



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

February 21, 2021

**The First Sunday
Of Lent**



St. John the Evangelist

St Ann



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

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 9-4 M-Th

For both Churches

Currently we are working from home.

**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

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

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
508-586-4880

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnnebridge@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: Stephanie Gaboury
directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com
508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, February 20, 2020

4:00—William McCormack — 8th Anniversary

Sunday, February 21, 2020

8:30 - Rita Giovanni — 3rd Anniversary

Saturday, February 27, 2020

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, February 28, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, February 20, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, February 21, 2020

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, February 27, 2020

5:30 - Michael Bonner — 6 Month Anniversary

Sunday, February 28, 2020

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

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.**

Weekly Offertory

Feb 3 - Feb 9, 2021

ST JOHN

Online \$ 794

Mail \$3,119

Mass \$2,730

TOTAL \$6,643

Grand Annual To Date \$11,610

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$1,850

Mass \$1,330

TOTAL \$3,180

Grand Annual To Date \$12,405

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.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

HAPPY LENT! To many, these two words seem mutually exclusive; after all, what is there to be “happy” about during Lent? Fair enough. If we look at the full definition of the word, however, beyond a sense of being “joyful” or “merry”, we can look at Lent in the sense of being “satisfied”, “fortunate” or “prosperous”. Lent is a time when we “take stock” of how we are living in relationship to how God wishes us, and calls us, to live. In this sense, when we fulfill who and what God is calling us to be, we can truly be “happy”.

When we look at Noah, he should be happy. He has been spared from the flood because of his faithfulness to God, and he is rewarded with a new covenant. It is in this covenant that God re-establishes His bond with us, a bond which was broken by the sin of Adam and Eve and is further damaged by the actions of the people of Noah's time. God comes to regret having made humanity and He seeks, through the flood, to “wash away” the sin of humanity and start again with a new relationship, a new covenant. It is in this that humanity gets a “spiritual ‘do-over’” and, once again, has a relationship with God based not on fear, but on love.

It is in this light that St. Peter writes to the early Christian communities of his day. He writes to the people about Christ's obedience to the will of the Father. Peter contrasts this with the disobedience which brings about the flood, a flood by which all but Noah and his kin are destroyed. This action, Peter tells the people, prefigures baptism and establishes Jesus as the One who brings a new covenant to the people. This covenant, formed in the blood of Christ, is one in which the people are saved from their sins. It is by the death and resurrection of Jesus that we are saved, Peter tells the people. It is by our baptism, which is “not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience” (1 Pt 3:21), that we are joined to Jesus.

It is in this same sense of union that we hear of Jesus in the desert in today's gospel passage. After Jesus' baptism, He is led into the desert by the Spirit. Jesus is tested, but does not succumb to this temptation; Jesus remains faithful. Jesus then, after John's arrest, proclaims the appearance of the Kingdom. It is not merely something which we await, Jesus reminds us, but is something in our midst. May we have the courage to recognize the presence of the Kingdom at work in our lives, and may we have the boldness to proclaim the appearance (and future fulfillment) of the Kingdom to all whom we meet.

A Happy Lent to All,

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, 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, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, George Lepine, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dennis Green, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen Daly, Baby Abigail, Bryan Senn, Rene Pearson & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. They are all around us: children and the old, the sick and the suffering, families and individuals, next-door neighbors and people in lands faraway.

Whatever we give should be something of ourselves, something that costs us. We will receive blessings from God in return.

Pope Francis said in his Ash Wednesday homily, 'Lent is also a privileged time for prayer', He quoted St. Augustine, who described fasting and almsgiving as "the two wings of prayer," because they are signs of humility and charity.

Prayer offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Prayer provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns and sins. We should pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

During Lent do you think God needs the chocolate, candy, and other trivial things we give up? No He needs us to look deep within ourselves and reflect. He wants our hearts.

So when you fast, do not proclaim it, do not look hard done by, smile and go about your day happy. We are told this in the Bible.

In fact he wants us to stop our obsession with the ME and start thinking about what truly matters in life. www.catholic.org/lent/story.php?id=54465

**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 HAS NEW HOURS:

The Food Pantry has changed its hours for the winter.

Monday, Feb. 1 - 1:00—4:00

Saturday, Feb 20. - 10:00—11:30

Monday, Mar. 1 - 1:00—4:00

Saturday, Mar. 20 - 10:00—11:30

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

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER

@ 774-240-8095

or jchbaker@msn.com

P O Box 47 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.

This Week in Ministry

2.22.21-2.28.21

Confirmation Students: Outdoor Mass!

All grade 10 students and their families are invited to a special outdoor Mass on **Sunday February 28th at 3:00 PM in the St. Ann's parking lot**. Families are invited to bring chairs to sit outside, or can listen to Mass from inside their cars! At the Mass, all Confirmation students will be given forms to prepare them for their upcoming Sacrament. We look forward to seeing you all there!



“Whether one is a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian, how you live your life is proof that you are or are not fully His. We cannot condemn or judge or pass words that will hurt people. We don’t know in what way God is appearing to that soul and what God is drawing that soul to: therefore, who are we to condemn anybody?”

-Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa, February 22nd

Challenge of the Week: Remember that God wants us to love others the way He loves us, no matter our struggles and imperfections. This week, practice thinking before you speak to show mercy and love before jumping to judgement. Consider taking a breath or saying a quick prayer before giving a response you may regret.

“Not by bread alone” Recipe Contest!

Do you love to cozy up in the kitchen on a chilly blustery day?

It’s time to share those talents with our very first Recipe Contest! No need to be an expert chef;

whether it’s a simple snack, a tasty dessert, or a well-honed family favorite, all entries are welcome! There will be prizes in various categories!

Send your recipe by Friday, March 5th to directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com



Stephanie Gaboury
Director of Ministries, T.I.C. Collaborative

directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only; Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith” (James 1:22; 2:18)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Lenten Supper Reflections "The Life of Christ"

Tuesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Every Lent, the Church invites us to the three traditional practices of prayer, fasting and alms giving. This year, our traditional Lenten Suppers/Reflections will be in a virtual setting. Please join us for one or any of these 5 reflections. retreats@glastonburyabbey.org

February 23

"The Eternal Word/ Sophia, The Incarnation"

Fr. Timothy Joyce, OSB



March 9

"Public Ministry of Jesus: The Kingdom of God"

Fr. Albrecht
Nyce, OSB



March 23

"Resurrection /Ascension: The Cosmic Christ,"

Fr. Timothy
Joyce, OSB



March 2

"The Infancy Narratives"

Fr. Nicholas
Morcone, OSB



March 16

"The Passion Narratives,"

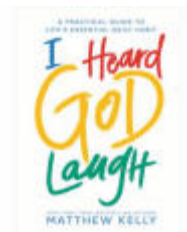
Dr. Regina
Boisclair, Obl.
OSB

Sometimes it feels like the culture has reduced Lent—an amazing and powerful 40-day journey of prayer, fasting, and giving—into giving up sweets.

Well, we aren't having it! Join us for BEST LENT EVER this year to go deeper than "what did you give up?" and experience prayer in a whole new way.

Who will you become?

Let's find out!



This Lent, Explore the Possible!

Feed Your Soul with Prayer this Lent!

Nothing will transform your life so completely, absolutely, and forever like really learning how to pray. That's why this year's BEST LENT EVER journeys through Matthew Kelly's latest book, *I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit*.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through all forty days of Lent, you will receive a daily email with a short video to help you reconnect with yourself and your God.

If you choose to throw yourself into this experience, we promise you that you will be surprised by what God can do in your life with just an email, a short video and an open heart. So this year, don't just sign up for BEST LENT EVER, have your best lent ever

Go to Dynamic Catholic and sign up!!!!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

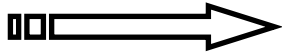
The Unlikely Suspects

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikely suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.



Fr. Donald Skerry SVD passed away peacefully at 7:25 A.M. Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at the Techny residence. In Chicago. His health, especially his memory, had steadily declined for the last several months.

Fr. Skerry was a dedicated part of the St. John Faith Community for years, serving masses, assisting with sacraments, being a constant example of someone filled with God's grace. He was a good friend to Fr. Wally, Fr. Paul and to us all.

May Fr. Skerry rest in peace and receive his reward in heaven with Almighty God.

Come Unto Me and I will give you Rest!

Please keep Fr. Skerry in your prayers.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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