned away because they found Jesus’ teaching too hard to understand and accept. The discourse ends with Jesus asking the twelve if they too want to leave to which Peter replies, ““Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (Jn 6:68)”

Every one of us have real hungers. For our physical hungers there is an appropriate food that truly satisfies those hungers. For our emotional hungers and desires there are true satisfactions to ease and fulfill our needs. Beyond our physical and emotional hungers, we have desires for things that nothing on this earth can satisfy. We have unlimited desires for truth, love, and life. What “food” can satisfy our real hunger for things that are eternal? Jesus reveals the answer in the Bread of Life Discourse. Jesus is the only one who can satisfy our deepest spiritual hungers. Jesus tells us that he is “the way, the truth, and the life. (Jn 14:6)” satisfying our hunger for meaning and purpose, truth, and life.

When my children were small, they had a play kitchen that was stocked with plastic chicken nuggets, French fries, and hamburgers complete with plastic tomatoes, lettuce, and pickles. But when they were truly hungry Jen and I did not prepare a meal from their toy playset—we gave them real food to satisfy their real hungers. If we can give good gifts to our children how much more does our Father in heaven give us good gifts to his children (cf. Mt 7:11)?

The Eucharist is true food and drink to satisfy our deepest hungers spiritual and eternal hungers. Every time we gather around the sacred altar, our Father in Heaven gives us the one our souls long for in the deepest part of our spirit. Yet, as we are nourished by the body and blood of Jesus Christ, we are sent out into the world to bring to others the one we have received. When people meet us in the world, do they see in us the One their own spirits hunger and thirst to know and love?



Greetings of Love to the Parishioners of St John and St. Ann. On behalf of my people in Uganda, I thank you for having donated in 2019 for

the girls dormitory which we built. Thank you so much.

This time round, I am making an appeal of \$37,000.00 to build a classroom block that will help to reduce the big numbers (congratulation) of students per class. Our classes have over 70 students. This is too much a number in covid environment. Government has directed us to have smaller numbers per class say 35 or 40. This calls for more classrooms. With or without covid, we have been directed to reduce the numbers per class.

Kindly help me build this "covid block". We shall have a second collection next weekend September 11th and 12th for this purpose. Write your check through your parish and in the memo indicate St. Benedict school. The donation will be wired to Uganda.

Contact me on lusteve2012@gmail.com. for details.

God bless you for your donation.

Fr. Stephen Lusiba



Choir Is Back!

One who sings prays twice. If you would like to pray twice by singing in the Together in Christ Collaborative Choir please plan to attend choir rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:00 beginning on September 9 at St John's.

Please email Rich, our music director at richcesarini@gmail.com in advance so that he will have enough copies of music for everyone.



Grandparents Day Blessing

God of our ancestors,
we thank you for our children and our children's children.

They are reminders from you about how precious life can be.

We humbly ask for wisdom and patience as we take pride and wonder in our grandchildren.

Those of us who now pray to you also seek your blessing upon these men and women who are our grandparents or who act in place of grandparents.

Bless all the children and their parents and grandparents with your abundant grace.

We ask all this through the intercession of Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron saints of grandparents, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



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, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, AnnSmith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Ifan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Rene Pearson, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Anne Flannery, Joan Fisher & 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:

*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

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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or 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.

Mass

Question:

I've noticed that when I go to Mass at different parishes, sometimes people say and do different things. Why is that?

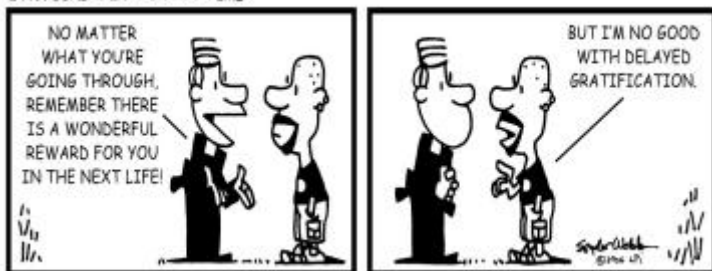
Answer:

The Mass in its current form has taken shape over the course of 2,000 years. Over time, traditions, structures, and prayers have been put into place. There are certain rubrics for the Mass that are normative wherever you go. This means you could attend Mass in Malawi or Thailand or Italy and still watch the same basic liturgy unfold, even if you don't understand the language. There may be some cultural differences from place to place, things that aren't specifically listed. For example, in the United States most people go up for Communion in a nice neat line. In Europe, everyone gets up around the same time. It's a bit of a free-for-all!

Some people might take it upon themselves to change things individually. People may not like something that feels too "liberal" or "conservative," and they may take a well-meaning stance in the opposite direction. When people (including the presiders) do things that are distracting or change the liturgy, it introduces an element that breaks the unity of the assembled community. The important thing to remember is that we gather as the Body of Christ to celebrate the Eucharist. If you are confused, ask! If you are frustrated, pray for the spirit of charity.

©LPi

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

September 22 - October 31

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 26 coordinated campaigns:

- 18,855 babies saved from abortion
- 221 abortion workers converted
- 112 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside Planned Parenthood, 1055 Commonwealth Ave Boston, MA
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily
- **Local contact:** Rita Russo, 781-762-4391 40daysforlifeboston@gmail.com

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

More info at: 40daysforlife.com/boston

Campaign Kick-Off, Wednesday, September 22, 2 pm at Planned Parenthood
Praise and Worship Vigils Thursday, 6 pm, September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, and 28
Candlelight Vigils Friday nights at 7 pm, September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
Spanish Vigils Saturday mornings at 10:30 am, September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
Sunday Family Vigils at 2 pm, September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31
Tuesday Rosary at 2 pm, September 28, October 5, 12, 19, and 26
Concluding Prayer Service Sunday, October 31 at 2PM

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