



*ST. JOHN*

***Together in Christ  
Collaborative***

***OCTOBER 3, 2021***

**27th 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  
stjohnebridge@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:** Nancy Goggin  
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com  
508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

4:00 - Brian Landolfi — Birthday Remembrance

**Sunday October 3, 2021**

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

**Saturday, October 9, 2021**

4:00—Francisco & Maria Figueiredo — Mem

**Sunday, October 10, 2021**

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

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### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

5:30 - Alexis Doucette — 17th Birthday Remem

**Sunday, October 3, 2021**

10:30 - Allan & Ruth Winsor

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

**Saturday, October 9, 2021**

5:30 - Marie T. Connolly — 1st Anniversary

**Sunday, October 10, 2021**

10:30 - Bronislaw Morawski — 32nd Anniv.

My Dear Friends in Christ,



A number of years ago, my siblings and I held a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party for my parents. We wanted to show our love and appreciation for all that they had done for us, and so we invited all sorts of family and friends to the occasion. At the close of the evening, my parents got up to speak, expressing their appreciation at all that had been done for them that evening. When someone asked my mother if she had ever thought of divorcing my father, her response was that “divorce never crossed my mind...murder, yes, but never divorce!” It was a humorous way to say that while they had had their challenges, they always found a way to work them out.

Divorce in our nation has grown over the years at an alarming rate. There are many factors in this increase: the ease of divorce, the lack of commitment between the parties, and the lack of preparation going into marriage are just a few reasons. One of the main reasons, I believe, is that the couple sees it as another “contract” into which they are entering. This is in conflict with the Christian ideal of marriage, which sees the union as a *covenant*, not a contract. Christian marriage has many of the elements of a contract: two parties, the exchange of promises, and the eventual dissolution of the agreement (“until death do us part”). It becomes a *covenant* when the two parties bring God into the equation; then it is no longer two, but three, who are involved in the agreement. When one brings God into the “mix”, it “raises the stakes” for when God becomes involved there is an element of faith in the agreement. When God is involved, one trusts that the Almighty has the best interest of the parties in mind, and they themselves put their needs second to those of their partner. In Christian marriage, the element of self-giving love, mirroring the selfless love that God first gave to His people, is present in this agreement, this covenant.

We would do well to work towards restoring this element of self-giving love into marriage. Marriage has benefits not only for the parties involved, but all of society. Christian marriage, the union of one man and one woman, brings forth elements that are both unitive (i.e. the joining of the couple in love, for mutual support) and procreative (i.e. the bringing forth of children) that are unique to this pairing. There are certain segments of society which see marriage as a civil construct, thus rendering it answerable to that society. In our Catholic-Christian milieu, we see marriage through a covenantal lens (and not merely contractual) which thus puts it as part of society, yes, but distinct in a very real way.

May we pray for traditional marriage to be upheld by our society for both the unitive and procreative dimensions that they offer to society. It is in these ways that marriage is, and continues to be, a great benefit for the parties involved, their offspring and society as a whole. May we as good people of good will continue to dialogue with people who see this differently so that we may change minds and hearts to see the necessary good in traditional marriage,

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

### THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Your continued support is very much appreciated.  
Weekly Offertory

Sep 14 - Sep 20, 2021

	ST ANN	ST JOHN
	Online N/A	Online \$ 694
	Mail \$ -0-	Mail \$ 410
	Mass \$ 1,350	Mass \$ 1,866
	TOTAL \$ 1,350	TOTAL \$ 2,970
Clergy Health & Retirement \$663		Clergy Health & Retirement \$777

The bats at Saint Ann are schedule to be humanely removed from the Parish Center on Monday, October 4 and Tuesday October 5

So we are moving forward in a positive way due to your generosity.

THANK YOU.

## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY



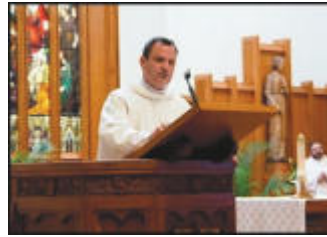
Time for a refresher and some reflection as we approach the Feast of St. Francis (October 4) . A little over four years ago, I found myself in Rome and Assisi on a service pilgrimage. While Rome was magnificent, little did I know how much of an impact that tiny Italian town of Assisi would have on my life, ministry, and relationship with the Lord. During that time, something stirred in me, calling me to explore a deeper relationship with St. Francis of Assisi and leading me to follow the Lord, in a new way, through the Secular Franciscans.

Today's readings speak of marriage in various ways: suitable partnerships, two becoming one. In these readings, the thought is that while different, there is a unity between partners. This is very much the case with the Secular Franciscan Order. Secular Franciscans are very much "in the world" (in partnership with God's plan of/for Creation), as St. Francis himself was, and we are called to bring "Gospel to life and life to Gospel". We do this by taking that charism of Francis that we learn about in reading, prayer, and monthly gatherings, and living it out in the everyday life. But we are not "of the world" because their focus is, as Francis' focus was, the Eternal Kingdom of God.

When we hear the name St. Francis of Assisi (whose Feast Day is tomorrow), we tend to think of the Blessing of the Animals (which we celebrated yesterday), his love of nature, and a kind and gentle soul. While all of these associations are valid, St. Francis was so much more. He was one who worked for that "unity in diversity" diligently as a devoted churchman, loyal to the Church and desirous of others to follow Christ in word and deed. When St. Francis founded the Secular Franciscan Order over 800 years ago, it was his intention to draw others into the Church through prayer, study, and works of mercy. Secular Franciscans come from all walks of life and are drawn from the laity (married and single) and diocesan clergy (bishops, priests, and deacons).

In my 26 years of priesthood, I have been led to live out my vocation in many different ways and in many different charisms. In the last few years, my time in the Secular Franciscans has brought a joy and peace that is an amazing testament to God's working in my vocation through St. Francis. I pray that when I am "professed" (that is, fully initiated) in the Secular Franciscans, God may continue to work in my life, ministry, and vocation and bring it to a new level of dedication. May our Good God, through the intercession of St. Francis (on this, his Feast) draw you close, show you His love, and make you an "instrument of His peace".

Pax et Bonum (Peace and All Good),  
Fr. Paul



## The Deacon's Column

Deacon Chris Connelly

### Cultivate and Take Care of the Earth

When I was a teenager, I held many jobs. I guess my first job was doing family chores: cleaning the kitchen, cleaning my room, doing my laundry. My first paying job was cutting a neighbor's lawn every Friday during the summer—a job that paid \$25/week. Around the same time, I worked at an ice cream stand (where the take-out window exists at Johnny Macaroni's) owned by my parents' next-door neighbors—I probably ate more hotdogs, chili, and ice cream than I sold. As I got older, I was offered a summer job with a general contractor in West Bridgewater. For two days, from sun-up to sun-down, I was left alone on a job site charged with picking up all the loose screws and nails. Though the job paid well (\$10/hour in 1988), I quit with the realization that I wasn't called to be a worker who used his hands and broke his back every day. When I was in high school and college, my jobs were "necessary evils" to put gas in my car, pay my insurance and car repairs, and pay for my college education. Yet, work is meant to be so much more than a "necessary evil". However, St. John Paul II reminds us that "Work is a good thing for man—a good thing for his humanity—because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes "more a human being." (*On Human Work*, no.9)

In his Apostolic Letter inaugurating the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis reflects on Joseph as a "working father." In Pope Francis' words, "Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor." (no. 6) In the next paragraph the Pope reflects on the effect of unemployment on the family writing, "A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?" (*Ibid.*) Work and Human Dignity are so intimately bound together. We grow in our self-worth when we are given the chance to improve ourselves, our families, and our community by the work we do.

As I am getting older, I am grateful that the work I do is so intimately connected to the person I am. But that was not always the case. There was a time when I considered going back to school to earn a Ph.D. in theology. I met with a professor of theology from Notre Dame University to inquire about the doctoral program at the university. He asked me, "What do you want to do?" I replied that I wanted to teach, preach, and write about matters of the faith. He looked at me and said, then you don't need a Ph.D. to do those things. Ten years later, I was ordained a deacon by Cardinal Sean O'Malley and by God's grace my job allows me to teach, preach, and write.

When God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in the garden and gave them a job to do. He told them to "cultivate and care" for the earth. (cf. Gen 2:15) Work is a gift from God where human beings can use their unique gifts, talents, and personalities to express themselves in a creative and life-giving manner, provide for families, care for the marginalized, contribute to the common good, and advance the kingdom of God here on earth.

It is for these reasons that the Church holds up St. Joseph as the model and patron of workers whose feast day is celebrated on May 1. In conclusion, allow me to quote Pope Francis one last time with these words, "Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work?" (*Ibid.*)



## **Is God calling you to serve him and his Church as a deacon?**

By: Deacon Christopher Connelly

How does one discern a call from God to a vocation in the Church? God calls all people to holiness. Within this call God calls each of us to a particular state in life. For some this particular call is to marriage. Others are called to religious and consecrated life. Still others are called to ordained ministry as a deacon, priest, or bishop. As a young boy, I thought I was being called to the priesthood. In time, I discerned that God was calling me to the married state. This call was confirmed on the day of my wedding when I saw my beautiful bride and was reconfirmed when each of my three children were born.

In the year 1997 I was teaching a class on Christian Service to seniors at a Catholic High School when a student raised his hand and asked me: “What has discipleship cost you? How have you gone out of your comfort zone to minister to those in the margins?” I am sure that I gave some answer to satisfy the student’s curiosity. But in truth, my student was absolutely correct. Upon reflection, I realized that my own discipleship was very comfortable. Yes, I was doing good work, but was I following Jesus who went out to meet those who needed help? In truth, I wasn’t. I knew that if I was going to be an effective witness to my students, I needed to practice what I preached. And so, with my young students, I opened a food pantry in Fall River to distribute bags of groceries on the last Saturday of every month. The year was 2001.

Imagine my surprise when in the middle of distributing groceries, I felt a call to go deeper into ministry similar to the call I heard when I thought God was calling me to be a priest. But I knew I didn’t make a mistake in discerning the call to be a husband and father. So where was God calling me?

Then one Sunday I saw a married man serve alongside the priest at Sunday Mass, and I thought to myself, maybe this is where the Lord is calling me. This call was confirmed on the day of my ordination, September 17, 2011, with the laying on of hands. This call is reconfirmed every time I meet a wounded and hungry heart longing for the tender mercy of our God.

My life is blessed. I am privileged to grow in my relationship with Christ by sharing the sacrament of marriage with my wife and the family we are raising in our home. I continue to serve Christ as a permanent deacon assigned to the Together in Christ Collaborative in East and West Bridgewater and as the Director for the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Boston. This is how God has called me deeper into relationship with him. How might he be calling you? If you think God might be calling you then I invite you to participate in our inquiry program this fall. If you think God might be calling your husband, neighbor or friend, share this information with him and encourage him to attend these sessions.

### **Permanent Diaconate Inquiry Program Dates**

**Wives of Inquirers are strongly recommended to attend all sessions with their husbands.**

#### **Inquiry Session One: Who is the Deacon?**

This session will be offered via “GoToWebinar” on two dates for your convenience, please visit [www.bostondiaconate.org](http://www.bostondiaconate.org) or email Deacon Christopher Connelly at [cconnelly@rcab.org](mailto:cconnelly@rcab.org) to register. Inquirers can choose one of the two options for session 1:

October 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
October 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM

#### **Inquiry Session Two: Canonical Impediments and Issues**

October 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM

This session will be offered via “GoToWebinar”. Please visit [www.bostondiaconate.org](http://www.bostondiaconate.org) or email Deacon Christopher Connelly at [cconnelly@rcab.org](mailto:cconnelly@rcab.org) to register.

#### **Inquiry Session Three: Morning of Reflection and Discernment/Application Process**

November 13, 2021 from 09:00 AM -NOON

This session will be offered via “ZOOM”. Please visit [www.bostondiaconate.org](http://www.bostondiaconate.org) or email Deacon Christopher Connelly at [cconnelly@rcab.org](mailto:cconnelly@rcab.org) to register.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# 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, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicoliar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan 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 Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort & 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.

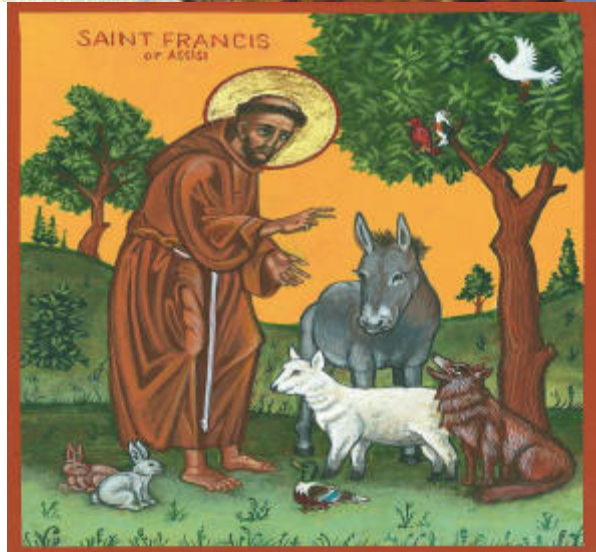
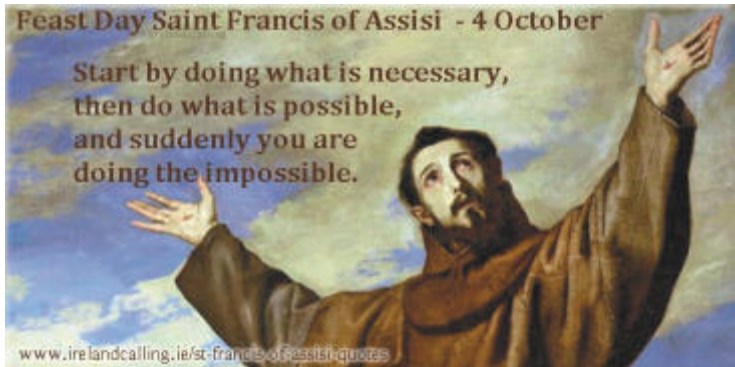
**The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul  
 Saint John's Conference  
 PO Box 544  
 East Bridgewater MA 02333**  
 Call the Food Pantry Hotline for food / assistance  
 Hotline—508-378-3760

**2021-2022 FOOD PANTRY WINTER HOURS/DATES**

**Winter days** will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month ,except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30

Summer	2021		
October		Mon	4
		Mon	18
Winter	2021		
November		Mon	1
		Sat	20
December		Mon	6
		Sat	18
2022			
January		Mon	3
		Sat	15
Feb		Mon	7
		Sat	19
March		Mon	7
		Sat	19

Praising Jesus through Mary Rosary Makers are reaching our 20<sup>th</sup> year. Knowing how important praying the rosary every day is, we are seeking new members. If anyone feels the desire to make rosaries, please contact Ginny Connell 508-697-3964; Rose Penney 508-583-5045; Jean Berrigan 508-378-3351; or Mary Ann Boyle 774-274-8640.



## 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 PM at Saint 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.

Hello,

At times during the pandemic congregational singing was discouraged and congregants were ushered out of the church in a safe manner at the end of mass during the closing hymn. Now that restrictions have been lifted it is a good time to remind ourselves that a liturgy begins with the first notes of the opening song and ends with the final notes of the closing song. We ask that you stay and participate in the closing song if you know the words or stay and enjoy it if you don't know the words. The closing song is one last opportunity to sing God's praises in church before we leave to go about our week. We look forward to having hymn books back in the pews in late November so that everyone can read along. Thank you and God Bless  
-The Together in Christ Collaborative music team.

## Does God Forgive Abortion?

Can a person (the mother, father, or provider) ever be forgiven for an abortion?

For people of faith, any conversation of human sinfulness should always lead us to reflect on God's loving mercy. Because God's mercy is greater than any sin, the Church is clear that even those involved in the sin of abortion can be reconciled with God and the Church. To help make this grace more available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis extended the permission to absolve someone of the sin of abortion to all priests in 2016.

Even with the grace and blessings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the tragedy of abortion and the aftermath of abortion takes a toll on everyone involved. Ministries of outreach and support, such as Project Rachel, offer pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, and other forms of care.

As Christians, we are also called to help promote this healing and reconciliation in all its forms. To learn more, visit [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com).

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