



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
June 25, 2023*



The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

✝

**"Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."
- Mt 10:29-31**

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

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father." - Mt 10:31-33

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

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-TH

Friday the Office is closed

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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

**THE OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED
ON FRIDAYS**

**DURING THE
MONTHS OF
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST**

**DUE TO FISCAL
CONSTRAINTS**

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, June 24, 2023

4:00 — James Holland — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, June 25, 2023

9:30 — Manuel Davares & Family — Memorial

Saturday, July 1, 2023 -

4:00 Katherine & Frank Toland — Memorial

Sunday, July 2, 2023

9:30 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday June 25, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 - All parishioners who have lost loved ones

6:15 - Yvonne Blaus — Memorial

Sunday, July 2, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

11:30 - Fr. Donald Skerry — Memorial

6:15 - Frances Sousa — Memorial

PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE
BOTTOM HALF OF THE MINISTRY PAGE—
PAGE 4— Regarding the Mass Schedule.

*St Ann's Memorial Mass
this week is for:*

James Holland

Wine, Hosts, & Sanctuary Lamps



Summer Lunch

The St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Ann's is again providing grocery cards for the summer to families in town who are on free lunch. We are asking for donations of grocery gift cards in the amount of \$25. They can be put into the St. Vincent dePaul boxes at the doors of the church. If you know anyone who needs help, please contact Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

After a trio of “special” holy days (Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi) which transition us out of the Easter Season, we find ourselves back in Ordinary Time. As I’ve said on occasion, Ordinary Time isn’t so named because there’s nothing “special” about it. It is given this designation because these are the weeks that are marked by number (from the Latin, *ordinalis* (numbered)). Truth be told, there is nothing ordinary about what we do here; it is an extraordinary thing to gather as a people of faith each Sunday to worship the Lord. It is a remarkable act of faith to come to believe, profess and live the truth that Jesus has come into the world to give us salvation and that by this act we are redeemed. This past Easter Season was an opportunity to renew our faith and trust in the plan God has for humanity. Hopefully, the upcoming spring and summer months will provide an opportunity to further reflect on this goodness of God. We may take a break from studies, from work or from other such day to day activities, but we must never take a vacation from our faith life! Each and every day we have a chance to reflect on and act upon the plan God has for us.

This time of reflection can be, for each one of us, a fearful time. It is always challenging to look within oneself to see where it is one needs improving. But we need not fear to the point of paralysis. The gospel passage today calls us to trust in the Lord to “fear no one” (Mt. 10:26). It is that type of fearlessness that Jesus, as well as Jeremiah (in the first reading) exercised in their ministry. Even in the midst of betrayal and derision, neither Jesus nor Jeremiah lost their focus, never lost faith in God, never took their “eyes off of the prize” (i.e. salvation).

There comes a point in all of our lives when our faith is tested. At those times, we look within ourselves to see where God is in those moments. It could be like the “Footprints” story where, at our weakest, God was carrying us. It could be that we, like Jeremiah (in our first reading), are “tested” by God in spite of our doubt, to help us to realize how truly faithful we are to God’s plan. God does have a plan, despite the shape of our world - which, truth be told, is as much our own doing as anything else (i.e. wars, famine, “man’s inhumanity to man”)! We must be careful not to “lose the forest for the trees”, forgetting that God’s plan is for eternity, not just the here and now. As challenging as this is (to live in eternity), it can be done. We must attune our hearts and minds to live in the surety of God’s love, for it is with this love that all can be accomplished. May we have **faith** in God’s plan, **hope** in the coming of the Kingdom and **love** for all that God has in store for us. May we trust that, despite the challenges inherent in Christian living, we have a future in God’s Kingdom (both here on Earth, as well as the one to come). In this way, we can share this plan of Eternal Life with all whom we meet!

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul



MINISTRY NEWS

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

Ministry News

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

Registration for Faith Formation 2023-2024 is now open!

I am happy to announce that registration for faith formation for the fall is now open! Classes will begin on Sunday 9/24 and run through the first week of May. The schedule remains roughly the same, but there are some adjustments based on your feedback and the current Mass schedule. The 2023-2024 schedule is as follows:

Grades 1-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9 and 10
Sundays 8:20-9:20 @ St. Ann	Sundays 5:00-6:00 @ St. Ann	Sundays 7:15-8:15 @ St. Ann
Mondays 4:30-5:30 @ St. Ann	Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 @ St. John	(Grades 9 and 10 meet on alternate weeks)
Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 @ St. John		

The registration form can be found on the Faith Formation pages of both parishes' websites or emailed to you by contacting Matt Brady.

A Note about Future Changes to the Mass Schedule

As we journey together in the life of our collaborative, sometimes it takes a bit of trial and error to get things right so that we can best serve the people of both our parishes. That said, we have come to the conclusion that flipping the Mass Schedule every 6 months as we originally planned is impractical and an obstacle to the strengthening of our community as first outlined in our collaborative Pastoral Plan, prior to Covid and reaffirmed in the suggestions made at last year's brainstorming sessions. Therefore, we have made the decision that we will only flip the schedule once a year, which will take place on Memorial Day Weekend starting next year. This means that with the exception of the 6:15 Mass, the current schedule will remain in place until May 25/26, 2024. The 6:15 Mass will return to St. Ann on October 1st and remain there permanently so it can be used as our Teen Mass for our middle and high school students.

We realize some of you will be upset that this means that "your" Mass will not be returning to "your" church with the start of Advent as you expected; but as a collaborative community of two churches, we are called to join together to celebrate the Eucharist which is at the heart of our faith. Our rationale for making this decision is not about Mass locations, but about how we engage with you and all our parishioners outside of Mass and invite you to participate in the life of our community. We will be continuing the monthly Family Masses we started last year during the upcoming school year, and that is only possible if the 9:30 Mass and Sunday morning faith formation class are at the same location. We also plan on expanding the opportunities for us to gather after Mass for refreshments to cover each of the Masses and increasing adult formation activities beyond our current Wednesday night Bible Study. And the fall will also mark the return of altar servers (though we do appreciate the willingness of our lectors and eucharistic ministers for bearing this responsibility!).

Please feel welcome to reach out to either of us if you have any questions about why we have made this decision. We are happy to explain it and hear your comments or questions.

- Fr. Paul and Matt Brady



MY FRANSICAN JOURNEY

Jesus, in today's gospel, tells us to "fear no one" (Matthew 10:26). We also hear in scripture that "perfect love casts out all fear" (1 John 4:18).

In essence, fear has no place in the Catholic life. Yet many operate out of a place of fear – fear of failure, fear of others, fear of God. While it is true that one of the "gifts" of the Holy Spirit is commonly referred to as "Fear of the Lord", the newer phrasing of this gift is "Wonder and Awe in the Presence of the Lord" – which, I think, is a better phrasing as it moves us away from being afraid of God and into a place where we respect and revere God's place in the world and in our lives.

It would be safe to say that for the early part of St. Francis of Assisi's life, he feared no one and nothing – not even God, Himself. Like many of us in our youth, Francis thought himself as living forever. Most likely he had a healthy, albeit slight, fear of death in battle, but his hubris overcame that fear to put him in a place where he thought that he would always be victorious in battle. In going through his life, Francis only lived for today. There are merits in this, and on some level "living in the moment" can be seen as admirable. Francis' thought of living in the moment, however, was a negative construct, giving him a feeling of superiority, if not invincibility. After Francis came to see God at work in his life, however, his feeling of living in the moment came in a more positive way. Francis now saw that, with God in his life, he was not the "center of the universe". One of the moments in his life where Francis conquered fear was his encounter with the leper.

Francis had an abhorrence of lepers, going out of his way to avoid even the sight of a leper. So when Francis encountered a leper on the road on a particular day, one could image him taking an alternative route or, at the very least, avoiding the gaze of the leper by the side of the road. Something – God's prompting, most likely – caused St. Francis not only to not avoid the leper, but to dismount and hug the leper and press money in the leper's hand. Francis experienced a conversion on the road that day. We are called to seek out the lepers around us – the lost, the abandoned, the forsaken. May we have the courage that St. Francis had, to come off our "high horse" and meet people at the point where they find themselves, whether this is comfortable or not. Let us seek out those who society has forgotten, but God has not – so we must not, either. May God give us the courage and strength to "see God and be God" – see God in others and be God for them.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS



HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

The Collaborative needs help for the summer. Can you help?

Mass Needs:

4:00 & 8:00 – Ushers, Greeters,

9:30 – Lectors

11:30 – Ushers, Greeters

6:15 – Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers Ushers, Greeters

July Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

As we do every month, we will be making sandwiches for Fr. Paul to take with him on his volunteer day with Capuchin Mobile Ministries. The July date is 7/10 at 6:30 pm at St John. All are welcome to join us. Sign up is not required, but we do like to have a count of how many people are coming. You can find the sign up form here: <https://forms.gle/48iXQ8XUhzkDYe6v9>

Will You Say Yes?

You find yourself in the difficult situation of being accused of blasphemy and confronting possible execution. Your crime is believing in Jesus Christ. The question is then asked of you, "Are you a Christian, a follower of the one named Jesus Christ?" Your answer may very well dictate what happens to you next. What is your answer?

It is probably easier to answer this question when the scenario is make-believe. All of us want to believe that we would say yes to the question of belief in Jesus, but strange things happen when humans panic in the face of extreme stress. As we reflect on what we would say, there are those all over the world who are being asked that very same question. It is a question that was asked of many in the first centuries of the Church. Those who respond "yes" are considered martyrs and saints.

We might not usually think of all this in terms of good stewardship living. However, our faith is also a gift we have received from God to cultivate, grow, and share with others. The more interesting question than the one posed above is, "Would an accuser even think of asking you such a question?" Would you have cultivated, grown, and shared your faith enough that anyone would even consider you worthy of asking the question? They might assume you don't know Jesus Christ at all. I don't like conflict and do not seek out conflict, but I would rather someone ask the first question posed than assume there is no reason to confront me in the first place.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

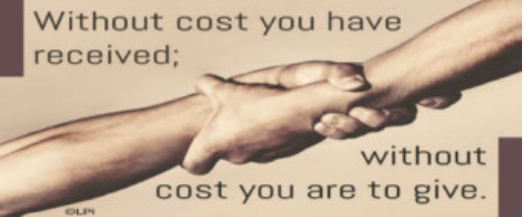
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COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S



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:

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, Fred Sprague, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Jack, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Tom Blanco & 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.*



West Bridgewater Food Pantry
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1
West Bridgewater
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Thursdays — St Ann's Bingo
Doors open at 4 PM
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Saturdays — Southeast Cyclone's
Bingo
Doors open at 4 PM
Bingo starts at 6 PM SHARP

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

WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

MEMORIAL MASSES
Suggested donation \$25+

HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK — \$30+



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Increasing to \$85+

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, July 3, 2023
Monday, July 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 that large sums., ie \$100

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Please remember to fill out the Registration Form to update our databases.

Hi Friend

(taken from: Daughters of St. Paul email)

How are you doing? *Really* doing?

Honesty in prayer can be challenging. When a million thoughts and feelings are fighting for our attention, we may not even *know* how we are doing much less share this with God.

"When we feel overcome," Jean Lafrance writes in [Give Peace to My Soul](#), "it is better to handle [our feelings] gently rather than forcefully." The quieter we are, the easier it is to see what is really going on in our hearts. Then, and only then, can we hand each feeling over God and ask him to unify us by aligning our hearts with his own.

Countless men and women in the Bible have taken God on raw, honest tours of their hearts. Moses repeatedly asked God why he chose him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Jonah told God he was "angry enough to die" (Jonah 4:9). David left us psalms of fear, suffering, and rejoicing. In every case, God brought them through the sea of their emotions like he once brought Israel through the Red Sea, to a place of greater trust, freedom, and union with him.

"We can confide all our concerns to the Lord," Lafrance reminds us. "During prayer, we stay in the presence of the One we love; we present to God our poverty and sin, and we ask him to be our holiness."

If life is pulling you in a thousand directions, tell God about it with simplicity and trust. Then, let him show you the One Thing Necessary.

Prayer Tip:

Commit to 15-30 minutes of prayer today at an [Adoration Chapel near you](#), or at a time when your parish is open for prayer. Choose a psalm from the Bible that describes how you feel right now. Talk to Jesus about this in great detail. Then, fall silent. What does Jesus say to you, either in the silence or in the words of the psalm you chose?

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