



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
January 29 2023
34th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." - Mt 5:10-12a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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 9-3 M-F
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 - 3PM Monday-Friday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.
In the Church

St Ann's
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 &
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.
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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, January 29, 2023

7:30 - Anyone suffering from mental or physical poor health

11:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

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

Sunday, February 5, 2022

7:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

11:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

6:15 - For all people suffering from loss

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, January 28, 2023

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:30 - (Ann) Nanci McLaughlin — Memorial

Saturday, February 4, 2022

4:00 – Joseph Sousa— Memorial

Sunday February 5, 2023

9:30 - Stephen Puffer — Memorial

Please keep the following parishioners who have left us to join our heavenly Father in your prayers.

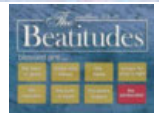
- Sean Patrick Besarick
- Anne Galvin
- Gloria Pelegrino
- Claire Pratt
- Bridget Ann Sullivan
- Frank Michienzi
- Normand Lozier
- Addie Lockney



Please welcome the following children who were recently baptized into the faith.

- Emilia Grace Curran*
- Vivian Paige Collins*
- Maeve Everleigh Sloan*
- Issac Stephen Boyd*
- Wyatt Gabriel Lark, Nathaniel Scott Lark,*
- Ariana Elyse Hirtle Lark, Charlotte June Lark*
- Benicio Ward Jouvin*
- Blake Abigail McKinney*
- Thomas Joseph Sheehan*
- Quinn Sandra Kendrick*

My Dear Friends in Christ,



A few years ago, I attended a seminar which “unpacked” the Beatitudes. The presenter spoke of the Beatitudes as a “blueprint”, outlining them as “Be-Attitudes”. In this way, they become more than just pious platitudes – they become concrete ways of living, acting and being. This is very important for us in the modern age, for we can look at many of Jesus’ pronouncements as ideals, things for which we can strive, but not really “livable”.

When we look at the Beatitudes, they are not ways of being which happen all at once; for all, however, they do happen. There are different times of our lives when we mourn, are called to be peacemakers, to be meek, to be merciful and the like. Many of these “ways of living”/“states in life” happen as a result of us living in the world; many happen because of our lives rooted in faith. When we lose a loved one, we mourn; when we see hurt, violence or injustice, we are called to be peacemakers; when we live our lives rooted in faith, we may be persecuted for righteousness’ sake. These are things which, in most cases, cannot be avoided.

I can remember growing up when things didn’t go our way, my mother’s standard response was “don’t worry, ‘your reward will be great in heaven’ (Mt 5:12)”. Of course, our standard response to that was “yeah, but what about now!?” We couldn’t understand how God could “turn a blind eye” (or so we thought at the time) to our trials and tribulations (which in most cases, truth be told, weren’t all that bad!). We were always taught that God knew all, saw all and cared for all. Why, then, did God not see what was going on in our lives? Well, as it turns out He did. There is that tricky little condition called the “permissive will of God”, which allows for the fact that God sees all, but allows things to happen for the greater good. This is why God allows us to mourn, to be persecuted, to act meekly – for our “reward will be great in heaven” (ibid.).

We go through our lives often times wondering if God is there and if so, where? We may get angry or even doubt of God’s existence. While it is fine to get angry (I think God can take it!), we should never let that anger take root, keeping us from seeing the presence of God in all things, even (maybe especially) in tragedies and sorrows. Our God knows suffering; our God knows death. Our God ultimately, though, is a God of life, and life abundantly. Let us always seek to see God’s presence in all things. Let us know that our God will never leave us abandoned and that He will bring us, ultimately, into His Kingdom of light, happiness and peace.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

MINISTRY NEWS

February Family Mass:

Our next Family Mass is Sunday, February 5th at 9:30 at St. John.

Our kids are invited to participate in the Mass as readers and gift bearers, and Fr. Paul calls them up to gather around the altar for the homily.

There is also coffee and donuts downstairs after Mass. All are welcome to attend!

We need some young volunteers to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and families who are willing to pay for/pick up the coffee and donuts. If interested, please email Matt Brady.

February Teen Mass:

Our next Teen Mass is Sunday, February 26th at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann.

We invite our teens to get involved as readers and gift bearers, and there is upbeat music and an inspiring, teen-related homily.

All are welcome to attend, not just teens and their families!

If your child is interested in reading or bringing up the gifts, please email Matt Brady.

VOLUNTEERS CAN MAKE A PARISH FLOURISH.

LET'S START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH MORE HELP AT BOTH CHURCHES.

7:30 — ST ANN'S — NEEDS LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

11:30 — ST ANN'S — NEEDS EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & GREETERS

6:15 — ST ANN'S — NEEDS USHERS & LECTORS

PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY IF YOU CAN HELP!

WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

MEMORIAL MASSES
Suggested donation \$25+



HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK — \$30+



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK
\$75+

BINGO IS IN FULL SWING

Thursdays — St Ann's Bingo

Doors open at 4 PM

Bingo starts 6:30 SHARP



Saturdays — Southeast Cyclone's Bingo

Doors open at 4 PM

Bingo starts at 6 PM SHARP



I Believe in One Lord Jesus Christ: Against Arius

As part of the inquiry and admissions process for men considering the permanent diaconate or the priesthood, the inquirers are asked if they have ever committed the crime of heresy, apostasy, or schism. According to the Code of Canon Law, heresy is defined as the “obstinate denial or obstinate doubt after the reception of baptism of some truth which is believed by divine and Catholic faith. (751)” Most people who believe in Jesus Christ and in the teachings of the Church do not intentionally choose to be a heretic—yet many Christians do not understand or know the fullness of the Church’s teaching and can believe things that if, uncorrected, may be heretical.

The bulk of the creed we profess at Mass is in response to a man, Arius, born in AD 256 in what is present day Libya. Arius became a priest in Alexandria in Egypt and developed his thinking on the relationship between the Father and the Son. In short, Arius taught that Jesus Christ is the begotten Son of God. He argued that if the Son of God was begotten of the Father, then there had to be a time when the Son did not exist—Jesus was not “co-eternal” with the Father. Arius taught that the Father, alone, was infinite, omniscient, all powerful, and eternal. The Father was greater than the Son and the Son was subordinate to the Father. Arius taught that the Father made the Son like God at his Baptism, but he was not divine the way that the Father is.

Arius’ teaching soon divided the Church in the late 200’s (third century) and carried well into the fourth century. The Roman Emperor, Constantine, called for a council of the Church at Nicaea to deal with the controversy and settle the question concerning Jesus’ true identity. It is not clear exactly how many of the Church’s bishops attended the council, but most scholars agree that around 250-300 were in attendance. At the end of the council, Arius’ thought was condemned by the bishops of the Church and the creed that we profess was written to define and teach orthodox teaching concerning the true nature and essence of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

At the conclusion of the council, the bishops were required to profess their faith and make an oath of fidelity to the teaching of the bishops at the council. All but two bishops made the sacred oath. Arius was condemned and exiled. In addition, the Emperor condemned Arius’ teaching saying that anyone who was discovered to possess any of Arius’ teachings will be guilty of a capital crime and put to death. Arius eventually softened the language he used to express his beliefs and was eventually allowed to return from his exile in Palestine.

Arius was, according to our definition of heresy, a heretic. He was obstinate in his denial of the faith held by the Church and taught by her Bishops. Though not heretics, many Christians, even today, hold onto teachings that are not consistent with the faith of the Church as taught and safeguarded by the bishops. Consider your answer to the following questions. Is the Eucharist truly the body and blood of Jesus Christ; Is Jesus God? I have asked these two questions to my students for twenty-five years. I have asked this question to 16-year-old high school students, and I have asked it to adult learners. Regardless of age, half of my students answered the two questions incorrectly. Hence the necessity of creeds and catechisms to define, teach, and explain what the Church believes



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today’s gospel, Jesus presents the Beatitudes. More than just pious platitudes, Jesus presents these “Blessings” as a blueprint as to how one can and should live their lives. They are by no means easy to achieve, but they are doable if one includes Christ in one’s life. St. Francis was no doubt influenced by them, and each one of them speaks volumes as to how Francis lived his life (post-conversion) and created the Order which bears his name. While they all speak to aspects of Francis’ life, the one which most obviously comes to mind is “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). The “Peace Prayer of St. Francis” may or may not have been written by him, but it is ascribed to him by most, and certainly fits into the milieu of his life.

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.
Amen.*

May this prayer, along with the Beatitudes, serve as a blueprint of Christian living for us all!

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Paul, OFS

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Diane Nicolar, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jeannette Shalginewicz, Jack & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

If you know that some of these people should be removed, Please call the Rectory so we can update the list.

**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.**

Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm**, and the **THIRD MONDAY from 3 pm to 4:30 pm**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

THE FOOD PANTRY

*Tuesday, February 6, 2023
Monday, February 20, 2023*

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 John's Memorial this week is for:

Ann (Nanci) McLaughlin

Mass

Wine, Hosts, & Sanctuary Lamps

Flowers for the Altar



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.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379**

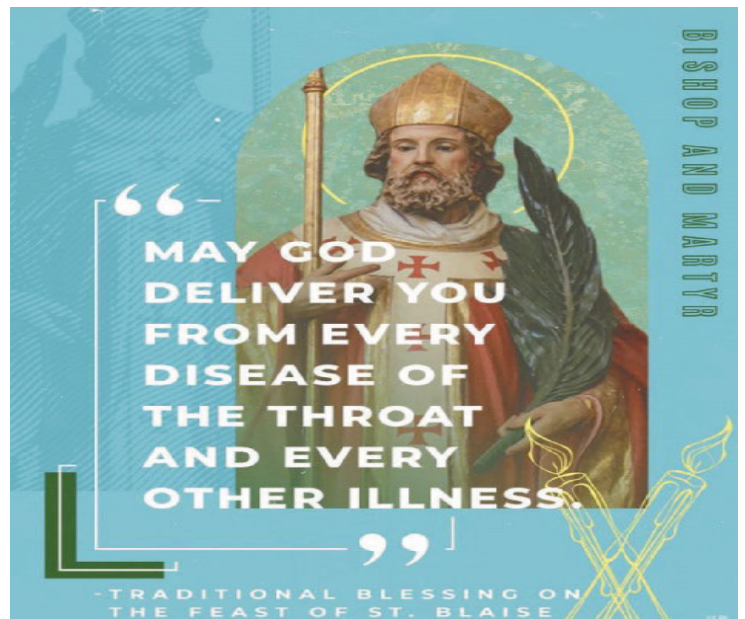
Due to very low funds, St. Vincent de Paul at St. Ann's is looking for donations for a calendar raffle — any gift cards (store, Amazon, restaurants or whatever you want to donate) wine baskets, movie baskets, just a few ideas, if you want to donate a monetary amount, please put it in an envelope labeled for the raffle and put it in SVdP boxes at the sides and back of St. Ann's Church. Any help you can give is extremely appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless

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
(508) 510-5274.**

The Blessing of the Throats will be done at all the masses the weekend of February 4th and 5th.



NEWS

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 week-ends 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 2-5 (Men)

February 23-26 (Women)

March 23-26 (Men)

April 20-23 (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.

To register/obtain more information, contact:

Holy Cross Retreat House
490 Washington St.
North Easton, MA 02356
508-238-2051



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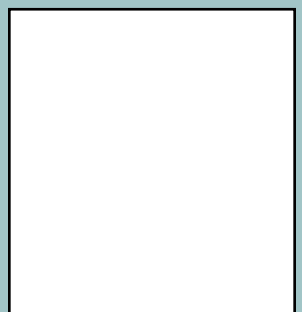


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