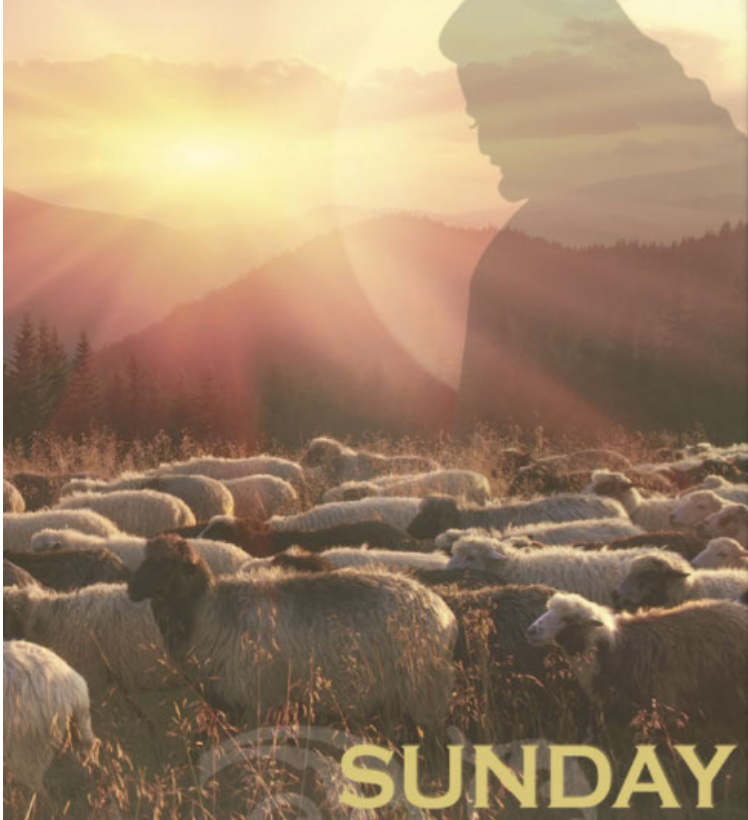




*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
April 30, 2023
The 4th Sunday of Easter*

Good
SHEPHERD



SUNDAY

4th Sunday
OF EASTER



"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice." - Jn 10:2-4

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

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 - 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.

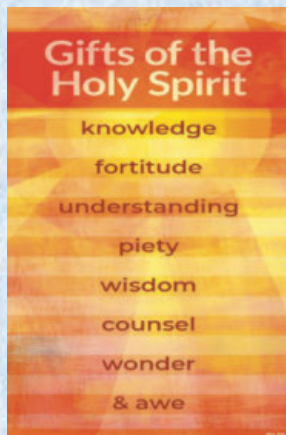
SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

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 29, 2023

4:00 — Norman Lozier — Mass of Remembrance

Sunday, April 30, 2023

9:30 — Pilar Laureta — Birthday Celebration

Saturday, May 6, 2023

4:00 - Edward Williams — 10th Anniversary
Melva & Charles Silva — Memorial

Sunday, May 7, 2023

9:30 - Michael Durso — 1st Anniversary
Mary Durso — 18th Anniversary

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday April 30, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative
11:30 - June McHugh & Dorothy Walsh —
Birthday Remembrances
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

Sunday, May 7, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative
11:30 - Bob DiFazio — 3rd Anniversary
6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative



My Dear Friends in Christ,

In the classic Christian song “His Banner Over Me Is Love”, we sing the verse that “He is the Shepherd and we are the sheep”. I have to be honest and tell you that it took me the longest time to get over being called a “sheep”. Being from the city, the only time I saw sheep was either at the 4H exhibit at the Brockton Fair or at a petting zoo. I thought of sheep as dumb and smelly, and I took some offense at being compared to these “creatures”.

The point (in this song) of being called sheep is in regards to a trait in sheep of which I hadn’t thought – trust. In fact, it was my friend Fr. Rayappa (an Indian priest whose family are shepherds) who pointed this out to me. The reason why sheep follow a shepherd is because they trust him; the sheep know the shepherds voice and they follow only that voice – other voices, other shepherds are ones which they will not follow. This is an admirable quality, one which we would do well to emulate.

Jesus uses this analogy for two reasons. Firstly, Jesus used “earthy” images because they were ones to which the people could relate; they were people of the land, many of whom worked with sheep. The fact that the Pharisees couldn’t “relate” to this analogy shouldn’t surprise us; most things which Jesus taught went “over the heads” of the Pharisees. Secondly, the aforementioned quality of trust is one of which Jesus speaks with great love and conviction. Jesus knows that He is the “Good Shepherd”, sent by God to lead the people to the “sheepfold” of God. While we might have a hard time relating to Jesus as shepherd (most having never met a shepherd!), we shouldn’t have any trouble relating to the fact that Jesus has come to lead us to God. It was for this reason that Jesus came into the world, it was for this reason why He died for us and it is for this reason why we have newness of life!

May we have an open heart, willing to hear the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. May we know that Jesus calls us to life in God for our good. May we trust that Jesus will lead us on right paths, guiding us in His Everlasting Way. May we, one day, come to the verdant pasture of the Kingdom, sharing in new and everlasting life!

Blessings of Easter Peace,

Fr. Paul

West Bridgewater Boy Scout



Troop 25

Invites you to a

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 7th, 2023

8:00am -12:00pm

St. Ann's Church Hall

103 North Main St. West Bridgewater

Adults: \$10

Children (under 12) \$5



Scan here to buy tickets



SCAN ME

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

Our sandwich making project for the homeless of Boston continues next month.

Join us on **May 8th at 6:30 pm at St. John** 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/vxhT8EJaRmgWE6hHA>.

Fellowship Hour 5/21

Our next Fellowship Hour (formerly known Coffee Hour) will be **May 21st following the 9:30 Mass at St. Ann**. Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Parishioners from both parishes and all visitors are welcome. Sponsored by the Disciples of Hospitality.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Adult Bible Study Continues

Our new Adult Bible Study continues to meet every **Wednesday at 7 pm at St. John**.

We gather in the conference room in the lower church. 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.

Cut to the Heart

Everyone who has been married knows this feeling: you're in the midst of a disagreement with your spouse. You've really dug in your heels. You're ready to die on this hill. And you have the awful, heartbreaking realization that you are wrong. Whatever it is you're arguing about, you're wrong. You.

So where do you go from here? The only way forward is to own it. Fess up. Grab a fork and dig into that humble pie. It makes me cringe just to write about it, because it's the worst feeling.

I use the example of marriage because it's the one I'm most familiar with — my closest relationship, the one that teaches me the most about who I am and who God asks me to be. But this is a universal experience, and everyone — single or married, child or adult, lay or ordained — knows how badly it feels to realize that you're wrong. You're human. You messed up.

It is hard to recognize that the Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. It is painful to acknowledge the ways in which we are falling short, even as we strive to follow in Christ's example.

It can, in the words of today's reading, "cut to the heart."

But that feeling of despair is what propels forward motion. We have to allow ourselves to feel bad, that's the fertile ground of penitence. We are meant to have not just life, but life "more abundantly." Stasis isn't the goal. Baptism isn't the finish line.

Examining our conscience is hard. It cuts to the heart. It cuts to the truth.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." — Acts 2:38



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Speaking to his newly formed community of followers, St. Francis of Assisi used a particular image to express how he wanted the friars to imitate Jesus Christ. In his

“Admonitions”, under the title of “**O**f the Imitation of the Lord”, St. Francis pointed to the Good Shepherd as the model to be followed.

“Let us all, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd who to save His sheep bore the suffering of the Cross. The sheep of the Lord followed Him in tribulation and persecution and shame, in hunger and thirst, in infirmity and temptations and in all other ways; and for these things they have received everlasting life from the Lord. Wherefore it is a great shame for us, the servants of God, that, whereas the Saints have practiced works, we should expect to receive honor and glory for reading and preaching the same.”

In this passage, St. Francis is referring to Jesus’ own words in the Gospel of John. *“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:11-16)”*

St. Francis was pointing out the love Jesus has for his flock and how he was willing to bear any suffering for our sake. He wanted his followers to do the same for the people they encountered, not boasting in their good works, but bearing every burden for the people they serve. Similarly, in referencing this passage, St. Francis may have also been warning his community not to become **“hired men, who leave and run away from their sheep.”** They were to be “servants of all,” shepherds who would imitate Jesus’ own example. He did not want his brothers to become prideful and consider themselves the source of their good works. Instead, he would repeatedly say that the only thing they could **“glory”** in was **“in our infirmities, and in bearing daily the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** The Good Shepherd is a beautiful image of Jesus Christ, one that still inspires many sons and daughters of St. Francis.

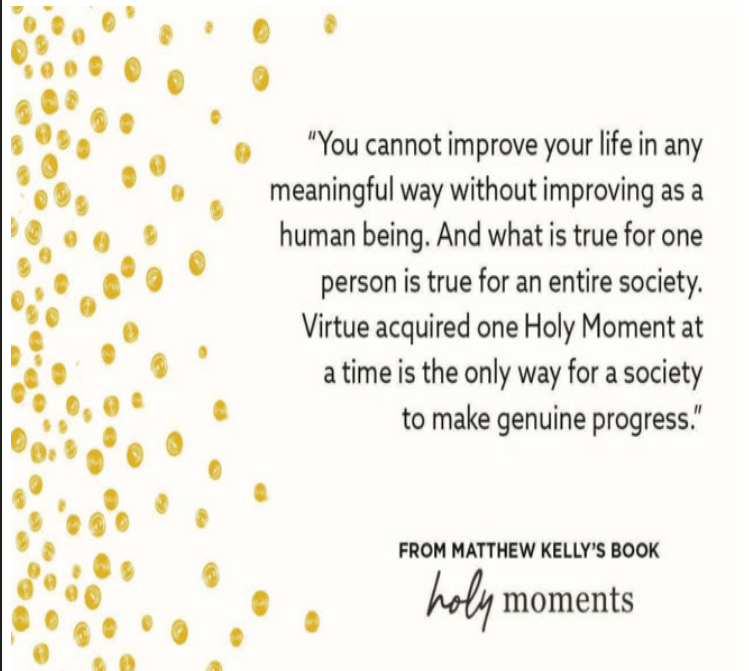
Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

This last sentence is one of the most quoted phrases by St. Francis. It is found all over the internet, on t-shirts, even on bumper stickers (one of my favorite forms of evangelization!). The only problem with it is that St. Francis never actually said it. The story never took place, as it never appears in any of the 13th century sources. Yet, St. Francis could have said it...and we, like the two on the road to Emmaus, can live it.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



“You cannot improve your life in any meaningful way without improving as a human being. And what is true for one person is true for an entire society. Virtue acquired one Holy Moment at a time is the only way for a society to make genuine progress.”

FROM MATTHEW KELLY'S BOOK

holy moments

Question: Can anyone offer the Anointing of the Sick to a sick or dying person, or is that only something a priest can do?

Answer: The Letter of James speaks to us of the ancient tradition of a special anointing and blessing of those who are sick: “Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord ... If he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him” (5:14, 15b). This passage forms the foundation for the theology of the sacrament that we call “Anointing of the Sick.” In keeping with what we read in the Letter of James and the ancient tradition of the Church, the anointing of a person of who sick or dying many only be performed by a priest or bishop.

Although deacons and other members of the Church are not able to celebrate the sacrament with a person who is sick, we can read Sacred Scripture and pray with and for those who are ill. Resources like the Book of Blessings also contain special blessings that can be celebrated by deacons or lay ministers. In the end, we want to be sure that we show a special care and concern for the sick, helping them to always experience God’s loving comfort through made tangible through our acts of charity and service.

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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 Nicolar, 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, Alicia Boucher & 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, May 1, 2023
Monday, May 15, 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

A special thank you to Farley Flowers of West Bridgewater for the beautiful arrangements in memory of our loved ones requested by Parishioners.



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**

Is in need of:
Spaghetti sauce, mustard, ketchup, relish, & pickles.
Small jars only please.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
St Ann's**

**PLEASE CONTACT
TINA ANTHONY
508-245-5481**

**P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379**

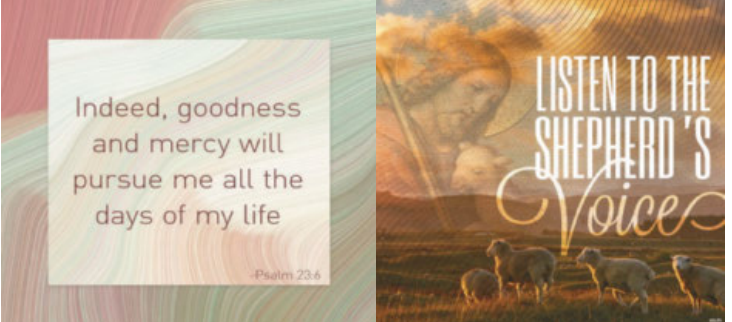
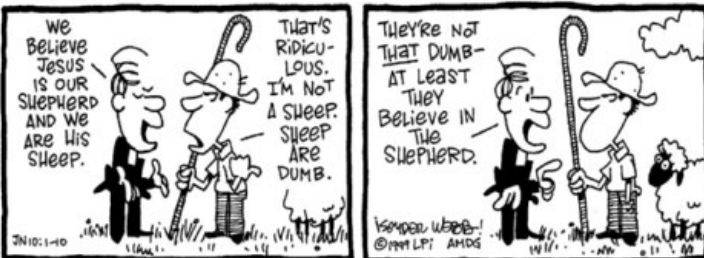
BINGO IS IN FULL SWING



**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**

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER



NEWS

Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

Answer:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means “to bend the knee.” For many Catholics, it’s an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of “bending the knee” is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

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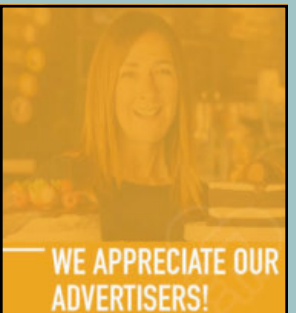
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