

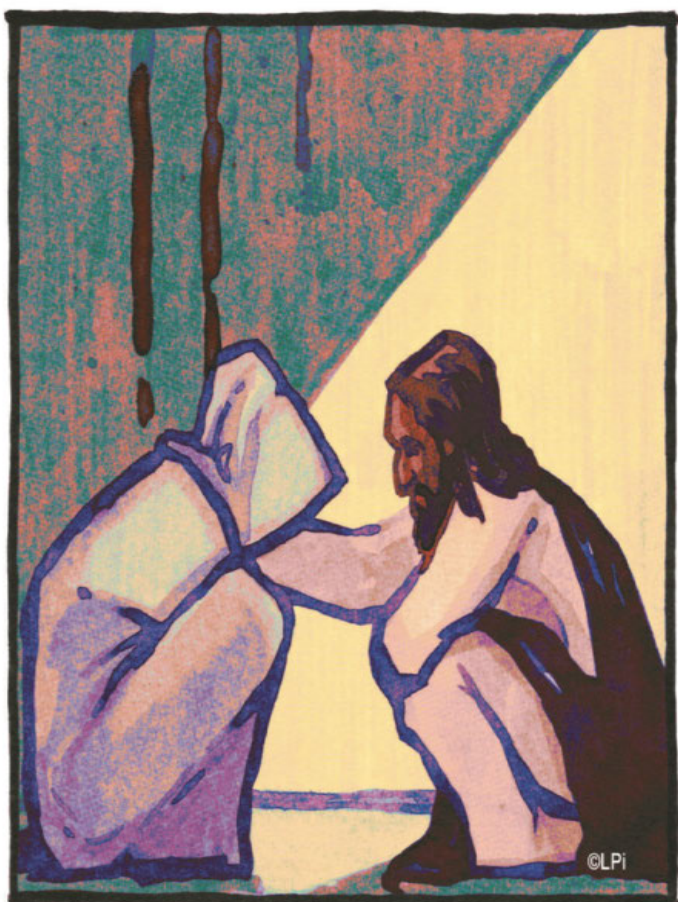


Saturday, 4:00 PM
 Sunday, 9:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 February 11, 2024
 The Sixth Sunday in
 Ordinary Time*



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



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
 9:00-3:00
 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
 Website: www.stjohneb.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

EUCHARISTIC 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.

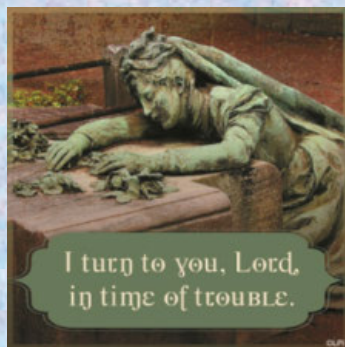
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

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



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, February 10 2024

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

Sunday, February 11, 2024

9:30 - Lyndsey Pellegrino — 17th Anniversary

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

Saturday, February 17, 2024

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

Sunday, February 18, 2024

9:30 - Rita Giovanoni — 6th Anniversary

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

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, February 11, 2024

8:00 - Emily Harrington — 9th Anniversary

Wendel Harrington — 17th Anniversary

Patrick Abati — 34th Anniversary

11:30 - Joseph Sousa — Birthday Remembrance

Sunday, February 18, 2024

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

11:30 --Joseph Thompson — 1st Anniversary

Christopher Thompson — 27th Anniv.

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.

If you should call St. John's Office number (508-378-4207) and you do not get an answer, please call St. Ann's number (508-586-4880)

Ash Wednesday

St John's at 9:00 AM, St. Ann's at 7:00 PM

Ashes only at 4:00 PM — St John's



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Illness, in ancient times, was often seen as a reflection of one's relationship with God. If one was healthy, one was "right with God"; conversely, if one was ill (say, with leprosy as seen in today's readings) one was seen as "unfavorable" to God. It was in this light that today's readings present a contrast as to how the revelation and presence of Jesus makes such a large difference in our lives.

In today's first reading, Moses sets forth the steps one would take if they found themselves leprous. They are to first present themselves to Aaron, or one of the priests, for inspection. If they are found to be with leprosy, they are declared "unclean" and are to announce themselves as such. The person with leprosy would then separate themselves from the community until such time as the leprosy leaves them (something which would be highly unlikely, since they couldn't get medical treatment). The members of the Israelite community (including the leprous person themselves) would not find this unusual, since it came from the priest.

Jesus, by contrast, takes a radically different approach to one with leprosy. Rather than follow the Mosaic Law, Jesus chooses a different "tack" by opting to unite Himself with the person with leprosy. This is radical not only in that it stands in contrast to Mosaic Law, but also in the fact that Jesus actually touches the person with leprosy. Even if one had sympathy for such a person, one would never actually choose to come into physical contact with that person. This is where Jesus shows us a "new way". Jesus is "moved with pity" (Mk 1:41) at the plight of the man with leprosy. He has been separated from the community by his condition; he is also seen as being "in sin", for the illness has to have a cause and the people automatically think it is because the man is not "right" with God. Jesus sees beyond all of this, choosing to align Himself with the man by not only physically touching the man, but also uniting the man back with the community through the Mosaic Law ("go, show yourself to the priest...") (Mk 1:44). In this way, Jesus once again shows Himself to be the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

Where is it in our lives that we need to, in humility, approach Jesus for healing? Perhaps we have a "broken" relationship which needs God's healing touch. Perhaps we have a physical malady in which we need to "align" our suffering to that of Christ who, Himself, knew what it meant to suffer. Perhaps we need to be an "agent" of healing, not being healed but bringing God's healing touch to someone. In whatever way healing needs to take place, let us be "vessels" of God's healing presence. May we know God's healing, and may we be unafraid to bring it to those who need it. May we look to God to heal us, bring His healing touch into the world, and celebrate this healing with all whom we meet.

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

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 1st we will be hosting a pot-luck 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.



Congratulations to our 2nd graders who received their First Reconciliation this weekend! We are very proud of them!

February Teen Mass

Our next Teen Mass is February 25th 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.

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)

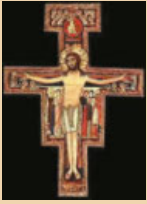
October 24– 27 (Men)

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



On Ash Wednesday, the liturgical season of Lent officially begins – the 40-day penitential period in preparation for Easter. However, in centuries past, saints like Francis of Assisi observed multiple “Lenten” periods throughout the year.

In the 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi devoted himself to prayer and fasting for 40-day periods four or five times a year. In addition to the traditional Lenten period preceding Easter, Francis would pray from the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29) to the Assumption of Mary (August 15), from the Assumption to Michaelmas (September 29), and for the four weeks preceding Christmas (Advent).

During these periods, he would suspend his apostolic ministries and withdraw to the hermitages. The hermitages were simple, austere places up in the hills and mountains, away from the towns and cities. Thomas of Celano, St. Francis’ first biographer, wrote: “In the clefts of the rock he would build his nest and in the hollow places of the wall his dwelling.” The most well-known Franciscan hermitage near Assisi is known as the Carceri. Founded by St. Francis, Franciscan friars remain there to this day. Throughout his life, St. Francis founded some 20 other hermitages in central Italy. The hermitages were so important to St. Francis that he wrote a Rule for the Hermitages, describing how the friars should pray and conduct themselves while living as hermits. He said that some friars should dedicate themselves exclusively to prayer, while other friars should look after the needs of the community. Then they should switch roles.

St. Francis’ early biographers show us what happened to him during these periods of prayer during his Lents. Thomas of Celano wrote: “His whole soul thirsted after Christ, and he dedicated not only his whole heart, but his whole body as well, to him.” He also wrote about Francis and prayer: “For his safest haven was prayer; not prayer of a single moment, or idle or presumptuous prayer, but prayer of long duration; full of devotion, serene in humility. If he began late, he would scarcely finish before morning. **Walking, sitting, eating, or drinking, he was always intent upon prayer.** He would go alone to pray at night in churches abandoned and located in deserted places, where, under the protection of divine grace, he overcame many fears and many disturbances of mind.” It becomes apparent that through prayer, Francis became more and more a channel of God’s grace and love. These deep, intense periods of prayer transformed St. Francis. Thomas of Celano said of Francis: “Thus he would direct all his attention and affection toward the one thing he asked of the Lord, not so much praying as becoming totally prayer.” He said that after praying, Francis was changed almost into another man – another Christ.

At the end of the 40 days, Francis would leave his hermitage and go back down to the valley, but not without being transformed and becoming more Christ like. Then he would dedicate himself to serving God’s people: the lepers, the community, the Church. Few among us can dedicate ourselves exclusively to prayer for 40 days. However, as we begin our Lent, may St. Francis’ example guide and inspire us on our own journey.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. Paul, OFS

**THIS WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR
Bills**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR
Bills**



Roman Catholics must fast and **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 and Good Friday, March 29, 2024. Additionally, they must abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent.

Why do Catholic fast during Lent:

Fasting, along with [prayer](#) and helping the poor, is one of the three spiritual disciplines of Lent. These work as a three-fold conversion practice as we prepare for the joys of the Easter season. Fasting adds a serious edge to your prayer life. It is a prayer practice that involves denying yourself something in order to increase your spiritual awareness, strengthen a commitment, or petition God for something you or another person really needs.

Fasting is also about detachment - [separating yourself from something that you have become overly attached to](#). It’s a way of reclaiming your spiritual strength and regaining some balance in your life. Practicing some denial of our wants and needs in small ways can help us grow in self-discipline and the ability to put off momentary comfort for a larger, more important goal.

Fasting should not be misused to gain praise or sympathy, to manipulate, or to harmfully affect the body. Done correctly, it can be a spiritual practice that can [take your prayer to a new and different level!](#)

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Each year WWME honors and salutes the beauty of every couple and priest’s faithfulness, commitment to love and sacrifice in the joy of daily married life and the priesthood.



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, Louise Ferrari & 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

LENTEN INFORMATION

Ash Wednesday — February 14, 2024

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.

The Unfailing Goodness of God

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

**NEVER MISS
OUR BULLETIN!**

SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed
to you every week.

CHURCH NAME
CATHOLIC CHURCH

VISIT WWW.PARISHESONLINE.COM



C.J. PLUMBING
PLUMBING HEATING GAS FITTING

Trusted on the South Shore since 1984
 Serving Brockton to Bridgewater & Everywhere In-Between

Joseph Gouthro
 License # 31320
 Proud Parishioner
 Business Partner
(508) 378-1271

Coffey


DANCE CENTER

Jazz · Tap · Ballet · Hip Hop

EAST BRIDGEWATER
(508) 378-7043
www.coffeydance.com
Proud St John Parishioner

E. WATSON
Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • SITEWORK



Eric Watson O: 508-378-4543
 East Bridgewater C: 774-259-0278

*Local reliable service &
 Friend of the St John's Parish*

Ockers
TECHNOLOGY... FOR TOMORROW

- Computer & A/V Solutions Provider
 - Data / Video Wiring Installation
 - Network Configuration, Installation & Support
 - Security Systems
 - Public Address Systems
508.586.4642

830 W. Chestnut St. | Brockton
St. John's Parish's Longtime Friend

CONLEY
Funeral & Cremation Service

Stability ♦ Family ♦ Integrity

Brockton, Massachusetts
508-586-0742
www.conleyfuneralhome.com
*Longtime Friends of
 St. John & St. Ann Parishes.*

Blanchard Funeral Chapel



Steven J. Leonard,
 Funeral Director

Plymouth St. (Rt. 58 at Rotary) • Whitman
www.blanchardfc.com | 781-447-0170

SUPPORT OUR PARISH



IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMedAlert!™ **You Need**

At HOME and AWAY! As Low As **\$19⁹⁵** /mo.

- ✓ Ambulance/Police
- ✓ Family/Friends
- ✓ GPS & Fall Alert

CALL NOW! 800.808.9294
md-medalert.com





Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO





4lpi.com/adcreator

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide





Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | **833-287-3502**

FREE AD DESIGN

with purchase of this space

CALL 800-477-4574



ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS, GUTTERS



508-441-3161

Parishioner



LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Andrew Martinez

amartinez@4LPi.com
(800) 477-4574 x6372

catholicmatch®
 Massachusetts



CatholicMatch.com/MA



EAST BRIDGEWATER INSURANCE AGENCY

"Let the Spagone Family insure your family"

www.ebinsuranceinc.com
508-378-3991

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!