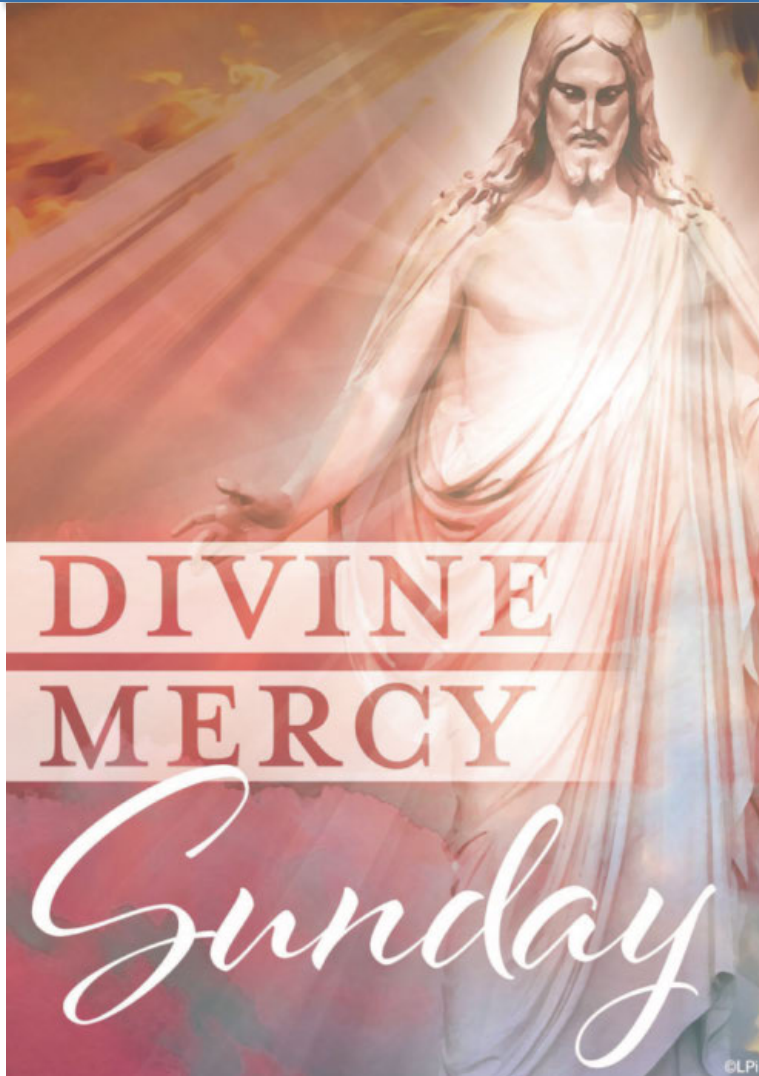




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
April 16, 2023
Divine Mercy Sunday*



*2nd Sunday
OF EASTER*

✝

"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

- Jn 20:27b-29

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

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 9-3 M-F
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

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.

Daily Mass
Thurs & Sat.
9:00 a.m.

St John's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
&
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.

Holiday Schedules will vary

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 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 JOHN'S STAFF

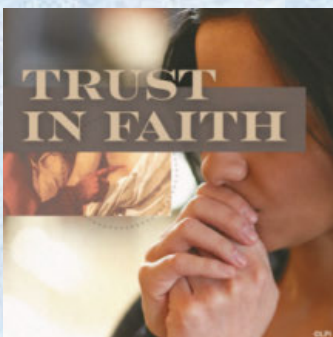
Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton

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



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, April 15, 2023

4:00 — Carl Bechet — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, April 16, 2023

9:30 — Robert Smith — 10th Anniversary
Petr Smith — 2nd Anniversary

Saturday, April 22, 2023

4:00 - Manny & Mary Diaz — Memorial

Sunday, April 23, 2023

9:30 - Joseph Utka — 7th Anniversary

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday April 16, 2023

8:00 - Kendra Frabetti — 21st Anniversary
11:30 - Gerard Penney — 6th Month's Mind
6:15 - John Bota — Memorial

Sunday, April 23, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative
11:30 - Pat Solakoff — 2nd Anniversary
6:15 - Jordan Meagher — Memorial



My Dear Friends in Christ,

While the Easter Day celebrations have ended, our Easter Season continues. Today, as a Church, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. This day, which centers around the Divine Mercy our Lord showed the world in offering Himself on the Cross, was instituted over a decade ago by Pope (Saint) John Paul the Great. He declared that the Church should set aside the first Sunday after Easter for this celebration. This feast, often marked by the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, is a reminder to us that the Easter mystery continues. At the heart of Divine Mercy is our cry to the Lord, "Jesus, I trust in You". When we recognize that all our trust is to be put in the Lord, we free ourselves to do the work our Lord commanded us, to go out and show others the goodness which God has bestowed on us.

Jesus, in today's gospel, shows this goodness when He reappears to the disciples in a post-Resurrection encounter. As they are gathered in a room together (quite possibly the same room they gathered in for the Last Supper), Jesus comes to them. Before the disciples can utter a word (they were probably too astounded to speak!), Jesus offers them His gift of peace. It is a peace which only He can bestow, a gift which only He can give. Thomas is not with them, so he doubts that the Lord was present. As a way of quelling all doubt, Jesus reappears to them, this time with Thomas present. Jesus invites Thomas to examine the wounds He suffered at the crucifixion. In a moment of pure faith, Thomas utters that statement of belief, "my Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28). Notice that Thomas doesn't approach Jesus and examine the wounds. He doesn't have to – he knows, through faith, that this IS the Lord.

Where are we in relation to the Lord? Do we have to be shown (like Thomas) who God is for us? Do we "take it on faith" that the promises made by God are being, and will be, delivered? Are we among those who "have not seen and have believed" (Jn 20:29)? Wherever we are on our journey of faith, may we come to know that God is at work in our lives. May we come to trust in His Divine Mercy. May we share that mercy with all whom we meet, not only in this Easter Season, but in every season, in every time and at every opportunity which God provides us to do so.

A Blessed Easter to All,

Fr. Paul



April 22 — Ecumenical Bi-Centennial Celebration —
6:30 — 8:00 pm at St. John's

Mass Location/Time Changes effective April 15 & 16

Saturday

3:00 pm — St. Ann's (confessions)
4:00 pm — St. Ann's Mass

Sunday

8:00 am — St. John's Mass
9:30 am — St. Ann's Mass
11:30 am — St. John's Mass
6:15 pm — St. John's Mass

Daily Masses:

Wed. & Fri. — St. John
Thurs. & Sat. — St Ann

Daily Masses will remain the same.



The Easter Banners in the churches were donated anonymously.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Easter Flower Fund.

We hope you are pleased with the display!



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 monthly sandwich making project for the homeless of Boston continues this month. Join us on Monday, April 17th at 6:30 pm at St. Ann as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the Capuchins to give out. If you plan on join us, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/FcbV9jgeKaTAXR6U8>.

Adult Bible Study Continues

Our new Adult Bible Study continues to meet every Wednesday at 7 pm. We will gather in the conference room in the lower church of St. John's. Our focus is the Sunday Gospel and what it means for us as disciples. All are welcome!

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Wanted!

We are looking to add to our roster of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for both parishes. If you are interested in one (or both) of these ministries, please call the office at:

508-378-4207.

Ministries

Changing Lives ~ Sharing the Love of Christ

There is no better way to make your Parish a home where you can put down "roots", planting yourself in the garden of God's loving care than by becoming involved in your church home.

Please take this opportunity to make our Collaborative Parishes a place where you not only go to Mass but where you enjoy the fellowship of others in a common activity.

The Hospitality Committee has been meeting and would love to have more parishioners participate in the planning of Social Activities for the Parishes.

Bible Study has started — All are welcome!

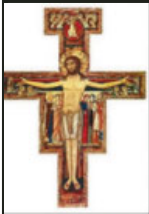
The Choir has been singing for the past two years and is slowly growing. If you like to sing (even if you cannot read music), we would love to have to join us. We especially need male voices.

If you have a special interest, please let us know so that we can plan a ministry around that talent or skill or interest.

Disciples of Hospitality

Our Collaborative Disciples of Hospitality are responsible for organizing the social life of our parishes and decorating the churches for the seasons of the church year. As we continue to grow our work, new members from both St. Ann and St. John are welcome.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 18th at 6 pm in St. Ann's Parish Center. Please join us!



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In the High Middle Ages, the theme of the merciful love of God was certainly not the exclusive property of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, and the Dominicans. The

early Franciscans also contributed to the Church's meditations on Divine Mercy in their own distinctive way. In the biographical work, "*The Life of St. Francis*", St. Bonaventure tells the story of the words of St. Francis about Divine Mercy to a hardened sinner that brought about the man's conversion (chapter 11, section 6):

Another time, a noble woman, devoted to God, came to the saint to explain her trouble to him and ask for help. She had a very cruel husband who opposed her serving Christ. So she begged the saint to pray for him so that God in His goodness would soften his heart. When [St. Francis] heard this he said to her: "Go in peace, and without any doubt be assured that your husband will soon be a comfort to you." And he added: "Tell him on God's part and on my own, that now is the time of mercy, and afterwards of justice." After receiving a blessing, the woman went home, found her husband and delivered the message. The Holy Spirit came upon him (Acts 10:44) making him a new man and inducing him to answer with gentleness: "My lady, let us serve the lord and save our souls." At the suggestion of his holy wife, they lived a celibate life for many years, and both passed away to the Lord on the same day.

If we turn from these relatively reliable sources on the life of St. Francis to the early legends told about him, as recorded in the delightful 14th century collection known as the "Fioretti," or "The Little Flowers of St. Francis," we find several touching and beautiful stories about Divine Mercy. One of which (detailing the conversion of three robbers) is the following:

"Let us go," said one [of the robbers], "to St. Francis, and if he gives us hope that we may be able to turn from our sins to the mercy of God, let us do that which he commands us, if by so doing we may deliver our souls from the pains of hell." This counsel was pleasing to the others, and so all three of them being agreed, they went in haste to St. Francis and spoke to him thus, "Father, by reason of the many horrible sins which we have committed, we do not believe that we can turn to the mercy of God. But if you have any hope that God will receive us with mercy, indeed we are ready to do what you shall bid us, and to do penance with you." Then St. Francis received them lovingly and benignly, with many examples, assuring them of the mercy of God and promising them that of a certainty he would obtain it for them from God, showing

MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY CONT'D

them that the mercy of God is infinite, and even if our sins were infinite, the mercy of God is greater than our sins, according to the Gospel. St. Paul the Apostle said, "Christ the blessed came into the world to redeem sinners." Through these words and similar teachings, the three robbers renounced the devil and his works. St. Francis received them into the Order, and they began to do great penance.

May we, on this Divine Mercy Sunday, through the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi, put our trust in the Risen Lord. "Jesus, I Trust In You!"

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



from St. Faustina's Diary

On October 5, 1938, a young religious by the name Sister Faustina (Helen Kowalska) died in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Cracow, Poland. She came from a very poor family that had struggled hard on their little farm during the terrible years of WWI. Sister Faustina had had only three years of very simple education. Hers were the humblest of tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or the vegetable garden, or as a porter.

On February 22, 1931, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ appeared to this simple nun, bringing with Him a wonderful message of Mercy for all mankind.

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, **'paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.'** (Diary 47)* Some time later, Our Lord again spoke to her:

"The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls...These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross...." (Diary 299)

<https://Homesoflife.net>

His mercy endures forever.

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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Kenneth Upham, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Diane Nicoliar, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jack, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Meg Weljkvic & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

If you know that some of these people should be removed, Please call the Rectory so we can update the list.

**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.**

Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm**, and the **THIRD MONDAY** from **3 pm to 4:30 pm**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

*Monday, April 3, 2023
Monday, April 17, 2023*

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 than large sums., ie \$100



Thank you to all who gave to the Easter Flower Fund.
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU
TO THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK GETTING THE
CHURCH READY FOR HOLY WEEK
AND EASTER SUNDAY!**

**AND TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED
TO HELP WITH THE TRIDDUM MASSES.**

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.



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
(508) 510-5274.**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
St Ann's
PLEASE CONTACT
CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or
jchbaker@msn.com**

We at SVdP at St Ann's want to thank everyone who donated to our calendar and all those who purchased calendars from us. All the funds raised will benefit those in need.

Thank you and God Bless.



BINGO IS IN FULL SWING



**Thursdays — St Ann's Bingo
Doors open at 4 PM
Bingo starts 6:30 SHARP**

**Saturdays — Southeast Cyclone's Bingo
Doors open at 4 PM
Bingo starts at 6 PM SHARP**

NEWS

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

April 20-23 (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.

To register/obtain more information, contact:

Holy Cross Retreat House
490 Washington St.
North Easton, MA 02356
508-238-2051



Join with Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, and the Men of Divine Mercy Prayer Group for the following events (sponsored by the Flatley Foundation):

Mass 4 Life: Thursday, April 13th at 7pm
Sacred Heart Church, 386 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02171
with Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston

Youth 4 Life: Friday, April 14, 2023 from 6-9pm
The Marriott Ballroom in Quincy, 1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy, MA 02169
with Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston

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