



Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 January 28, 2024  
 The Fourth Sunday in  
 Ordinary Time*



Sunday, 8:00 AM  
 Sunday, 11:30 AM

FATHER OF MONASTICISM

“  
**THE DEVIL RUNS AWAY WHEN WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.**  
 ”

-ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

**PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHING.**

MK 1:22

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • 4TH SUNDAY

**Church of Saint Ann**  
**103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater**  
**02379**  
**508-586-4880**

**E-Mail: [stanns@comcast.net](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)**  
**Website: [stannswb.com](http://stannswb.com)**  
**Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are**  
**9:00-3:00**  
**Monday through Friday**

**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](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)**  
**Website: [www.stjohne.org](http://www.stjohne.org)**

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

# TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

## PASTORAL STAFF

### Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring  
fr\_plrstjohn@comcast.net

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

### Priests In Residence

Fr. Peter Francis  
Fr. Michael Diochi

### Permanent Deacons:

Christopher Connelly  
cconnelly@rcab.org

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 3PM Monday-Friday

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### **St Ann's**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass  
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass  
Thurs & Sat.  
9:00 a.m.

### **St John's**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:  
Wednesday & Friday  
9:00 a.m.

Holiday Schedules will vary

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. These baptisms are private and not done at the masses currently. Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.

Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
3:00—3:30 at the church holding the 4 PM Mass  
Or by appointment.

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 Vinton



## COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager: Kevin Mercier  
bmanager.tic@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini  
richcesarini@gmail.com  
Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham

Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady  
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com  
774-533-2002



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**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

4:00 - Carolyn A. Ritucci — 3rd Anniversary

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

9:30 - Victims of Trafficking and their families

6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

4:00 - Harry Soares — Month's Mind

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

9:30 - Kim Russo — Birthday Remembrance

6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 - Victims of Trafficking and their families

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

8:00 - Robert & Theresa Mason — Memorial  
John & Mary Doherty — Memorial

11:30 --Fr. Donald Skerry — Memorial

**SAINT ANN'S CLEANING CREW NEEDS  
ANOTHER HELPER.**

**CLEANING IS EVERY OTHER SATURDAY & WITH  
THREE PEOPLE, IT GOES QUICKLY**

**ANYONE INTERESTED PLEASE CALL  
DEBBIE CONRAD 508-378-4207 AND I WILL PUT YOU  
IN TOUCH WITH THE CREW FOR MORE DETAILS.**

**World Day for Consecrated Life**

God of all goodness,  
you have called people to follow you faithfully.  
Humans have heard that call and many choose to follow your  
call in varied and faith-filled lives.  
Some follow your call in private, silent lives as hermits;  
some choose to follow you with lives lived as virgins and  
widows;  
while others choose public lives of vowed men and women  
as religious brothers and sisters.  
Abundantly give to these men and women the courage to  
follow their call as witnesses to your gifts and faith and service  
to the world.

We ask this in faith  
through the name of Jesus our Savior.  
Amen.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout (both salvation and human) history there have been those who have made claims on Christianity or who have said that “God told them...”. I am not going to tell you that God is or is not speaking through them – that would be presumptuous of me to say “yea” or “nay” to whether or not God is using these folks to “promote” His message. I do know, and can say, that those who presume to speak for God had better be doing so, or woe to them!

Today’s readings reflect the theme of divine authority. It is seen in the prophetic utterings of Moses, the exhortation of St. Paul and the power with which Jesus exercises (or should I say “exorcises”, in the case of today’s gospel?) His authority. Moses is ready to move on from the mission given him by God; the promise Moses makes that another prophetic voice will come forward is meant to give comfort to the Israelite community. The continuity of this relationship comes through that prophetic relationship God has with His people. In the second reading, St. Paul makes it clear that one should focus in on one’s calling; for reasons of “keeping focus”, Paul feels it better that if one is to serve God, it would be better for them not to be married. This is not to say that married folks *can't* serve the Lord, but it can be a “distraction”. In today’s gospel, the authority with which Jesus exercises His ministry is clearly seen by friend (disciples) and foe (demons) alike.

This idea of divine authority comes through in our lives as well. If one is to presume to speak for God, one had better know about what one is talking. Such a person who feels the need to communicate the desires of the Almighty One had better have their own “house” in order. This is not to say that one need be perfect to engage in ministry and mission – far from it; often times one is who is “flawed”, but who has met and overcome those same difficulties. One who does feel “called” to speak for God, however, had better have communicated (through prayer) with God before making such a bold, public proclamation.

We are called, by virtue of our baptism, to speak our faith with conviction and authority. We are called, as Catholic-Christians, to “speak the truth in love” when it comes to our faith. May we have the courage to speak these truths. May we also have the courage to “know what we don’t know” and never presume to speak those things over which we have no mastery, authority or knowledge. May we know, through prayerful consideration, to know the difference between the two! May God continue to reveal Himself to us, so that we may bring to the world all of the good things God has in store for us.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

# MINISTRY NEWS

## Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at [Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### Adult Confirmation Classes

Classes will be beginning soon for any adult who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation but is looking to do so. Please contact Matt Brady for more information.

### Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

Our next sandwich making night will be February 19 at 6:30 pm at St. Ann. All are welcome! This counts as service hours for Confirmation and for anyone else who needs them.

### Soup and Stations

On Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> we will be hosting a potluck soup supper at 6 pm at St. John followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7 pm.

Share a bowl of soup with your friends as we gather together for fellowship before we pray. All are welcome and you do not need to bring soup to join us.

### January Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is January 28<sup>th</sup> at the 6:15 Mass. There will be contemporary music and Fr. Paul will make his homily relevant to the life of our young people.

We also invite any of our teens who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your teen wants to do one of these things, please contact Matt Brady.

### February Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is February 4<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 Mass. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass.

If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading please contact Matt Brady.

An offer of invitation from Nancy Smith, Director of the Holy Cross Retreat Center:

Consider yourself invited to discern a wonderful Retreat opportunity at the Holy Cross Retreat House held on various weekends from October-April. Kevin and I have lived in Cursillo, and either of us would be happy to sponsor you!

Cursillo means "a short course in Christianity".

Cursillo is more than a retreat. It is a dynamic Christian seminar. Participants are given practical insights into the everyday life of faith and service. Through prayer, reflection, group activities, and fellowship, the weekend is designed to deepen and round out what one has learned about Christ.

There is time for reflection and silence, and plenty of songs, laughter, discussion, prayer, liturgies, and breaks to make it a most enjoyable experience.

Winter/Spring Dates:

February 1—4 (Men)

February 22—25 (Women)

March 21—24 (Men)

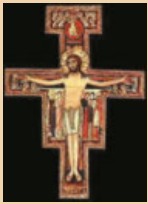
April 25—28 (Women)

October 24– 27 (Men)

November 21-24 (Women)



The retreat costs \$195 for the weekend and includes program materials, lodging, and meals. Please reach out if the cost prevents you from joining us, as help is always available.



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

This past weekend I attended my Franciscan fraternity’s monthly meeting. It is a small but lively gathering (this month consisting of eight of our members), one which I look forward to each month. We begin with social time, catching up with one another’s goings on over the past month. We then move into prayer time, directing our personal prayer through some of the common prayers of the Church and the Franciscan life (including the Liturgy of the Hours, the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Office of the Passion (Francis of Assisi)). Finally, we move into “ongoing formation”. In our latest meeting’s ongoing formation, we have been tackling Fr. Murray Bodo’s treatment of St. Francis of Assisi’s “Canticle of the Creatures”. In “unpacking” the Canticle, Fr. Bodo gets to the heart of the matter in this beautiful poem in which St. Francis brings to life his love of nature and love of God. Once again, for your reflection, here is this beautiful poem for your reflection:

### CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.  
Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,  
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your  
love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no one living can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.  
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks  
and serve Him with great humility.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
Church in Latin America**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
Snow & Heat Fund**

**“The trade in human beings, a modern form of slavery, ... violates the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters and constitutes a true crime against humanity.” —Pope Francis**

You may not see the problem, but it’s there. The US State Department estimates there are 24.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide. This is not something that occurs only in dark alleys in the far corners of the Earth, though. It’s happening around the world every day.

Human trafficking is considered modern-day slavery, and there are more slaves today than at any time in history.

“They are hidden from view. You don't recognize them in the back kitchens, shops, gas stations and in hospitality. They are also tucked away in fields. They don't come out and ask for help. It's a different kind of slavery than long ago,” says Dr. Lucy Steinitz, Catholic Relief Services senior technical advisor for protection. “They are not in shackles or on farms. People are coerced into harsh employment under horrible conditions, and then have no freedom to leave. They are beaten, violated and told they are worthless—that no one else wants them anymore.”

There are 3 ways you can help stop human trafficking:

### **1. Purchase a Gift for Trafficking Survivors**

After escape or rescue, trafficking survivors remain at great risk until they can re-establish their lives. CRS’ kits provide a month’s supply of food, medicine, bedding, clothing and hygiene items.

### **2. Prevent Human Trafficking**

The best response to human trafficking is to prevent people from being trafficked in the first place. CRS’ work in agriculture and livelihoods, education, shelter, inclusive value chains, emergency response and recovery and other programming aims to help people prosper at home. Prosperity at home greatly reduces the false enticements of the trafficking trade.

### **3. Take Action**

If you witness suspected human trafficking or other forms of exploitation, speak up. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has been a national leader in advocacy and education efforts related to sex and labor trafficking. These resources can help you take action if you believe there are human trafficking victims in your community. Human trafficking may be a crime against humanity, but as a human you can be the light.

Cr.s.org

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



### 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.

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, William Neyman, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Karen & Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Eileen Doherty & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



**Please let the Rectory know if your loved ones should remain on the prayer list. Or if someone was removed and should be added again.. Thank you for your assistance.**

## LENTEN INFORMATION

### Ash Wednesday

**Mass at St. John's — 9:00 AM**  
**Mass at St. Ann's — 7:00 PM**  
**Service (with Ashes) at St. John's — 4 PM**

### The Light is On For You (Reconciliation) Wednesdays from 6:30—8:00 PM

**Feb 21 — At St. John's**  
**Feb 28 — At St. Ann's**  
**Mar 06 — At St. John's**  
**Mar 13 — At St. Ann's**  
**Mar 20 — At St. John's**  
**Mar 27 — At St. Ann's**

### Stations of the Cross — Fridays at 7:00 PM

**Feb 16 — At St. John's**  
**Feb 23 — At St. Ann's**  
**Mar 01 — At St. John's (simple supper)**  
**Mar 07 — At St. Ann's**  
**Mar 15 — At St. John's**  
**Mar 22 — At St. Ann's (6:00 PM with First Church and hopefully a simple Supper)**

**(please cut out for quick reference)**

West Bridgewater Food Pantry  
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1  
West Bridgewater

**WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday each month**

**TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM**

**Tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal are needed.**

**Cash donations also accepted**

St Ann's  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379

To join please call — TINA ANTHONY  
508-245-5481

**Donations are always appreciated. Place Money and gift cards \$5-\$25 into the St. Vincent de Paul boxes located at the exits.**

**Because of your generosity, we were able to put together 16 toiletry bags for our homeless neighbors and were able to donate some toiletry items to the food bank.**

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

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

### PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

**First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30      Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30**

*Monday, February 5, 2024*  
*Monday, February 19, 2024*

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

**The Pantry is a little low — needed any food, especially tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal.**

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

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**



*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Mary Lou Heath  
William Keady  
Benjamin Andrea*

*May they rest in peace, and may their Families find comfort from their faith in Jesus Christ.*



*Please welcome the following children into our Collaborative.*

*Pray that this is the first step in a wonderful journey with God.*

*Olivia Faith Moreau  
Luna Faith Moreau  
Adrianna Winter Brandt Karavetos*

A kidnapped North Carolina teenager was rescued by police last week after signalling for help using a hand gesture she learned on TikTok.

The 16-year-old used the hand signal, originally meant as a nonverbal cue to help victims of domestic abuse, to signal distress to a passing motorist.

The 911 caller called Kentucky authorities Thursday to report that they saw the underage passenger flash the

This signal has also become the universal signal when anyone is abducted against their will.

Please make sure your children are aware of this Signal. It has saved



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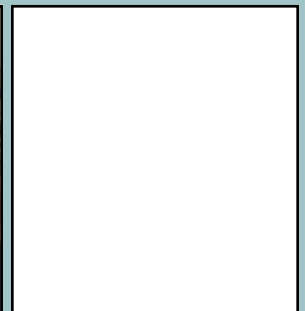
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**(800) 477-4574 x6372**

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