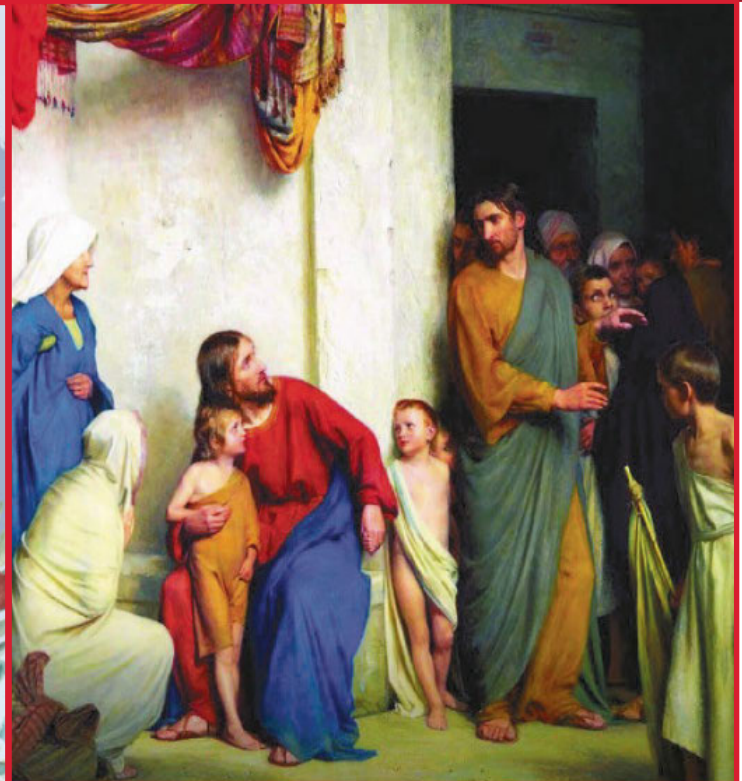




*Together in Christ  
Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John  
July 2, 2023*

*The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple--amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." - Mt 10:42

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

DLPI

**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 9-3 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](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**

# 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

**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, July 1, 2023 -

4:00 - Katherine & Frank Toland & Family —  
Memorial

#### Sunday, July 2, 2023

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

#### Saturday, July 8, 2023

4:00 — John C. Adams — Memorial

#### Sunday, July 9, 2023

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, July 2, 2023

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

11:30 - Fr. Donald Skerry — Memorial

6:15 - Frances Sousa — Memorial

#### Sunday July 9, 2023

8:00 - All patriots who serve to keep us free.

11:30 - All those in the military, past and present

Everyday Stewardship

It took five years of marriage before I was ready to have that first baby. Of course, now that I have three children I cannot imagine a life without them. After twenty-five years, I cannot imagine life without my wife as well.

And I know that I am lucky. I know those who have lost children or have been widowed. They couldn't imagine life without their loved ones either.

The tough reality to digest is that we don't own those whom we love. They are all gifts from God, entrusted to each of us as good stewards. If we cling too tightly, we become like the steward who buried his talents in the ground. If we don't care enough, we become like the prodigal son who squandered his gifts on gambling and frivolous living.

But can we love our loved ones too much? I am not sure it is possible to love others too much if it is genuine love. However, if we truly love them, then we will want to lead them to the One that gave them to us in the first place: God. We do that by demonstrating that no one comes before God in our lives, not even our family.

In this world, our loved ones make living meaningful. But this world is not the end. As much as we love them here, our ultimate goal is for them to live eternally with God. May my wife and kids never think I chose them over God, so that they may choose God over all else, as well.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS      © Liturgical Publications Inc



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today's gospel reminds me of the scripture studies of the New Testament while in the seminary. In reading today's gospel, I am reminded that we used to say that a passage like this was not the "warm and fuzzy Jesus" to which most of us are used, and of whom most of us think when we think of Jesus. This is a challenging gospel, one which makes us set (or, perhaps, re-set) our priorities. Jesus calls us to establish our relationships in "proper" rank in order to put God first in our lives.

In today's gospel, we are told that "whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:37). As if this were not challenging enough, Jesus takes it further by telling us "whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:38). This first passage isn't telling us to abandon our familial relationships; it is simply, yet powerfully, calling us to put Jesus first – before mother or father, son or daughter. It is the relationship we have with Jesus that guides all other relationships. In the second passage noted, one is to take up one's cross and follow Jesus. If you're like me, you don't have to look too far or too hard to find the crosses in your life. Once we find them, what do we do with them? Do we leave them for someone else to carry? That would be unfortunate and unfair, especially to the one "stuck" carrying the cross. Do we carry them, but complain all the while? That would be unfortunate and unfair as well, especially to the ones forced to listen to these complaints. We are called to carry our crosses, uniting our sufferings to that of Christ, who first showed us how to carry one's cross with dignity and love. St. Paul speaks of this union with Christ in a powerful way in our second reading. In the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that "we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death" (Rom 6:3). This statement calls to mind TWO baptisms: the first is what we traditionally think of when we hear of baptism, that is the Sacrament of Baptism. The second "baptism" (the one "into his death" (ibid) is our entrance into Eternal Life when our earthly life ends. It is in these two baptisms that we have "newness of life" (Rom 6:4). When we are brought to the baptismal font (whether as infants, children, or adults) we experience a "death" of sorts, namely a "dying to self" so that Christ might live in us. When our earthly life ends, we die (physically) but are "reborn" into that "new life" which awaits us in the Kingdom.

May we have the courage to "take up our cross" daily, so that we can journey with the Lord. May we have the courage to put our own needs second, to "die to self" so that Christ might live in us. May this new life, won for us by the sacrifice of Christ, be one in which we share everything with Christ, so that He may share His very life with us.

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](mailto: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

Please check out Page 5 for information regarding the celebration of St. Ann's Feast.

Also on Page 5 are the dates and details of the Movie Nights planned for this summer in August.



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

When I hear Jesus speak of the Cross, which He does in today's Gospel, as a Franciscan I can't help but think of the stigmata. The stigmata are the bodily wounds which Jesus suffered on His hands, feet, and sides while on the Cross. They are also known as "The Five Wounds" of Christ and throughout the centuries there have been Saints in our Church, holy men and women who have suffered with these wounds in imitation of, and in union with, Christ. Among these men and women are St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Rita of Cascia, St. Pio of Pietrelcina ("Padre Pio"), and St. Francis of Assisi.

Traditionally Catholics believe that St. Francis of Assisi was the first stigmatist. St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) received the wounds of Christ crucified on Sept. 17, 1224, and that he *did* receive them is attested to by everyone from his contemporaries to G.K. Chesterton's wonderful biography, to all those stunning paintings (from Giotto to Van Eyck) that recount this most mysterious and obvious sign of living one's life according to Christ. When St. Francis was wounded in the hands, feet and side, it began, if not a pattern, then at least a verified beginning of many others who, too, would wear the wounds of Christ.

St. Francis received these wounds while in prayer on the remote mountaintop of Mt. Alverna (also known as La Verna), some two years prior to his death. Francis had gone there with two other friars, Brother Leo being one. While deep in prayer on a day near the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, a seraph (angel) appeared. The seraph was seemingly crucified on a cross. Thomas of Celano, writing within a few years of Francis' death (ca. 1229), described what happened as Francis contemplated the possible meaning of the vision:

*"...the marks of nails began to appear in his hands and feet, just as he had seen them slightly earlier in the crucified man above him. His wrists and feet seemed to be pierced by nails, with the heads of the nails appearing on his wrists and on the upper sides of his feet, the points appearing on the other side. The marks were round on the palm of each hand but elongated on the other side, and small pieces of flesh jutting out from the rest took on the appearance of the nail-ends, bent and driven back. In the same way the marks of nails were impressed on his feet and projected beyond the rest of the flesh. Moreover, his right side had a large wound as if it had been pierced with a spear, and it often bled so that his tunic and trousers were soaked with his sacred blood."*

St. Bonaventure later wrote: *"The sight of it amazed Francis and his soul experienced joy mingled with pain. He was delighted with the sight of Christ appearing to him so graciously and intimately and yet the awe-inspiring vision of Christ nailed to the cross aroused in his soul a joy of compassionate love."*

As we move through our journey of faith, let us be unafraid to take up our cross and follow Jesus as St. Francis did. Let us give our whole selves to Christ, wounds and all, so that He may transform us in creations of His own love.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

## Celebration of St. Ann's Feast Day

Wednesday, July 26th 6-8 pm at St. Ann

Join us as we celebrate the feast day of St. Ann, the patron saint of our church in West Bridgewater, with a party!

There will be lawn games, board games and a whole bunch of crafts. All the activities are free, and we will be selling a meal of a hot dog, chips, water, and cookie for \$5. If you prefer, you can get 2 waters, 2 chips or 2 cookies or any combination there of for \$1.

The money raised will support our collaborative's Disciples of Hospitality, who plan and organize the social activities for our parishes.

## August Movie Nights

We will be hosting 4 movie nights over the course of the summer, 2 at each parish. There will be free popcorn and other snacks available for purchase.

### Schedule:

8/5: Encanto

8/9: Zootopia

8/19: Inside Out

8/23: Shrek 2

7 pm outside at St. John (inside if it's bad weather)

7 pm in St. Ann's Parish Center

## 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](mailto:linda@santry.org).

**"But God does not only call upon great saints to reveal his love for the world. He also calls the broken and desperate."**

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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, 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

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

**Is looking for new members**

**PLEASE CONTACT — TINA ANTHONY**

**508-245-5481**

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



**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**

**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+**



**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK**  
Increasing to \$85+

**PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**

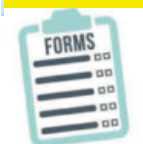
Pantry days will be the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month, except for holidays, from **3 pm to 5:30 pm**, and the **THIRD MONDAY from 3 pm to 4:30 pm**, except for holidays. Please check the schedule.

*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 than large sums., ie \$100

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**



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

## A Fourth of July Prayer for Our Nation

Sovereign Lord, I lift up our nation to You. You have blessed us and established us since the beginning. You have been our shield and our covering of protection. You have made us a great nation on this earth.

Our forefathers honored You on historical documents, solemn oaths and in courtrooms. Songs have been written proclaiming Your glory in our beautiful land. Your precepts have been the very foundation this country was built on. You have been our might, our justice, our freedom and our victory.

We bow our knees and our hearts in thanksgiving to You for preserving us. We also bow with contrite hearts for not giving You the honor and praise You are due. For not walking in Your ways. Forgive us, Lord. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. We have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly, and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. (Daniel 9:5)

I lift up all who are in office in this country, all who are in positions of authority, and pray that You would protect them and give them wisdom, knowledge and acute discernment for the jobs that they hold. I lift up our military, our intelligence agencies and all who are in law enforcement and pray Your protection over them. Establish their steps, Lord. Strengthen them and equip them. Bless them and their families.

Father, You alone are our hope and our future. Turn the hearts of Americans toward You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen. (by Lyn Cooke)

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