



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

*Together in Christ
 Collaborative
 Saint Ann & Saint John
 September 8, 2024*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2005, 1988, 1970 CCL



★ **PATRIOT DAY** ★
 WE WILL NEVER FORGET
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 9 / 11 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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
 Monday through Thursday**

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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
Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
774-533-2002



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR



St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

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

Sunday, September 15, 2024
8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
11:30 - Mary Ann LaCroix — 1st Anniversary
6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, September 7, 2024
4:00 - Richard Venesky — 17th Anniversary
Sunday, September 8, 2024
9:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

Saturday, September 14, 2024
4:00 - Leonard & Lena Shepard — Memorial
Sunday, September 1, 2024
9:30 - Michael Bonner — 4th Anniversary

- 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.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

In the Rite of Baptism, there is an optional “action” under-taken 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

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!

Interested in becoming Catholic? Baptized but never received First Communion or Confirmation? We have a program for you!

Please contact Matt Brady in the office if interested.

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 two 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.

Faith Formation Teachers Wanted!

With the start of faith formation coming in a few weeks, we are urgently seeking catechists (teachers) for the following classes.

Sunday 8:20-9:20 am at St. John: Grades 1, 3, 4
Sunday 5-6 pm at St. Ann: Grades 6 and 8
Sunday 7:15-8:15 at St. Ann: Grades 9 and 10

Monday 4:30-5:30 at St. Ann: Grades 1 and 3

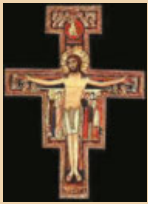
Tuesday 4:30-5:30 at St. John: Grades 1, 2, 5

Wednesday 4:30-5:30 at St. John: Grades 6 and 7

All materials and lesson support will be provided. You are welcome to team up with a friend if you would like.

As Fr. Paul says, if you love Jesus and love our young people, then you are qualified!

If you are interested, please email Matt Brady at directorofministries.tic@gmail.com



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Last week, our nation celebrated 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. Two years 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, 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,

THE SECOND COLLECTION IS TO SUPPLEMENT THE LOW OFFERTORY1`

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.



CLOTHING DRIVES

Clothing Drive



What's in your closet?

The Conference of St. Vincent de Paul of West Bridgewater and the Conference of St Vincent de Paul of East Bridgewater will be having clothing drives at each respective church location.— St. John's in East Bridgewater and St. Ann's in West Bridgewater .

September 21 & 22 from 10:00 to 2:00

Each society will earn money per pound for all clothing, coats, bedding, shoes, and boots. donated at their location which they will use to serve the neighbors of their community.

Please give your items to the drive and not the bin at St. Ann's parking lot to make this event completely Successful!!!

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: Tuesday, September 10th @ 6 PM

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



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."

For more information, contact *Project Rachel*:

508.651.3100

help@projectrachelboston.com

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

It has recently been brought to our attention that the roof on St. Ann's Rectory is in dire need of replacement.

We have obtained quotes for the job and the total cost is \$15,000.

Fortunately, one parishioner has already made a sizeable donation but, it is not anywhere near what we need to cover the cost.

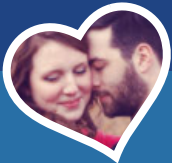
This is where we need your help! The roof will be replaced in October. We cannot delay and have it go through the winter in it's current state.

When contemplating your ability to help, please keep in mind that this is not just a St. Ann's project since the building houses the Business Office for the Collaborative and Fr. Peter Francis' residence.

If you are able, please feel free to give your donation directly to Fr. Paul, place it in the Offertory collection clearly marked **"roof replacement"**, or mail it to the Parish office with the same clearly marked designation.

Any and all funds will be completely dedicated to this project and we will keep you updated as to the progress of

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