

February 11, 2018

"To Preserve The Flame"
SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Msgr. Tinsley Center at Ascension Campus: 774-243-6351

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. John Madden
frjohnmadden@gmail.com

Assisting Priests

Fr. Charles Armev
Fr. James Hoey
Fr. James Mazzone

Deacons

Paul Dacri
Van Nguyen

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

Director, After-School Program

Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

Music Ministry

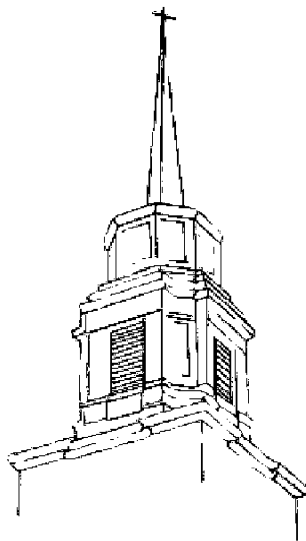
Sean Redrow, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst. Dir.

Rectory Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm
Jimmy Archibald, Manager

Parish Email

stjohnsworc@gmail.com



MASS SCHEDULE

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:15 & 7:15 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10:15 am,
12:15 pm & 7:15 pm

Weekdays

Monday-Friday 6:15 pm

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Mk 1:40-45

Worship Hymnal #1125

Parish Website

www.stjohnsworcester.org
www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mon.-Thurs.. 6:45 pm
Saturday- 3 pm

Holy Days

Vigil 6:15 p.m.
Holy Day 12:15, 6:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office at
least one year prior to planned date
of marriage

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact Deacon Paul for
an appointment

Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact the parish office for
a priest

**Monthly Mass for Healing
Followed by the Celebration
Of the**

Sacrament of the Sick
4th Tuesday of the month
6:15 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 10, 2018

4:15 PM **Francis D. McShea (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by James Lizotte; **The Covello Family**, req. by Gary and Barbara Morris
7:15 PM **William Bresnahan**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 11, 2018:

8:00 AM **Patrick Johnson**, req. by family;
Joseph Modzelewski, req. by Friends at VAAH
10:15 AM **Frank Riccardi**, req. by family
12:15 PM **Paul and Winifred Gingras**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Frank V. Wright**, req. by Family

Monday, February 12, 2018

6:15 PM **Winifred Gingras**, req. by Family

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

6:15 PM **Louis Boucher (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Wednesday, February 14, 2018– Ash Wednesday

12:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**, req. by Family
6:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Friends

Thursday, February 15, 2018

6:15 PM **Joe Comeau**, req. by Friends

Friday, February 16, 2018

6:15 PM **Scott Lindberg**, req. by Family

Saturday, February 17, 2018

4:15 PM **Bill, Rita, Billy, Stevie and Jimmy Duffy, Joe Olson**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 18, 2018:

8:00 AM **Elsie Gannon**, req. by Family; **Health and Intentions of Charlie LeBlanc**, req. by Nancy, Patty, Al and Lorraine
10:15 AM **Donald Walczak (6th Anniv.)**, req. by family; **Birthday Blessings for Lorenzo Pasquale**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Milton Joseph Pepin**, req. by Wife Helen and Family
7:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family

The Rosary is prayed each weekday **beginning with the Angelus at 5:50 p.m.**

Dear Friends in the Lord,

In January our Catholic Book Club read and discussed a biography of Fr. Stanley Rother who was martyred in Guatemala on July 28, 1981. The choice of the book was made because he was beatified on September 23, 2017. The same reason that this month we are reading a biography of Fr. Solanus Casey who was beatified on November 18, 2017. Two American priests beatified less than two months apart caught our attention.

Rother's biography is entitled *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run and written by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda*. It is an excellent book. The title might be a slight misnomer, though. *The Shepherd Who Returned to His Sheep* would be a better title. At a point when the situation in Guatemala became dangerous Blessed Stanley was called back to his home in Oklahoma. He spent this time, while catching up with family, friends and his home diocese, discerning whether he would return to the village of Santiago Atitlan. He was clearheaded about the danger there and what a return would mean. Yet, he was as determined not to abandon his people or his mission. Thus he became the Shepherd who returned to his sheep...and was martyred.

In the book, Scaperlanda makes it clear that through this period of discernment, guided by the call of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, motivated by his love for the Tz'utujil people, Blessed Stanley or, as the people knew him, Padre Francisco arrived at a place. A spiritual place which informed his emotional, mental and physical being. A place that returned him to his sheep.

I would like be able to say more about this place. But I am uncertain because I am not there. I am certain that this place is populated by the Saints. When there one trusts completely in the merciful love of God and, therefore, seeks only God's will. In that place neither victory nor defeat, neither success nor failure is one's primary concern. Neither power nor control, neither prestige nor popularity is sought or desired. When Ignatius arrived in this place he simply asked, "Give me only your love and your grace that is enough for me."

This week we celebrate Ash Wednesday with Masses and Distribution of Ashes at 12:15 and 6:15 p.m. In preparing for the Season of Lent we consider all that we want to do or not do in order to make for a meaningful 40 days and a joyous celebration of Easter. This time of preparation is a good thing. What can make it better is to prepare with the destination in mind. Our prayer, fasting and almsgiving is not done merely for the doing. Instead, they are but vehicles that seek to take us to a place. A place that we might be uncertain about now but is inhabited by our friends in the Communion of Saints – and our true home.

In Christ's Peace, Fr. John Madden

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Esto mihi*, Ps. 31 (30): 3, 4

Op.: \$ 568 Christ is the King!

Ps.: Ps. 32, "I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation."

Gospel Acc.: # 208, 'Alleluia'

Offertory: # 972 Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old

Eucharistic Acclamations: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Manducaverunt*, Ps. 788 (77): 29, 30

914 O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God

Cl.: # 627 O God, Beyond All Praising

ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

February 12—RCIA in the 7 PM rectory.

February 13— Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.

February 16— Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

February 26— The Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Fr. Solanus Casey" by Catherine Odell.

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14, is a day of fast and abstinence. Masses and distribution of ashes will be held at 12:15 and 6:15 PM.

THE 95th ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER will begin Sunday, March 4 and run through Monday, March 12. Mass and Novena prayers will be held on the weekdays at 9:15 AM, 12:15 and 6:15 PM and on the regular weekend schedule. Benediction and Novena prayers will be celebrated at 2:15 PM on March 10th. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this great Lenten tradition.

HOPE FOR HOUSING GIFT CARDS- Gift cards to local stores (Shaws, Stop & Shop, Dunkin Donuts and more) are sold every month on the 1st and 3rd weekends at the Saturday 4:15, Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM Masses. Cards will continue to be sold next weekend, February 17/18. For a complete calendar of card sales dates see our page on the church website. Thank you!

THE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE is looking for children and families to help carry banners in the parade. If you and your family wish to do this, please contact Dianne at dhgustowski@gmail.com. Thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Grades 1-6— Sunday, February 18 at 9 AM in the church hall.

Grades 7-9— Sunday February 18, 11:15 AM in the church hall.

Confirmation— Sunday, February 18, 11:30 AM –12:45 PM in the Xavier Center.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist will continue this Sunday, February 11 at 9 AM in the Xavier Center.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER CARDS are available in the back of the church. Please pray for one (or more!) of our Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive this Sacrament in April. You will have a chance to meet them at the Sending Mass in March. Thank you!

SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND was another tremendous success at St. John's. We were able to raise \$2,475.00 for our Food for the Poor Program. We thank you for your tremendous kindness and generosity to this wonderful cause.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2018

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence for all who have completed their 14th year. On Week Days of Lent there is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended. Voluntary Self-Denial may include, in addition to fasting, participation in daily Mass, spiritual studies, Lenten Devotions, Stations of the Cross, saying the Rosary, deeds of mercy and kindness. Easter Duty Obligation must be made from the first Sunday in Lent (February 18) through Trinity Sunday (May 27).

DEEDS OF MERCY AND KINDNESS:

Brown Bag It— paper bags will be available in the church with a list of the food items most needed in our food pantry. You are invited to take a bag and when filled return it to the statue of St. Therese.

Baby Bottles and Rice Bowls will also be available. You are invited to place the money you would have spent on what you "give up" for Lent into the bottle and/or bowl. The bottles support the great pro-life work of Visitation House here in Worcester. The bowls support the great work done by Catholic Relief Services all across the globe.

ST. JOHN'S LENTEN DEVOTIONS

The Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday in Lent after the 6:15 PM Mass, except on the Friday of the Novena, March 9th.

In Our Catholic Community...

A MASS FOR HEALING will be held Tuesday, February 27 at 6:15 PM. After the Mass the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered. Anyone seeking the healing touch of God's love and mercy is welcome.

THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will be meeting this Wednesday, February 14th, 9:30-11:00 AM in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to come. If anyone needs a prayer shawl for someone, please call Connie at 508-755-5172.

CYC BASKETBALL has concluded their season and will play their first playoff game this Sunday. Best of luck to our team.

THE FILIPINO CHOIR will be at the 4:15 PM Mass on Saturday, February 24. A reception will follow the Mass. All are welcome to attend.

18TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE- Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, March 17. Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Father David Cavanagh, Robert Rogers, Ryan Tremblay, and Elvis Grbac. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until February 28, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are \$30.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$29,968.16. We have also received:

Monthly- \$2472.00	Restoration- \$418.00
Candles- \$320.00	Parking- \$215.00
Stipends- \$560.00	Souper Bowl- \$2475.00
Free Press- \$117.00	

Total- \$29,968.16 **Unrestricted-** \$27,075.16; **Restricted-** \$2893.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$325 IMO Kathleen Carlo; \$5,595.28 for the new van; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$61.54 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$12 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$800 IMO Peter Liddy; \$50 IMO Christopher and Patrick Johnson; \$25 IMO Pat Gaudette; \$50 IHO The Philadelphia Eagles; \$50 IMO Dorothy Lane

Expenses- \$7223.84

Funerals- (176.40) Schola (982.88) Administration (2529.66) Clergy Benefit Plan (1066.67) Haitian Apostolate (532.00) House (19.94) Church Pipe Repair (83.00) Ascension Electric (1526.99) Postage (225.00) Copier (602.40)

Food for the Poor
Expenses- \$5741.65

Our Parish Community...

...Welcomes Tessa Catherine Lynch who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

Word of Life

“A faith shown to be living by its love, steadfast by its perseverance, patient by its endurance of delay, humble by its confession, strong by its confidence, reverent by its way of presenting petitions, and discerning with regard to the content—such a faith may be certain that in every place it will hear the Lord saying: *I do want to.*” – St. Paschasius Radbertus