



**Together in Christ  
Collaborative**

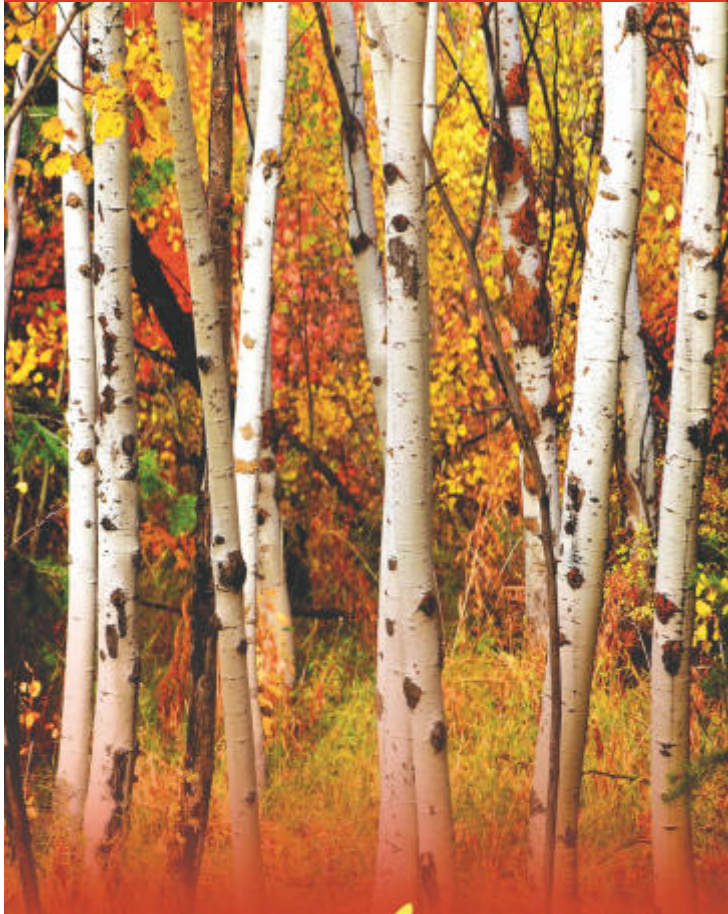
**October 11, 2020**

**28th Sunday  
In Ordinary Time**



*St. John*

*St Ann*



**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**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**

**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)**

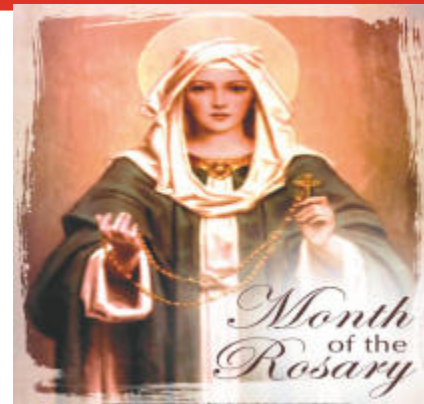
**Facebook: St. Ann-WB**

**Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th**

**For both Churches**

**Currently we are working from home.**

“Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’ The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.” - Mt 22:9-10



# TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

## PASTORAL STAFF

### Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring  
fr\_plrstjohn@comcast.net

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)  
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

### Permanent Deacons:

Christopher Connelly  
cconnelly@rcab.org

Joe Hopgood  
deaconjoeh@comcast.net

**The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 4PM Monday -Thursday**

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

### St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday  
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice  
In the Chapel  
Divine Mercy every Thursday  
After Mass.

### St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., TBA

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.  
9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. All baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required. 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  
**Director of Religious Education**  
Charlotte Leines  
stannscd@comcast.net  
508-588-7140

## SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Conrad  
stjohnnebridge@comcast.net  
**Director of Religious Education**  
Lorraine Hopgood  
repstjohn@gmail.com  
508-378-1521  
**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

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, October 10, 2020**

**5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John**

**Sunday, October 11, 2020**

**10:30 - Bronislaw Morawski — 31st Anniv.**

**Saturday, October 17, 2020**

**5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John**

**Sunday, October 18, 2020**

**10:30 - Kendra Frabetti — Anniversary**

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, October 10, 2020**

**4:00 - Vincent & Concetta Columbo, Sr,  
& Family — Memorial**

**Sunday, October 11, 2020**

**8:30 - Carol Bruno — 5th Anniversary**

**Saturday, October 17, 2020**

**4:00 - Frank Conroy — 1st Anniversary**

**Ethel Conroy — Birthday Remembrance**

**Sunday, October 18, 2020**

**8:30 - Linda Fontaine — 17th Anniversary**

### THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

#### NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

**Our financial situation is getting to a crisis level.  
The pandemic has taken a very real toll in so many  
ways.**

**Offertory giving is way down.**

**Donations for Memorial Masses are regularly  
being ignored.**

**Donations for Baptisms are not being given.**

**We understand that many people have not been  
attending Mass, but the expenses of  
running the parish still exist.**

**Fr. Paul has made a continued effort to provide  
various ways to stay connected to your parish.**

**This parish cannot survive if this continues.**

**PLEASE HELP.**

**Financial specifics will be available in next week's  
bulletin.**



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As you might imagine, in celebrating the number of weddings which I do, I get invited to a lot of “wedding feasts”. In accepting these invitations, I only make one request of the bride and groom – you may seat me anywhere you want...except the head table. It’s not that I don’t appreciate the invite or a “seat of honor”, but what inevitably happens is that I end up either sitting alone (while the wedding party is mingling) or (as has actually happened) I end up cutting the flower girl’s/ring bearer’s food! Therefore, I graciously accept the fact that I have been found “worthy”, but ask this simple favor for the good of all.

In today’s gospel, the Kingdom of God is likened to a wedding feast. In the parable put forth by Jesus, there are some who refuse the invitation put forth by the king. They are then given a second invitation, with the enticements of a good meal (the “fattened cattle”). Some still ignore the invitation; some lay hands on the messengers and kill them. This is how it is with the chief priests and elders; they have heard from the prophets sent by God, yet they choose to either ignore them or put them to death. The invitation is then given to others, but there are still “caveats” involved. Those who are invited must “dress” appropriately, with the proper “wedding garment”. And what is this “wedding garment”? It is not anything physical, but more of an “attitude”, a way of living. One must live in accordance to what God desires of us.

The problem with the chief priests and the elders is that they didn’t know what God desired of them. They certainly knew the Law (of Moses), and they most definitely didn’t have any problem administering that law. The problem came when they were measured with that standard – this is where they fell short; they heard the Word of God, but didn’t apply it to their own lives, for they thought that they were “above the law”.

So where do we fit in to this parable? We have heard the Word of God; have we tried to apply it in our lives? We strive to follow Jesus; have we worked each and every day, wearing our “wedding garment” and showing the world what it means to be a Christian? May we have the courage to not only hear God’s invitation, but respond to it wholeheartedly. May we come to know God’s love, live in that love, and share it with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

## The Secular Franciscan Order

The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Our purpose is live the Gospel in the footprints of St. Francis who made Jesus Christ the center of his life. Franciscan spirituality is going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel. The Secular Franciscan Order enables the Franciscan charism to be lived out by married and single members of the laity, and by diocesan clergy – bishops, priest and deacons.

The Secular Franciscan Order is just that, an Order within the Catholic Church, and not an organization or club. Secular Franciscan Order members strive to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis of Assisi by spreading the Gospel by word and example in their homes, at work and in their parishes.

Secular Franciscans are members of a local fraternity, a living and active Christian community. The fraternity is the privileged place for developing their sense of Church, their Franciscan vocation and ministry.

Monthly fraternity meetings held at the Chapel of Our Savior with their common prayer, formation, and fellowship provide the spiritual nourishment needed to live as a Christian in the world.

If you are interested, you must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, be willing to accept that belonging to the Secular Franciscan means a life-long commitment to the Franciscan way of life, and be at least 18 years of age. Please feel free to contact the fraternity for more information. We will put you in touch with the minister of the Blessed Lucius Fraternity at the Chapel of Our Savior.

For additional information email [vocationsstelizabethofs@yahoo.com](mailto:vocationsstelizabethofs@yahoo.com) or visit one of the following web sites:

Regional Web site:  
<http://stelizabethofs.com>

National Web Site:  
<https://secularfranciscansusa.org>

International Web Site:  
<http://www.ciofs.org>

### UPDATES FROM THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekend Masses are being held at both churches, please check the schedule ON PAGE 7.

All guidelines of the Archdiocese are being followed.

Baptisms are being held on Saturday at 10 AM and 2 PM and on Sundays at 1 PM.

Please call the Rectory Office to schedule.

Funerals are now allowed within the guidelines of the Archdiocese. Call the Rectory Office for information.

Memorial Masses can be rescheduled or scheduled within the limitations of the four masses between both churches. Call the Rectory Office to schedule.

Daily masses are continuing to be celebrated on line until further notice.



## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL



PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER  
@ 774-240-8095  
or jchbaker@msn.com

New mailing address:  
P O Box 474  
West Bridgewater MA 02379



### 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



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we head into the fall, we as a Church/Collaborative are faced with as many questions as answers. At this point, as your Pastor, I have to ask the critical questions about how we will go forward as the Catholic presence in East and West Bridgewater. The pandemic has served to highlight what was already a reality for our Collaborative, and for many other parishes and collaboratives in the Archdiocese and around the country.

It has become clear to me based on our financials, and the long-term trends in giving and parishioner engagement before the pandemic, that we need to think creatively about new ways to serve the Catholic population of our two towns. We have been in "maintenance-mode" for a number of years, and now it's clear that we can't keep repeating the same thing and expect different results. In order to become "mission-oriented" and be able to meet the spiritual needs of today, we need to consider different solutions, methods, and structures.

Being faithful to our mission to be a strong Catholic presence in our two towns - evangelizing, preaching, teaching, celebrating the sacraments - calls us to make decisions that free us to carry out those tasks in whatever conditions come our way. One those decisions centers around the issue of merger that many of our Archdiocesan entities have faced recently, including our neighbors in the Tri-Parishes of Brockton. The very idea of merger wasn't even a consideration before the downward trends of the last couple of years, and has been brought into consideration even more so because of the effects of the pandemic, effects being felt by so many in our communities – in our businesses and in our own homes.

It is in light of all of this that I have consulted with my "Archdiocesan Collaborative Support Team", as well as the Staff, and Parish (Pastoral and Finance) Councils. They helped me look at what this would mean for the Together In Christ Collaborative, and how best to move forward into the future. It is now the time in the process where I turn to you, the faithful. It is not only imperative but mandated, that I speak with you before any final decisions are made. I cannot, and will not, move forward without giving you every opportunity to allow your voices to be heard. This will be done through various methods available in the next week or so in a myriad of electronic and print media, that will give everyone an opportunity to have their voices heard. I pray that these discussions will help the parishes move the mission of our faith communities forward to a stronger footing so as to serve the People of God in our midst.

In closing, I would like to offer a caution, if I may, **which I cannot emphasize strongly enough**. At **no point** in these previous conversations with the Archdiocese, Staff or Councils did I entertain the idea of closing either of our churches. This was not the intent of the Collaboration process, nor is it the intent of the merger process. In both cases, the intention is to strengthen and solidify the parishes, albeit in different ways. In speaking with you by various forms of media, I will elaborate on how the process is undertaken and what the results would be. Again, the intention here is to strengthen our position as a Catholic presence in our section of "the Bridgewater", in our place in the Archdiocese, and in the wider Universal Church. I look forward to speaking with you further in the near future. In the meantime, I ask for your prayers for me, as your Pastor, to make the best possible decisions in this matter and in all matters. May God continue to watch over us, bless us, and guide us, now and into the Kingdom.

Peace,

Fr. Paul

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Phil. 4:13



**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

Karen Debenedictis, Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, JoAnn Micalizzi, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolar, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, David Warren, Bill Frabetti, George Lepine, , Joseph Rizzitano, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Paul Currie, Dennis Green, John McCovy Murphy, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Jerry Paluch, Frank Genatossio, Kathleen Jezard Maher, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Gary Sacoccia, Jessica Madigan & 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.

THANK YOU TO ED LINDSEY FOR PAINTING THE SAINT ANN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN. IT LOOKS GREAT! AND JIM GUARDIANO FOR INSTALLING THE DISHWASHER AT ST. ANN'S.

As people begin to come back to Mass and those of us who have been attending become more relaxed after having attended Mass for a few weeks, it is important that we continue to follow the guidelines set up to ensure our safety.

The guidelines for the Archdiocese can be found on line at RCAB Office of Risk Management.

Rcabrisk.org/covid.

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