



*ST. JOHN*

***Together in Christ  
Collaborative***

***SEPTEMBER 5, 2021***

**23RD SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**



*ST. ANN*



**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 9-4 M-Th  
For both Churches**

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

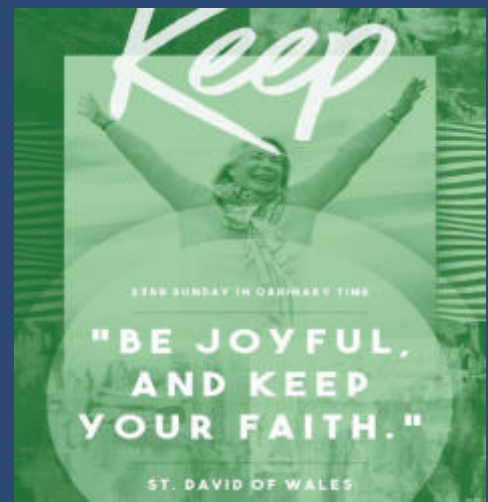
**508-378-4207**

**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 - 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:** TBA  
508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880



# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

# A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

## St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

### Saturday, September 4, 2021

4:00 - Francisco & Maria Figueiredo — Memem

### Sunday September 5, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

### Saturday, September 11, 2021

4:00—Elda Lawrence — 10th Anniversary

### Sunday, September 12, 2021

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

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## St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

### Saturday, September 4, 2021

5:30 - Patricia Robichaud — 10th Anniversary

Robert Robichaud — 20th Anniversary

### Sunday, September 5, 2021

10:30 - Richard MacDonald — 1st Anniversary

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

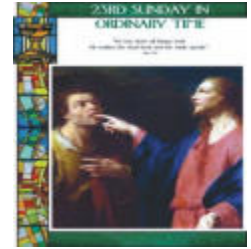
### Saturday, September 11, 2021

5:30 - Leonard Shepard — 29th Anniversary

Lena Shepard — 19th Anniversary

### Sunday, September 12, 2021

10:30 - Michael Bonner — 1st Anniversary



My Dear Friends in Christ,

In the Rite of Baptism, there is an optional “action” undertaken by the priest/deacon in which the “Prayer of Ephphatha” is invoked. It is a prayer in which the celebrant blesses the ears and mouth of the one being baptized, thus readying that person for hearing and speaking God’s word. The word “ephphatha” means “be opened”, and it was used by Jesus to cure the man with the speech impediment.

Jesus, in healing the deaf man, did more than restore the man’s hearing. He brought him “back to life” in a real way, restoring him to fullness of relationship within the community. While the scripture does not say this, it is assumed (given the feelings of the culture of Jesus’ day) that the man born deaf must be a sinner. Sin and sickness were so closely “linked” that the worse the illness/impediment, the worse the sin. The deaf man, therefore, must be a sinner. In healing the man with the impediment, Jesus shows Himself to be the master of sin and sickness, with the ability to break the “chains” of sin and free one who is “bound” in this way.

One of the interesting aspects of this healing comes after it. Jesus orders the healed man (and those around him) not to tell anyone of this healing. Of course, human nature being what it is, the more Jesus tells them not to speak of this healing the more they do so. This “spreading the good news” is human and natural – and Jesus knows it, I think. I believe that Jesus, who knew human nature (being fully human Himself, of course!) knew exactly how people would react; he counted on that reaction to assist Him in sharing God’s healing power.

Where is it that we need healing? Where is it that we have been healed? Who is it among family, friends and neighbors that need to hear the “good news” of God’s goodness to us? May we have the insight to recognize the good God had done for us. May we have the courage to share this good news with all whom we meet!

A Blessed Week to All,

Fr. Paul

## THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Your continued support is very much appreciated.  
Weekly Offertory

Aug 10 - Aug 16, 2021

Aug 17 - Aug 23, 2021

### ST ANN

Online	N/A	
Mail	\$ 630	850
Mass	\$ 2,117	1,499
TOTAL	\$ 2,747	2,349

### ST JOHN

Online	\$ 574	709
Mail	\$ 923	1,445
Mass	\$ 1,595	1,236
TOTAL	\$ 3,092	3,390

## DONATIONS FOR ROOF REPAIRS:

Roof Repair Donations \$1,150 (total to date \$5,840) (Total Project Cost \$5,395)

\$5,840 We are so very grateful for the generosity bestowed upon the Parish to complete the roof repairs. We have exceeded our goal and the additional funds will be used toward the humane removal of some bats that have taken up residency in the Hall.

\$5395



Thank you for your generosity to make this happen.

## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



Tomorrow our nation celebrates Labor Day (in fact we have basically made a “weekend” out of it, since it” unofficially” marks the end of summer for many!). Labor Day traditionally (and somewhat ironically) is a day when workers take a break from their labors and reflect on not only the necessity but the beauty and gift of work. During the time of the pandemic, many people were negatively impacted in their work situation with a number of people losing their jobs and even their businesses. For these folks, Labor Day is seen as a challenging day, especially if they are still out of work. Our nation, however, still marks these days, and our Church also reflects upon the necessity and power of work.

As Franciscans, the idea of work is reflected in the *Rule of the Franciscan Order*, particularly Article #16, which states that tells us we need to “esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.” Furthermore, in the *Rule of 1223* written for the First Order friars, Saint Francis describes work as a “grace” and warns the brothers against idleness. Francis saw work as a grace and gift from God. We must be receptive to the grace and nurture the gift through prayer and openness to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Franciscan spirituality is based in Scripture. St. Francis’ Rule was promulgated to help all Franciscans, Secular and Religious bring “Gospel to life and life to Gospel”. The idea of work and poverty (which is both a Franciscan and Gospel virtue) are linked, as well. Francis’ idea of poverty was to depend totally on God and his own ability to work. Therefore, it was part of the fraternal work of the members to work regularly, and beg only when necessary for enough to keep the members fed and to carry out their work with the poor, especially lepers.

We are here to do God’s work with Christ and Francis as our human role models. You will see most Secular Franciscans wearing the plain Tau cross as a symbol of their profession. Others wear the Tau cross with a hand on each side of the cross. One hand symbolizes Christ’s hand; the other symbolizes the hand of St. Francis. Before he died, he also received the Stigmata, the wounds of Christ in his own body. This can be a reminder to us that we are Christ’s hands in the world now and it is up to us to do his work to make his world function and to bring his presence to others.

This Labor Day, let us see work as “grace and gift” not just “burden and bother”. Let us work not only to stave off idleness (which, as they say, is “the Devil’s playground”), but to contribute to the building up of the Body of Christ, the Church. Finally, let us do our work, both physical and spiritual, as a “united front” by bringing “Gospel to life and life to Gospel”.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



## The Deacon’s Column

Deacon Chris Connelly

### “An Accepting Father”

Last week on the Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time we heard some very critical words of Jesus directed against the Pharisees and the scribes. Jesus is critical of them because they set up boundaries that divide and classify people into “clean” and “unclean” people or as “righteous” and “sinners.” In fact, when we look at Jesus’ words and actions in the Gospels, we find that Jesus is most critical of the ones that call themselves “righteous” and accepting and hospitable to those that are deemed unworthy because of sin. Pick your favorite story, the prodigal son, the healing of the ten lepers, the adulterous woman, the call of Matthew or Levi, the Samaritan woman at the well, the widow’s mite, and you will find that Jesus is always on the move into places that need his mercy and grace. He is compassionate and accepting of where people are with the hopes that by their encounter with him, they will have faith and be healed and saved.

When I do baptism, I often ask the parents to think about the kind of person they want their child to grow into as they mature into adulthood. After asking them to name the virtues they desire to see, I challenge them to treat one another and others the same way. That way, the child will grow in virtue by the way it is experienced in the home. Jesus learned to be a compassionate and accepting man by the way these virtues were experienced in the home Joseph and Mary formed in Nazareth. Joseph is an excellent model of an acceptance. When he discovered that Mary was pregnant, he sacrificed his own ego and pride and accepted Mary into his home to be his wife. In accepting Mary as his wife, he accepted the child in her womb as his own child and raised him in wisdom and virtue.

In a similar way, we are often challenged by events, circumstances, and people. Sometimes it may seem like our world is crashing in around us and the dreams we once held onto have turned into nightmares. Where we once thought we had control, we feel as if our world is spiraling out of control. I am sure it must have felt like that for the countless people Jesus encountered in his public ministry. However, because Jesus was accepting of others, others were able to find a center of gravity that restored balance to their lives and spirits. Will others find in us a calming and accepting peace that encourages them to seek pardon and peace, healing and salvation that comes to all who turn to the Lord?

My friends, as we continue to journey with the Lord, call upon the intercession of St. Joseph and ask for the grace of acceptance: the acceptance of others and the acceptance of life’s circumstances. Turn to the Lord and see in him an accepting gaze that seeks to calm our souls and restore our dreams.



Greetings of Love to the Parishioners of St John and St. Ann. On behalf of my people in Uganda, I thank you for having donated in 2019 for

the girls dormitory which we built. Thank you so much.

This time round, I am making an appeal of \$37,000.00 to build a classroom block that will help to reduce the big numbers (congratulation) of students per class. Our classes have over 70 students. This is too much a number in covid environment. Government has directed us to have smaller numbers per class say 35 or 40. This calls for more classrooms. With or without covid, we have been directed to reduce the numbers per class.

Kindly help me build this "covid block". We shall have a second collection next weekend September 11th and 12th for this purpose. Write your check through your parish and in the memo indicate St. Benedict school. The donation will be wired to Uganda.

Contact me on [lusteve2012@gmail.com](mailto:lusteve2012@gmail.com) for details.

God bless you for your donation.

Fr. Stephen Lusiba

**Prayer for Students**

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of learning!  
 I want to grow closer to you  
 in everything I do at school.  
 In math and science, help me to see  
 your beautiful plan in the world.  
 Help me to discover new stories  
 and values as I read and write.  
 In arts and music, help me to be creative.  
 In sports, help me to treat my teammates  
 and my opponents fairly.  
 Help me to learn new skills  
 in technology.  
 Jesus, you are the perfect teacher.  
 Help me to listen with open ears,  
 an open heart, and an open mind  
 to all my teachers at school.  
 Help me to treat my classmates  
 with care, kindness, and respect.  
 Thank you, Jesus, for school!  
 Amen.

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**Sharing Your Faith**

**Question:**

My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I'm afraid to. How do I share my faith?

**Answer:**


There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!

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*Hail Mary full of Grace,  
 The Lord is with Thee, blessed art thou among women  
 And blessed is the fruit of they womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God  
 Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.  
 Amen*



**Choir Is Back!**

One who sings prays twice. If you would like to pray twice by singing in the Together in Christ Collaborative Choir please plan to attend choir rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:00 beginning on September 9 at St John's.

Please email Rich, our music director at [richcesarini@gmail.com](mailto:richcesarini@gmail.com) in advance so that he will have enough copies of music for everyone.



**THIS IS OUR CHURCH.**  
 And when you support the Catholic Appeal you support all of us.



## 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 & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Ifan 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, Joan Fisher & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

**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.

**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:*

*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**

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**Catholic Teaching on Labor**

One of the most important principles of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Four encyclicals address this foundational social teaching: *Rerum Novarum* (1891) by Leo XIII, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931) by Pius XI, *Laborem Exercens* (1981), and *Centesimus Annus* (1991) by John Paul II. They address both the theology and dignity of work. In Genesis, God takes the initiative in creating the world, calling forth human beings to be faithful stewards of creation. We are thus formed to share in God's continuing creative activity by partnering with God in finishing the world and helping bring it to completion and fulfillment. From this perspective, work can be spiritually understood in terms of sharing in God's ongoing activity to build, create, and transform the world. Human beings are co-creators with God. This vocation demands self-discipline.

Besides an exercise in self-discipline, work is also the means by which we develop and fulfill ourselves. In work, we shape the world and our environment. Through work, we also shape ourselves. Pope John Paul II summarized this point in *Laborem Exercens* #6, "the value of work is not primarily the kind of work being done, but the fact that the one who is doing it is a person."

Labor Day offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on how we view work in light of our Catholic social teaching. ©LPi

23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

September 22 - October 31

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 26 coordinated campaigns:

- 18,855 babies saved from abortion
- 221 abortion workers converted
- 112 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside Planned Parenthood, 1055 Commonwealth Ave Boston, MA.
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily
- **Local contact:** Rita Russo, 781-762-4391 [40daysforlifeboston@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifeboston@gmail.com)

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

More info at: [40daysforlife.com/boston](http://40daysforlife.com/boston)

Campaign Kick-Off, Wednesday, September 22, 2 pm at Planned Parenthood

Praise and Worship Vigils Thursday, 6 pm, September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, and 28

Candlelight Vigils Friday nights at 7 pm, September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Spanish Vigils Saturday mornings at 10:30 am, September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Sunday Family Vigils at 2 pm, September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

Tuesday Rosary at 2 pm, September 28, October 5, 12, 19, and 26

Concluding Prayer Service Sunday, October 31 at 2PM

ALL EVENTS ARE AT ON THE SIDEWALK AT 1055 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON

The Museum of Family Prayer

Come and explore the Museum of Family Prayer, Easton, MA, a place to pray, listen, touch, watch and reflect alone or as a family. Learn about the remarkable story of Father Patrick Peyton C.S.C., sainthood candidate who preached to over 28 million people during his lifetime.

Young and old are welcome. The grounds at 518 Washington Street, Easton, MA 02356 provide an oasis of serenity. Tour guides are available to assist families with child-centered activities.

Contact [www.museumoffamilyprayer.org](http://www.museumoffamilyprayer.org) The museum is open Wed - Sat 10 A.M to 4:00 P.M. and Sunday from Noon - 4:00 P.M.

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