



*Together in Christ  
Collaborative  
Saint Ann & Saint John  
October 29, 2023*

*30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.” - Mt 22:37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

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.

**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: [stjohnnebridge@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnnebridge@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnne.org](http://www.stjohnne.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  
Sunday, 6:15 PM**

**St John  
Sunday, 8:00 AM  
Sunday, 11:30 AM**

# 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.

6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass  
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass  
Thurs & Sat.  
9:00 a.m.

### **St John's**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

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.

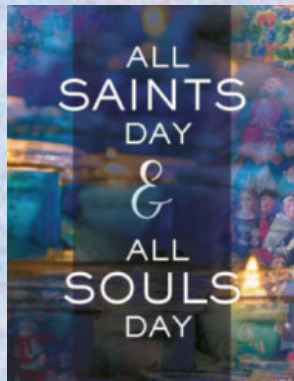
Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

## **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

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



\*\*\*\*\*

### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Saturday, October 28, 2023

4:00 - Paul Gigliotti — 4th Anniversary

#### Sunday, October 29, 2023

9:30 - Paul Sheedy — 7th Anniversary

6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

#### Saturday, November 4, 2023

4:00 - Bernard “Benny” Francis — Memorial

#### Sunday, November 5, 2023

9:30 - Richard Caputo — 5th Anniversary

6:15 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

\*\*\*\*\*

### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunday, October 29, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

11:30 - Claudette Rochefort - Memorial

#### Sunday, November 5, 2023

8:00 - Parishioners of the T.I.C. Collaborative

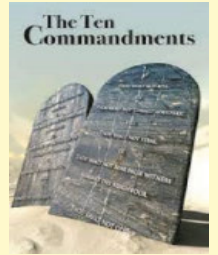
11:30 - Grace Kelly — 1st Anniversary

#### Wednesday, November 8, 2023

9:00 - Vince Ardornato — 1st Anniversary



Let us pray for the victims in Israel and Ukraine and the end to such evil around the world.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As most of you know by now, I have a great love of bumper stickers; I tend to “pass the time” by reading the bumper stickers I come across while stuck in traffic (which, unfortunately, happens all too often!). One that caught my eye a while back read “If God Had Wanted Us To Be Permissive, He Would Have Given Us ‘The Ten *Suggestions*’”! As I’ve often said, they’re called “**commandments**” for a reason – we are commanded, by God, to follow them; we are not only called to follow the *letter* of the law, however, but also the *spirit* of the law as well. This is the point of today’s gospel.

Jesus is being challenged, first by the Sadducees and now by the Pharisees. Jesus is asked to name the greatest Commandment - of the 613 “mitzvahs” (or commandments) in Jewish Law...and you thought *we* had it tough with *ten*! In doing so, Jesus would be then accused of giving precedence to one over the other 612 and thus giving an “order of importance”. He avoids this “trap” set by the Pharisees by not naming any one Commandment, but by summing up all of them. Jesus does this with what will/has become known, in salvation history, as “The Great Commandment” – to love God and to love one’s neighbor. Jesus not only puts these Commandments in their proper light, but all of the Law and the Prophets as well; in doing this, Jesus honors both the letter *and* the spirit of the law and “cements” His role as the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.

Laws are important; they help govern, guide and direct. Laws give people and society a way of keeping order. Laws, however, cannot be either respected or adhered to if they do not take into account a way of living them out. There are many laws in the legal system which are challenging for Catholic-Christians to follow; they may, in fact, be in direct violation of God’s law(s). One can look at laws and practices regarding abortion, the death penalty and euthanasia (so called “death with dignity” laws) and see that they violate the commandment “thou shall not kill”. When one sees such a “civil” law/practice, the Catholic-Christian must take their own (well-formed) conscience into account as to how much they can follow that in light of “God’s Law”. One must recognize the (civil) consequences of disobeying that (civil) law and decide how willing they are to face punishment. One can only look at the early Christians for guidance in this matter; the early Christians were unafraid to face physical torture, incarceration and even death to “hold fast” to the ecclesiastical law they were called to follow.

May we pray for guidance in following God’s law(s). May we know that when we adhere to the Commandments that “our reward will be great in heaven”. May we have the courage to face mocking, derision and even civil punishment in light of this adherence. May God see all that we do, be steadfast in His love for us and instill in us courage to face, and overcome, any obstacle that the Evil One may put in our way.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

# 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)

### **November Family Mass/Teaching Mass**

Sunday, November 5th at the 9:30 Mass at St. Ann is our next Family Mass. Fr. Paul will invite the kids to join him around the altar for the homily, and the kids are invited to do one of the readings or bring up the gifts. This is also going to be a special Teaching Mass where Fr. Paul will be explaining each of the parts of the Mass as he celebrates.

If your child would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts, please email Matt Brady.

### **November 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 November date is 11/20 at 6:30 pm at St. John. All are welcome to join us! This can count for part of the parish service requirement for Confirmation as service hours

### **Interested in Becoming Catholic? Never Been Confirmed but Want to be? We have a program for you!**

RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process by which adults who are not members of Church can receive the sacraments and become a Catholic.

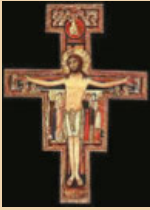
We also will be holding a 6 week class for anyone who has never been Confirmed but has already been Baptized and received First Communion. If you would like to participate in either class, please email or call Matt Brady.

Our **Adult Bible Study** will be starting again on Wednesday, October 25 at 7 pm at St. John.

We will be discussing the gospel for the upcoming Sunday. All are invited to join us!

### **Christmas Brunch December 3rd after the 11:30 Mass at St. John**

**Tickets are \$5/person, \$20/family  
Available by calling the office or after  
Masses starting 11/5 and must  
be purchased by 11/27**



## MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

In today's gospel, the Pharisees try (unsuccessfully) to trap Jesus with the Commandments by choosing the "greatest" one. This would be like asking a parent to choose a favorite child, something which is impossible (one would hope!). When we used to ask my mother who her favorite was, she would say "I love you all the same, I just love you differently"; we stopped asking my father this question when he told one of us that "I don't have a favorite because I hate you all equally" (HE WAS KIDDING!).

St. Francis, in his "Letter to the Faithful" speaks of the need for the Commandments, even quoting Jesus as is written in the gospel (from today). St. Francis tells his followers: **"Those who do not wish to taste how sweet the Lord is and who love the darkness more than the light, not wishing to fulfill God's commands, are cursed; it is said of them by the prophet: *Cursed are those who stray from your commands.* But how happy and blessed are those who love God and do as the Lord Himself says in the Gospel: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*"**

Let us love God, therefore, and adore Him with a pure heart and a pure mind, because He who seeks this above all things has said: *True adorers adore the Father in Spirit and Truth. For all who adore Him must adore Him in the Spirit of truth. And day and night let us direct praises and prayers to Him, saying: Our Father, Who art in heaven . . . for we should pray always and not become weary.*" ("Letter to the Faithful", St. Francis of Assisi).

One might be surprised that St. Francis uses such strong language, calling those who do not follow the Commandments "cursed". He quotes the Psalmist here as well, saying that one is cursed who strays from the Commandments. As you've often heard me say (in quoting a oft-seen bumper sticker) "If God had wanted us to be permissive, He would have given us the "Ten SUGGESTIONS" (emphasis added). The Commandments are strong because they needed to be to keep the Israelites (and, I dare say, us) in line in their sojourn in the desert. St. Francis often had to "corral" his followers, especially when they strayed from the intent and mission of the Order. I would be willing to bet that his use of strong words here (such as "cursed") would not have surprised the readers of this letter who knew (and strove to follow) him.

May we have the courage to follow the Commandments, not taking them as mere "suggestions" but as a blueprint on how to live as a follower of Christ.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Paul, OFS

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 at St. John's at 7 PM

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



**THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR THE SNOW AND HEAT FUND**

**NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR The remaining balance on the Rectory Repairs.**

**ALL SAINTS DAY, WED. NOVEMBER 1  
MASS SCHEDULE**

**ST. JOHN'S      ST ANN'S  
9:00 AM      7:00 PM**

**ALL SOULS DAY, THURS. NOVEMBER 2  
IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF  
OBLIGATION.**

*Please welcome the following children into our Collaborative. Pray that this is the first step in a wonderful journey with God.*



*Jackson Mallett  
Olivia Bowles*



*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Adua Mucci*

*May she rest in peace, and may her family find comfort from their faith in Jesus Christ.*

## 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. 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, 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 .**



### St Ann's St. Vincent de Paul

*Winner of the Raffle tickets was Nancy Maloney*

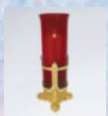
*Because of your generous donations to the summer lunch program, we were able to help 19 families to include 46 Children.*

*Please pick a slip from the baskets located at each door as we are putting together toiletry bags for the homeless of West Bridgewater.*

*The next meeting will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall.*

*Wine, Hosts, Sanctuary Lamp and Flowers At St. John's this week are in memory of*

*Claudette Rochefort*



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, brownie & cake mix, frosting.  
Gift cards for purchase for Thanksgiving Dinners  
**Cash donations also accepted**

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

**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.

*Monday, October 2, 2023*  
*Monday, October 16, 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

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

There are many organizations on line that are working to stop human trafficking. Here are a few where you can get information about their efforts:

Tim Tebow Foundation/Changing Lives Through Faith, Hope & Love. [Timtebowfoundation.org](http://Timtebowfoundation.org)

Catholic Relief Services - <http://www.crs.org>

“The trade in human beings, a modern form of slavery, ... violates the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters and constitutes a true crime against humanity.” —Pope Francis

In Our Backyard - <https://inourbackyard.org/our-impact/keep-kids-safe-ht/>

This site is very informative about how to keep your children safe from being trafficked.

There are many, many more.



## Have you considered living a Cursillo?

Cursillo is an active three-day learning experience in basic Christianity featuring practical insights into an everyday life of faith and service. It is a unique experience and offers us an opportunity to develop, nurture, and deepen our own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Cursillo is enjoyed by Christians on all different points of their faith journey through a sponsor. (A friend who has lived Cursillo. We can help find you a sponsor.)

Cursillo weekends are held at the Holy Cross Retreat House located in Easton. Our next Men's Weekend is October 26-29 and our next Women's Weekend is November 16-19.



It may be the best gift you give yourself! For more information please email, [cursillo@retreathouse.org](mailto:cursillo@retreathouse.org), visit our website [www.retreathouse.org](http://www.retreathouse.org) or call the Holy Cross Retreat House @ 508-238-2051

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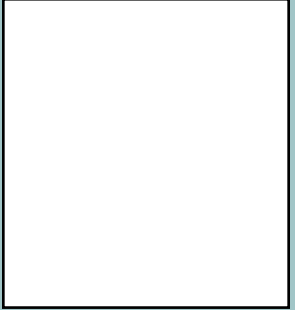
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