



St. J SAINT JOHN

**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

**JULY 25, 2021
THE SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**



SAINT ANN



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. - Jn 6:9, 11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

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**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 9-4 M-Th

For both Churches

Currently we are working from home.

**Saint John the Evangelist
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333
Office –103 N. Main Street,
West Bridgewater**

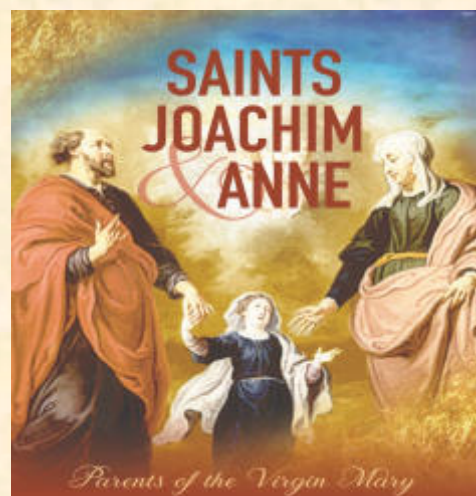
508-378-4207

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 - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice
In the Chapel

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

***Aleternating between the two worship**
sites, refer to website for details.

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 p.m. These baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.
Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is by appointment during the pandemic. 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
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Wasil

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager: Donna Roderiques
donna.stannstjohn@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini
richcesarini@gmail.com

Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham

Director of Ministries: Stephanie Gaboury
directorofministries.TIC@gmail.com
508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, July 24, 2021

4:00—William Looney — Month’s Mind

Sunday, July 25, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, July 31, 2021

4:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Sunday Aug. 1, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, July 24, 2021

5:30 - Manuel Amaral — 7th Anniversary

Sunday, July 25, 2021

10:30 - Linda Dorrer — 1st Anniversary

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, July 31, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, Aug 1, 2021

10:30 - Jonathan Murray — 1st Anniversary

My Dear Friends in Christ,



C.S. Lewis, one of my favorite authors, was once quoted as saying that “miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see”. What Lewis meant, I believe, is that when something miraculous occurs it points us to a larger truth. The “miracle event”, in essence, isn’t the “be all to end all”, but a “means to an end”. We can look at a miracle and try and “unpack” it, explain it (or explain it away) or try and figure it out; that would be a mistake. Miracles aren’t to be explained, but something into which we must enter. In doing this, we come to see the larger reality at work. This is important because miracles, at face value, are hard to decipher. We need to ponder them, pray about them and let God reveal Himself in them.

Today’s readings deal with miracles on different levels. The first reading has us encounter Elisha, feeding the one hundred gathered with but twenty loaves of bread (which I don’t consider a lot since I’ve been known to eat an entire basket of rolls at one sitting at Bertucci’s!). In our gospel today, Jesus feeds the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fish. In both cases, the feeding isn’t just physical, it’s spiritual. The crowd’s souls are “fed” by the generosity of God through the actions of Elisha and Jesus. The difference between the two readings is that in Jesus’ case, he is “foreshadowing” the Eucharist; notice how He takes the bread, gives thanks (i.e. blesses) and distributes it. In doing this, Jesus is showing to the crowd and His disciples what He will do at the Last Supper. We know this because of our knowledge of the Holy Thursday/Passover event.

In our second reading, a miracle of sorts happens as well. In the ministry of St. Paul, the idea of the crowd at Ephesus living and acting with “humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit” (Eph 4:2-4). To do this, to maintain this and to sustain this is nothing less than a miracle! This was a pagan territory, challenging to Paul and his companions in so many ways. He perseveres through his faith in God; it is not through his own doing that this is being accomplished, but it is God working in and through him.

Where are we with miracles? Do we see them? Do we acknowledge them and call them what they are? Do we “brush them off”, explaining them away? Let us trust that God is working miracles in our lives. Let us see the miraculous for what it truly is: an opportunity to grow in faith, hope and love!

Have a Blessed Week,
Fr. Paul

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

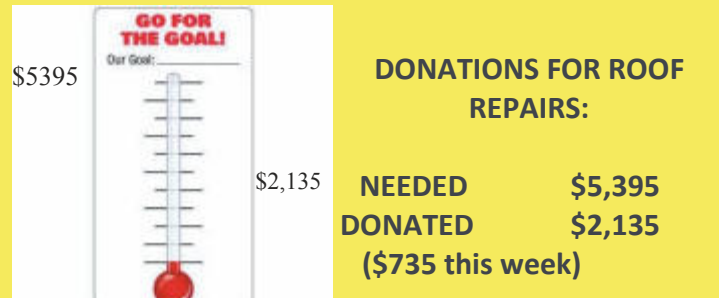
Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Weekly Offertory

July 6 - July 12, 2021

ST ANN
Online N/A
Mail \$ -0-
Mass \$ 2,264
TOTAL \$ 2,264

ST JOHN
Online \$ 919
Mail \$ 1,363
Mass \$ 2,748
TOTAL \$ 5,030



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

“Oasis: A pleasant, peaceful place in the midst of a hectic area.” Why do I bring this definition up? Because I’d like to highlight a place that is an “oasis”, a haven of peace in a busy world. . . the Chapel of Our Savior, located on the property of Westgate Mall in Brockton. This chapel, commissioned to be built in 1960 by Richard Cardinal Cushing (then Archbishop of Boston), was built after the Society of the Atonement (a Franciscan religious community) was invited to establish a presence in the Archdiocese of Boston and make the name and mission of Jesus a presence in the greater Brockton area. It was determined that the newly built Westgate Shopping Center would serve well as the place for this Chapel.

By the time I moved to Brockton in 1973, the Chapel of Our Savior was up and running and well established at the Mall. I can remember, as young boy, being intrigued by the presence of a religious community in the midst of the shops, traffic, and flow of people that populated the Mall. I found it amazing, this confluence of faith and commerce, and at first blush thought it contradictory. But then I gave it a second thought, and realized that Jesus, who associated with people of every class and caste, would probably look to buy a robe, or sandals, or even bread, at the Mall if He found himself in the area. I can remember stopping in at the Chapel with my mother after a day of shopping. She would go into the chapel, light a candle, kneel down, and say a prayer. Truth be told, she was probably asking Saint Francis to be an “instrument of God’s peace” so as not to lose her temper with the five of us whom she had in tow!

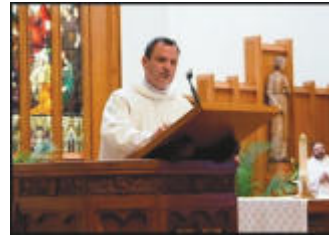
In my teenage years, I can remember going to confession there, desiring to have my sins heard and forgiven, but not wanting to do so with my local parish priest. Yes, there was a time when even I was calculating about my sacraments, hoping for the best outcome! In truth, I found the peace of the Franciscan space comforting, the tone of the friar who heard my confession reassuring, and the overall “vibe” of the Chapel to be peaceful beyond measure. In hindsight, I think this may very well be the place where the “seed” of my current Franciscan journey was planted.

As I move along in my Franciscan journey towards profession and a life-long commitment to the Franciscan charism and way of life, I see the Chapel of Our Savior to be a key “touchstone” for me to strengthen my “vocation within a vocation”. The Chapel is currently reopening, as is the rest of the world, and hopes to once again be a place of comfort and peace to people, as it has been for over 60 years. If you’d like to learn more about the Chapel of Our Savior, you can go to their website at www.chapelofoursaviorbrockton.org If you’d like to learn more about the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, you can go to their website at www.atonementfriars.org

I pray that whether it is at the Chapel of Our Savior, or somewhere like St. Anthony Shrine in Boston (www.stanthonyshrine.org), the spirit of St. Francis be yours and that he lead you to a deeper love of Our Lord, a love which lead St. Francis to follow the Lord with his whole heart, his whole life. May the Peace of Christ, through the intercession of St. Francis and St. Claire, be yours, now and always.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



The Deacon’s Column

Deacon Chris Connelly

“Unless we become like children.”

Over the course of 6 days in July and 11 Masses, 55 of our young boys and girls approached Fr. Paul dressed in white dresses and suits alongside their parents. Upon approaching him, Fr. Paul held before the young person the consecrated host and said, “The Body of Christ” The young child who was incorporated into Christ’s body at baptism, expressed his/her desire to unite him/herself to Christ and receive him as food for their soul by holding out their hands saying, “Amen.”

I have had the privilege of assisting at many first communions during the course of my ten years as a deacon but the most special time, even more special than my own first communion, was giving my youngest child her first holy communion. As parents, we want the best things for our children. We make many sacrifices to give our children the physical and emotional “food” that they desire and need to grow into mature adults. In the same way, the Church desires to give our young people the food that satisfies their deepest spiritual hungers to be loved, to be happy, and to have life that stretches into eternal life.

It was precisely for this reason that St. Pius X , in 1910, permitted and encouraged young children to receive holy communion. In his encyclical granting this permission, St. Pius X, wrote “the fact that in ancient times the remaining particles of the Sacred Species were even given to nursing infants seems to indicate that no extraordinary preparation should now be demanded of children who are in the happy state of innocence and purity of soul, and who, amidst so many dangers and seductions of the present time have a special need of this heavenly food” (*Quam Singulari*).

In the same encyclical permitting children to receive holy communion, the Pope reminds us of the special place children hold in Jesus’ heart. Recall Jesus’ own words in the Gospel, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt 19:14). Earlier in Matthew’s gospel when describing the greatest in the kingdom Jesus takes a child and says, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me” (18:3-5). Watching our children receive Jesus in Holy Communion reminds us of our own identity as children of God.

Perhaps you received Holy Communion for the second time, the 100th time, or the 1000th+ this week-end. If you find that your reception of Holy Communion had become routine and common, look at a young child receive Holy Communion and remember Jesus words, “Unless we become like children we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.”



Watch Now | Ways to Read the Bible

As Catholics, we know that the Bible is the Word of God, but we often become frustrated or confused when the Bible doesn't seem to make sense.

We sit in our prayer spaces and scratch our head over confusing passages and the pages of details and rules in the Old Testament.

We find ourselves searching Scripture for inspiration and answers but sometimes come up short because of difficult passages. And we wonder how it all applies to our daily lives.

It can be really discouraging.

The experience of reading the Bible can be so much more.

It can be life-giving. It can help us gain a deeper understanding of who God is and how we fit into his plan.

It can give us courage and community as we walk in our faith.

In [this video](#), Fr. Mike explores different ways to approach the Bible. He offers several reasons for you to pick up your Bible again, see it with new eyes, and allow it to transform your life.

Google Ascension Press, click on the Fr Mike's Bible in a Year Podcast.

Let us bless our Grandparents on this day. For without them there would be less joy in the hearts of children:

Good and gracious God,
you have given us the gift of children,
who in turn give us the gift of grandchildren.
Bless our children
and help them to be good parents to our grandchildren.
Let the little children come to us with arms wide open.
Help us to open our hearts
as wide as those little arms that wrap around our necks.
Protect them and their parents from worry and stress.
And give us as many days of life as possible
to hear those little voices cry, "Saba!"
We ask all this in Jesus' name who is your Son
and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.



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

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, AnnSmith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Frank Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Rene Pearson, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Anne Flannery, Claire Voss & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

**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

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

The Food Pantry has changed its hours for the Spring.

Our pantry is open on the first and third Mondays of the every month April through October, 2021. When days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will be the Tuesday of that week.

First Mondays = 3:00—5:30

Third Mondays = 3:00—4:30

The schedule is as follows:

*July *Tues the 6th and 19th*

August 2nd and 16th

*September *Tues the 7th and 20th*

October 4th and 18th

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

Tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, canned goods, etc. are always great additions to the shelves.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July:

We pray that, in social, economic, and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

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.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER

@ 774-240-8095

or jchbaker@msn.com

P O Box 47

West Bridgewater MA 02379

Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.

It's All in the Basket

St. Therese of Lisieux made a point of going the extra mile in kindness towards those people who really got under her skin. It was part of her own brand of Everyday Stewardship — thanking God for all His creation, even the parts with which, in her own humanness, she struggled to cope.

I think about this a lot when I challenge myself to give thanks for things that bother me and people who challenge me. When I do this, I envision Christ giving thanks over those insufficient loaves. How many of us would see that paltry little basket and kick a rock in frustration because we can't feed all our people? "You didn't give me enough, Lord! You didn't give me enough patience, enough money, enough creativity, enough stamina to be a good steward. If you had given me more, I could also give more!"

In those moments of despair, we need to take a good look at the life God has given us. We need to look at the trials and the challenges and the shortcomings. The hopes that didn't pan out, the disappointments that keep cropping up. Somewhere therein lies what we need to be the steward God asks us to be, just as St. Therese's own stewardship was defined by the people she simply couldn't stand.

God does not give us all we want. He does not give us all we ask for. He does us one better: He gives us all we need. It's all in the basket.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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THE ELDERLY HAVE EARNED RESPECT IN ALL CULTURES

"When a grandfather dies, a whole library is buried with him" (African proverb).

"Our grandmother used to tell us stories of our dreamtime. Much of our sense of being part of a people comes from her" (Aboriginal parent).

65 Children and the elderly build the future of peoples: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives
 Pope Francis - Angelus, Rio de Janeiro, 26 July 2013, quoting Aparecida Document, 447

Long Distance (Tech-savvy) Grandparents



- Whats App, Facetime, Zoom...**
...and a host of other apps are good but prepare for them. Have a news item or interesting fact to pass on at each video-chat. Put a prompt in your calendar to remind you at a regular time.
- Texting is quick...**
... and perfect for passing on jokes, today's photo or interesting quotes. Get your grandkids to show you how to include emojis and gifs to take it up a level.
- Email is so easy...**
... and perfect for sharing an attachment from a store of photos, news items or interesting family history.
- Snail mail is slow...**
...yet unsurpassed in communicating your personal attention and delivering the delight of a physical letter or package.

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 Acknowledgment: Parts of the text of this leaflet are based on a resource of the Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council



Celebrating Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has proclaimed the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, to be held on Sunday 25 July 2021 (Feast of Sts Anne & Joachim, grandparents to Jesus).

In announcing this, Pope Francis has chosen the theme "I am with you always" (cf. Mt 28:20) to express the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging pandemic times.

This promise of closeness and hope is one that can be shared by young and old alike. Not only are young people called upon to be present in the lives of grandparents and older people, but the elderly also have a mission - to pass on their faith.

Each of us, whether married or single, religious or priest, share this mission. Let's reflect on the particular ways in which this is lived out by grandparents and the elderly.

THE OLDER GENERATION: THEY'VE 'SEEN IT ALL BEFORE'

In the confusion of a pandemic, older people are the ones with the longest experience of unpredictable and challenging times. They are survivors whose experiences often include migration, war, droughts, bushfires, financial recessions, business failures, to name just some. They can provide perspective in the face of uncertainty.



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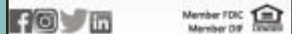
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