



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

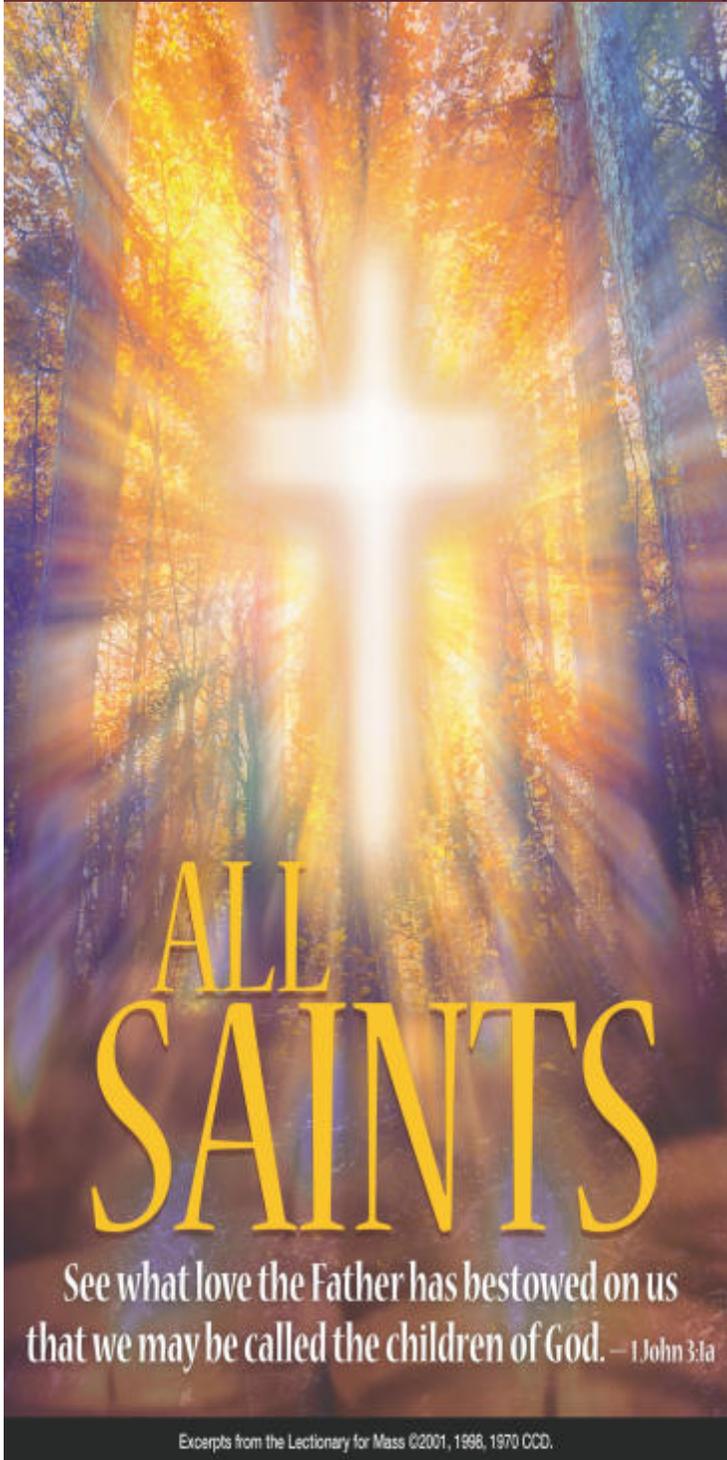
November 1, 2020

**31st 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

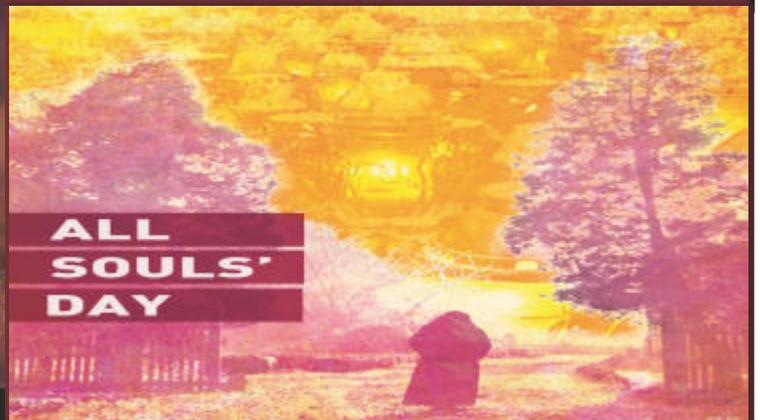
Website: stannswb.com

Facebook: St. Ann-WB

Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th

For both Churches

Currently we are working from home.



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 (Sr. Deacon)
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

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 31, 2020

4:00 - Paul Gigliotti — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, November 1, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, November 7, 2020

4:00 - Evelyn Callanan — Birthday Remem.

Sunday, November 8, 2020

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

On-line Giving—Oct 1– 20 — \$3,537

Oct 10 –20 — Mailed offertory — \$2,915

Oct 10– 20 —Offertory from Mass— \$2,326

St. Ann's

On-line Giving —Oct 1 —20—NA

Oct 10--20 —Mailed Offertory — \$1,550

Oct 1--9 — Offertory from Mass — \$1,974

Suggested Sacramental Offerings:

Memorials Masses — \$25

Baptisms — \$50 for the Deacon/Priest;
\$50 for the Church

Funerals — \$600

PLEASE HELP.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

“There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future”. This quote, one of my favorites, by Saint Augustine, sums up how we should feel about the saints and about ourselves. When we think of the saints, I think we tend to “idolize” them, turning them into some unapproachable creation whose status we have no hope of attaining. Nothing could be further from the truth! We are all, as I like to say, “saints in training”, and we all have the possibility of reaching the status of those who we hold dear in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. This solemnity, which has its roots in the Eastern Church, came to be celebrated in the West around the 9th century. It was transferred from May to November 1st by Pope Gregory IV. It is interesting, but I don't think accidental, that this feast immediately precedes All Souls' Day (November 2nd), as the saints (who are in heaven) can intercede for us on behalf of the faithful departed. We can pray for the dead by praying through the intercession of those who are “fully alive” in the Kingdom. In this way, the dead and the living are “linked” by our desire for Heaven.

Today's Gospel gives us the Beatitudes, which serve as a “blueprint” for living in union and relationship with Christ. When Jesus offered the crowd this teaching, it was a radical way of living. When one looks at those who are “blessed” in the eyes of the Lord, they are people who aren't necessarily “lifted up” in high regard by society. It is the poor in spirit, the mournful, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. These are not exactly the “high and mighty” that society tends to hold up as models of living in our society. It is exactly these, however, who Jesus calls us to be like and will receive their heavenly reward.

May we strive to be like the saints, men and women who are not unlike us. They were ordinary people who chose, in following God, to live extraordinary lives. May we know the peace they knew by following Christ with our whole heart. May we seek the Lord above all else, and before all else. May we, one day, share in the fullness of life in the Kingdom by bringing to life God's Kingdom here on earth. May we share this Kingdom “vision” 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:

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 Maclsaac, 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, Nathaniel Maniff & 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 r great
**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



Cardinal O'Malley Statement Pope Francis comments on Civil Unions October 22, 2020

Quite understandably, the Holy Father's recent statements concerning civil unions have captured the attention of the world press, because many people are anxious for the Church to change its position on marriage and family. Pope Francis strongly and consistently teaches that marriage is between a man and woman for a lifetime and that this is God's plan for having and raising children.

The Pope's endorsement of civil unions is not an endorsement of homosexual activity. Just as the Church does not campaign against civil laws that allow for common-law marriage or second marriages that are not sacramental, even though such arrangements can be in violation of the laws of the Church, the Holy Father recognizes that in civil society there can be cogent reasons to enact such laws providing for civil unions which are not the same as the institution of marriage.

Pope Francis has seen civil unions as a way for governments to provide protections and health care for couples in long-term, committed relationships, whether they be siblings or friends or partners. Such arrangements are not always of a sexual nature.

The Holy Father is very aware of the suffering and alienation of homosexual individuals, gay people, who are rejected by family and society. He is also keenly aware of the parents and loved ones who also suffer because a member of their family is bullied or marginalized for being different. The demands of sexual morality are very challenging for anyone seeking to lead a life of faithful discipleship. We do not serve people well by falsely claiming that we can change the Decalogue. Our task is to show people that we love them and care about them and that together we can strive to be better people, more generous, more courageous and more faithful to what God is calling us to do.

All Saint's Day

November 1

Dear Holy saints of God,
we join our prayers of praise
to yours this day.

With you, we sing of God's
goodness, rejoice in God's mercy
and celebrate God's incredible love.

Teach us to live as you lived —
always thinking of others,
always recognizing our weaknesses,
always rejoicing in God's gifts,
always closely following Jesus.

Blessed are you, happy are you,
all you holy saints of God.

Pray for us that we, too,
may someday be among
God's Holy Ones.

Amen

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All Soul's Day

November 2

Jesus, dear Savior,
On this day we prayerfully remember
all our loved ones who have died.
Please give them comfort and hope
and may they be at peace,
knowing that they will
rest in God's arms eternally.

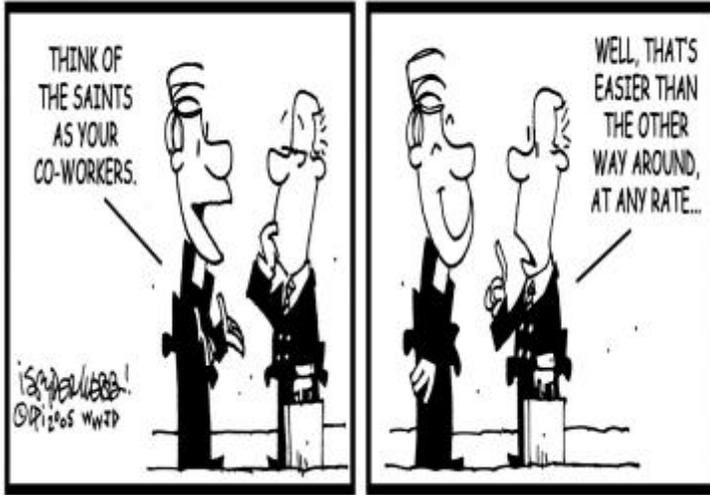
Thank You for our memories of them
and for the good times we shared.

We ask You, please
through their intercession,
to deepen our faith,
strengthen our hope
and increase our love
that we, too, may someday
stand before You,
ready to enter Your Holy Kingdom.

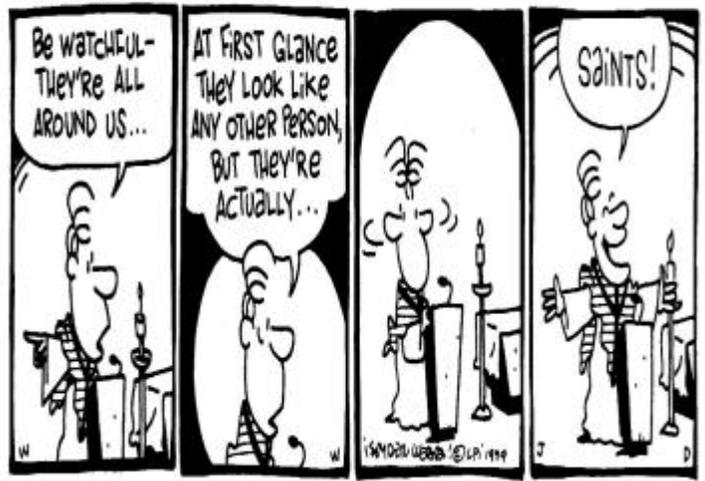
Amen

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ALL SAINTS



ALL SAINTS



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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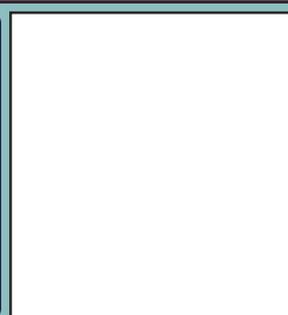
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