



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

**Fifth Sunday of
Lent**

April 3, 2022

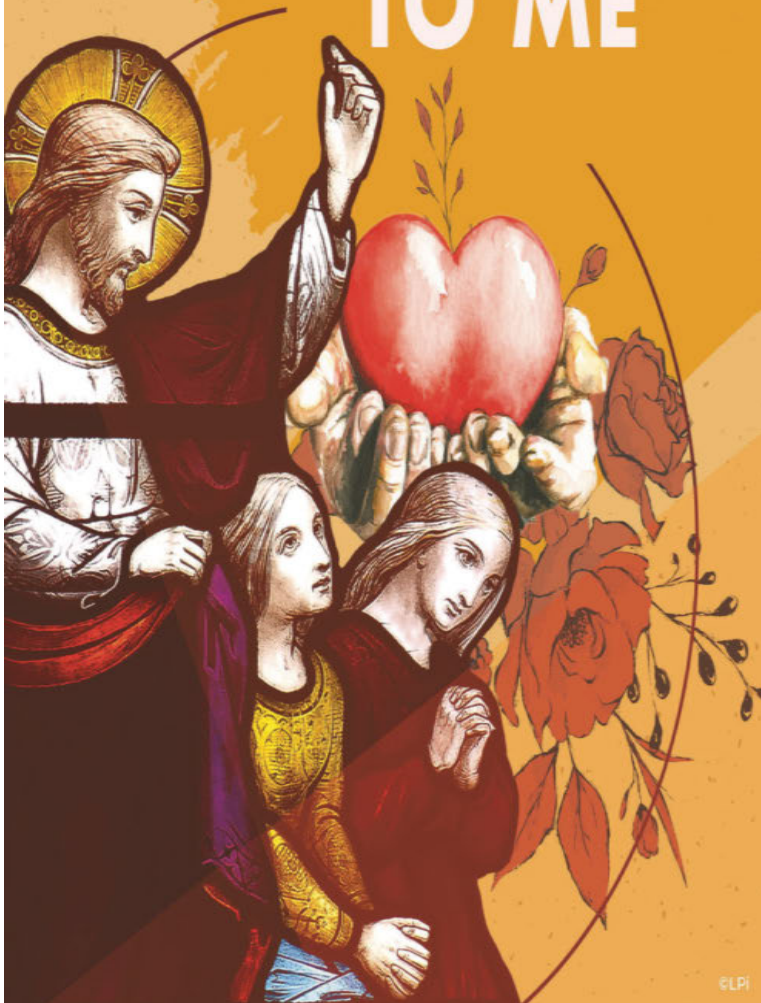


SAINT JOHN

SAINT ANN

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

**RETURN
TO ME**



**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**

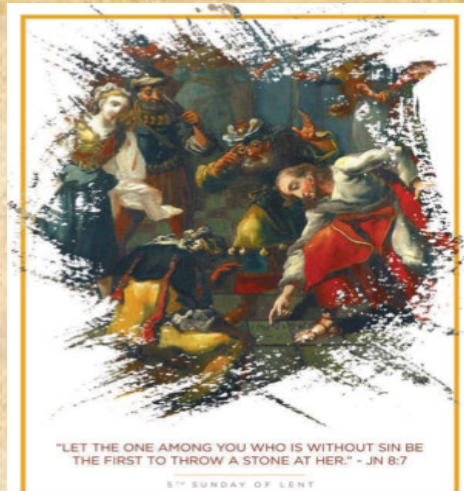
508-378-4207

E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net

Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page — Paul Ring



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, April 2, 2022

4:00 - Larry Day — Memorial

Sunday April 3, 2022

8:30 - For world peace

6:15 - Parishioners of Saint Ann & Saint John

Saturday, April 9, 2022

4:00— Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday, April 10, 2022

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:15 - For the people in the Ukraine

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, April 2, 2022

5:30 — Pat Solakoff — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, April 3, 2022

10:30 - Kim Russo — 3rd Anniversary

Saturday, April 9, 2022

5:30 - Dorothy R. Walsh — Birthday Remem

Sunday, April 10, 2022

10:30— Parishioners of Saint John

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

LENT/EASTER DATES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
JOINTLY WITH FIRST CHURCH
7 PM @ ST ANN'S — Friday, April 8

HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
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

EASTER SUNDAY

ST ANN'S — 8:30 — ST JOHN'S — 10:30



My Dear Friends in Christ,

One can speak of either the “letter of the law” or of the “spirit of the law”. When one looks at the letter of the law, one is speaking of what is written in a legal tome or document; it is literally “black and white” (i.e., there is no “gray area” to be found). When one looks at the spirit of the law, they are looking at intent, circumstances and the desire to find the best outcome. These very different approaches are taken by scribes and the Pharisees and by Jesus, Himself, in today’s gospel passage.

In this passage, a woman is brought before Jesus by the scribes and the Pharisees; she is “caught in the act” of adultery. The law – the letter of the law – is clear: she is to be stoned to death. It is “black and white” with no gray area, at least not in the eyes of the Jewish authorities of the day. There are a few problems with this “black and white” approach – it had to be followed to the letter, and the authorities failed to do so right from the outset. According to Jewish oral law both the man and the woman had to be brought to the temple gates; in this case, only the woman was, thus violating the law. Jesus then bends down to write the law broken (presumably both the breach by the woman and by the Pharisees), which is what He was supposed to do according to tradition, to show everyone (including the authorities) what law had been broken. After doing this, Jesus says that if anyone is without sin they may cast the first stone. The scribes and the Pharisees realize that Jesus knows that they have broken Jewish law (thus have sinned) and have lost their standing to bring this woman to Him, and Jesus is actually giving them an “exit strategy”. The scribes and the Pharisees, one by one, put down their stones and walk away, leaving just Jesus and the woman.

This is where the “spirit of the law” comes in. Jesus, in showing that she is free by the letter of the law, brings her to understand the spirit of God’s “law” of unconditional love and forgiveness. He tells her “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore” (Jn 8:11). He allows her to resume her life, but with the understanding that she is to live it in the “spirit of the law” by allowing God to work in her life. This incident tells us that it is important to live not only by the “letter” of the law, but by its “spirit” as well. When we live by the spirit of the law, we actually go beyond the letter, fulfilling it as Jesus did and calls us to do. May we have the courage to live and worship in that same spirit of God’s love.

Have a Blessed (Continuing) Lent,

Fr. Paul



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today's gospel deals with the "letter of the law" and the "spirit of the law". In this gospel passage, a woman is accused of adultery and is brought before Jesus after having already faced the scribes and the Pharisees. They presented their case to Jesus, asking His opinion by "framing" it within the Mosaic Law (the Law of Moses). Jesus, realizing that they are trying to trap Him, turns the question around by making the (now) famous statement "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). He is, in essence, taking the situation from the "letter of the law" to the "spirit of the law". Jesus, having been raised in the temple, would know well the Mosaic Law. But Jesus takes it further, beyond the letter, by putting the onus on the scribes and Pharisees.

St. Francis was a good and noble churchman, one cognizant of the need for Canon (that is, Church) Law. While he was also aware of the need for a "Rule" for his order, he was hesitant to establish one (beyond that which is already written in Canon Law), because he did not want to have the order get "bogged down", as it were, in the letter of the law. For Francis, the Order was about relationships, it was about community, and it was about connection to the world in a practical and visceral way. First written in 1221, Francis established the Rule so that he may be able to establish uniformity and consistency in the way of life of Franciscans. In each "order" of Franciscans, there have been established "rules". This Rule dealt with the First Order, whereas the Rule for the Second Order (the Poor Clares) was established in 1223. For the Secular Franciscan (or Third) Order, a Rule was written in 1221. In all of these cases, the Rule was established to bring order to chaos, uniformity to haphazardness. It was not meant to "hamstring" anyone within a particular order, but merely to bring working parameters to each Order.

While all of these Orders have particular "letters of the law", it is the "spirit of the law" that truly drives Franciscans. As I said before, it's about relationships, community, and making connections to the world. For the Secular Franciscan, it's about "bringing life to Gospel and Gospel to life". It's about taking the rule and applying it to the everyday encounters we have with people in the world. It's about making real connections to the world, both people and nature. Francis would see the Secular Franciscans as truly "hands" and "feet" of Christ in the world, serving our brothers and sisters (as well as caring for the natural world) as would Christ. It's ultimately about Christ and our willingness to go beyond the "letter of the law" and truly explore and incorporate the "spirit of the law" into our everyday lives.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul

THE DEACON'S COLUMN



Last week I was on retreat with 20 men and their wives in formation to be deacons. In my work in diaconate formation, I am moved by the many ways God's people give themselves offer their lives for the sake of another. In light of this gift that we make of ourselves for the sake of others, I want to share the following reflection that was printed in September as part of this series.

What's the Matter?

Before you start answering the title question with all of your problems this weekly reflection on the Eucharist is not asking you the state of your physical, emotional, or spiritual condition or situation. Instead, I want to offer a reflection on the "Matter" or the "stuff" of the Eucharist. For every sacrament to be valid there must be three things present: the intention of the ordinary minister of the sacrament, the form or the necessary words of the sacrament, and the matter or the "stuff" of the sacrament.

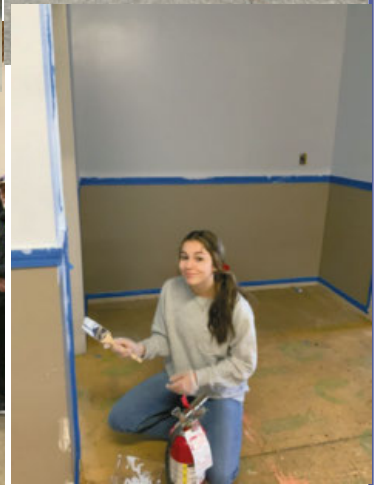
So what is the matter of the sacrament of the Eucharist? In the sacrament of the Eucharist, the essential matter is bread and wine. For the bread to be valid it must be made from wheat and be unleavened. There are nuances to this but Wonder Bread from Stop and Shop cannot be consecrated. For the wine, the wine must be from the grape and mingled with a bit of water.

The bread and wine we offer as the matter of the sacrament are true symbols of the total Christ that is "taken, blessed, broken, and given." Consider how bread is made. Individual grains of wheat are ground down to produce a flour. That flour is mixed with a certain amount of water until it forms a dough which is then baked into the basic staple of the human diet—bread. Now consider how wine is made. Grapes are collected and crushed. Then after fermentation begins, the crushed grapes are pressed to produce a sweet liquid that undergoes further fermentation. When fermentation is complete the grape juice becomes a new substance used in many communal celebrations—wine.

The process of making the matter of the Eucharist is symbolic of the life we live as members of Christ's body. The bread and wine we offer symbolizes the offering of ourselves to the Lord for the salvation of the world. Each individual grain of wheat and each grape symbolizes each one of us. Through repentance of sins, we are milled and crushed. By the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments, we become a new creation meant to give life (bread) and joy (wine) to the world.

What happens to the bread and wine we offer is meant to happen to each one of us. When the deacon or priest prepares the chalice with the water and wine, he says, "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." Then after offering the bread and wine, the priest says quietly, "With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God."

Brothers and sisters, every time we present the bread and wine to the priest to be taken into his hands and offered up to the Father, we are giving to the Lord our own selves. Christ takes our offering and unites it to his own so that the whole mystical body of Christ is taken, blessed, broken, and given for the salvation of the whole world. When the priest holds up the bread and wine see in it a reflection of your own selves. Know that when we unite ourselves to him, God the Father receives our offering and gives us back the one we hunger and long for in the deepest parts of our soul—his Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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. Great job!

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 Nicoliar, 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, Baby Ryan & 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, Jesus is the model of compassion and kindness. He shows us how to be merciful and nonjudgmental.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace, and mercy into our hearts and into the hearts of those suffering in poverty.

*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.

MONEY IS BEING COLLECTED FOR THE PURCHASE OF EASTER LILIES.

IF YOU ARE PART OF THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM, AN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LILY IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE.

IF YOU DO NOT GET ENVELOPES, YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND OR MAKE UP YOUR OWN ENVELOPE AND LIST THE NAME OF YOUR LOVED ONE.

WE ARE HOPING TO COLLECT \$1,200.



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU.
Confessions
6:30—8 PM
**March 30 — St. Ann
April 6 — St. John April 13 — St. Ann**

Please pray for our leaders.

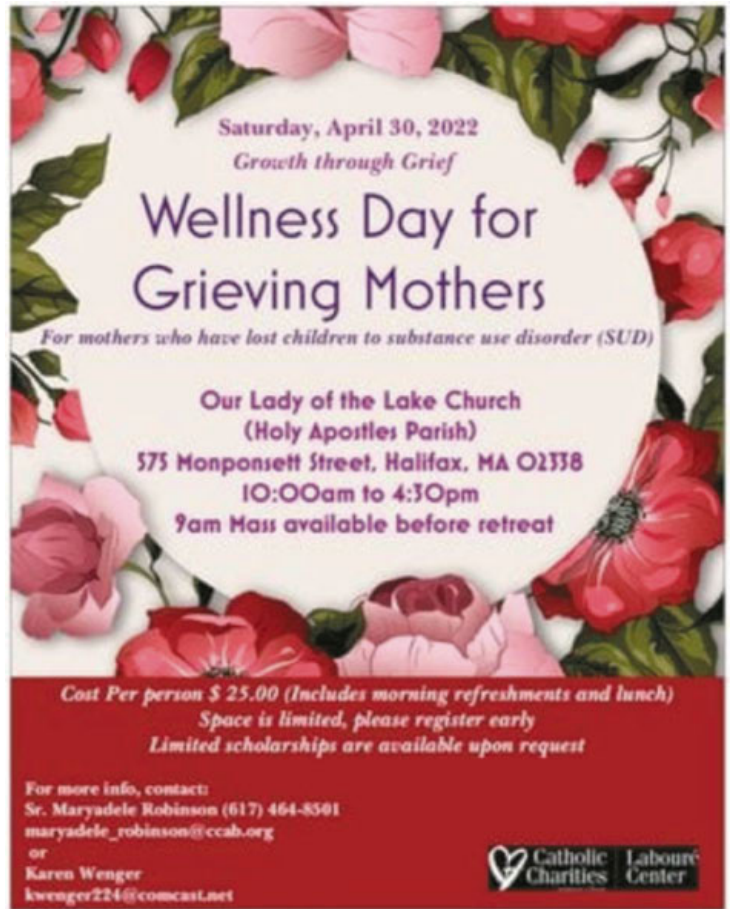
Family Healing and Recovery Ministry

Please join us at St. Joseph the Worker church,
1 Maquan Street, Hanson, MA at 11am.

This will also be Live Streamed
at holypostlescatholic.org and our Facebook
page at "Holy Apostles Parish".

We will continue with food and fellowship after our
1st Saturday gatherings and 4th Saturday Mass.
Mass is-celebrated by Fr. Mike Hobson.

For more information, visit our website for faith
witness videos and for updates-



Saturday, April 30, 2022
Growth through Grief



Wellness Day for Grieving Mothers


For mothers who have lost children to substance use disorder (SUD)

Our Lady of the Lake Church
(Holy Apostles Parish)
575 Monponsett Street, Halifax, MA 02338
10:00am to 4:30pm
9am Mass available before retreat

Cost Per person \$ 25.00 (Includes morning refreshments and lunch)
Space is limited, please register early
Limited scholarships are available upon request

For more info, contact:
Sr. Maryadele Robinson (617) 464-8501
maryadele_robinson@ccab.org
or
Karen Wenger
kwenger224@comcast.net


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