

"To Preserve The Flame" **SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH**

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Parish Websites www.stjohnsworcester.org and www.stjohnsfoodforthepeople.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. John Madden
frjohnmadden@gmail.com

Associate Pastor

Fr. Juan Sebastian Sanchez

Assisting Priests

Fr. Charles Arney
Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice
Fr. James Mazzone
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Van Nguyen
Michael Chase

Coordinators of Religious Education

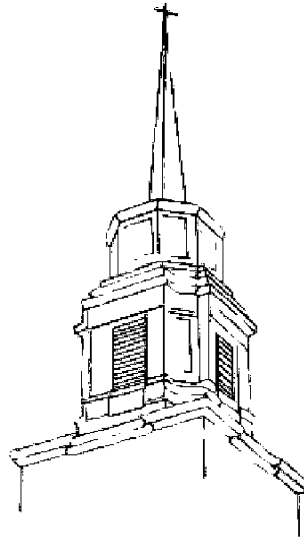
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

Director, After-School Program and Ascension Clothing Center

Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

Music Ministry

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



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

Dt 26:4-10

Rom 10:8-13

Lk 4:1-13

#1135 in Worship Hymnal

Rectory Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm
Jimmy Archibald, Manager
stjohnsworc@gmail.com

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

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, March 9, 2019

4:15 PM **John and Mary Welsh**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Joseph Genduso, III**, req. by Frank Carroll

Sunday, March 10, 2019

8:00 AM **Julia Donahue**, req. by Family; **Susan Wright**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Stanley and Stella Kulunas**, req. by Granddaughters
7:15 PM **Lottie Schafer**, req. by Dianne Gustowski

Monday, March 11, 2018

9:15 AM **Eunice Shea (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **The Jones Family**, req. by Friends
6:15 PM **Teresa Canizares and Jaime Meneses**, req. by Family

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

9:15 AM **Tony and Adele Dailida**, req. by Children
12:15 PM **David "Duddie" Massad**, req. by Rob Matthews
6:15 PM **Dan Martel**, req. by Family

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

6:15 PM **Michael Lewis and Joseph Pezzela**, req. by Family; **Paul Lapierre**, req. by Family

Thursday, March 14, 2019

6:15 PM **Bill Pugelise, Jr.**, req. by Family

Friday, March 15, 2019

6:15 PM **Helen Sullivan**, req. by Frank Carroll; **Mary and Jack Moynagh**, req. by Family

Saturday, March 16, 2019

4:15 PM **Carl Steele (2nd Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Christine Durkin**, req. by Helen Friel
7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 17, 2019

8:00 AM **Patrick Johnson**, req. by Family; **Lucy Thompson (43rd Anniv)**, req. by Daughter Barbara
10:15 AM **Robert Siemaszko (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Jean Cosmo**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Birthday Blessings for Bernadette Boucher**, req. by Family; **Milton Joseph Pepin, Sr.**, req. by Wife Helen and Family
7:15 PM **Mary Helen Ford**, req. by Dave Young

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

On Tuesday we conclude the 96th Annual Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier. Like the previous 95 novenas it truly has been time of grace. Each year the Novena is held from March 4—12. However, given the way the Liturgical Year is constructed, the liturgical season and the readings can change from year to year. This makes the Novena new every year.

This year's timing was helpful and instructive. Beginning on last Monday meant that we began by celebrating the last two days of Ordinary Time. I found that this helped me prepare more fully for the Season of Lent. Therefore, we hit the ground running on Ash Wednesday! The readings of the first days of Lent focus on giving praise and honor to God in an authentic and sincere way.

I join all the Novena participants in thanking the speakers. It is clear that they put a lot of time into their preparation. Each of them offered a unique perspective on Xavier, our Lenten practices, and the need for continued missionary work in the Church today. Many thanks, too, go to Sean, Dolores and Bobby, Rich, Dmitri and Mike as well as the cantors, collectors and all those who helped ensure that the Novena ran smoothly.

Typically, I wait until the conclusion of the Novena before offering my reflections and my thanks. Well, for me the Novena does end this weekend. As you may have heard, on Monday I am having surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm. They tell me that there will be a four week recovery period. I am deeply grateful for all the prayers that have been sent up to God on my behalf. I am sure that all will be well. Indeed, I can clearly see that the hand of God has been directing the health issues I have dealt with over the past few months.

Fr. Sebastian has been a tremendous help to me. He is a wonderful young man and, already, a dedicated priest. Obviously, with my surgery and recovery, Sebastian has been thrown into the fire right away. He is up to the challenge. I told Bishop McManus that with the addition of Fr. Sebastian and Deacon Mike we have a great team here! The Bishop, who is a very funny man, said it was one of his best decisions! I agree.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. John Madden

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Invocabit me*, Ps. 91 (90): 15, 16

Op.: Novena Booklet

Ps. 91, "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: Novena Hymn

Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Scapulis Suis*, Ps. 91 (90): 4-5

Cl.: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name, Novena Booklet

ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

March 13– Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.

March 15– Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

March 25– Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Catholics in America" by Russell Shaw.

THE 96th ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER will run through this Tuesday, March 12. The list of preachers is:

- Saturday, March 9– Fr. Peter Folan, S.J.
- Sunday, March 10– 8 and 1015 AM– Fr. Jim Mazzone, 1215 PM– Fr. Armev, 715 PM– Fr. Conrad Pecevich
- Monday, March 11– Msgr. James Moroney
- Tuesday, March 12– Fr. Juan Sebastian Sanchez

ANNUAL PARTNERS IN CHARITY APPEAL is underway. The theme for this year's appeal is "Generate Joy". The goal for this year is \$76,600. To date we have collected \$43,309.00. Thank you for your generosity.

JOIN THE ST. JOHN'S ONLINE ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMUNITY-

For the first time ever, St. John's is offering an online faith formation community for adults in the parish. The goal of this group is to offer online spiritual formation studies that come in the form of an email or text message. Parishioners in the group can participate in the studies and share their thoughts and questions with the group as a whole. This Lent we will kick off our first study using Bishop Barron's popular "Seven Deadly Sins" series. You can join the Adult Faith Formation group by texting the word "Madden" to 84576 on your cell phone or visiting stjohnsworcester.flocknote.com/ everyone

BACH-A-THON– The Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present Bach-A-Thon on Saturday, March 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester benefitting St. John's Food for the Poor and Abby House. The day begins at 9 AM and ends at 8 PM. All are welcome to attend.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist– This Sunday, March 10, 9-10 AM in the Xavier Center.

Grades 1-6– This Sunday, March 10, 9-10 AM in the Church Hall.

Grades 7-9– This Sunday, March 10, 11:15AM -12:15 PM in the church hall.

Confirmation (grade 10)- This Sunday, March 10, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Xavier Center.

FOOD FOR THE POOR FUNDRAISER– A representative from BJ's (and a St. John's parishioner) will be offering new and renewed memberships at a discounted rate. For every membership BJ's will donate \$5 to our Food for the Poor Program.

THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

will be meeting this Wednesday, March 13, 9:30-11am, in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to come. If you need a prayer shawl for someone who needs comfort, please call Connie at 508-755-5172.

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 (March 10) through Trinity Sunday (June 16).

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.

In Our Catholic Community...

A MASS FOR HEALING will be held this Tuesday, March 26 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 LITHUANIAN SCOUTS will be celebrating their annual Spring Festival (Kaziuko Muge) at Maironis Park 52 South Quinsigamond Ave in Shrewsbury on Sunday, March 31, starting at Noon. A Lithuanian dinner with kugali and a chicken dinner will be available and served from 12:30 p.m. There will be vendors present plus the author, Ursula Wong, who wrote about the Lithuanian resistance. The youngsters from the Lithuanian School will provide entertainment. Everyone is invited for an afternoon of fun.

19TH 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, April 6. 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: Kevin Dunn, Francesco Cesareo, Trent Horn, Father Warren Savage, Mike Aquilina and Eric Mahl. 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 March 25, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$9286.16. We have also received:

Monthly- \$2545.50	Restoration- \$364.00
Candles- \$196.00	Stipends- \$715.00

Total- \$13,106.66 **Unrestricted-** \$12,742.66 **Restricted-** \$364

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$275 IMO Kenneth Sullivan; \$220 IMO James Hurley, Jr.; \$45 IMO Michael Casello; \$200 IMO Catherine Cipriano; \$125 IMO Joshua Ernst; \$25 from a friend; \$80 from a friend; \$1,000 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$2500 from Canal Diggers 5K; \$25 IMO Joseph Gallati; \$320 IMO John McNamara; \$25 IMO Marie Wolik

Expenses- 9813.81

Administration (3435.74) Novena (2100.00) Altar (770.00) Office (320.50) 1st Communion (225.50) Haitian Apostolate (532.00) Repair and Maintenance (804.27) Ascension Sidewalk Clearing (725.00) Copier (630.53) Marriage Prep (55.00) Postage (67.71) Church Alarm (34.73) Ascension Alarm (112.83)

Food for the Poor:

Income- \$19,790.71

Expenses- \$8737.39

This weekend's second collection is for the Novena.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Fr. Henry Donoghue, Christopher Pailles, Kenneth Sullivan, Joseph Gallati, Rosemarie Teixeira, Judith Dacey, Patricia Kelley and Gerald Dube who have been born into eternal life.

Word of Life

“The temptations of Jesus caution us, steel us. Remember, the Scriptures tell us that Satan is a deceiver, a total liar. Do not attempt to satisfy your spiritual hunger with anything less than the scriptural word and eucharistic food...

God alone is worthy of your adoration.”

—Abbot John Classen, OSB