



SAINT JOHN

***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

***Fourth Sunday of
Lent***

March 27, 2022



SAINT ANN

**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**

**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**

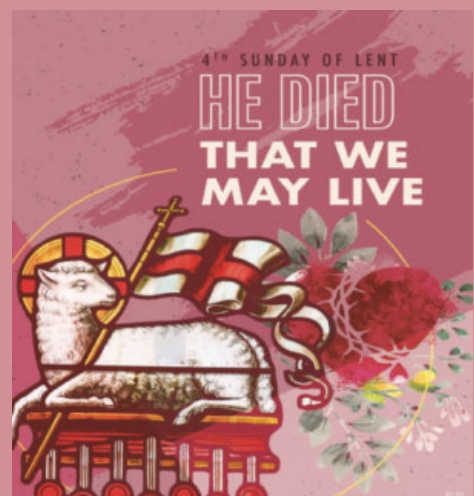


4th Sunday
OF LENT

*"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always;
everything I have is yours.'" - Lk 15:31*

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

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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: TBA
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, March 26, 2022

4:00— Manny & Mary Diaz — Memorial

Sunday, March 27, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For the people in the Ukraine

Saturday, April 2, 2022

4:00 - For the people in the Ukraine

Sunday April 3, 2022

8:30 - For world peace

6:15 - Parishioners of Saint Ann & Saint John

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, March 26, 2022

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, March 27, 2022

10:30— For the people in the Ukraine

Saturday, April 2, 2022

5:30 — Pat Solakoff — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, April 3, 2022

10:30 - Kim Russo — 3rd Anniversary

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekly Offertory

Mar 8, 2022 - Mar 15, 2022

**Thank you for the increase in offertory.
It is very needed and much appreciated.**

ST ANN		ST JOHN	
Online	N/A	Online	\$ not avail
Mail	\$ -0-	Mail	\$ 872
Mass	\$ 2,499	Mass	\$ 3,076
TOTAL	\$ 2,499	TOTAL	\$ 3,948

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU. Confessions

6:30— 8 PM

March 9 — St. John March 16 — St. Ann
March 23 — St. John March 30 — St. Ann
April 6 — St. John April 13 — St. Ann

LENT/EASTER DATES

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU — CONFESSIONS
WEDNESDAYS 6:30—8 PM (ck schedule)
HOLY THURSDAY —ST ANN’S — 7 PM
GOOD FRIDAY:
SEVEN LAST WORDS—ST JOHN 3 PM
GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION—
7 PM — ST JOHN’S
EASTER VIGIL — 8 PM — ST ANN’S

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Today the Church, on this Fourth Sunday of Lent, celebrates “Laetare Sunday”. This designation marks the (approximate) halfway point of our Lenten Season/Journey. I once came across a little (adapted) poem that speaks of this:

Roses are red, Violets are blue,
The vestments are pink, So Lent is halfway through.

A silly rhyme? Perhaps. But it gets the point across that we are at the mid-point of our Lenten journey. It also points out the fact that we have the option, and are encouraged, to break out the rose colored vestments, as the word “Laetare” means “rejoice” and rose is the liturgical color for rejoicing. But what are we rejoicing? Are we celebrating the fact that we have made it halfway through Lent and are still able to say that we have kept our Lenten sacrifice intact (which I hope you can say!)? Or, are we celebrating the fact that we are halfway towards celebrating the Paschal Mystery?

Today’s gospel ends in celebration, although it certainly doesn’t begin in that fashion. Jesus is giving a lesson to the Pharisees and scribes about welcoming the sinner (something with which the authorities of Jesus’ day had a problem), and He uses the “Parable of the Prodigal Son”. As we know, Jesus often spoke in parables, using them to teach a greater lesson. In the story of the Prodigal Son, a landowner’s son wishes to receive his share of the property now (before the father’s death); the father gives in to this request, much to his dismay I would imagine. After squandering the riches, and encountering a famine, the son comes to his senses. The son, however, is hesitant to approach the father, feeling unworthy to come home. After practicing what he will say (comparing himself to a hired hand, unworthy of anything more in the father’s eyes), he makes his way home. The father does not even wait for his son’s speech, embracing and kissing him, thankful to have him home. He sets about to have a celebration for this prodigal son. It is at this point that the elder (“faithful”) son hears the revelry and inquires as to the cause. When the elder son is told that his brother has returned and the father has put together a celebration, the son refuses to enter the party. This elder son has been loyal, and is upset that nothing has been done to reward this loyalty. The father tries to convince the (elder) son to join the celebration because this “brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found” (Lk 15:32). We do not know the outcome of this conversation with father and son; one would hope that the elder son would join the celebration.

Where are you in this story? Are you the prodigal son, looking for a way home? Are you the father, praying for your children to return to their (biological or faith) family? Are you the elder (and loyal) son, resentful of those who have come into the family after turning their back on them? Wherever we find ourselves, let us rejoice that God is with us on our journey of faith – ready to restore our hope, renew our life, or reward our fidelity.

Have a (Continued) Blessed Lent,

Fr. Paul



MY FRANSISCAN JOURNEY

Today's gospel features the parable of "The Prodigal Son". In this story, Jesus relates how the young son who seeks to come home after squandering his share of his father's fortune on "wine, women, and song", so to speak. In being welcomed home, the Prodigal Son regains his place in his father's house. By way of this parable, Jesus shows us that we are always welcome "home" when we show contritions for our erring ways and seek forgiveness for our past sins.

St. Francis, much like the Prodigal Son, took his share of the family fortune "on the road" and sought his fame in the world by emulating the knights about whom he heard in the troubadour's songs while traveling to markets in France with his father. Fueled by these stories, Francis looked to make his mark in the world by attaining the status of the "majore" (the "upper class", that is) by working in the "family business" as a cloth merchant. It was while working there that Francis' life began to change. During this time, while busy in the family store, a poor beggar came in asking for help. Francis dismissed him and returned to work, yet the affair ate at him. He realized his courteousness extended only to his peers and noble folk. Contrite, he swore to show chivalry to everyone regardless of class and so ran after the beggar to make up for refusing alms.

But there were limits. Chivalry did not offset Francis' aversion to physical or social ugliness – and nothing was more revolting than the lepers. He avoided these outcasts whose outward deformities were considered an expression of an inward spiritual or moral deformation. Francis would hold his nose as he ran away from them. Courtesy and manner only went so far. But this changed one day on the road, where he encountered one of these lepers. Having moved on from the family business to that of seeking his fame as a knight, Francis saw, and was (as usual) repulsed by a leper. At that moment, something stirred in his heart (the Holy Spirit, perhaps?) and he had a conversion of mind, heart, life. He went back, kissed the leper... and his life was forever changed.

Francis went home, encountered his (biological) father, renounced his wealth, and sought entrance into his Father's House. Not his earthly father, but his Heavenly Father. At this moment, Francis "the Prodigal Son", came home. And the rest, as they say, is history. May we seek entrance into Our Father's House by changing our ways that are not of God and realigning our mind, heart, and life towards the Father. May we use this Lenten journey to unite ourselves with the Eternal Kingdom by building up the Kingdom of God here on earth, so that we may (one day) share in the fullness of life of the Kingdom in Heaven.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



THE DEACON'S COLUMN

An Offering of Ourselves

Many years ago, a young student who I taught, told me he did not get anything out of Mass. I asked him, as I asked myself, what would we be willing to give to God as we gathered around the Lord's table. I think this is a common thought, response, and reaction to the Mass. We come to Church every Saturday evening or Sunday morning hoping that God will do something FOR us. Often, we make this request in our deepest spirit hoping that some divine grace will break through our common human experience revealing a divine presence, purpose, and meaning to the life we live.

The reality for many of us is that we come to Mass expecting to receive something, or feel something, or encounter someone and we feel de-spirited when we feel like we have not left the Church anymore fulfilled than when we went into the Church. I can say these words because there are many times when I have felt or experienced these same feelings. What I said to my teen-age students many years ago, what I say to my diaconate candidates today, and what I often remind myself of in my own prayer is that the Eucharist is not about what we receive but it is about what we are willing to give. My common response to those who say they do not get anything out of Mass centers on the quality of the gift the other is willing to make for the sake of others.

During the Offertory at Mass, each one of us is invited to make a gift of ourselves for the salvation of the world. This is the heart and soul of the Mass. Jesus gives himself to the Father in a way that none of us can do because of our sin and our tendencies to choose self over others. Jesus can unite himself to each one of us in our common humanity and by his incarnation, life, passion, and death, to give himself to the Father on our behalf so that what he holds common to himself we might be forgiven and reconciled with God.

The gift of bread and wine reflect this sacrificial gift of ourselves around the altar. Bread is comprised of individual grains of wheat that are broken down, dried, milled, and mixed with water to form a dough that can rise into a loaf of bread. Wine is composed of individual grapes that are crushed, pressed, and mixed to form a liquid that is fermented into wine. Each Christian is like the grain of wheat or the single grape that is milled, crushed, and fermented into something that feeds those who are hungry and gives pleasant drink to those who are thirsty. Individually, each grain of wheat and each single grape are not enough to form bread or wine that gives food to those who are hungry or drink to those who are thirsty. In an analogous way, each one of us are not enough to save the world but when taken together and united to Christ's offering, we have the power and grace to save the world.

As we pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, we recall the words of the psalmist: ***“Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident”*** (Psalm 27:3 NIV). And we mourn with all of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Russia, and the entire region.



designed by freepik

The Face on God’s Brochure

When a church is raising funds for a new building or a diocese is launching a stewardship appeal, there is usually someone — or several someone’s — who serves as the face of the campaign. Maybe it’s a married couple, or a family, or a group of folks who have been particularly active in the community and can speak to the worthiness of whatever endeavor is being undertaken

Oftentimes, for better or worse, we fill that role for God. We are the face on the front of His promotional brochure. If we call ourselves Christians, that means that people will meet Christ through us. That’s what being an Everyday Steward is — a steward, everyday; someone who conducts his Master’s business when the Master is not seen.

It can be intimidating because we have so much baggage and no capabilities of our own. But then we remember that we are offered reconciliation through Christ — that “the old things have passed away, (and) new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). We remember that we are the prodigal sons, and the fattened calf has been slaughtered on our behalf.

But it’s a role that requires commitment. The story of the prodigal son is only compelling and only means something because the son, presumably, embraced his reconciliation to his father. He didn’t go on to abandon him again.

So let us think to ourselves each day, “Whoever I encounter will meet Christ’s ambassador. I was dead and have come to life again. How can I speak to the worthiness of that reconciliation? How can I make others desire it?”

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



Thank you to all who assisted in the clean up process of Saint Ann’s Parish Center. We are encouraged with the progress and extremely grateful for your help and support.

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, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague & 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

In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime, or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

Monday, April 4, 2022 1—4 PM
Saturday, April 16—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.



HELP!!!!

SNOW REMOVAL IS

EXPENSIVE

EVERY PENNY COUNTS.

**PLEASE INCREASE YOUR OFFERTORY TO
COVER THE EXTRA COSTS
INCURRED
BY THE RECENT SNOW STORMS.**

Thank you for your generosity for the Cardinal's second collection last weekend to provide help for the people in the Ukraine. Please keep these people in your prayers.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Please pray for our leaders.

Urgent Request

The war in Ukraine has left people **homeless**, families torn apart and **refugees** scared in a foreign land. Having fled so suddenly, many have nothing of their own. There is an urgent need for **shelter, food and medical care**.

You can provide a bit of hope and comfort amid this overwhelming tragedy. We urge you to do so in addition to offering prayers on their behalf.

We've recently heard from missionaries in Poland who are welcoming and offering help to refugee families from Ukraine. *"Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, we have been working mainly at train stations in Warsaw,"* wrote Camillian missionary Father Mirek. *"Together with social workers, we wait there for trains bringing refugees from the Polish border. To the most ill and disabled refugees, we have organized a temporary shelter in our center for the homeless in Warsaw. People who come to our center have the opportunity to take a bath, change clothes and eat adequate food."* These missionaries are also preparing a student house to receive refugees, noting: *"We thank God for all the help we have received, because without it our ministry would be impossible."*

\$50 offers outreach to families.

\$150 supports priests visiting the sick and dying.

\$500 provides first aid and shelter.



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<p><i>We've Missed You!</i> Welcome Back to Mass</p> <p>Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!</p> <p>www.ParishesOnline.com</p>	<p>SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.</p> <p>Buy a bulletin ad space today!</p>	<p>E. WATSON <i>Excavating</i> SEPTIC SYSTEMS • SITEWORK</p> <p>Eric Watson O: 508-378-4543 East Bridgewater C: 774-259-0278 <i>Local reliable service & Friend of the St John's Parish</i></p>	

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