



*Together in Christ  
Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John  
September 10, 2023  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**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  
9:00-3:00 M-TH**

**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 Ofs**

**MASS TIMES**

**St Ann  
Saturday, 4:00 PM  
Sunday, 9:30 AM**

**St John  
Sunday, 8:00 AM  
Sunday, 11:30 AM  
Sunday, 6:15 PM**

**We, The Together in Christ Collaborative of St. Ann and St. John the Evangelist, welcome and engage all ages to become the disciples that Jesus is calling all of us to be. United by faith and in the Celebration of the Mass, we embrace the call of Jesus to live our mission to "Go forth and make disciples." Through evangelization, education, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will grow together as One Body of Christ.**

# 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**

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

## 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 ANN'S STAFF**

**Administrative Assistant:** Arlene Stefano  
stanns@comcast.net  
508-586-4880

## **SAINT JOHN'S STAFF**

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad  
stjohnebridge@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



## MASSES FOR THE WEEK



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### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, September 9, 2023 -

4:00 - Willie DeIuleo — Memorial

#### Sunday, September 10, 2023

9:30 - Brisco Paula — Memorial

#### Saturday, September 16, 2023

4:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C, Collaborative

#### Sunday, September 17, 2023

9:30 - All parishioners who are drawn to be volunteers for the T.I.C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday September 10, 2023

8:00 - Leonard & Lena Shepard — Memorial

11:30 - Anna Biagi — 28th Anniversary

6:15 - Victims of the fires in Hawaii

#### Sunday, September 17, 2023

8:00 - All Parishioners who are drawn to be Volunteers for the T. I. C. Collaborative

11:30 - Kenny Fontaine, Jr. — 4th Anniversary

6:15 - All Parishioners who are drawn to be Volunteers for the T. I. C. Collaborative

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Friends in Christ,



Like with a lot of things in life, forgiveness and reconciliation is a process – it doesn't just "happen". In today's gospel, the four-step process of reconciliation is as follows: one-on-one, going with a friend, calling in the church, treating them (the one who wronged you) like you would "a Gentile or tax collector" (an outsider with no standing in the community) (Mt 18:17). It seems as if Jesus is contradicting the idea of forgiving "seventy times seven times" (Mt 18:22, in the passage immediately following today's gospel). One has to look carefully at the passage to see that the two ideas (treating one like an outsider and forgiving unconditionally) are not contradictory.

There are some times when one has to "give it over to God" (a stock phrase of my mother's). In doing this one is allowing God to work in the life of the person who has wronged us in a way that we cannot. Sin must be challenged when it is seen, but it must be done in the most effective way possible. This is the reasoning behind the "escalation" found in the process of forgiveness in today's gospel. One begins by allowing the person to repent/apologize without "going public". If this is unsuccessful, then one brings in a "third party" (one, it is assumed, who knows both parties) to provide objective counsel. If this does not work, you bring in the church (the competent authority which has the power to "bind" and "loose" (as referred to in Mt 18:18)). Finally, when these avenues have been exhausted, then one who has wronged is commended to God (so that the Almighty can work in the person's life).

It can be a challenging thing, to confront sin and to be confronted by one's own sin. It is a humbling experience both for the offending and aggrieved parties. If one is open to correction, and if one is bold enough to correct, then healing can take place. If not, the only remedy is to allow God to work in both party's lives. If this is done, then healing can still take place, in God's own time; at times such as this, only God's power can "do the job".

May we have the courage to both confront and be confronted by sin. May we know the healing power of God through forgiveness and reconciliation. May we feel this healing power by being conduits and receptacles of forgiveness. May we "let God be God" in our lives and in the lives of all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

### Reminder:

**Effective October 1st, the 6:15 Mass will be held at St. Ann.**

HOLY CROSS RETREAT HOUSE




September 17th

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS, TOURS, INFORMATION TABLES

490 WASHINGTON STREET EASTON MA  
4:00-6:00 PM

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO HAVE ARTIST-EXTRAORDINAIRE, ROB SURETTE, PERFORMING FOR OUR COMMUNITY! ROB HAS APPEARED ON THE TODAY SHOW, AND HE IS A TOP-TIER MASTER FINE ARTIST FOR DISNEY! THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL BE INSPIRED!



To RSVP OR TO LEARN MORE  
Email: [nsmith@holycrossusa.org](mailto:nsmith@holycrossusa.org) [www.retreathouse.org](http://www.retreathouse.org)



# MINISTRY NEWS

## Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at [Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

### **\*\*Last Call to Register for Faith Formation\*\***

**Faith formation classes begin on September 24th. Please sign up as soon as possible so your children can be added to a class and you can be put on this year's email list. For the registration form, please see the parish website or email Matt Brady.**

**There will be parent overview meetings on 9/18 at 7:30 at St. John's and 9/19 at 7 pm at St. Ann's.**

### **Catechists Wanted!**

As we prepare for the new faith formation year in the fall, catechists are needed for all grades.

The only requirements are love of Christ and a willingness to work with our children.

**No experience needed** - we will train you and give you all the materials you need.

If interested, please contact Matt Brady.  
[Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com](mailto:Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com)

**We especially need teachers for grades 7-9**

### **Ministry Spotlight: Family Life Ministry**

The Ministry is being revived after being dormant for several years. It will be responsible for planning events for our families, including fun activities, parent formation nights and service projects.

### **Altar Servers Wanted!**

This year we are bringing back altar servers. Any child in grade 3 or higher is welcome as are any adults who would like to serve in this role. There will be a training session on October 22 after the 9:30 Mass. Please email Matt Brady to sign up. If you can't make the training, that's ok, just email Matt to make an alternate time to meet.

### **Fellowship Hour: Saturday 9/23**

Join us after the 4 pm Mass on 9/23 for a Fellowship period to connect with fellow parishioners before you head out to dinner. There will be crackers and cheese, fruit and drinks so it's the perfect (and a free) appetizer! We will be set up in the rose garden between the church and the rectory. Sponsored by our Disciples of Hospitality.

### **Volunteer Drive**

After all the Masses on the weekends of September 23-24 and 30-October 1 we will be holding a Volunteer Drive. As we work to expand our ministries and revive some that have been dormant since the Covid shutdown, we need many more volunteers to make this possible. Please stop by the table to learn about the ways in which you can help our collaborative better minister to all those whom we serve.

In the next few weeks, we will be running a ministry spotlight in the bulletin so you can learn more about our ministries.

All current volunteers should plan on stopping by the table so that they can fill out their paperwork for this fiscal year.

### **September Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries**

Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team at Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless of Boston. The September date is 9/18 at 6:30 pm at St. John. All are welcome to join us!



### MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today's gospel, Jesus instructs His disciples how to deal with sinners. They are to first confront them one-on-one, (secondly) they are then to bring in another (a "third party"), finally (if the first two methods fail) they are to commend them to God and have nothing to do with them. The hope is that conversion, forgiveness, and healing takes place somewhere along the way.

When one looks at the saints, one can easily forget that they are human. So often, we focus on the virtues of the saints and we forget that they are human and, thus, sinners. The thing that makes them saints is that they did not remain in their sinfulness but came to conversion, often through the words and actions of another. Sometimes, it is Christ Himself that comes to the person and challenges them to see the error of their ways and to come to a relationship with Him. St. Francis came to his moment of healing and conversion after hearing that voice in the San Damiano chapel to "rebuild my church". To do this, St. Francis knew that he had to change his ways, give up the world, and take up the Cross of Christ. When he heard those famous and important words, St. Francis knew that he had to radically change his views, his life, and even his clothes, so that this change may be whole, complete, and life-long.

St. Francis knew about sin. No doubt, there were many elements of his life prior to his conversion that would be considered sinful not only by the Church, but by God Himself. When St. Francis heard the call to rebuild the church", he took it quite literally (as the structure he was standing in was falling apart). Christ, however, meant it figuratively, as He meant for St. Francis to restructure the Church, or at least some of it, so that it was more in line with Christ's mission for the world. Because St. Francis knew about sin (being a sinner, himself), he could spot it and correct it. This was a God who knew that despite Francis' sinfulness, He could be used to bring others to Christ by spotting that sinfulness and correct it.

May we have the courage to recognize the sin in our lives and the grace to ask for forgiveness. May we, like St. Francis, listen to the voice of God in our hearts and heed the call to conversion to a life of grace and God's peace. May we then, in turn, through the intercession of St. Francis, sinner and saint, be instruments of that peace.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

**September 9/10**—Today's second collection is to support the efforts by Fr. Stephen in the building of a boys dormitory at Saint Benedict's School in Uganda.

Please make the checks payable to St. Ann or St. John and put the Dormitory Project in the memo line.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

### Protecting God's Children Training

This training, also known as Virtus, is required for all parish staff and volunteers regardless of role. You are only required to attend this training once, so if you have previously attended this training you can receive credit for it. In conjunction with the Volunteer Drive, all current volunteers will receive an email about their status and info on how to sign up. We are hosting 2 trainings here:

Saturday 9/30 at 10 am at St. Ann

Saturday 10/14 at 9:30 am at St. John

For questions please contact Matt Brady.



### **SVdP Clothing Collection**

Please help Saint Vincent de Paul help our neighbors. Saturday and Sunday September 23-24 SVdP will coordinate a clothing, bed linen / blanket, and shoe collection to help our neighbors in need.

A SVdP trailer will be parked in the St John's Church parking lot from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to accept donations of usable clothes, linens / blankets, and shoes.

Unfortunately household appliances or furniture cannot be accepted.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors.

**SECOND COLLECTION ON THE WEEKEND OF  
SEPTEMBER 16 & 17  
WILL BE FOR  
THE  
CLERGY TRUST**

**St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
FATIMA ROSARY PROCESSION**

**Wednesday, September 13th  
7:30 PM  
St Thomas Aquinas  
Speaker: Fr. Ken Cienik**

## 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](mailto: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, Kay Evans, 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, Brian Scanlan, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Kayla Perry, Fr. Pater Francis's Mother, Barbara, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti & 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 or added, 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 — Small jars only please.  
Cookies and crackers are also needed.

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

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

### Forrest Gump Movie Night

Friday October 13th at 7 pm  
at St. John

There will be free popcorn and a concession stand with other treats. All are welcome! Sponsored by the Disciples of Hospitality.



The Together in Christ Collaborative Choir wants you!

You do not have to read music.  
You do not have to have experience.  
You do not have to audition.

If you sing along from the congregation on Sundays then you are qualified! Rehearsals will begin on Thursday nights in September.

For more info contact our music director, Rich at [richcesarini@gmail.com](mailto:richcesarini@gmail.com).



**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.

*Tuesday September 5 2023  
Monday, September 18, 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

# NEWS

Boy's Dormitory.

Greetings of love from Uganda. We have done a lot together as far as building the above school. We do appreciate so much.

Why a Boy's Dormitory?

1. We already have a girls dormitory
2. It gives conducive environment for studies
3. It keeps the boys safe from joining wrong groups such as drunkards....
4. To curb the long distances of 4 to 7 miles boys walk to and from school every day
5. We have no buses for students transportation
6. To avoid school dropouts and early marriages.

How to donate?

Write your check to St. John's or St. Ann's. In the memo write St. Benedict school. We shall have a second collection for this noble cause on September 9th and 10th for all masses.

How much do we need?

The boys dormitory is going to cost us close to \$200, 000.00.

Am appealing to your generosity. Kindly help the African child to acquire quality education.

Contact me on my email further information

Fr. Stephen Lusiba

[lusteve2012@gmail.com](mailto:lusteve2012@gmail.com)



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