

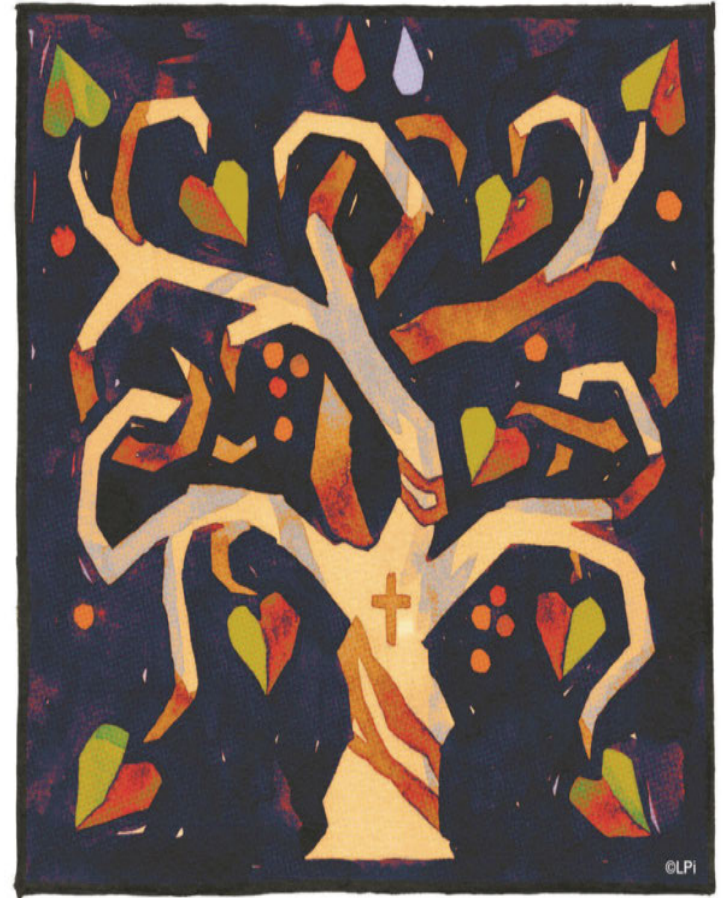
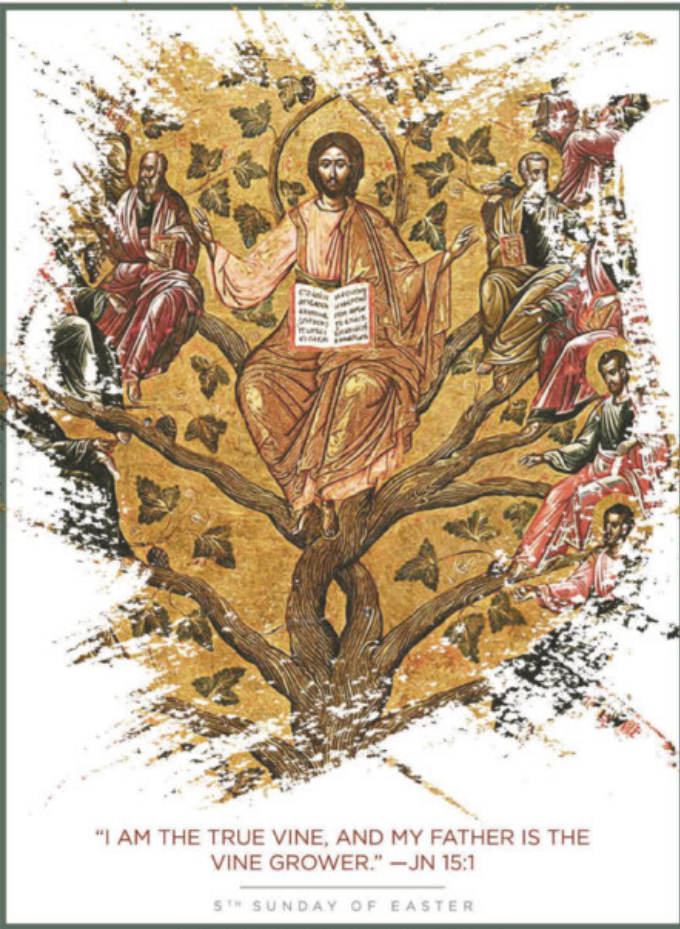


Saturday, 4:00 PM  
 Sunday, 9:30 AM  
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ  
 Collaborative  
 Saint Ann & Saint John  
 April 28, 2024  
 Fifth Sunday of Easter*



Sunday, 8:00 AM  
 Sunday, 11:30 AM



**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**  
**9:00-3:00**  
**Monday through Friday**

**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 OFS**

# 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**

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### **St Ann's**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass  
w/ Drive up option

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

### **St John's**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

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

Holiday Schedules will vary

## 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.

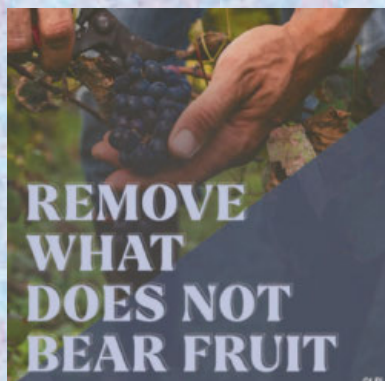
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

## **SAINT ANN'S STAFF**

Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano  
stanns@comcast.net  
508-586-4880

## **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



\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

4:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

9:30 - Families of the Collaborative

6:15—Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

4:00 - Rev. Edward McDonagh — 1st Anniversry

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

9:30 - Cheryl Barends — Memorial

6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

**Thursday, May 9, 2024**

9:00 - Caroline Ritucci — Memorial

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

8:00 - Mary Cataldo — Memorial

11:30 - Susan Quill — 15th Anniversary

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

8:00 - Lawrence Ribeiro — 41st Anniversary

11:30 - Robert DiFazio — 4th Anniversary

**Friday, May 10, 2024**

9:00 - Raffel Wood — 14th Anniversary

**THE MASS SCHEDULE  
WILL BE CHANGING**

**THE WEEKEND OF  
May 25 - 26**

**ST ANN'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, — 8:00 & 11:30 AM  
6:15 PM**

**ST JOHN'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday — 4:00 PM  
Sunday — 9:30 AM**

**This schedule will be in effect  
for 1 year.**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

My Dear Friends in Christ,



My mother was a great gardener; she could take any plant, any flowering thing and bring it back to life. She had the ultimate “green thumb”. One day, I saw her taking perfectly good, growing flowers and cutting the tops of them clear off! She then explained to me the concept of “pruning”, of trimming the heads of flowers to help them grow back stronger and more vibrant than before. It is something, I must admit, remains a bit of a “mystery” to me!

Once again in the gospel, Jesus uses a very “earthy” image to convey His relationship with us. Last week, if you recall, it was Jesus as “the Good Shepherd”. On this week, Jesus uses the image of “the vine and the branches”. In speaking in this way, Jesus conveys the fact that He gives life, and life abundantly. Just as the “branches” cannot live without the nutrients which come from the “vine”, we cannot live without the “nourishment” which comes from Jesus. There are times, as well, when we as “branches” need to be “pruned”. It may feel like the type of pruning which my mother’s flowers received that seemed so foreign to me but which, in the end, we come to realize that it was necessary for our growth.

It was this type of “pruning” that St. Paul received at God’s hands. As most know the story, Paul (then known as Saul of Tarsus) made his living as a lawyer prosecuting (persecuting, really) Christians. It would seem unlikely that God would use such a person to do His work, yet that is exactly what God did. When one thinks about it, Saul/Paul is exactly the type of person God would use to get His message across – after all, who better to promote Christianity than one who used to actively work against it? The conversion of Paul is one of the great “lessons” God offers us in not seeing mere appearance, but seeing into the heart of a person. Paul is symbolic of the power of God at work in the world.

As we move through the Easter Season, let us continue to work towards promoting, protecting and defending Gospel values. Let us help others to see the beauty in the faith, a beauty which transcends all time and brings to us God – the God of both the Eternal and the Eternal Now (the present age which is situated in eternity).

A Continued Blessed Easter to All,

Fr. Paul

# MINISTRY NEWS

## Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at [Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### April Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is today, Sunday, April 28 at the 9:30 Mass at St. Ann. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass.

If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading please contact Matt Brady.

### Music at the 6:15 Mass

As faith formation ends for the summer, we will no longer have our monthly Teen Mass, but we will continue to have music monthly at the 6:15 Mass on the following dates:

May 19<sup>th</sup> (Pentecost)  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Corpus Christi)  
July 14<sup>th</sup>

The Teen Mass will resume in the fall.

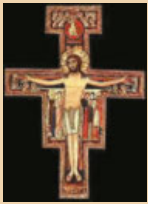
### May Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

May 6 at 6:30 pm St. John

Every month we make sandwiches to be distributed to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge by Capuchin Mobile Ministries. This is a great service project that anyone can do! All are welcome, especially those in need of service hours.

**Save the Date!!  
Outdoor Mass and  
Barbecue  
Sunday August 18  
St John's  
Time TBD  
Stay tuned for more  
details**





## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

When one thinks of St. Francis, one can't help but how "grounded" he was, both spiritually and physically. While he was certainly "rooted" in the spiritual life, he was very much "one with nature" when it came to our physical selves. St. Francis' theology was Incarnational, meaning that it was rooted in the Body of Christ – both Christ's physical self and the Church as the "living Body of Christ". He would recognize the imagery used in today's gospel, that of the "vine and the branches" as both physical manifestation of our relationship with Christ and the spiritual bond that we have with Christ.

In the image of the vine and the branches, Jesus reminds us that we (the branches) can do nothing apart from Christ (the vine). St. Francis would see this imagery, no doubt, as a clarion call to be one with Christ. He would further see it as a reality that if we become one with Christ, just as the vine and the branches are one (plant), then we can bear great fruit. If we allow ourselves to be separated from the vine, we risk losing our "lifeline". In unifying ourselves with Christ, we remain in Him and He in us.

Throughout St. Francis' mission and ministry, He relied on Christ to be that "eternal life support", apart from which he could do nothing. He was constantly being "fed" by Jesus, both in Word and in Sacrament. We are much the same. Apart from Christ (the vine) we (the branches) can do nothing, and we are fed in the same way, and with the same elements, as St. Francis himself was. I was just recently speaking with a friend of mine and I mentioned to her that without Christ we can do nothing, but with Christ "all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

May we rely on Christ just as St. Francis did. May we come to know Jesus as the "vine" and we as the "branches", so that we may be fed by Him in Word and in Sacrament.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
HEAT AND SNOW FUNDS**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR  
REPAIRS**

### **Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be**

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together."

I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPI

### **5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**



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



### 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.

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, William Neyman, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Karen & Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Eileen Doherty, Louise Ferrari, Dan, Christine Staples, Candice Frabetti & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



“O God, when we hear of children and adults deceived and taken to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, and organ ‘harvesting’, our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are ignored through threats, lies, and force.

We cry out against the evil practice of this modern slavery, and pray with St. Bakhita for it to end.

Give us wisdom and courage to reach out and stand with those whose bodies, hearts and spirits have been so wounded, so that together we may make real your promises to fill these sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good. Send the exploiters away empty-handed to be converted from this wickedness, and help us all to claim the freedom that is your gift to your children. Amen”



*Saint John's  
The Flower Memorial  
This week is donated by  
Susan Boisclair  
In loving memory of her mother,  
Mary Cataldo*



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  
peanut butter, Progresso soups, pasta sauce & brownie  
mix are needed.**

**Cash donations also accepted**

**St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379**

**To join please call — TINA ANTHONY  
508-245-5481**

Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society has provided support for our neighbors that find themselves in need of a little help with utility, fuel or rent bills. There are many ways we can help our neighbors; if not financially, we can help spiritually. The Society cannot help our neighbors without the generosity of our parishioners. Please consider donating by placing the donations in the SDVP boxes located at each entrance. Please make out any checks to St. Vincent de Paul Society, not St. Ann's church.

To Join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony 508-245-5481

**Next meeting: May 14th @ 6:30  
St Ann's Parish Center**

**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.**

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

**First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30      Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30**

*Monday, May 6, 2024  
Monday, May 20, 2024*

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

**The Pantry is a little low—needed: any food, especially  
tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal.**

Gift cards are also a great help. \$5 — \$25 cards are easier

**The Together in Christ Collaborative is sponsoring a Baby Shower!**

“Cribs” will be set up on **April 6** at both St Ann and St John Parish. Donations will be accepted through **May 5!**

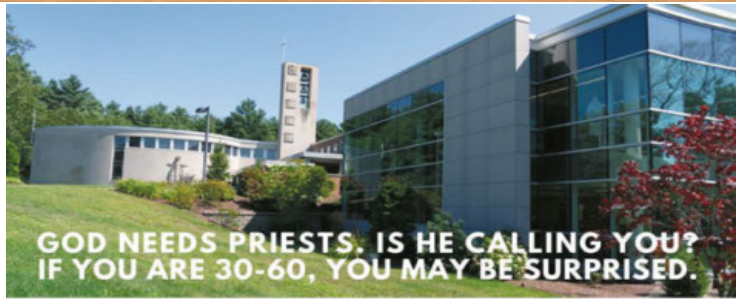
Donations of **NEW UNWRAPPED** layette items, toiletries (no powder please), and diapers are needed.

Items from the Parish Baby Shower helps mothers make life-affirming decisions for their unborn children and supports clients of Pregnancy Help, the crisis pregnancy center of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Monetary donations to Pregnancy Help or the Fund for the Unborn are also gratefully accepted.

Please contact Missy Schrader at 508-725-2177 or [missyschrader73@gmail.com](mailto:missyschrader73@gmail.com) with any questions!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!**



**FIRST FRIDAY VISIT**

**May 3, 2024**

**5:00 PM EST**

**Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary**

**HOLY HOUR AND EVENING PRAYER**

**In-Person Visit:** Includes Dinner with seminarians and tour of the Seminary

**Virtual Visit:** Live-stream Holy Hour followed by a Zoom visit (Zoom link provided at registration)

**Register:**  
Contact Msgr. William Fay,  
781-899-5500 ext. 134,  
[firstfriday@psjs.edu](mailto:firstfriday@psjs.edu)



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