



*SAIN'T JOHN*

**Together in Christ  
Collaborative**

**Eighth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

*February 27, 2022*

**MASKS NOT REQUIRED**



*SAIN'T ANN*



**8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

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](mailto:stanns@comcast.net)**

**Website: [stannswb.com](http://stannswb.com)**

**Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th  
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](mailto:stjohnebridge@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.stjohneb.org](http://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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday**

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

**St John's**

**Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday: 10:30 a.m.**

**Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday**

**9:00 a.m.**

**In the Church**

**St Ann's**

**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday: 8:30 a.m. &**

**6:15 p.m. Life Teen Mass**

**w/ Drive up option**

**Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.**

**9:00 a.m.**

## SAINT ANN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant:** Arlene Stefano

stanns@comcast.net

508-586-4880

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. These 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

**3:00—3:30 at Saint Ann's Church or**  
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 JOHN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad

stjohnebridge@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:** Nancy Goggin

directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

617-639-4215



# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

# A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

## St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

### Saturday, February 26, 2022

4:00—Parishioners of Saint Ann

### Sunday, February 27, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For those who are in power, that they lead with God in their ear.

### Saturday, March 5, 2022

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

### Sunday March 6, 2022

8:30 - James (jim) Baker — Birthday Remem.

6:15 - For those who have no one to pray for them

\*\*\*\*\*

## St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

### Saturday, February 26, 2022

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

### Sunday, February 27, 2022

10:30—Mary Kenn — Month’s Mind

### Saturday, March 5, 2022

5:30 — Parishioners of Saint John

### Sunday, March 6, 2022

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

## THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

### Weekly Offertory

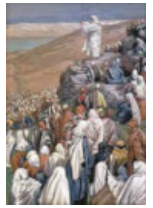
Feb 8, 2022- Feb 14, 2022

ST ANN		ST JOHN	
Online	N/A	Online	\$ 777
Mail	\$ 1,195	Mail	\$ 1,295
Mass	\$ 2,441	Mass	\$ 1,485
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,636</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,560</b>

Feb 1, 2022- Feb 7, 2022

ST ANN		ST JOHN	
Online	N/A	Online	\$ 1,042
Mail	\$ 845	Mail	\$ 565
Mass	\$ 2,900	Mass	\$ 3,491
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,745</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,098</b>

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Back when I was in seminary, I would help out with retreats run by the Office for Young Adults. During these retreats, we would engage in what were called “trust walks”. We would pair up those on retreat and blindfold one of them; the one who was not blind-folded would then walk the other through a makeshift obstacle course. The “trust” element came into play at this point, with the blindfolded person having to trust that the non-blindfolded person would not lead them astray, causing them to stumble and fall. The point of the exercise was to illustrate that we are called to trust God, who we cannot “see”, to lead us on a path that would not cause us to stumble and fall.

Jesus, in today’s gospel speaks, in a way, about the blind leading the blind. In interacting with our brothers and sisters, if one is to “lead” the other they must have the “vision” to do so. One cannot both be blind, or else they would both stumble and fall. The same is true for the other analogies which Jesus uses in today’s gospel. Jesus ventures a bit into hyperbole with the image of the splinter and the wooden beam (Lk 6:41-42), but His point is still valid: one cannot help another to see if their own vision is so compromised as to the point of blindness themselves. Finally, Jesus moves into the realm of good and evil. Jesus’ image of the good and bad trees and the fruit they produce speak to the fact that if one’s spiritual “roots” are poisoned (by sin), one cannot produce anything but bad fruit. The image of good and evil is furthered by what lay in one’s own heart. In the gospel passage’s conclusion, Jesus tells us that it is “from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks” (Lk 6:45). Jesus tells us that if one’s heart is evil, one speaks evil and if one’s heart is good, it will speak only of good things.

This gospel passage (much like last week’s gospel, which precedes this passage) is less of a condemnation as it is a “cautionary tale”. Today’s gospel serves as a warning to us as to how to live our lives. We must first look within our own heart to examine motives and motivations, and rid ourselves of any malice, evil, or wrong thinking, none of which is how the Lord wants us to live our lives. May we have the courage to look deep within ourselves and “root out” anything that is not of God. May we know that God wishes to only speak that which is beneficial, good, and fruitful. May we have the courage to live in accord with God’s ways and help others to do the same – not lording it over them, but doing so in humility and love.

Have a Blessed Week,  
Fr. Paul

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





## MY FRANCISIAN JOURNEY

In our second reading this weekend, St. Paul speaks to the Corinthians about mortality and immortality. He speaks of the fact that “death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54) and that the “sting” of death is taken away by the victory of Jesus over death with His own Resurrection. St. Francis speaks of death in terms of familiarity, as he refers to the moment of our earthly passing as greeting “Sister Death”. In putting it in these terms, one should almost welcome death as one would a loving sibling. However, this begs the question: “Do we?”.

Recently, I was reading about St. Francis’ death and I was struck at how the author recounts that “Nothing was to be lacking in the life of the Poverello to make it a perfect masterpiece, and his death was the harmonious culmination of his life.” To be sure, Francis lived out his sainthood here on earth, and everything he did was for the Lord. So, one might wonder, why would his death be any different? If you are like me, we would like to think that one faces death with a certain grace and acceptance, but so often this is not the case. It has been my experience in ministry that many fear death, and many more prolong life to the point of excess by holding on to this life beyond what (perhaps) even God would want us to do. As Catholic-Christians, however, we should look at death as just the ending of this life...not the end of all life. When we pass on from this life, Catholic-Christians believe that we have a glorious chapter ahead of us, that of Eternal Life, fullness of life with God, Mary and the Saints, and all of our loved ones gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

This is how Francis approached death. Just as in life, Francis at the time of his death took it as an opportunity to not only unite himself more deeply with Christ but also as an opportunity to teach his followers that death is not to be feared, but embraced – embraced as “Sister Death”. May we have such courage, such joy, when it comes our time to meet the Lord. May we, like Francis, not cease from singing the praises of God at the time of our earthly departure. May we embrace Sister Death when it is our time to go Home to the Lord. May the graces of Eternal Life be ours one day, so that we may join with St. Francis and all the Saints, along with our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



## THE DEACON’S COLUMN

### “Let Us Pray to the Lord”

When was the most recent time when someone asked you to pray for them? Was it a family member, neighbor, co-worker, or friend? What human need did they specifically have that prompted the request? Perhaps they were facing a difficult medical diagnosis or having a surgical procedure? If not, then maybe they were discerning a difficult choice or had to make a hard decision. Praying for people is a nice thing to do for others. However, the significance of praying for each other is connected to our baptismal identity and to the Liturgy we celebrate every Sunday.

At baptism we became “another” Christ in the world. Through our baptism we are brought into the mystical body of Christ and share in Jesus’ priestly ministry. Every Christian shares in the common priesthood of all believers. As such, we intercede on behalf of the world for the salvation of souls. In an earlier reflection on the Eucharist, I defined liturgy as “the participation of God’s people in God’s work of salvation.” As members of Christ’s Body, we participate and share in the salvation of the world. Through the “Prayer of the Faithful”, the assembly exercises its common priesthood giving voice, not only to their particular needs, but the needs of the whole world. For this reason, the prayer of the faithful is often referred to as the “General Intercessions”. Because the scope of the prayer is so large and it is an exercise of the entire people of God, this part of the Mass is also called the “Universal Prayer”.

The Second Vatican Council reintroduced the Universal Prayer into the Mass during its reform of the Mass. However, from ancient times, the Prayers of the Faithful were an integral part of the Eucharistic Celebration. But as Christianity spread throughout the Roman World and between East and West, the Prayers of the Faithful were dropped from the Liturgy in the reforms of Pope Gelasius I at the very end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. However, we have an excellent example of what the ancient Prayers of the Faithful looked like before in the first five hundred years and we pray them once a year on Good Friday. Liturgical reforms usually are centered on the Mass and since the Good Friday Service is not a Mass, its form and structure have been virtually the same through the centuries and even millennia.

The General Intercessions is the last element of the Liturgy of the Word and serves as a bridge to the Liturgy of the Eucharist that follows. As the prayer of the common priesthood of all believers, the Universal Prayer is united to the offerings of bread and wine that are presented to the priest for consecration. The intercessions voiced in the prayers of the faithful are echoed when the priest prays the Eucharistic Prayer—thus uniting the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

# March Religious Ed Schedule

## **March 6<sup>th</sup>: Grades 1,3,4 and 9**

**Grade 1:** Class will meet at St John's hall at 9:25am, followed by 10:30am Mass. Students will attend Mass as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children are welcome to sit with their Parents at Mass.

**Grades 3 and 4:** will attend 10:30am Mass at St John's as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children may sit with their parents at Mass. Class will follow Mass and go until 12:30pm

**Grade 9:** will attend 6:15pm Mass at St Ann's, followed by class until 8:30pm.

## **March 13<sup>th</sup>: Grades 2, 5,6,7, 8 and 10**

**Grade 2:** Class will meet at St John's hall at 9:25am, followed by 10:30am Mass. Students will attend Mass as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children are welcome to sit with their Parents at Mass.

**Grades 5 and 6:** will attend 10:30am Mass at St John's as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children may sit with their parents at Mass. Class will follow Mass and go until 12:30pm

**Grades 7 and 8:** will have class St Ann's from 5:00pm until 6:00pm, followed by 6:15 Mass.

**Grade 10:** will attend 6:15pm Mass at St Ann's, followed by class until 8:30pm.

## **March 20<sup>th</sup>: Grades 1,3,4 and 9**

**Grade 1:** Class will meet at St John's hall at 9:25am, followed by 10:30am Mass. Students will attend Mass as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children are welcome to sit with their Parents at Mass.

**Grades 3 and 4:** will attend 10:30am Mass at St John's as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children may sit with their parents at Mass. Class will follow Mass and go until 12:30pm

**Grade 9:** will attend 6:15pm Mass at St Ann's, followed by class until 8:30pm.

## **March 27<sup>th</sup>: Grades 2, 5,6,7, 8 and 10**

**Grade 2:** Class will meet at St John's hall at 9:25am, followed by 10:30am Mass. Students will attend Mass as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children are welcome to sit with their Parents at Mass.

**Grades 5 and 6:** will attend 10:30am Mass at St John's as a class. If parents choose to attend the Mass, the children may sit with their parents at Mass. Class will follow Mass and go until 12:30pm

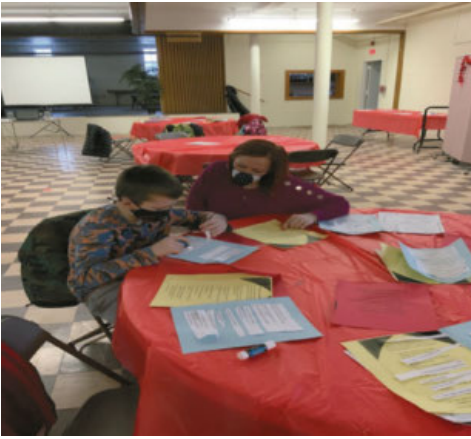
**Grades 7 and 8:** will have class St Ann's from 5:00pm until 6:00pm, followed by 6:15 Mass.

**Grade 10:** will attend 6:15pm Mass at St Ann's, followed by class until 8:30pm.

### **Important Grade 2 Notice!!!!!!**

We have rescheduled the Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
Due to the time lost because of Covid, we have needed to reschedule  
First Reconciliation.

The New Date for  
**First Reconciliation is**  
**Saturday, April 2nd**



The Religious ED Classes at work in the newly renovated Saint John's Hall.



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

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy, Joan Thompson & 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

**Winter dates and hours** will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and the **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

### THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

In the Gospel today, Jesus uses images in speaking to his disciples: "Can a blind man act as guide to a blind man?...Why look at the speck in your brother's eye when you miss the plank in your own?...A good tree does not produce decayed fruit...."

**It is true that donations come to the Society because a good person produces goodness from the good in their heart.**

*Monday, March 7, 2022 1—4 PM  
Saturday, March 19, — 10—11:30 AM*

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

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 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.



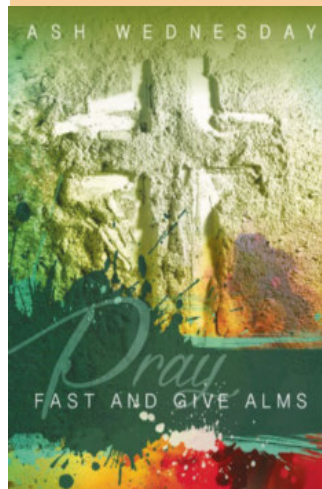
SAINT VINCENT de PAUL  
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379

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.

**Wednesday  
March 2nd**

### Distribution of Ashes

- 9:00 a.m. - Mass (St. John's)
- 4:00 p.m. - Prayer Service, with Distribution of Ashes (St. John's)
- 7:00 p.m. - Mass (St. Ann's)



Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

A summary of current practice:

- On Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent: Everyone of age 14 and up must abstain from consuming meat.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: Everyone of age 18 to 59 must fast, unless exempt due to usually a medical reason.

The USCCB also states that:

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Although some years past the USCCB declared that "the age of fasting is from the completion of the twenty-second year to the beginning of the sixtieth.", the USCCB page quoted above also references a "Complementary Norm" in its "More Information" section explaining the lower minimum age of 18.

In accordance with canon 1253 of the [1983 Code of Canon Law](#), the USCCB has also allowed<sup>[33]</sup> that some other form of penance for the traditional abstinence on all of the Fridays of the year, except for those Fridays in Lent, fulfills the obligation of penance.<sup>[33]</sup>

Also, according to the USCCB:

Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs – all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consomme, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are technically not forbidden. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-derived products (except foods such as gelatin, butter, cheese and eggs, which do not have any meat taste). Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.<sup>[34]</sup>

While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice.

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