



*Together in Christ
Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
September 11, 2022*

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PATRIOT DAY
SEPTEMBER 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 9-3 M-F
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
Website: www.stjohneb.org
Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB
Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring



Happy Grandparents Day!

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 - 3PM Monday-Friday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.
In the Church

St Ann's
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. &
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass: Thurs & Sat.
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

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Sunday, September 11, 2022

7:30 - Prisco & Paula Parawan — Memorial

11:30 - All the People who are victims of 9/11

6:15 - Parishioners of Saint Ann & St. John

Sunday, September 18, 2022

7:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

11:30 - All families suffering from Fentanyl deaths

6:15 - Parishioners of Saint Ann & Saint John

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, September 10, 2022

4:00 - Leonard Shepard — 30th Anniversary

Lena Shepard — 20th Anniversary

Sunday, September 11, 2022

9:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Saturday, September 17, 2022

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, September 18, 2022

9:30 - Kenny Fontaine, Jr. — 3rd Anniversary

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today's gospel offers us three parables. Parables were story-telling "tools" that the speaker used to convey a greater point. While Jesus was not alone in using parables, He certainly is known for using them, relating these images to greater realities such as salvation and the Kingdom of God. In today's gospel, Jesus is speaking of the "sin and repentance" aspect of our faith by speaking of "The Lost Sheep", "The Lost Coin" and "The Prodigal Son". The first two parables "set up" the third, which brings the point home.

The story of the "Prodigal Son" can be looked at in many different ways. While we tend to look at the "wayward" son as the center of the story, we can also take the tale from the perspective of the father or even of the second ("faithful") son. Depending where we are on our journey of faith, we may be able to relate to any one of these three characters. Some may focus on the "prodigal son", insofar as his journey from sin to forgiveness. The prodigal son gives us a vivid picture not only of the perils of sin, but also the power of forgiving love. The prodigal son, coming to his senses and realizing the error of his ways, goes to the father not expecting anything more than to be treated like a hired hand. The treatment he receives "mirrors" the treatment we receive from God when, with contrite hearts, we approach God seeking – and receiving! – forgiveness. It is a riveting image of the power of God's forgiving love.

We can also look at this story from the perspective of the father. Perhaps in our life there is someone who has "wronged" us, and they approach seeking forgiveness. The father in today's story is a model for us, a way of approaching that encounter. We can hold back that forgiveness, "lording over" the offending party the transgression committed; this is not, however, how God wishes us to act. The father in today's gospel shows us that "to err is human, to forgive, divine". When we forgive, we bring God's grace into the moment, raising it up so that God may bless BOTH parties, healing the wounds of sin and division.

Finally, we can look at the story from the viewpoint of the son. Perhaps we have been faithful to God's teaching, yet we don't feel that we have been given our "due" (i.e. the "young goat" that the "faithful" son feels that he deserves). We might become resentful when we see others who have transgressed getting "rewarded" (i.e., the Prodigal Son), forgetting that God sees all and will deal with them accordingly (probably affording them far more mercy than we would!). We should come to realize that God will deal with us – in His own time and His own way - for "we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5:10). It has been said that "whoever brings a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins" (Jas 5:20). May we have the courage to seek out the "lost" and bring them back into God's good grace by inviting them back into relationship with God. May we know the grace God has waiting for us and may we share that grace with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Week *Fr. Paul*

NEW MASS SCHEDULE



After consultation with the Parish Council and Staff, we are unveiling a New Mass Schedule.

**BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2022
Through Approx. Easter**

SATURDAYS

4:00 PM — SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAYS

7:30 — SAINT ANN'S

9:30 — SAINT JOHN'S

11:30 — SAINT ANN'S

6:15 — SAINT ANN'S

GRAND OPENING!!!



BINGO IS BACK!

**St. Ann's Bingo will open
Thursday, September 8th
Doors open at 4 PM
Bingo will start at
6:30 PM Sharp**

**Southeast Cyclones will be holding Saturday Night
Bingo starting Sept. 10
Doors Open at 4 PM
Bingo will start at
6 PM Sharp**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH
THE PARISH CENTER CLEAN UP !!**

Registration for Faith Formation is Now Open!

Registration for this year's faith formation program is now open. Registration forms can be found at the back of both churches or on the website. Classes will begin Sunday, October 2nd so please register as soon as possible to allow us to finish getting ready. Cost per student is still being determined.

The schedule of classes is below. When registering, please select the class each child in your family will attend. All classes will meet weekly, **except for grades 9 and 10, which will alternate weeks.** Once registrations are processed, you will receive the full schedule of class dates by email.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Matt Brady by email at directorofministries.tic@gmail.com or by calling 774-533-2002.

Grades 1-5 Sundays 8:15-9:15 am @ St. John
Grades 1-5 Mondays 4-5 pm @ St. Ann
Grades 6-8 Sundays 5-6 pm @ St. Ann
Grades 6-8 Tuesdays 4-5 pm @ St. Ann
Grade 9 Sundays 7:30-8:30 pm @ St. Ann
Grade 10 Sundays 7:30-8:30 pm @ St. Ann

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

MATTHEW BRADY



Matt began his work with our Collaborative Monday, August 29th and my prayer is that our Collaborative can benefit from his passion for ministry, his knowledge of ministry and theology, and his enthusiasm to serve the Lord and His People. He and I will be working closely together to create this vision for the various ministries and activities here in the Collaborative.

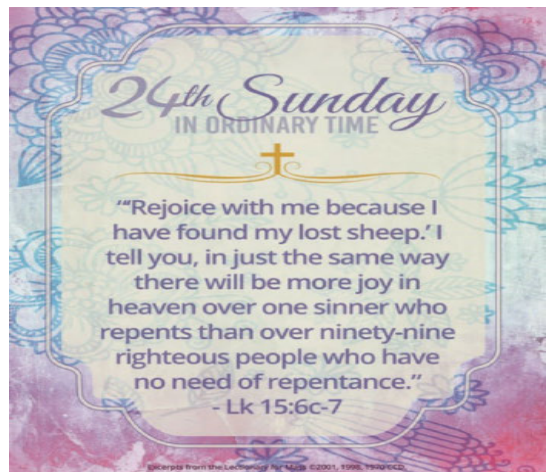
To hear from Matt in his own words:

"Hello everyone! My name is Matt Brady and I am very excited to be joining you as the new Director of Ministries. I have a master's degree in theology from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and an undergraduate degree from Salve Regina University. I spent the past three years at St. Denis in Westwood, where I led a revitalization of their faith formation program and family ministry and helped guide the parish through Covid. I am looking forward to working with all of you, especially the families, to grow and strengthen our Together in Christ Collaborative."

Please help me welcome Matt to our Collaborative and pray with me that his endeavors may bear much good fruit!

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Paul





THE DEACON'S COLUMN

Praying with the Senses

The Liturgy we celebrate together is full of tastes, touches, smells, sounds, and sights that move our spirits to wonder in awe of the good things God does for us in the sacraments. This short reflection will turn our attention to how the liturgy appeals to our senses so that we can be moved to full, active, and conscious participation in the Eucharist.

SIGHT—The liturgy is full of many things that are meant to capture our attention through the sense of sight. We notice the beautiful ornamentation of our churches. Consider the stained-glass windows that adorn our churches; from the outside the glass looks dark and dull—but from the inside, the sun illuminates the windows revealing their magnificent beauty. Through these windows the lives of the saints inspire us to holiness and sanctity. There are so many things that catch our attention through sight: the ministers, colors, flowers, vestments, and even the people gathered with us week in and week out. Through these things we are invited to see the beauty of God and the life he invites us to share with him.

HEARING—There are so many things to listen to during the liturgy. We listen to scripture through the first and second readings. Our ears are filled with the sounds of bells ringing during the consecration. Liturgical music fills the space inviting those who sing well to pray twice! Even amidst the various sounds of the liturgy there are moments that are silent inviting us to contemplate the things that we have seen and heard.

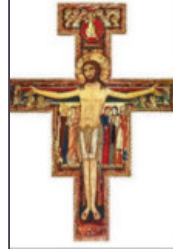
SMELL—Easter flowers fill the Church on Easter Sunday and with their fragrant smells of spring, we are filled with hope in new birth. The fragrant aroma of frankincense often fills the air as we use sacred incense during solemn feast days of the Church: funerals, Christmas, Holy Thursday, and Easter Sunday reminding us of the sweetness of heaven and the promise of eternal life.

TOUCH—We may not think about touch as an important means to encounter the sacred mysteries but in many ways, we rely on this sense in the liturgy. We place our finger in Holy Water and trace the sign of the cross on our bodies recalling our baptism. We strike our breast during the Confiteor as we recognize our sin and need for grace. We greet each other at the sign of peace with a handshake, kiss, or hug. We open our hands or stretch out our tongues to receive the Body of Christ.

TASTE—Through the sense of taste, we savor the most sublime but sweetest taste a human can ever experience—that of Jesus Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Through this sense we are invited to “taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

God is so good that he comes to us in many ways to reveal how much he loves us. He is visible in the beauty of the stars at night or in the brilliant palette of sunset. God can be heard in the crashing of waves and in the sounds of a playground. He can be experienced in the sweet tastes of delectable foods and in the sweet and refreshing smells that make us think of home. God is often encountered in the gentle and compassionate touch when we need it the most. Next time you are at Mass allow God to speak to you through all your senses.

MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



Today's gospel highlights three parables of Jesus, one of which is “The Prodigal Son”. One can look at St. Francis of Assisi as a bit of a “prodigal son”. In using his family's wealth, Francis lived much like the Prodigal Son, using up his father's money on wasteful things. When this wealth was not as forthcoming, Francis (like the Prodigal Son) returned home. In doing so, the Prodigal Son realized the error of his ways; Francis' conversion was not as immediate, but it was just as powerful as (if not more powerful than) the Prodigal Son's change of heart. It was definitely a long-going process which spanned a period of about 3 or 4 years. It was the final outcome of a long process of meditation, of inner torment and repentance, but also of mysterious heavenly visitations, indicating the presence of the hand of God in the whole process.

Conversions are usually the outcome of particular experiences that force a person to do some hard soul-searching, and this is the case with Francis, too. At a certain point in his life Francis began to feel increasingly unsatisfied. He had everything going for him - wealth, health, friends, and girls even, yet he was not happy. God was beginning to make His voice heard, and Francis began searching for something else. This process seems to have started in 1202, when Francis was 20 years old. In that year, a war broke out between Assisi and the nearby city of Perugia. This was a common event between neighboring cities in medieval Italy. Francis, having a natural disposition for chivalry, was one of the first to enlist in the army, and encouraged his friends to do the same. But Assisi lost the war and Francis was taken prisoner and locked away in the grim dungeons of Perugia for a whole year. In those days prisons were often damp, inhospitable places, and prisoners were often treated with brutality. Francis, who was used to a life of comfort and luxury, must surely have been shocked by this experience. But God is able to draw good out of evil, and the interminable days spent in the darkness of the prison must have lit a light in his soul. He had plenty of time to reflect on his past life and his human condition. The harsh existence in the prison had taken a toll on his health, and Francis fell ill. When he was finally able to return home, this illness kept him away from his former lifestyle. Locked up in his own home, often bedridden, he began to see himself and his life with entirely new eyes. Under God's guidance, his meditations became almost continuous, not disturbed by his former work commitments or by his friends. But this was only the beginning of his conversion.

Initially, it appears that he was afraid of following God's call. He was aware that the new life that God was calling him to undertake was neither an easy nor a pleasant one, and he just didn't feel ready for it. But the war, his confinement in prison and his illness had gradually wafted him away from the dream-like existence he had led thus far, and had introduced him to the harsh realities of life. He discovered that the world was filled with darkness and suffering; with poor, hungry, ill and marginalized people. Yet these people often had more interesting stories to tell than his easy going, shallow friends of his former days, whose sole purpose in life was enjoyment. It was at this point that Francis' real conversion “took root” and began his new life! May we be open to a conversion of mind and heart, placing ourselves at the foot of the Cross...just as Francis did.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

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, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolai, Paul Martin, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Kay Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Kathy Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Casey L'Italien, Joan Ward-Fusco, Joan Thompson, Kenneth McLaughlin, Debbie & Fred Sprague, Baby Ryan, Karen McSweeney, Joe Pigeon, Barbara Gothage, Nancy McHugh, Jeannette Arruda & 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

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.



St VINCENT DE PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
P O Box 474
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.

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
(508) 510-5274.

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING A GREETER OR
AN USHER FOR ANY MASS AT SAINT JOHNS' OR
SAINT ANN'S, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY!**

508-378-4207 OR 508-586-4880

PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGH- OUT 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.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Second Collections this Month



**September 10 & 11
St. Benedict's School**

**September 18th
Clergy Trust**



Every other week — outstanding bills.

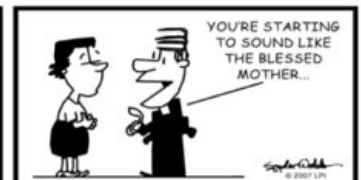
LECTOR AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

Anyone interested in becoming a Lector
Or
Eucharistic Minister
Or

Those currently serving who want to refresh
their skills, training will be available:

September 11th at St. Ann's
1:00—2:00 — Lectors
2:15—3:15 — Eucharistic Ministers

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





This is the Boy's Dream Dormitory for St. Benedict's High School, located in Kasambya, Mubende District, Uganda. This dormitory will house 200 boys offering them a safe place in which to earn an education, faith, and the ability to become responsible adults.

The total project cost is estimated at \$195,074 (USD). Please be as generous as you can to help make this dream a reality.

Peace to you all my friends. I am Fr. Stephen Lusiba, a friend to Fr. Paul L. Ring and to you all. Your parish is my home away from home.

In 2019, we completed the girls' dormitory at St. Benedict High School, Uganda. Thank for your support.

We now have a dream for the boys' dormitory. Kindly help me to realize the dream at nearly USD 200,000.00. We would like to bring the boys' also into the compound of the school. We have the space. They now walk long distances from home to school and back.

Why Build a Dormitory?

1. To ensure quality education since students will not be disrupted on the way to school and back home.
2. To minimize the long distances of more than six miles while coming to school, still yet to have to walk back. We have no buses.
3. To reduce early pregnancies /Marriages. Normally when these youths are not in schools, we end up with early marriages at 15!

How to donate?

Write a check to St. John's or St. Ann and in the memo line write St. Benedict. The donation will be wired to Uganda.

Contact me at lusteve2012@gmail.com

Fr. Stephen Lusiba

THE SECOND COLLECTION 9/10 & 9/11 WILL BE FOR ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

	<p>G.M. Petti Painting Co. Painting & Wallcovering Interior • Exterior Gary M. Petti 508.378.3459 25 Memorial Dr., East Bridgewater <i>Long time friend and business partner of the St. John's Parish</i></p>	<p>GROW YOUR BUSINESS BY PLACING AN AD HERE!</p> <p>CONTACT US!</p> <p>Contact Tom Blanco to place an ad today! tblanco@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6285</p>	<p>Ockers TECHNOLOGY... FOR TOMORROW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computer & A/V Solutions Provider - Data / Video Wiring Installation - Network Configuration, Installation & Support - Security Systems - Public Address Systems <p>508.586.4642 830 W. Chestnut St. Brockton <i>St. John's Parish's Longtime Friend</i></p>
<p>Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!</p> <p>Instantly create and purchase an ad with</p> <p>AD CREATOR STUDIO</p>  <p>4lpi.com/adcreator</p>		<p>SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.</p> <p>4LPi Buy a bulletin ad space today!</p>	<p>E. WATSON <i>Excavating</i> SEPTIC SYSTEMS • SITEWORK</p>  <p>Eric Watson O: 508-378-4543 East Bridgewater C: 774-259-0278 <i>Local reliable service & Friend of the St John's Parish</i></p>

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