

"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. Jean Robert Simbert Brice
Fr. James Mazzone
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Van Nguyen

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

**Director, After-School Program
and Ascension Clothing Center**

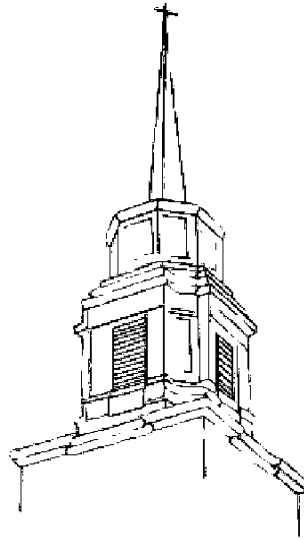
Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

Music Ministry

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

Rectory Office Hours:

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

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:41-52

Worship Hymnal #1015

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 the rectory 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, December 29, 2018

4:15 PM **Fr. Jim Walsh, Nicholas Walsh**, req. by Family; **Carmella Luca and Richard Burgio**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 30, 2018

8:00 AM **Cheri Robinson**, req. by a Friend; **Anna Brignola**, req. by her grandson, Joey

10:15 AM **John F. Healy (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Sister; **Paul Barry (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Vanda Bazikas**, req. by Danute Miner

7:15 PM **Christopher and Dante Folino (1st Anniv.)**, req. by a Friend

Monday, December 31, 2018– New Year’s Eve

6:15 PM **John F. Madden, Jr. (25th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Tuesday, January 1, 2019– New Year’s Day

12:15 AM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**

6:15 PM **Msgr. Edmond Tinsley**

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

6:15 PM **Joe Hickey and Dan Best**, req. by Family

Thursday, January 3, 2019

6:15 PM **Christopher Curran**, req. by Friends

Friday, January 4, 2019

6:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

Saturday, January 5, 2019

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.**

7:15 PM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Family

Sunday, January 6, 2019

8:00 AM **Bob and Nancy Nelson**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Lawrence F. “Buddy” Gay, Sr. (30th Anniv.)** req. by Children; **John J. (61st Anniv.) and Claire K. (36th Anniv.) Healy**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Friends

7:15 PM **Christopher and Dante Folino**, req. by a Friend

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Christmas here on Temple Street was a wonderful experience. Nothing new there! My deepest thanks to all the many who contributed to all the festivities. As always, Sean and Lucie and the music ministry were outstanding – including the distinction St. John’s enjoys of being able to hear Lithuanian carols. Likewise, the liturgical ministers were most helpful, especially given the large crowds at most of the Masses. Sally and Dolores – with an assist from the guys of Harrington House – have decorated the church, upstairs and down, the sanctuary and the nave in a festive way. And we all know that Dolores does far more than decorate. Indeed, I cannot keep track of everything that she does!

In typical St. John’s fashion, the faith that we celebrate in the church issued forth in action on behalf of the needy in our parish and community. Thanks to Deb for all the work on our Giving Tree, to Billy and his crew for all their work on providing Christmas meals and even more toys for the young ones. Hotel Grace, though displaced to the Msgr. Tinsley Center for Christmas Eve and Night, provided a safe and warm place for our friends who are homeless. Plus, a festive meal and a visit from Santa Claus! Pastor Richie Gonzalez, who runs Hotel Grace – this year with barely any help from me – reminded us, “We don’t celebrate Christmas to remember Jesus, we celebrate Jesus to remember Christmas every day.” This is certainly true at St. John’s. Thanks to all of you who live this truth daily.

Several years ago, our Catholic Book Club read Anne Rice’s *Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana*. It was the sequel to her *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*. After years of atheism Rice returned to the practice of the Catholic faith. These were two of a proposed four-part historical fiction series on the life of Christ. Unfortunately, Rice again left the Church and went back to writing about vampires. Unfortunate for her, of course, and for all of us. Rice’s books cover the early years of Jesus, prior to his public ministry. They are fiction, of course. Still, they are imaginative and reflection provoking.

As you know, the Gospels have very little to say about Jesus after his birth and circumcision (in Luke) and flight into Egypt (in Matthew) until his public ministry begins. Indeed, today’s Gospel passage from Luke is the only report we have of his life after those first stages.

On the one hand, this is why Rice’s books were so helpful. On the other hand, the Bible contains all that we need to know for our salvation. This one story of the Boy Jesus in the Tempe tells us all that we need to know about his life leading to his public ministry. Jesus knew that he *must be in his Father’s house. As he grew in wisdom and age this conviction was deepened in him. Likewise, the favor of God was upon him.* In whatever way it was specifically lived out, we can be sure that Jesus’ early years were a time of discerning his Father’s will and opening himself to the grace to be obedient to the Father.

Not a bad way to spend one’s early years...and later ones, as well.

In Christ’s Peace,
Fr John Madden

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Deus in loco sancto suo*, Ps. 67, 6. 7.
36 et 2

Op.: # 440 Once in Royal David's City
Gloria: # 206

Ps.: # 1017, Ps. 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5
Gospel Acc.: # 208

Prep.: # 437 Away in a Manger

Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311
Communion: *Fili, quid fecisti*, Lc 2, 48. 49
415 Of the Father's Love Begotten
Closing: # 424 Joy to the World

NEW YEAR'S HYMNS

Introit: *Salve, sancta Parens*, Ps. 44, 2. 11.12
Op.: # 447 The God Whom Earth and Sea and Sky
Gloria: # 206

Ps.: # 1020, Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 6 and
Gospel Acc.: # 208 'Alleluia'

Prep.: # 454 What Child is This

Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311
Communion: *Exsulta, filia Sion*, Zach. 9, 9
438 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Closing: # 444 Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

January 2— Social Activities Committee, 7 PM in the rectory

January 8— Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.

January 18— Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

January 28— Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Dagger John: Archbishop John Hughes and the Making of Irish America" by John Loughery.

LESSONS AND CAROLS— Join us for A Ceremony of Epiphany Lessons and Carols to mark the end of the Christmas Season! Come next Sunday, January 6, at 4:00 PM in the Church as our Schola Cantorum sings Carols and music of the Season as we hear Scripture and music celebrating Jesus' revelation to the world!

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Masses:

Monday, December 31— 6:15 PM

Tuesday, January 1— 12:15 and 6:15 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6— Sunday, January 6, 9-10 AM in the Church Hall.

Grades 7-9— Sunday, January 6, 11:15AM -12:15 PM in the church hall.

Confirmation (grade 10)— Sunday, January 6, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Xavier Center.

THE CLOTHING CENTER at the Ascension Campus will be closed for Christmas Break. The center will reopen on January 3rd. Any donations may be dropped off at the St. John's rectory in the meantime. Thank you.

THE ST. RAFQA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will be meeting on Wednesday January 9, 2019 in the lower chapel at 9:30-11:00 AM. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you need a shawl for anyone, please call Connie at 508-755-5172.

ENDOW GROUP— A new reading group for Catholic women is starting on January 11th. We will begin with an 8-week study of Pope John Paul II's *Letter to Women*. The group will meet on Fridays at 8 PM in the home of parishioner Sarah Berry. Please contact Sarah either by email (sarahlizberry@gmail.com) or call 214-632-3399 to sign up.

PAINT NIGHT— St. Peter Parish in Northbridge will be hosting Mission: Paint Night on Thursday, January 3 at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$25 per person and will be held in the Parish Center. Bring your friends and let your creativity flow while we paint the night away with a winter scene! No experience required, you will be walked through every step and go home with a beautiful painting and some new friends. This is a fun & relaxing night! All money raised will help fund our Mission Trip for our High School youth in July 2019. Seating is limited & tickets must be purchased in advance, please call 508-234-6355 or email stplifeteen@charter.net to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.

CAR DONATION PROGRAM— Did you know you can donate your car, truck, motorcycle or boat to Catholic Charities and help us help your Worcester County neighbors? It's quick and easy to do. Just visit our website to donate your vehicle online at www.ccworc.org or call 1-888-CAR-7308 1-888-CAR-7308 to arrange a convenient pickup time and confirmation of your donation from Catholic Charities Donation Angel Program.

In Our Catholic Community...

A MASS FOR HEALING will be held this Tuesday, January 22 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.

BUS TRIP TO GETTYSBURG- Come join Father Walter Riley from Immaculate Conception Church on a bus trip May 13 to 17, 2019 to Gettysburg, PA; Emmitsburg, MD; and Harper's Ferry WV where 3 states and 2 rivers (Potomac & Shenandoah) meet in a beautiful area of the U.S. The trip will be historical and religious as we visit Gettysburg, the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Grotto, and Harper's Ferry. Cost is \$850 and includes motor coach bus for 5 days and 4 nights, hotel, 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, tour guides and entrance fees. Registration & further information please email Michele at mmdeignan@charter.net. Registration closes March 1, 2019.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS-

The Sacred Music Series at St. John Guardian of Our Lady Parish in Clinton continues with a special Festival of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, January 5 at 7:30 PM Based on the Office of Matins for the Feast of the Epiphany, this festive ceremony will feature Scripture readings, the singing of beloved Christmas and Epiphany carols, and sacred choral music led by the Upper School Chorus of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Still River, under the direction of Michael Olbash. As always, admission is free and families are welcome. Freewill donations will be accepted at the door for the benefit of the First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center of Clinton. St. John is located at 80 Union St. (Routes 62 and 70) and is ramp accessible.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$9123.66. We have also received:

Candles- \$294.00	Parking- \$105.00
Stipends- \$360.00	School Rent- \$4757.60
Alcathon- \$1500.00	Donation- \$1454.27
Christmas Wafers- \$62.00	Christmas- \$10,452.50

Total- \$27,543.87 Unrestricted- \$27,543.87 Restricted-\$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$75 IMO The Simoncini and Capuano Families; \$125 Imo George Coleman; \$50 IMO Paul Maguire; \$500 IMO Madeline Etre; \$100 IMO James Murphy; \$50 IMO David Trudell; \$100 IMO Bernice Rutkowski; \$250 IMO Robert Connors \$30 IMO John Belanger; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$30 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$30 from a friend; \$30 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$600 IMO Paul Powers; \$15,000 from William J. McKee, Jr. Charitable Foundation; \$100 IMO Graciano and Luzonia; \$100 IMO Anna Pitro; \$250 IMO Tommy Gentile; \$635 IMO Paul Thomas; \$25 IMO Ronald Joseph Taylor; \$200 IMO Patrick and Christopher Johnson; \$100 IMO Nick Argento; \$100 IMO Don and Estelle Gribbons; \$50 IMO Martha Liddy; \$200 IMO Alden and Shirley Palmgren and William and Margaret Deedy; \$1000 IMO Robert and Eleanor O'Coin; \$100 IMO Pat Gaudette; \$100 IMO Chester Urban; \$100 IMO Brian Tormey; \$1020 IMO Fr. Jim Hoey; \$50 IMO Chief John Coakley; \$100 IMO Francis Petty; \$25 IMO Gary Maynard

Expenses- \$4606.75
Administration (3505.95) Federal Payroll Taxes (1100.80)

Food for the Poor:
Income- \$25,409.50 Expenses- \$947.51

YEAR TO DATE- In December we had an operating cash gain of \$15,126.52 - Merry Christmas! This puts our cash gain for FY 18/19 at \$2,277.47. Thank you for your generosity to St. John's.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Duddie Massad and Robert Pepi who have been born into eternal life.

Word of Life

“We were made to love and be loved; we are meant to depend on one another, serving each other in humility and walking together in times of suffering. Our relationships are meant to help us grow in perfect love.”

— Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley