



**Together in Christ  
Collaborative**

**September 27, 2020**

**26th Sunday  
In Ordinary Time**



*St. John*

*St Ann*



**26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

“When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.” - Mt 21:32

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

**Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB  
Fr. Paul’s Facebook Page —Paul Ring**

**Church of Saint Ann  
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379**

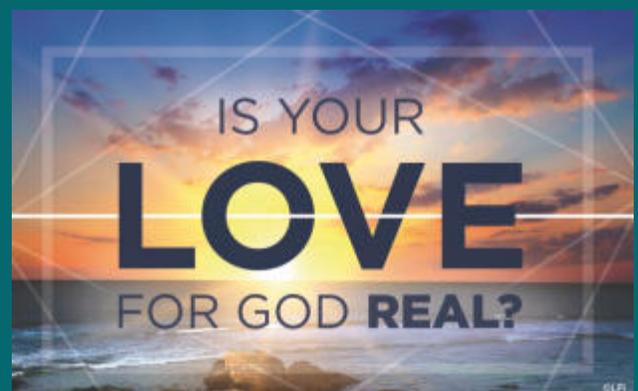
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**Website: [stannswb.com](http://stannswb.com)**

**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

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

### Permanent Deacons:

Christopher Connelly  
cconnelly@rcab.org

Joe Hopgood  
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

**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

**Director of Religious Education**

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

## SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

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

**Director of Religious Education**

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

**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

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, September 26, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

#### Sunday, September 27, 2020

10:30 - Deceased Members of the Mulhern Family — Memorial

#### Saturday, October 3, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

#### Sunday, October 4, 2020

10:30 - Deceased members of the Hanley Family

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, September 26, 2020

4:00 - Vincent Halisey — 6th Anniversary

#### Sunday, September 27, 2020

8:30 - Joan Mondeau — 4th anniversary

#### Saturday, October 3, 2020

4:00 - Brian Landolphi — Memorial

#### Sunday, October 4, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

#### Readings for the week of September 27, 2020

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Monday: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 [6]/Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 [1]/Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 [3]/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 [13]/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 10-11 [11]/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 [135]/Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 [Is 5:7a]/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

#### Observances for the week of September 27, 2020

Sunday: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

Tuesday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Wednesday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Friday: The Holy Guardian Angels

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday



My Dear Friends in Christ,

It has often been said that one must not only “talk the talk”, but “walk the walk”. This expression is so well known that we perhaps take its power for granted. It reminds us that when it comes to the important things of life, we must do more than pay “lip service” to them, but truly invest ourselves in the endeavors which are worthwhile, good and will bring about lasting and life-changing effects.

Jesus, in today’s gospel passage, compares prostitutes and tax collectors to chief priests and elders. On the surface, it may seem obvious on whose side a religious authority figure would be. It would seem obvious that someone who had the spiritual well-being of the people in mind would side with the latter group, the chief priests and elders. Jesus, in defying convention here, sides with the prostitutes and tax collectors. We may not be shocked at this, but I’m sure the elders to whom Jesus was offering this parable were not only shocked, but offended. How could Jesus not side with them? How could Jesus say that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter into the Kingdom before priests and elders? It all goes back to “walking the walk”.

The chief priests and elders were great at offering sage advice on how to grow closer to God. One is to follow the rules (which are important, let’s not forget that!) by doing things like worshipping in temple (a good idea, indeed!), tithing (another good idea!) and the like. The problem was that they, themselves, in following these rules did so with unclean hearts. Their motivation wasn’t to grow closer to God – it was to win esteem in the eyes of men. The difference is that tax collectors and prostitutes were already thought of as “less than” by society (especially by religious elders), and no one could see beyond their human appearance. No one except for God, of course! God does not judge by human appearance, by externals. God sees into the heart – into our desires, our motives and our motivations. God sees what we truly desire.

The tax collectors and the prostitutes were seen as “second-class citizens”. Many of our brothers and sisters are put in this category, and perhaps we have been guilty ourselves of putting them there. May we strive to see as God sees – as God sees others, as God sees ourselves. May we be quick to forgive, slow to judge. May we strive to know as God knows, to see as God sees and to love as God loves.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

### **Dying Before We Die**

CAC faculty member Cynthia Bourgeault addresses a fear that motivates all of us on some level—the fear of death. It is a matter of true wisdom to know how to face death wisely and courageously, which is why every religion and culture since the beginning of time has tried to “make sense” of it in some way. From her home off the coast of Maine, Cynthia shares these words, which come from the very heart of the Christian tradition.

What is the wisdom that matters now? For me, it's the Paschal Mystery [the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Christ]. . . . Simply, the one who would save his life or her life will lose it and the one who's willing to lose it, will save it. In all great religious traditions, this is the eye of the needle. Everything that's good, everything that's abiding, everything that's worthy, everything that's generative about a human being arises on the other side of our fear of death...The whole tradition we've had of “dying before you die” sounds like martyrdom from the outside, but what you really discover is, it's the gateway to freedom.

Jesus within our own Christian path not only tried to point toward what this new life is, but he also took us there and left us with the promise that he carries this, that he takes it on. Any one of us who summons the great courage within us to gird up our loins and die before we die are not left unaccompanied. It's on the other edge of that that we're really set free to courage, to compassion, and to generosity—this is where the Paschal Mystery begins to come in.

The values that are called the fruits of the Spirit by St. Paul—gentleness and peace and forbearance, compassion, love, joy—these are alchemical products that grow on the other side of the human being not afraid to die. We can find and collectively draw on those wonderful gifts. But it requires the personal willingness (as the old monks in the desert said), to “sit in your cell and ponder the hour of your death” until you've really worked through your system what this promise means: “Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's” [Romans 14:8]. . . . With that, having moved from something nice you recite on Sundays to something you know in the marrow of your bones, then you walk into the planet as a vessel of love and nothing can touch you.

To the extent that we live our life from the heart now with utter integrity, death proves to be no interruption to identity. . . . Who we are is held in the love of God from before time; and as we lean into that now in life and taste it, we'll be prepared to really see death as the fullness of being and not as the lessening of it.

*Richard Rohr Commentary*

### **UPDATES FROM THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE**

Weekend Masses are being held at both churches, please check the schedule ON PAGE 7.

All guidelines of the Archdiocese are being followed.

Baptisms are being held on Saturday at 10 AM and 2 PM and on Sundays at 1 PM. Please call the Rectory Office to schedule.

Funerals are now allowed within the guidelines of the Archdiocese. Call the Rectory Office for information.

Memorial Masses can be rescheduled or scheduled within the limitations of the four masses between both churches. Call the Rectory Office to schedule.

Daily masses are continuing to be celebrated on line until further notice.

### **Fr. Mark**

As Christians, as followers of Jesus, we are called, individually and communally to live this life as a preparation for the moment we move to the next, when we enter the eternal Embrace of Love: Gods' full and complete Presence. Some years ago, and I cannot be any more specific as it was a gradual shift in me, I came to a point where I found myself no longer in great fear of death, but in its place found a longing to enter this great Embrace of Love. I am not in a hurry, and I do not have it all figured out, am far from perfect and feel that I have work to do before...but the eternal Embrace of Love is truly what I long for. Finding HOME in a unimaginable and powerful and complete way.

This has given me a growing sense of inner peace, the ability to roll with the ups and downs of life, not perfectly, but with a more welcoming attitude toward whatever each day brings.

The COVID-19 test has been a messy process and is, as of this writing still incomplete. But in this moment, in this experience I find comfort, along with low level frustration, comfort in knowing in my heart that the love of God surrounds me, is with me. The Embrace of Love is already but not yet! The great consolation is knowing that God is in charge, and I am along for the ride!

*Commentary by Richard Rohr with Reflection from Mark Schramm SVD Miramar Retreat Center*

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

### COLLABORATIVE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 p.m. (St. Ann's)

Saturday 5:30 p.m. (St. John's)

Sunday 8:30 a.m. (St. Ann's)

Sunday 10:30 a.m. (St. John's)

**TO ATTEND A MASS YOU MUST REGISTER THROUGH THE WEBSITES PRIOR TO THE MASS.**

**PLEASE TRY TO DO THIS SATURDAY BY 2 PM.**

**MASSES ARE BEGINNING TO FILL UP AND YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET A RESERVATION.**

**FOR ASSISTANCE CALL LORRY @ 508-373-4152 OR CHARLOTTE @ 508-369-3196**



#### 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



#### 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

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.

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 is open twice a month. — 1<sup>st</sup> Monday from 3:00-5:30 pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:  
THE FOOD PANTRY IS LOADED WITH FOOD AND IS ABLE TO SHARE WITH ANY EAST BRIDGEWATER RESIDENT AT THE PRESENT TIME.  
PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.**

The Pantry is working to make food available for all in need while at the same time keeping within the guidelines of the pandemic. Please contact the Pantry if you need help. The only requirement to access the Pantry is to be an East Bridgewater Resident. All religions are welcome.

The Food Pantry is currently accepting donation at the bottom of the ramp. Please make sure you call to let them know you have dropped off food and that it is properly protected from the elements. Cash donations are always welcomed and can be mailed to the address above.

**Gift cards are also a great help.  
\$5—\$25 cards are easier to distribute than large sums, ie \$100**

**The next Food Pantry will be Monday, Oct. 5th**

A special **Thank you** to Ed Lindsey and his son-in-law, Dan Hofgren for all the work they have done this past summer in the prayer garden at Saint Ann's regrouting and spray washing the bricks and trimming the bushes. Fr. Francis for the wonderful job taking care of the rose and vegetable gardens and Corey Quinlan for landscaping and mowing the grass. Fr. Harvey also did his share to keep the grounds of St. Ann looking well. You could catch him behind the mower on several occasions in the dead heat of the summer.



Last, but not least, thank you to Jim Guardiano for all his mowing, trimming, mulching and especially for providing the new statue of the Blessed Mother beautifully landscaped with lighting to highlight her presence. She is beautiful!!!!

Thank you all so much!

THE BLESSING OF THE PETS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON  
OCTOBER 3RD AT 10 AM AT ST. JOHN'S PARKING LOT.

PLEASE WEAR  
MASKS

(People only)



## NEWS FOR THE PARISHES

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Karen Debenedictis, 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, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolai, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, Bill Frabetti, George Lepine, , Joseph Rizzitano, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Paul Currie, Dennis Green, John McCovy Murphy, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio, Kathleen Jezard Maher, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Gary Sacoccia, Jessica Madigan & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



### 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.

THANK YOU TO ED LINDSEY FOR PAINTING THE SAINT ANN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN. IT LOOKS GREAT! AND JIM GUARDIANO FOR INSTALLING THE DISHWASHER AT ST. ANN'S.

As people begin to come back to Mass and those of us who have been attending become more relaxed after having attended Mass for a few weeks, it is important that we continue to follow the guidelines set up to ensure our safety. The guidelines for the Archdiocese can be found on line at RCAB Office of Risk Management. Rcabrisk.org/covid.

### 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is a grassroots campaign of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach to end abortion.

Over 17,226 babies have been confirmed saved since 2007 by people offering help to women in crisis pregnancies. From September 23 to November 1, the Boston campaign will be keeping vigil on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, 1055 Commonwealth Ave., from 7 am to 7 pm daily.

Sign up to participate at [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) or contact Rita Rus-so at [40daysforlifeboston@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifeboston@gmail.com) or 781-762-4391.

### Lighter Side

#### Gimme a Break

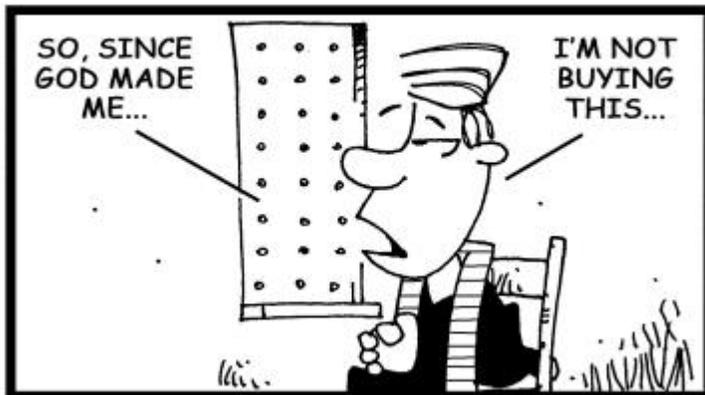
An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, everything froze in place and, as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in me?"

"Come on, God, gimme a break!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago, I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

### 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## Good and Evil

**Question:** If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

**Answer:** The problem of evil is perplexing. If God is all-powerful and all-good, why doesn't He stop bad things from happening? He must either not be all-powerful, or perhaps He's not very good after all. Human beings have faced the possibility of evil since the very beginning of our existence. In granting us free will, God gives us the ability to make free choices. God does not force us into moral perfection. We are not forced to love Him or to love our neighbor. We must make the decision ourselves. This means, of course, that we have the ability to choose against love.

One small decision of selfishness, jealousy, or pride may not seem so bad. But every decision — good or bad — is like a stone dropped into a still pond. The ripples extend much farther than the original stone. When decisions against love begin to compound, they affect families, neighborhoods, and nations. This is all the more reason for Christians to be faithful to our baptismal call to love one another as Christ has loved us!

©LPi

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

**Is It the Thought That Counts?**

I can remember times when I received a gift that I would not have chosen for myself. At those times I certainly thought to myself that "it was the thought that counts." I was happy that the gift-giver thought of me at all. Then there have been times when my children have not given me a gift and then chose to tell me all about what they were going to give me. They would then follow it up by saying, "it was the thought that really counts." Really!?! I don't think so. I could think of sending my wife on a cruise, but that is not in any way the same as going on the cruise. I think there are times when all of us think we are more generous than we are, simply because we were thinking about being generous.

This way of thinking can be dangerous. Jesus teaches us to say what we mean and mean what we say. The intentionality of our actions is important, but intentionality without action is meaningless. How we act and what we give serves as evidence of our intentions and indicates where our heart truly lies. If we fool ourselves into thinking we are someone we are not, it can become difficult to see the truth. We need to look for the fruit in our lives. We need to make sure our desires and thoughts are moving us to act. You know that other saying about intentions, don't you? Don't pave the road to a place no one wants to end up with your intentions. Instead, let your intentions and actions lead others to another place where Jesus can be found.

— Tracy Earl Welliver

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