



ST. JOHN

***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

OCTOBER 31, 2021

**31st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**



ST. ANN



31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, "He is One and there is no other than he." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."
- Mk 12:32, 34ab

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2002, 1998, 1970 CCC

**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**

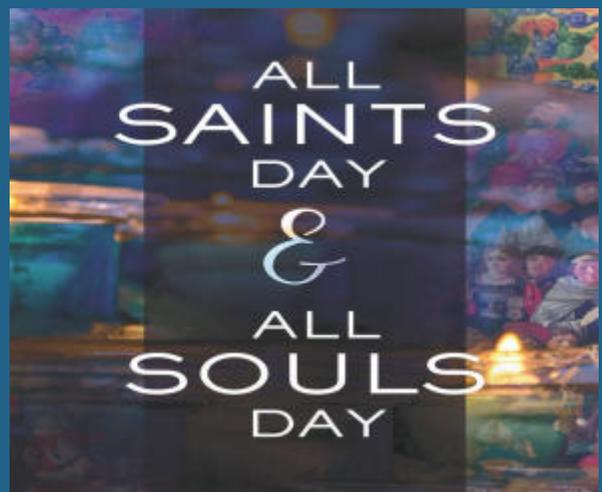
508-378-4207

E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net

Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring



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

***Aleternating 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
stjohnebridge@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

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, October 30, 2021

4:00 - Paul Sheedy — 5th Anniversary

Sunday October 31, 2021

8:30 - Joan Mondeau — 5th Anniversary

Saturday, November 6, 2021

4:00—Paul Gigliotti — 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, November 7, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, October 30, 2021

5:30 - Catherine Flood— 1st Anniversary

Robert Flood — 12th Anniversary

David Minella — 10th Anniversary

Sunday, October 31, 2021

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, November 6, 2021

5:30 - Beatrice & Louis Miller — Memorial

Sunday, November 7, 2021

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Growing up in my neighborhood, there was THAT neighbor, which I suspect every neighborhood had. We had a neighbor who, perhaps because of his schedule or perhaps because of his own whims, decided that 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning was the perfect time to run the power washer, leaf blower, snow blower, or lawn mower (depending on the season). One particular Saturday morning, it seemed like the snow blower was louder than usual. I was just about to go out and “give him a piece of my mind” when, in looking outside, I noticed that he was snow-blowing OUR driveway! I went out and asked him why, and his response both took me aback and cut me to the quick: he was doing it because he heard that my father (who always took it upon himself to start the shoveling) was sick and he thought he’d be neighborly and lend a hand. It gave me a different perspective about what a “neighbor” was, as well as what type of neighbor this gentleman was.

In today’s gospel, Jesus is asked which of the commandment was “first”. Now, mind you, in Jewish tradition, there are 613 commandments (and to think that we have trouble with ten, sometimes!), so to put one first was a tall order. If Jesus was to do this, He would be implying that this “first” commandment was the most important one. This was a trap, and Jesus knew it. Jesus knew that the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees were often trying to trap Him, and He never fell into any of these traps. In this case, Jesus avoids the trap by “synthesizing” the commandments into two: Love of God, Love of Neighbor. In regard to my story above, I often think that Love of God is far easier than Love of Neighbor, but that isn’t always the case. While it can be challenging to love our neighbor, loving God takes effort as well. Often times, God will do something or allow something that leaves us perplexed, amazed, and often times angry. We can’t always see into the mind and heart of God, and many times the “permissive will of God” (when God allows something to happen) that confuses, frustrates and angers us. It is in those times that the grace of “trust” is needed, trust that God knows what He is doing and that, ultimately, He is in charge. Even when we have that trust, that doesn’t mean that it is easy; it is often a hard won trust, coming over a period of time – sometimes months, or even years.

May we come to trust that God, who is in charge, knows what is best. May we come to trust that God has our best interest at heart. May we come to trust that, in the end, all will be well. May we look to God for all things, especially His mercy, His grace, and His love.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

**THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST
COLLABORATIVE**

Weekly Offertory

Oct 12 - Oct 18, 2021

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$ 895

Mass **\$ 2,435**

TOTAL \$ 3,330

Restoration Fund \$8,740

ST JOHN

Online \$ 699

Mail \$ 410

Mass **\$ 2,086**

TOTAL \$ 3,195

Restoration Fund \$221

TOTAL RESTORATION FUND \$10,903

Your continued support is very much appreciated.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Tomorrow (November 1st), the Church celebrates All Saints Day. This is an important feast in our Church as it recognizes those men and women who, while ordinary human beings, lived extraordinary lives of faith by giving everything they had – mind, spirit, (and sometimes even) body - to God. Within the Franciscan Community, there are those men and women who have achieved, through God's grace, the title of "Saint".

When we think of saints within the Franciscan family, we of course think of Saints Francis and Clare. Without their vision, fortitude, and trust, there wouldn't be a Franciscan or Claretian Order. They are the "standard bearers" and "benchmarks" by which all other "saintly" members of their respective Orders are measured. They are also the "yardstick" by which many within those Communities (who are not (yet) saints) measure their lives of faith and service to the Church and the People of God.

When we look beyond those two, we see many who stand out as Saints who hold the title of "Franciscan" or "Claretian". There is St. Bonaventure, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, and St. Anthony of Padua. In more "modern" times, there is St. Marianne Cope, Pope St. John XXIII, and St. Padre Pio. All of them serve as examples to us of what it is we can be when we focus our energies on God's plan for us. They can be a "beacon" for us when we find ourselves mired in the "darkness" of sin and suffering.

As we celebrate All Saints Day, may we come to see all of our Franciscan friends in Heaven as models of faith for us, to guide us to the Kingdom. May we ask that through their intercession, we may be drawn closer into a love of God and work with them to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth so that we may spend eternity in the Kingdom of God in Heaven! HAPPY ALL SAINTS DAY, ONE AND ALL!!

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



The Deacon's Column

St. Joseph, the Saint Next Door

Recently I was talking with a man who was inquiring about becoming a deacon. During the conversation it became clear that there were too many obstacles that prevented the man from entering diaconal formation and becoming a deacon. Toward the end of the conversation the man asked, "if I cannot serve the Church as a deacon than where can I serve?"

This is a question that many people ask me in my work in vocations and I am sure it is a question that many of us ask in our own lives. The example of St. Joseph gives us an example of how and where most of us are called to serve the Lord—in our homes, in our world, and in our Church. St. Joseph was not immaculately conceived in his mother's womb nor was he the second person of the Trinity. Yet, by a grace of the Holy Spirit he was called to welcome Mary and her Son into his home and care for them as husband and father. Joseph's path to holiness was lived out in the ordinary circumstances of his life.

In 2018 on the Solemnity honoring St. Joseph, the Saint Next Door, Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exultate*, reflects on Christian Holiness in Today's World. In it he shifts the focus from the saints that form litanies to what he calls, "the saints next door." Speaking about our vocation as Christians, Pope Francis writes, "A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for "this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess 4:3). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel (#19)."

Like St. Joseph our path to holiness is lived out where God "plants" us on this earth. Pope Francis reminds us that our individual paths to holiness lie in how we live out our baptismal identity in our homes, community, and Church. St. Joseph was a husband, father, and carpenter. His way to holiness was paved by sharing a life and home with Mary and Jesus and by the way he went about his trade and treated his customers. Since I am a father, husband, and deacon, my path to holiness will be connected to how I love my wife, care for my children, and form future deacons.

If you find yourselves asking the question that the inquiring man asked me, "where can I serve?" look around and see the place and people in your lives and love them as God loves you.

Facebook talk to Parents of Re Ed

Greetings Together in Christ Collaborative of St Ann's and St John's Religious Ed Parents,

I am Nancy Goggin, your new Director of ministries. Many of you have questions regarding this year's religious Ed program. In an attempt to answer your questions, I have decided to make this video. First, I would like to say that I understand your frustration in not having information. I would like to explain what the holdup has been.

Coming off of the past year and a half of Covid-19, there has been many elements that have needed to come together for us to be able to provide a healthy environment in which to have an in-person program. Therefore, we have made a decision to purchase the highest quality air filtration system available in the marketplace. The units we are purchasing are Purashield units. These units were designed by scientist and engineers that have worked for NASA. These same scientists and engineers designed the air filtration system for the Hubble spacecraft. It is their air filtration system that prevented the Hubble from corroding in the atmosphere, allowing it to do its mission. These are the some of the best scientist and engineers in the country. The Purashield air filtration units filter out 99.99% of pollutants and viruses, including Covid-19. These units scrub all the air in the room twice and hour.

Upon making the decision to purchase these units, we realized that for the units to work at their highest level of proficiency, they need to be placed in clean rooms. This led us to realize that we needed to renovate the facility that we would choose to do Religious Education in. Due to both time and financial restraints, we decided to focus all our resources into bringing one building up to Covid -19 safety standards. Therefore, we decided to renovate our largest building, giving us space for all the collaborative programs and events that we want to run. Our largest building is St Ann's Parish center. That is why all Religious Ed classes will be at the Collaborative Parish Center at St Ann's.

Unfortunately, there are many repairs that need to be done at the Collaborative Parish Center before it is ready to welcome our Collaborate family. We are embarking upon an "Extreme Makeover" renovation project. The contractors were supposed to start working on the project last week. However, the contractor we were going to use had staffing issues and needed to pull out of the job. This set us back in time as we needed to find another contractor. Over this past week we have been in negotiations with another company and expect them to be able to start the work this week. Therefore, we need to slightly adjust our Religious Ed schedule.

We were scheduled to fully open our in-person Religious Ed program this coming Sunday, October, 24th, at the Collaborative Parish Center. Instead, we will have a "soft opening" of the program. This "soft opening" will consist of Mass attendance and information that families will take home with them from Mass for at-home family catechesis.

Grades 1-8 families are invited to attend either the 8:30 or 10:30 Mass, each week. I will be at both Masses and will distribute the at-home catechesis handouts after the Mass. I will also have registration forms available at the Masses for those who have not yet registered.

The "soft opening" for grades 9 and 10 will be Sunday evening, November 14th. We request that students and parents come to St Ann's Church for an Opening Prayer Service and a Confirmation information meeting, from 7:00-8:30 pm. At this meeting, the Confirmation program will be fully explained, including a schedule of class dates and Confirmation preparation events.

We expect that the renovations will be complete by the end of November. Once they are completed, we will have a huge Collaborative Parish Center Grand Opening Event. This will be a fun-filled event for people off all ages and will be open to the community at large. You will receive more information on this event as we get closer to the completion of the renovation. Once the renovation is complete, we will resume in-person classes and will update the schedule of classes.

We are truly excited to be embarking upon this "Extreme Collaborative Parish Center Makeover" on your behalf. However, it was a difficult financial decision to make, but it was actually the only decision we could make. It is imperative, in this time of Covid-19, that we have a healthy environment to gather in. Fr. Paul believes that our number one priority is the health and safety of our collaborative family.

Unfortunately, in doing this renovation we are taking on a huge debt. Usually a parish will do a fundraising effort to raise money to do renovations and not start the renovations until they have the money. Unfortunately, we did not have the luxury of time to raise the money before starting the renovations because it was is an issue of health and safety. Therefore, we have needed to start the renovations in an act of faith, trusting that our collaborative family will appreciate our concern for their health and safety and will join in our fundraising efforts to pay for the renovations. We will be posting a renovation fundraising page on our websites. We will also be having other fundraising opportunities that you can participate in as well. We look forward to all the fun collaborative events that we will have at the Collaborative Parish Center and thank you in advance for your generosity in our fundraising activities.

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, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

Please CALL TO UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST. LET THE RECTORY KNOW WHO SHOULD STAY OR BE ADDED TO THE LIST AND WHO CAN BE REMOVED.

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

2021-2022 WINTER HOURS/DATES

Winter days will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

Monday, November 1 — 1—4 PM
Saturday, November 18 — 10—11:30 AM

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

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you can show your love for our Lord and your love of your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

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 that large sums., ie \$100

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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 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.

Christmas Sharing Planning

Plans are being made for this year's Christmas Sharing Program and we need your help. Families have been surveyed, and the decision is to again give gift cards to children age 17 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 or one of the other churches involved. 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 someone we should include, please call Linda Santry.

SAINT JOHN'S AND SAINT ANN'S IS RESUMING THE PRACTICE OF USING EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT THE MASSES. IF YOU WERE OR WOULD LIKE TO BE A EUCHARIST MINISTER, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORIES TO SIGN UP.

ST JOHN 508-378-4207 SAINT ANN 508-586-4880
WE ALSO NEED LECTORS

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 PM at Saint 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.

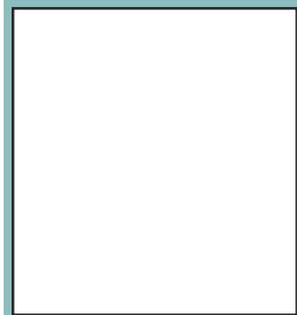
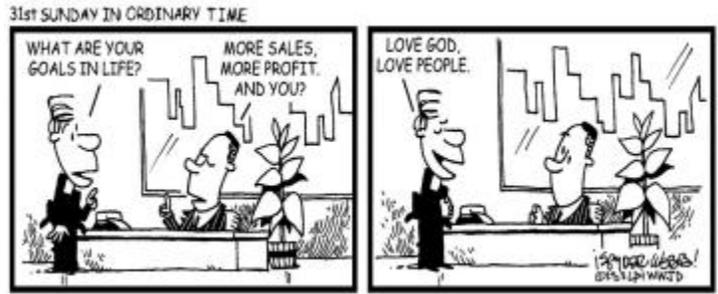


Hello,

At times during the pandemic congregational singing was discouraged and congregants were ushered out of the church in a safe manner at the end of mass during the closing hymn. Now that restrictions have been lifted it is a good time to remind ourselves that a liturgy begins with the first notes of the opening song and ends with the final notes of the closing song. We ask that you stay and participate in the closing song if you know the words or stay and enjoy it if you don't know the words. The closing song is one last opportunity to sing God's praises in church before we leave to go about our week. We look forward to having hymn books back in the pews in late November so that everyone can read along.

Thank you and God Bless.

-The Together in Christ Collaborative music team.



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