



**Together in Christ
Collaborative**

October 18, 2020

**29th Sunday
In Ordinary Time**



St. John

St Ann



**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**

**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 9-4 M-Th

For both Churches

Currently we are working from home.



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 17, 2020

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, October 18, 2020

10:30 - Kendra Frabetti — Anniversary

Saturday, October 24, 2020

5:30 - James & Leona DeCoste — Memorial

Sunday, October 25, 2020

10:30 - Mary & Elmer Proffitt — Memorial

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, October 17, 2020

4:00 - Frank Conroy — 1st Anniversary
Ethel Conroy — Birthday Remembrance

Sunday, October 18, 2020

8:30 - Linda Fontaine — 17th Anniversary

Saturday, October 24, 2020

4:00 - Paul Sheedy — Memorial
& Family — Memorial

Sunday, October 25, 2020

8:30 - Parishioners of Saint Ann



My Dear Friends in Christ,

At some point in our public lives, we become “beholden” to some sort of authority. It begins with parents, continues with teachers, and then bosses. In our civic life, we have some sort of obligation to authority as well. This is where the phrase “repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God” (Matthew 22:21) comes into play, both in our lives and in today’s Gospel. Jesus is posed a question about the census tax, something owed to Caesar, and its lawfulness. Jesus understands that we live in society, and have certain obligations to the community that require certain remuneration to support that society, insofar as we pay taxes to support the infrastructure of our Commonwealth and nation.

Jesus, however, offers an “addendum” to this obligation... namely “repay...to God what belongs to God” (ibid). In this additional comment, Jesus tells the Pharisees that those who follow Him have obligations that go outside of, and beyond, the obligations to Caesar. He does not remove the civic obligation, but tells the listener that those who follow Him have duties that are not regulated by the State and that these are just as important (if not more so) to His followers. We see this in the lives of the Apostles and of those who follow after them in how they give their lives, literally so in the case of the martyrs. There will be those in Jesus’ company, and those who will follow, who pay the cost of discipleship not with money but with blood.

There has never been a time when men and women have not been called to give their lives for their faith, and our time is no different. We may not be called to offer our lives in a “red martyrdom” (that is, the shedding of our blood), but we are always called to offer a “white martyrdom” (that is, the “dying to self” so that Christ might live in us”). If we are called to offer our lives in active martyrdom, may we do so boldly and resolutely. If we are called to “die to self”, may we do so assured that Christ is in us, and working through us.

May we know the peace of Christ so as to enter into the world ready to make it more like God’s Kingdom of Glory. May we be ready, if and when called upon, to prove that readiness by answering God’s call to serve Him above all others. May God direct us in the right paths so that we may be of effective service to build the Kingdom. May we always be ready to “repay...to God what belongs to God” (ibid) - namely, our very lives.

Have a great week,

Fr. Paul

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 comparisons:

St. John

Mar 1— Sept 30, 2019 — \$160,500

Mar 1— Sept 30, 2020 — \$120,000

St. Ann’s

Mar 1—Sept 30, 2019 — \$100,700

Mar 1 — Sept 30, 2020 — \$68,000

Sacramental comparison:

St. John

2019 — \$6,457 — 2020 — \$70

St. Ann’s

2019 — \$5,353 — 2020 — \$0

This parish cannot survive if this continues.

PLEASE HELP.

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 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.

Christmas Sharing Planning

Plans are being made for this year's Christmas Sharing Program and we need your help. This year we will be giving gift cards to children age 16 and younger in needy families. The families must meet one of the following criteria: be parishioners of St. Ann's, live in West Bridgewater, attend West Bridgewater schools, or be recommended by a parishioner of St. Ann's. As always, we rely on you to help us find the families in need of assistance. If you know of a family who is struggling due to a job loss, injury or disability, please call Linda Santry at **508-586-6535**, or email her, linda@santry.org. All information is kept in strict confidence.

We also are updating our list of senior citizens for a Christmas remembrance. This year we will provide gift cards and a small goodie basket to senior citizens who are needy or have no family to remember them at Christmas. If you know if someone we should include, please call Linda Santry.

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



You are God's precious child:
don't let the Evil One convince you otherwise

by Sr Kathryn Hermes, FSP

One morning last week I noticed the last patch of daisies growing in the garden in the center of our backyard. While other flowers were drooping, the daisies were bravely hanging on to their vibrancy as the temperature began to drop. I grabbed my cellphone, snapped a picture, and sent it to my cousin with a few words, "I'm thinking of you." It is a new ritual. As pink flamingos remind us even now of her older sister who died of pancreatic cancer several years ago, daisies are the secret connection that pulls up the smiling face of my cousin in my heart. Daisies are my "feel-good" flower that connect me to a dear friend.

There are other things that happen during the day to bring up memories that don't lead to me "feeling good." I live in a large community. When I walk into the cafeteria for dinner and the only place left to sit is at a new table by myself, feelings of loneliness and rejection flood me, memories of grade-school experiences.

I don't know why those feelings are suddenly there again, but there they are.

Every life contains experiences that leave scars on us.

Some are small bruises like the one I just described, and some are tragic life-draining experiences that alter our lives in huge ways.

Many times, we can deal with them, push them aside and carry on. But other times, like these pandemic days, it can just get to be too much.

So, as COVID-19 hangs on with the probability of a second wave, we sisters are thinking of any of you whose memories of the past threaten to derail your life-possibilities today.

When sights, and smells, and lockdowns, and losses, and life changes brought on by the pandemic and isolation are making you feel alone with the ghosts of your past.

When hearts are heavy because there is no one to walk with as you carry the pain of a memory of a miscarriage, or abortion, or divorce, or a loved one's death, or sexual abuse.

When you feel lost and depressed and scared of the future.

I think the Evil One right now is having a heyday convincing us that no one cares, no one notices.

That we are alone with no one to help.

That we are crying and no one hears.

The courage to listen to your own heart and then to reach out for God is the first step to reclaiming your life.

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.



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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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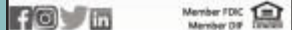
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