



Sunday, 8:00 AM
 Sunday, 11:30 AM
 Sunday 6:15 PM

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 September 1, 2024*

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



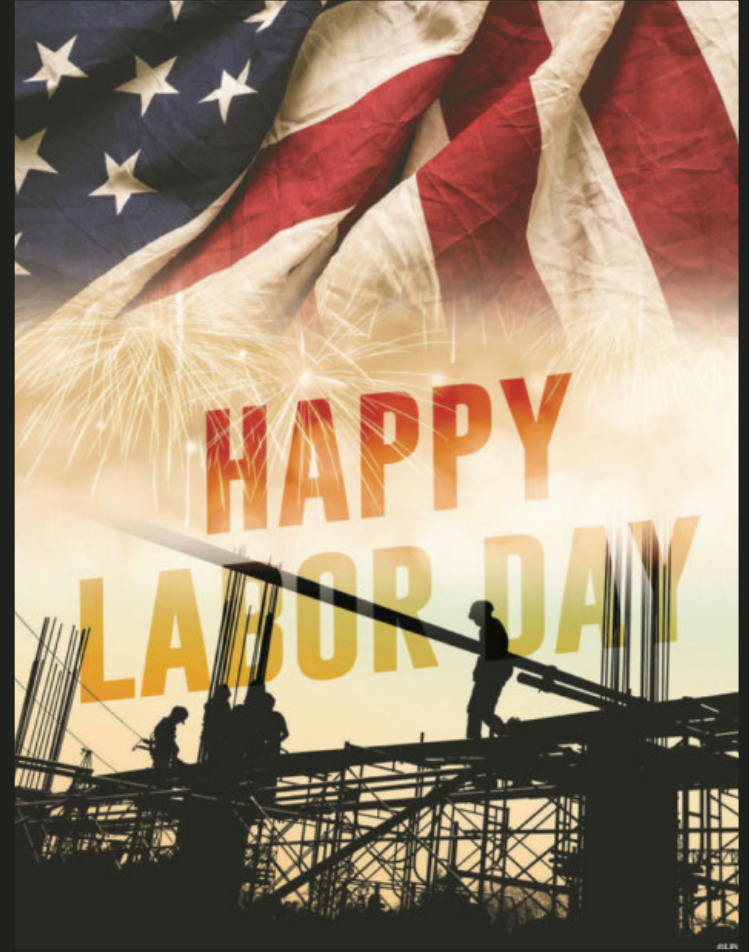
Saturday, 4:00 PM
 Sunday, 9:30 AM



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." - Mk 7:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1996, 1979 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
 9:00-3:00**

Saint John the Evangelist

**210 Central St., East Bridgewater
 02333
 Office -103 N. Main Street,
 West Bridgewater, 02379
 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

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

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St Ann's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

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

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

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

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 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
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton



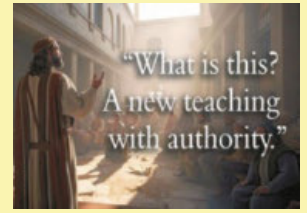
COLLABORATIVE STAFF

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



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, September 1, 2024

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

11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

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

Sunday, September 8, 2024

8:00 - Brisco & Paula Parawan — Memorial

11:30 - Willie DeIulio — 2nd Anniversary

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

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, August 31, 2024

4:00 - Dennis Rando — Memorial

Sunday, September 1, 2024

9:30 - Jessica Thurston — Memorial

Saturday, September 7, 2024

4:00 - Richard Venesky — 17th Anniversary

Sunday, September 8, 2024

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

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Every Christmas growing up, we had a traditional way to celebrate and mark the day (not unlike most/all families). On Christmas eve, we would decorate the tree, which would be followed by midnight Mass and then (upon arriving home) the opening of *one* present; it could be any gift, but all other presents had to wait until the morning to be opened. This was important to us, as it marked security and continuity for us as a family. Our faith is no different; rituals and traditions are important, for they help us bond and be formed as a people. These events or customs help us to worship in a way befitting the sacrifice God offers us in Christ Jesus. They cannot, however, get in the way of the meaning behind that worship.

This is the dilemma posed to Jesus. Some of His disciples do not follow the custom of washing one's hands before eating; this would make sense, as some of these followers were Gentiles coming over to the "New Way", as it was being called. It had its *roots* in Judaism (and adapted many of its traditions) to be sure, but it wasn't Judaism. Jesus answers the Pharisees by quoting the prophet Isaiah, who basically warned against "lip service". It is not enough, Jesus contends, to say that you follow God; your actions, your manner and your very life must reflect this truth. In the case of the ritual hand-washing, one could scrub "until the cows came home", but it would not cleanse the soul. This is something which takes an internal "cleansing". In our own tradition, this would include an "examination of conscience" and, ultimately, sacramental confession. In this way, one makes oneself ready to not only **receive Jesus** (in Word and Sacrament) but also **live Jesus** (in Spirit and Truth).

This is not to say that ritual is useless or unimportant. On the contrary, if we live as Jesus calls us to live then the rituals and symbols which we use and enter into can only serve to enhance that relationship. The rituals we undertake are meant to lead to a "greater good", and a deeper truth. On the surface they may seem unimportant, but if done right they can strengthen not only our relationship with God but our resolve to share this truth.

May all that we do, in word and deed, lead to a better understanding of who God is for us. May we know that Jesus, who is the one who calls us into relationship, is at the heart of every ritual, every liturgical action, and every sacred moment. May we have the courage to share this presence, this real and abiding presence, with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

MEMORIAL MASSES
Suggested donation \$25+

HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK Suggested donation \$55
Including a Memorial Mass, Suggested donation \$80

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK
\$85; or including the mass Suggested donation \$110

HOSTS, WINE & SANCTUARY LAMPS, FLOWERS
\$140 including the MASS, is a Suggested donation of \$165



Payment for the above memorials would be appreciated TWO weeks in advance, separate from your offertory.

MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry News

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

Don't forget to Sign Up for Faith Formation!

Classes start September 22

The registration form can be found on the parish websites under the Faith Formation tab.

September Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

September 16 at 6:30 pm, St. John

Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team from Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge. All are welcome!

Protecting God's Children Training

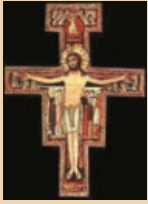
All parish volunteers and staff, regardless of role, must complete this training at least once. If you are a current parish volunteer and we do not have a record of you completing this training, you can expect an email from Matt in the next week. We are hosting 2 sessions this month:

Sunday, 9/15 from 12:30-3:30 at St. Ann

Saturday, 9/28 from 10-1 at St. John

Other sessions are also available at neighboring parishes. To sign up, please visit <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/> and click on First Time Registrant. You will then be able to view a list of sessions before completing the registration process. **You must sign-up online in advance to attend.**

For questions, please call or email Matt Brady.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today's gospel, Jesus challenges the authorities of the day in how they followed the "letter" of the law but lost sight of the "spirit" of the law. The law of which Jesus was speaking was the Mosaic Law (given by God through Moses to the people), expanded to the Hebraic Law practiced by the Jewish people. In this law, which encompassed all aspects of religious AND civil life, people were bound to follow it to the letter. What was lost, however, was the sense of how to incorporate it into their everyday lives – in other words, how to truly live it. Jesus' take on the law, was that God gave this law so that people could grow closer to God, deeper in relationship with Him. His issue with the way the authorities (the Pharisees and Sadducees) managed the law was that they expected people to follow the law "blindly" without knowing, let alone asking, WHY they were following the law.

When St. Francis of Assisi was forming the Franciscan Order (as well as the Secular Franciscan Order), he knew that there had to be a sense of order, anticipating that this entity might grow into a world-wide phenomenon. As it grew, St. Francis was aware that without a Rule (like the Benedictines, who predate the Franciscans by about 700 years) had) there could very well be a misinterpretation – or, worse yet, abuse – of what the spirit of Franciscan life would be about. Thus, in 1221, Francis wrote the original Rule of the Franciscan Order, at which time the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis (later to be known as the Secular Franciscan Order) was created. These rules were modified and restructured over the centuries, but the "spirit" of the Rule was with St. Francis himself. It was that desire of St. Francis that all Franciscans, regardless of the status or place within the Franciscan Orders, that all who follow this Rule were called to live in both the "letter" and the "spirit" of the Rule.

Today, the Secular Franciscan Order (originally call the Third Order of St. Francis) follows a rule modified a few times over the centuries and which currently follows a Rule approved by Pope Paul VI, himself a Secular Franciscan. This Rule is comprised of 26 individual "rules" spread over three chapters. If one is to look at the Rule, one would see St. Francis' fingerprints all over the document. While it has been modified several times, the "spirit" of St. Francis is present throughout. May we, whether Secular Franciscans or not, live in the spirit of St. Francis and his Rule (as well as the Commandments), and live not only by the "letter" of the law (as it brings order) but by the "spirit" of the law (which brings us into right relationship with God.

Pax et Bonum,
Fr. Paul, OFS

St Ann's is in need of some help around the church grounds. Some bushes need to be cut away from the building to avoid pests and rodents from entering the church. If you can help, please call the Rectory,

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL FUND UGANDA

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this and for the glory of Your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of marriage and family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of life, we thank and praise You for the freedom we enjoy in our country and pray that our laws and liberties will continue to be protected.

Heal the conflicts which damage our unity and ease our political differences from one another. May our citizens respect religious freedom, the importance of family and the values of human life.

In these times of uncertainty, give us the ability to remain compassionate, patient and resistant. Give us the wisdom to see things from a rational and enlightened perspective, to know right from wrong, to recognize evil from good and to realize truth from lies.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct our political leaders to the preservation of truth, promoting national security, the increase of jobs and industry and to ensure justice and equality for all.

Give us the fortitude to see that our faith in You is the greatest decision we can undertake.

Amen

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, 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, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



Greetings of love from Uganda, Africa. To the parishioners of St. Ann and St. John's, I am happy to be back. This is a home away from home. We have done much together. Special thanks goes to our Pastor Fr. Paul L. Ring whom I have visited every year for the last 15 years. He means a lot to me, my people and my mission. We're building a boys' dormitory Estimated at \$140,000 including installation of water, and electricity and beds. We're currently fundraising for \$ 90,000 to complete this project.

How to donate? Write your check to St. John's or St. Ann and in the memo Write school/Uganda.

We shall have a second collection on the weekend of 24/25th of August for this noble cause.

Contact Fr. Stephen Lusiba on my email address: lusteve2012@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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
We need jelly & rice pilaf
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: All meetings are suspended for the Summer. See you in the Fall. Enjoy!!!!

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**

Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Monday, September 16, 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 to distribute than large sums., ie \$100

NEWS



Seeking Peace after Abortion?

Project Rachel retreats offer hope, healing, and peace with God.

Fall 2024 Dates:

September 28

November 16

9:00 am—5:00 pm

Location *confidential*.

"The retreat was an experience I will take with me for the rest of my life. I received back the grace of God within me and felt a true sense of peace and self-forgiveness."

An offer of invitation from Nancy Smith, Director of the Holy Cross Retreat Center:

Consider yourself invited to discern a wonderful Retreat opportunity at the Holy Cross Retreat House held on various weekends from October-April. Kevin and I have lived in Cursillo, and either of us would be happy to sponsor you!

Cursillo means "a short course in Christianity". Cursillo is more than a retreat. It is a dynamic Christian seminar. Participants are given practical insights into the everyday life of faith and service. Through prayer, reflection, group activities, and fellowship, the weekend is designed to deepen and round out what one has learned about Christ.

There is time for reflection and silence, and plenty of songs, laughter, discussion, prayer, liturgies, and breaks to make it a most enjoyable experience.

Winter/Spring Dates:
October 24–27 (Men)
November 21-24 (Women)

The retreat costs \$195 for the weekend and includes program materials, lodging, and meals. Please reach out if the cost prevents you from joining us, as help is always available.

To register/obtain more information, contact:

Holy Cross Retreat House
490 Washington St.
North Easton, MA 02356
508.238.2051

For more information, contact **Project Rachel:**

508.651.3100

help@projectrachelboston.com



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