



*Together in Christ Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John*



*April 7, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Lent*



5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." - Jn 8:11b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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.stjohne.org
Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

The 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

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Brendan Fitzgerald
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Michael K. Harvey

Permanent Deacons:

Joe Hopgood
deaconjoe@comcast.net

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass – 6 p.m., 4th Sunday of the Mo.

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday
9:00 a.m.

In the Chapel

Divine Mercy every Thursday
After Mass.

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Teen Mass—6:30, 2nd Sunday of the Mo.

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.
9:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at St John's and the 4th Sunday of the month at St. Ann's. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Other times as scheduled in the bulletin or 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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St John's - every WEDNESDAY from 7-8 p.m.
in the Church.

St. Ann's - First Friday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Business Manager: Brian Manning
bmanning.stjohns@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano
stanns@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education
Charlotte Leines

stannscd@comcast.net
508-588-7140

Director of Music: Matthew Cunningham
matthewcunningham@bpsma.org

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Business Manager: Brian Manning
bmanning.stjohns@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education
Lorraine Hopgood

repstjohn@gmail.com
508-378-1521

Director of Music: Paul Hoffman
p.hoffman@stjohne.org

Music Minister: Erica Wasil

PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

Deacon Joe Hopgood
Paul Hoffman
Denise Robichaud

Ben Williams
Nancy Maloney
Margaret Mary Williams

Jackie Buccigross

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, April 6, 2019

4:00 - Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, April 7, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners facing challenges

10:30 - Robert W. Small — 5th Anniversary

Saturday, April 13, 2019

4:00 - Viola Murphy — 1st Anniversary

Sunday, April 14, 2019

8:00 - Parishioners of St. John

10:30 - Jeanne E. Kelly—Memorial

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, April 6, 2019

4:00 - Mary & Manny Diaz — Memorial

Sunday, April 7, 2019

8:30 - Domingos & Sibor Families — Mem.

10:30 - Parishioners of St. Ann

Monday, April 8, 2019

9:00 - Steven J. Hasomeris III — Memorial

Saturday, April 13, 2019

4:00 - Carolyn Mary Oliviere — 2nd Anniv.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

8:30 - Carolyn Mary Oliviere—2nd Anniv.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

One can speak of either the “letter of the law” or of the “spirit of the law”. When one looks at the letter of the law, one is speaking of what is written in a legal tome or document; it is literally “black and white” (i.e., there is no “gray area” to be found). When one looks at the spirit of the law, they are looking at intent, circumstances and the desire to find the best outcome. These very different approaches are taken by scribes and the Pharisees and by Jesus, Himself, in today’s gospel passage.

In this passage, a woman is brought before Jesus by the scribes and the Pharisees; she is “caught in the act” of adultery. The law – the letter of the law – is clear: she is to be stoned to death. It is “black and white” with no gray area, at least not in the eyes of the Jewish authorities of the day. There are a few problems with this “black and white” approach – it had to be followed to the letter, and the authorities failed to do so right from the outset. According to Jewish oral law both the man and the woman had to be brought to the temple gates; in this case, only the woman was, thus violating the law. Jesus then bends down to write the law broken (presumably both the breach by the woman and by the Pharisees), which is what He was supposed to do according to tradition, to show everyone (including the authorities) what law had been broken. After doing this, Jesus says that if anyone is without sin they may cast the first stone. The scribes and the Pharisees realize that Jesus knows that they have broken Jewish law (thus have sinned) and have lost their standing to bring this woman to Him, and Jesus is actually giving them an “exit strategy”. The scribes and the Pharisees, one by one, put down their stones and walk away, leaving just Jesus and the woman.

This is where the “spirit of the law” comes in. Jesus, in showing that she is free by the letter of the law, brings her to understand the spirit of God’s “law” of unconditional love and forgiveness. He tells her “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore” (Jn 8:11). He allows her to resume her life, but with the understanding that she is to live it in the “spirit of the law” by allowing God to work in her life. This incident tells us that it is important to live not only by the “letter” of the law, but by its “spirit” as well. When we live by the spirit of the law, we actually go beyond the letter, fulfilling it as Jesus did and calls us to do. May we have the courage to live and worship in that same spirit of God’s love.

Have a Blessed (Continuing) Lent,

Fr. Paul

LENT IS HERE.....

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU (Confession Schedule)
6:30—8:00 PM

St Ann’s
April 10

St John’s
April 17

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAYS DURING LENT

At St John’s after the 9:00 am Masses
At St. Ann’s — 7:00 PM Except on Good Friday

ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS—7 PM
April 12th at St Ann’s Church.

EASTER SCHEDULE:

Holy Thursday — St John’s — 7 PM
Mass of the Last Supper of the Lord

Good Friday Service— St. Ann’s — 7 PM
Seven Last Words — St. John — 3 PM

(Easter Vigil) — St John’s — 8 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

St. Ann — 8:30 & 10:30
St John — 8:00 & 10:30

COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT. JOHN'S

The Next Second Collection Good Friday — Holy Land

Financial Blessings	St. Ann's	Budget	St John's	Budget
SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS				
OFFERTORY 3/24/19	\$3,354	\$3,680	\$5,039	\$5,625
GRAND ANNUAL	\$20,088	\$32,000	\$17,041	\$32,000

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 7, 2019
5th Sunday of Lent

"The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle." The episode of the woman caught in adultery is a powerful story. We have perhaps all felt as the woman has at some point in our lives, surrounded by those who would condemn us. The beauty of Christ's mercy at the end is clear? and a welcome relief as we all struggle to be good and holy people. But have we ever imagined ourselves on the edge of the circle? Have we pictured ourselves in the sea of dusty robes? Perhaps, we hope, we're hovering at the edge of the circle of judgment. But we've all been there.

How easy it is to be righteous when someone else's reputation is at stake. When the small child is acting up in the grocery store or on the plane. When another company has a scandal break or a major error sets back their profits. Could it be easy to pick up the stone and feel its weight and heft in our hands? Because if we've got a stone in our hands, our own righteous category is clear. Our judgment is our insurance that we won't be on the receiving end of the criticism. If we can point out a wrong, surely we are firmly in the right.

"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her? they went away one by one." This Lent, not only are we invited to receive God's mercy, but to show God's mercy. As the season begins to wind to a close, consider those in your life you tend to judge the most harshly. What is one concrete way you can drop your stone?

**SMILE AT SOMEONE WHO LOOKS SAD
ASK HOW THEY ARE DOING
AND GENTLY LISTEN
AND RESPOND TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY!**

Forty days — Forty Items

Wednesday, March 6th is the first day of Lent.

I have a challenge for you!

Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it into the trash bag provided.

At the end of the forty days, donate these items to a place that can share them with someone who can really use them.

The collaboration has made arrangements with The St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The week after Easter, bags can be dropped off for pick up at St Ann's.

Specific drop off details to be announced.

La Salette Retreat Center

947 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

Saturday, April 13th, 2019

Building Kinder Communities

Presenter: Ethel Fraga

A morning program to reflect on:

Teaching of Jesus on dignity of each and every person

Communicating assertively with kindness

Practicing love and kindness toward self, loved ones, people we hardly know

and people who have been difficult in our lives.

10:00 am – 12 noon (Registration begins at 9:15)

Suggested Donation: \$20 per person

Call 508-222-8530 to register

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES (ST. ANN'S)



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

IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after Mass on Monday & Tuesday

Adoration — First Friday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

April 7, 2019
5th Sunday of Lent

Some celebrities do a lot to help out various causes that are meaningful to them. Sometimes they give of their time, talent, or treasure, while other times they create giving opportunities for the rest of us to be generous. The celebrity then does much to highlight the cause, and the hope is that enough people will give to make a difference.

I never judge another's motive when they choose to give to or support a cause. However, I hear many times a criticism levied against seemingly rich people who start a fundraiser and ask the rest of us to give: "Since they have so much money, they could simply give all the money needed themselves!" This exclamation often comes with disdain and a tone of superiority. This sentiment also comes frequently from those who have chosen to give little to nothing to the cause themselves.

Stewardship begins with the person in the mirror. You and I are accountable to each other, but at the end of the day, the only one who knows the true level of our generosity is God. As this Lent draws to a close, it is time to take a good long look in the mirror. You probably aren't famous, so there probably won't be a crowd of people to question the level of your sacrifice, devotion, and generosity this Lent. Of course, God knows and so does that person looking back at you in the mirror.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." - Jn 8:6b-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



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.

First Communion

Saturday, May 4, 2019

9:00 AM & 12:00 Noon



American Red Cross

THE ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
April 19, 2019 2 PM — 7 PM
St Ann's Parish Center

Call 800 -733- 2767 for an appointment
or walk- ins are welcome



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 20th

10:00 AM—12:00 PM St. Ann's Parish Center
RAIN OR SHINE

ALL AGES WELCOME (Egg hunt for Ages 1- 11)

Special prizes

Fun themed Games

Food & Drink

Tons of candy filled eggs

Special visit from the Easter Bunny



Please remember to bring your own BASKETS AND CAMERAS To capture all the FUN memories!

NEWS FOR THE PARISHES (St. John)

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Karen Debenedictis, Harry Hewins, Bill Estes, Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Joan Fusco, JoAnn Micalizzi, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Dave Avery, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Charlie Micalizzi, Patricia Baldassarre, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, John Moriarty, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Scott Dolan, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Christopher Laursen, Karen Daly, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Maureen Campbell, Diane Nicolar & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.



Third Scrutiny

The words of the hymn, "I Now Live," echo faintly in churches still decorated for Lent as the Third Scrutiny takes place and those who journey toward Easter hear about the raising of Lazarus. The Gospel story is about more than just the raising of a single man, but about the life that Jesus Christ offers to every one of us. But there are many powers that seek to steal this life from us. In the words of this Scrutiny we pray for those journeying toward Easter, as the presider says: "Free from the grasp of death those who await your life-giving sacraments and deliver them from the spirit of corruption." It is through the sacrament of the Church that Jesus Christ instituted that we receive a new life, but sin stands in our way. But what Jesus did for his friend in this story, he did for us through his cross and resurrection. If we choose life, there is no spirit that can stand against us. May we stand with those before us who will be baptized at Easter and testify to the reality that we now live because we have died and risen with him and death's power is no more.

Recently we were in need of a cleaner. Before we could even run the add, a parishioner new to St. John's inquired how she could help the parish. She was told we needed a cleaner for the Cleaning Ministry. She immediately volunteered.

Ask and God provides!



IMPORTANT DATES

Rosary after daily Masses.

Divine Mercy every Thursday after daily mass.

Adoration — Every Wednesday—7:00—8:00 PM (changed)

Catholic Women's Club Mtg — April 10th

The April Baptism scheduled for April 14th (Palm Sunday) has been moved to April 28th.

The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul
Saint John's Conference
PO Box 544
East Bridgewater, MA 02333

April 7: Fifth Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, Jesus is the model of compassion and kindness. He shows us how to be merciful and nonjudgmental.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and mercy into our hearts and into the hearts of those suffering in poverty.

Call the Saint Vincent DePaul HOTLINE at 508-378-3760 if you need food or other assistance.

The Food Pantry is open twice a month. — 1st Monday from 3:00-6:00 pm and the 3rd Monday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

BAPTISMAL BIBS

Do you like to sew?
Would you be willing to make the
Baptismal Bibs
For the children being Baptized?

If so, please contact the Rectory at 508-378-4207
Or contact Lorry Hopgood at
508-378-1521

A very special Thank You to Mary Kenn for the
many years she provided these bibs.
Your generosity and kindness is so appreciated!

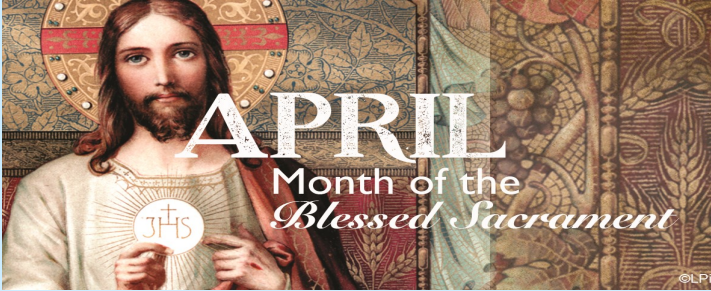
Easter Envelopes are at the doors of both churches.



About the Archdiocese of Boston: The Diocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of 1.8 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 286 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 36,000 students in its Catholic schools and 156,000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of 200,000 individuals through its pastoral and social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholic.org.

Prayer to
St. Michael the Archangel
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Please remember
Saint Ann's and Saint John's
When doing your
Estate Planning!



The prayers to Saint Michael will continue throughout the year.