



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

October 25, 2020

**30th Sunday
In Ordinary Time**



St. John

St Ann



**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**

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

508-586-4880

E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net

Website: stannswb.com

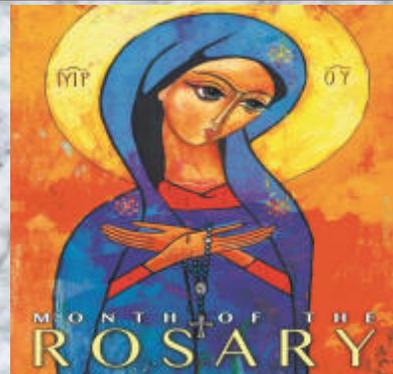
**Facebook: St. Ann-WB
Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th
For both Churches
Currently we are working from home.**

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Mt 22:37**

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2005, 1998, 1970 ICCD.

ILP



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, October 24, 2020

5:30 - John Walsh — Birthday Remem.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

10:30 - Mary & Elmer Proffitt — Memorial

Saturday, October 31, 2020

5:30 - Robert Robichaud — Birthday Remem.

Sunday, November 1, 2020

10:30 -- Parishioners of Saint John

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, October 24, 2020

4:00 - Paul Sheedy — Memorial

Sunday, October 25, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, October 31, 2020

4:00 - Paul Gigliotti — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, November 1, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

**Our financial situation is getting to a crisis level.
The pandemic has taken a very real toll in so many
ways.**

Offertory comparisons:

St. John

Oct 1– 9 — Mailed offertory — \$1,048

Oct 1– 9 Offertory from Mass— \$3,098

St. Ann's

Oct 1--9 —Mailed Offertory — \$785

Oct 1--9 — Offertory from Mass — \$2,378

Sacramental comparison:

St. John

2019 — \$6,457 — 2020 — \$70

St. Ann's

2019 — \$5,353 — 2020 — \$0

This parish cannot survive if this continues.

PLEASE HELP.

My Dear Friends of Christ,



I often find myself in traffic (even during these pandemic times!) and I will pass the time when stopped in “stop-and-go” traffic reading bumper stickers. One that caught my eye I said “If God Had Wanted Us To Be Permissive, He Would Have Given Us ‘The Ten Suggestions’”! They are called “commandments” for a reason, namely that they are not “optional”. When God gave Moses the Commandments on Mt. Sinai, He did so to give the Israelites direction, purpose, and a way forward into a true freedom. Most people, I dare say, look at the Ten Commandments as the “do’s and don’t’s” of our faith, but they are so much more than that. They are ways to live in relationship with God, giving us the freedom to follow God with our whole heart and being.

In today’s gospel, Jesus is asked “which commandment in the law is the greatest?” (Mt. 22:36). Now, keep in mind that the Jewish people had 613 laws that they were called to follow – and we think that 10 are tough! – and so to ask a question like that seems like a trap...and it is! The scholar who poses the question was testing Jesus. If He picked one of those 613 as the “greatest”, it might be interpreted that Jesus didn’t think of the other 612 as important. Jesus, however, doesn’t fall into that trap. In true philosophic fashion, Jesus takes the laws of the Torah and “synthesizes” them into what will become known as “The Great Commandment”. Yes, there are two but they are “linked” together by love. The love of God (with all of our heart, soul, and mind) is linked to our love of neighbor (in the same measure as we love ourselves as children of God). One cannot love God, Jesus poses, unless we love our neighbor. This is the foundation of all that we do, say, and are. We are called to love God with every fiber of our being. We are called to love God above all else. We are called to love God in every moment of our lives. We are called to love God by taking that love which has been placed on our hearts and extending it to those around us.

When we love our neighbor, that does not mean that we must like everything that they do. In loving neighbor, we are called to strive to see Christ in them, and be Christ for them. We are called to extend God’s love for us to those with whom we don’t see eye to eye. This is a challenging command, one which can only be done with the help of the Holy Spirit. God gives us the Holy Spirit so that we can go beyond what we ourselves can do on our own. We can try to love our neighbor without that Spirit, but we can only do so successfully and perfectly with the help of the Spirit. May we know that love first by receiving it in the way it was intended, to help us grow. May we strive to love God and neighbor by seeing Christ in them and being Christ for them. May we always seek God in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and may we share God’s presence with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

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

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 Nicoliar, 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, & 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 is open twice a month. — 1st Monday from 3:00-5:30 pm and the 3rd 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

Cereal, tuna, pasta, peanut butter, paper goods

**The next Food Pantry will be
Monday, November 2nd.**

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.

Christmas Sharing Planning

Plans are being made for this year's Christmas Sharing Program and we need your help. This year we will be giving gift cards to children age 16 and younger in needy families. The families must meet one of the following criteria: be parishioners of St. Ann's, live in West Bridgewater, attend West Bridgewater schools, or be recommended by a parishioner of St. Ann's. As always, we rely on you to help us find the families in need of assistance. If you know of a family who is struggling due to a job loss, injury or disability, please call Linda Santry at **508-586-6535**, or email her, linda@santry.org. All information is kept in strict confidence.

We also are updating our list of senior citizens for a Christmas remembrance. This year we will provide gift cards and a small goodie basket to senior citizens who are needy or have no family to remember them at Christmas. If you know if someone we should include, please call Linda Santry.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

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



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we head into the fall, we as a Church/Collaborative are faced with as many questions as answers. At this point, as your Pastor, I have to ask the critical questions about how we will go forward as the Catholic presence in East and West Bridgewater. The pandemic has served to highlight what was already a reality for our Collaborative, and for many other parishes and collaboratives in the Archdiocese and around the country.

It has become clear to me based on our financials, and the long-term trends in giving and parishioner engagement before the pandemic, that we need to think creatively about new ways to serve the Catholic population of our two towns. We have been in "maintenance-mode" for a number of years, and now it's clear that we can't keep repeating the same thing and expect different results. In order to become "mission-oriented" and be able to meet the spiritual needs of today, we need to consider different solutions, methods, and structures.

Being faithful to our mission to be a strong Catholic presence in our two towns - evangelizing, preaching, teaching, celebrating the sacraments - calls us to make decisions that free us to carry out those tasks in whatever conditions come our way. One those decisions centers around the issue of merger that many of our Archdiocesan entities have faced recently, including our neighbors in the Tri-Parishes of Brockton. The very idea of merger wasn't even a consideration before the downward trends of the last couple of years, and has been brought into consideration even more so because of the effects of the pandemic, effects being felt by so many in our communities – in our businesses and in our own homes.

It is in light of all of this that I have consulted with my "Archdiocesan Collaborative Support Team", as well as the Staff, and Parish (Pastoral and Finance) Councils. They helped me look at what this would mean for the Together In Christ Collaborative, and how best to move forward into the future. It is now the time in the process where I turn to you, the faithful. It is not only imperative but mandated, that I speak with you before any final decisions are made. I cannot, and will not, move forward without giving you every opportunity to allow your voices to be heard. This will be done through various methods available in the next week or so in a myriad of electronic and print media, that will give everyone an opportunity to have their voices heard. I pray that these discussions will help the parishes move the mission of our faith communities forward to a stronger footing so as to serve the People of God in our midst.

In closing, I would like to offer a caution, if I may, **which I cannot emphasize strongly enough**. At **no point** in these previous conversations with the Archdiocese, Staff or Councils did I entertain the idea of closing either of our churches. This was not the intent of the Collaboration process, nor is it the intent of the merger process. In both cases, the intention is to strengthen and solidify the parishes, albeit in different ways. In speaking with you by various forms of media, I will elaborate on how the process is undertaken and what the results would be. Again, the intention here is to strengthen our position as a Catholic presence in our section of "the Bridgewater", in our place in the Archdiocese, and in the wider Universal Church. I look forward to speaking with you further in the near future. In the meantime, I ask for your prayers for me, as your Pastor, to make the best possible decisions in this matter and in all matters. May God continue to watch over us, bless us, and guide us, now and into the Kingdom.

Peace,

Fr. Paul

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Phil. 4:13

Dear Friends,

by Sr Amanda Detry, FSP

I love autumn. The colors, the flavors, the crisp air—everything about it makes me want to go outside for a brisk walk and then curl up in an armchair with a hot cup of coffee, a fleece blanket, and a good book .

Some books are best enjoyed this way. *Fratelli Tutti* is not one of them.

Fratelli Tutti is an encyclical to be read in a straight-backed chair with both feet planted firmly on the ground, so you can spring into action whenever the text summons you to step beyond yourself and encounter Christ in someone else—which happens just about every paragraph.

What is *Fratelli Tutti*? The title of Pope Francis' latest encyclical is not a topic, but a statement of truth and an appeal to live this truth. The phrase “Fratelli Tutti,” or “Brothers and sisters all,” is who we are: siblings who have been reconciled with God in Christ. It is also a summons to *become* who we are by realizing Jesus' prayer that we “may all be one,” just as Jesus and the Father are one (John 17:21). This is a sublime and beautiful prayer—and, remarkably, God is looking to *us* to answer it.

In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis sheds light on the many places, faces, and situations where God is waiting for our answer, and reminds us that he waits with greatest longing in the very people we are least inclined to talk to, associate with, welcome, trust, or forgive.

Fratelli Tutti will challenge you. There is nothing easy about making a daily effort to “transcend ourselves through an encounter with others” (111) or to pursue reconciliation not by avoiding conflict, but “*in* conflict ... dialogue, and open, honest and patient negotiation” (244). It takes discipline to assume an “alternative way of thinking” (127) about the world and our place in it, which is nothing short of Saint Paul's plea to “put on the mind of Christ” (Phil 2:5).

But if we choose to walk this path with God, he promises to “turn our life into a wonderful adventure” (8) of dying and rising with Jesus, one moment at a time, to a new and fuller way of living.

How can we begin this adventure? By reading *Fratelli Tutti* and letting it bother us. I invite you to ask the Holy Spirit to read this letter with you, and pay attention to where, when, and how the Spirit stirs your mind and heart as you read.

What is your dream for unity—in the world, in your family, in yourself, and between you and God?

Which of the Gospel challenges outlined in *Fratelli Tutti* make you uncomfortable or resistant? What faces and relationships come to mind as the Holy Father speaks of fraternity, reconciliation, conflict, forgiveness, and dialogue?

Who walks into the room while you are reading, and how do you sense the Spirit inviting you to see him or her differently?

This is not a year to be wasted. As tragic and weird and frustrating and [add-your-own-adjective-here] as the year 2020 has been, it is first and foremost an “acceptable time” (2 Cor 6:2) and a new reality to claim for Christ.

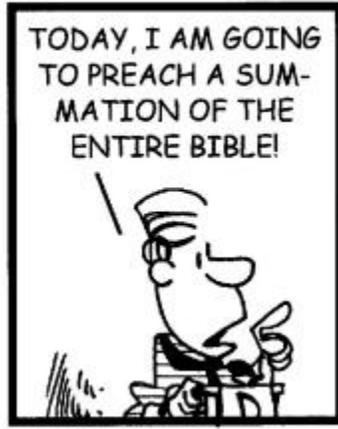
We must not renounce our Christian vocation by putting our feet up and biding our time until things return to “the way they were,” but rather use the unique circumstances of this year to forge a new culture of encounter, beginning with those closest to us. *Fratelli Tutti* can help us toward this goal.

Let us approach this letter as an urgent yet hope-filled examination of conscience on how we relate to others and how we can do better. Every step we take today under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, no matter how small, can prepare us for the day when we will finally be able to peel the masks from our faces (and from our hearts) and look at each other: God willing, with more honesty, authenticity, humanity, and love than ever before

In the words of our Holy Father, “**Let us dream ... as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all**” (8).

And “may God inspire [this] dream in each one of us” (287).

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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.

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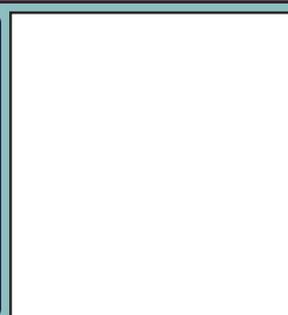
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