

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

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

**Parish Websites** [www.stjohnsworcester.org](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org) and [www.stjohnsfoodforthepeople.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthepeople.org)

## **PARISH STAFF**

### **Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
[frjohnmadden@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnmadden@gmail.com)

### **Associate Pastor**

Fr. Juan Sebastian Sanchez  
[Fr.sebastian2019@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.sebastian2019@gmail.com)

### **Assisting Priests**

Fr. Charles Armev  
Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice  
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

### **Deacon**

Van Nguyen  
Eduardas Meilus

### **Coordinators of Religious Education**

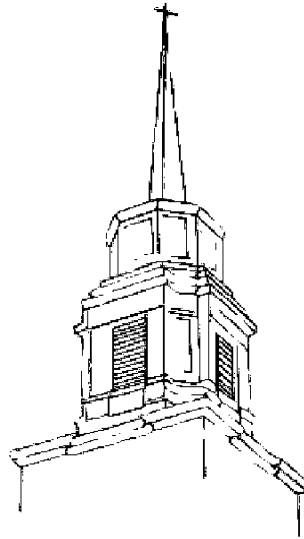
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

### **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**

Wis 11:22-12:2

2 Thes 1:11-2:2

Lk 19: 1-10

Worship Hymnal #1201

### **Rectory Office Hours:**

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm  
Jimmy Archibald, Manager  
[stjohnsworc@gmail.com](mailto: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 visit the parish website  
under the "Sacraments" tab

### **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, November 2, 2019

4:15 PM **Victoria and Carl Steele**, req. by Family;  
**All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.**

7:15 PM **John Harvey**, req. by Ursula and Eleanor Arello

Sunday, November 3, 2019

8:00 AM **James Gannon**, req. by Family; **Evelyn Foley**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **John J., Claire K. and John F. Healy and Paul Rogers**, req. by Family; **Kenny Beshaw**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Margaret, Eugene and John Gingras and the Coomey Family**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Angela Soule**, req. by Family and Friends; **Anne Bjorkman**, req. by Dave Young

Monday, November 4, 2019

6:15 PM **Robert Keanery (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Friends; **Paul Letsky**, req. by Ann Marie Sarkisian

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

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

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

6:15 PM **Health and Intentions of Gail McAuliffe**

Thursday, November 7, 2019

6:15 PM **Scott and Gwen Gow**, req. by Family

Friday, November 8, 2019

6:15 PM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Friends

Saturday, November 9, 2019

4:15 PM **Mary O'Grady (6th Anniv.)**, req. by O'Grady Family

7:15 PM **Joseph Pezzella**, req. by Family; **Anna Leseman**, req. by Barbara Thompson

Sunday, November 10, 2019

8:00 AM **Fr. Joseph Coonan**, req. by Al and Sue Johnson; **Craig Vaicilionis**, req. by Talent Acquisition Team at UMASS Memorial

10:15 AM **Joseph and Victoria Misilo**, req. by Family; **Anna, Anthony, Mary Jane Dattis and Lucille and Michael Mazzola**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Alice Miller**, req. by Rosemary Foley  
7:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Friends

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of my favorite lines from today's Gospel is "Zacchaeus, come down, for today I must visit your house." Indeed, Jesus has never stopped visiting His people personally and in their cultures. The Church has recognized this in her missionary works since the second century and has named it *Semina Verbi (seed of God)*. God has been visiting non-Christian territories and has planted some seeds in cultural symbols.

An example of this is St. Patrick in Ireland. He managed to see the shamrock and make out of it a symbol of the Trinity to evangelize non-Christians. The story says he also saw Odin's cross and used it to tell people that the true God died on the cross. People kept the cross, but its meaning changed: that is the origin of our Celtic Cross.

The old cathedrals of Europe are full of grotesques and gargoyles. These statues have demonic faces. Romans and Greeks believed that they protected their houses. When churches, like Notre Dame in Paris, were built, ministers used them to tell the illiterate population about the afterlife (in a time when God was one of fear of course).

In the very heart of the Church, in the middle of St. Peter's Square, there is an obelisk. It was dedicated in Egypt to the pagan god Ra and was brought to Rome by the Emperor. Later, when Rome became Christian, the obelisk did too. And not only that, even an artist, Michelangelo saw the seeds of God in other cultures and painted Delphic oracles in the Sistine Chapel. Many think that they prophesied the coming of Christ.

In the last weeks, we have heard news that Pope Francis had enthroned a pagan Amazonian goddess, called Pachamama, in the Vatican. Some have yelled about the presence of this carved woman in the Vatican, but they don't have a second thought about the other *Semina Verbi (Seeds of God)*: the obelisk, the Delphic oracles, the gargoyles, and the Celtic Cross. I was a missionary in the Amazon area, I know that the Pachamama is a symbol of God's providence through the prosperity of the land. Amazonian missionaries in the last 500 years have recognized that symbol as *Semina Verbi (seed of God)* too. God has visited Ireland, Egypt, Europe, and although for some it is difficult to accept, God has visited the Amazonian tribes too.

Instead of taking down minority Catholic seeds because we decide they are not Western enough and therefore pagan, we should be more concerned in taking down the main idolatry: our ego. That's the real adversary. That is the only lock that does not allow the visit of God. Let us pray that we can, as Zacchaeus, get down from our ego, and allow Jesus to visit us and our neighbors.

In Christ,

Fr. Sebastian

## ***THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

**BIBLE STUDY**- Do you hunger to learn more about our Mass readings? Do you find the Old Testament harder to understand than the New Testament? Would you like to deepen your prayer life by seeking God through Scripture? If so, **consider joining our Advent Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, November 12 through December 17, from 7-8 pm, in the rectory dining room.** Our Bible study will focus on praying with and learning more about the prophet Isaiah, who we'll be hearing throughout the Advent season during Mass. Our Mass readings will take small bites out of a long, beautiful, and complicated series of prophecies in Isaiah. These prophecies are key for Catholics. Yet we don't often have the opportunity to place our short Mass readings in the broader context of the book. In our Bible study, we'll have the opportunity to learn about Isaiah as a whole, sink more deeply into our Mass readings for Advent, and grow as a community of faith.

**RCIA** - This Monday, November 4 at 7 p.m. in the rectory is the next meeting of the inquiry phase of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program. Anyone who is interested in receiving Baptism, the Eucharist or Confirmation is invited to attend. Please contact the rectory office if you have any questions.

**LECTOR WORKSHOP**- Current and prospective lectors are invited to a "Lector Workshop: A Resource in Bringing God's Word to Life." This interactive video program features Audrey Sommers, a nationally renowned presenter in lector formation. Ms. Sommers will address the importance of our ministry as lectors and provide speaking techniques and skills to proclaim God's word effectively. This workshop is an opportunity to improve our abilities to serve in this ministry and to meet other lectors. We are also planning to test the new sound system! The workshop will be Sunday, December 1 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM in the church hall. Sr. Ann Jablonski, RSCJ will facilitate the session. We look forward to your participation. Please call or email the parish office at (508) 756-7165 to let us know that you will attend. There is a letter and a registration form on the back tables of the church for anyone interested. Thank you.

**THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB** will meet on Monday, November 25 at 7 PM in the rectory. The selection for this month, continuing a theme, is "Surprised by Truth: 11 Converts Give the Biblical and Historical Reasons for Becoming Catholic" edited by Patrick Madrid.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**GRADES 1-6**– This Sunday, November 3, 9 AM in the Church Hall

**GRADES 7-9**– This Sunday, November 3, 11:15 AM in the Church Hall

**CONFIRMATION**– This Sunday, November 3 11:15 AM in the Xavier Center.

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**- The Social Committee will be selling a glass Christmas ornament which has St. John's Church on it. The ornaments will be sold for \$15.00 each. Supplies are limited, so get them early! The ornaments will be sold after the Saturday 4:15 PM and Sunday 8:00 and 10:15 AM, 12:15 PM Masses beginning the week-end of October 26th or by calling Judy 508-478-9813.

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS**– We will once again be distributing Thanksgiving baskets to our neighborhood families in need on Tuesday, November 26 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Anyone who lives in the 01604 or 01610 (Vernon Hill) Zip codes is eligible. Sign-ups will take place, over the phone, from November 5 - November 8 and November 12-15 9 AM to 12 Noon. Anyone willing to donate we are in need of stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy.

**THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will be meeting Wednesday, November 13 at 9:30-11:00 am in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are more than welcome! If you need a prayer shawl for anyone, call Connie at 508-755-5172

**LASALETTE SHRINE TRIP**- The Social Committee is sponsoring a trip to Lasalette Shrine to see the Christmas display and hear Fr. Pat's concert on Sunday, December 1. The bus leaves St. John's parking lot at 3:30 PM and returns at approximately 8:30 PM. The cost is \$15 per person. Dinner is on your own at the Shrines cafeteria. Tickets should be purchased by November 23 and are on sale after Mass or by calling Judy at 508-478-9813.

## **In Our Catholic Community...**

**A MASS FOR HEALING** will be held on this Tuesday, November 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.

**FRENCH MEAT PIE SALE**- The Daughters of Isabella, St. Katharine Drexel Circle #1398, are holding their annual French Meat Pie Sale at St. George's Church Hall on Sunday, November 24 from 8 AM - Noon. The cost is \$14.00. Because of the popularity of these pies, the organization is now taking advance prepaid orders. Please call Terry at 508 757-6209 with your order. The deadline for the prepaid orders is Sunday, November 17.

**ASSUMPTION SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**- Assumption School is holding an Open House on Tuesday, November 5th, and Thursday, November 7th. We are located at 17 Grove Street, Millbury. PreK Open House: 9:00-11:30 AM Kindergarten-Grade 8 Open House: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Please visit [assumptionschoolmillbury.org](http://assumptionschoolmillbury.org) or call the school office at 508-865-5404 for more information on what Assumption School offers.

**PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**- If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Worcester. The report can be made by phone, contact Judy Audette, Victims Assistance Coordinator, (508) 929-4363 or in writing, and sent to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

## **Financial Report**

Last weekend we received \$11,995.77. We have also received:

Candles- \$279.00	Parking- \$35.00
Stipends- \$745.00	Donation- \$2675.00

**Total- \$15,729.77 Unrestricted- \$15,729.77 Restricted-\$0.00**

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$25 IMO Philip Shea, Sr.; \$50 IMO Russell Hicks; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$530 IMO John Harvey; \$30 IMO Anna Leseman

**Expenses-** \$8079.63  
Schola (874.40) Administration (2189.65) House Cable/Phones/Internet (614.20) Church Gas (94.35) Rectory Gas (169.71) Ascension Gas (126.48) Stipends (1505.00) House (179.85) Funerals (554.20) CCD (991.65) Legal Fees (201.59) Preserve the Flame (315.00) After School (109.89) Rectory Alarm (34.73) Ascension Alarm (118.93)

### **Food for the Poor**

**Income-** \$4168.00  
**Expenses-** \$2837.67

This weekend's second collection is the Monthly Special Needs offering

**YEAR TO DATE**- In October we had a cash operating loss of \$13,469.65. Our cash gain for FY 19/20 is \$73,874.73. Thank you for your support of St. John's.

## **Our Parish Community...**

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Herbert Morris, Lee Desy, Alfred Bianchi and Billy Katter who have been born into eternal life.

## **Word of Life**

**“The tribulation of the end time is like God’s rising sap that will make us supple and ready to bear new fruit in a new season—for a new age inaugurated by the Second Coming of Jesus. But unlike the predictable ripening of figs, the end time is God’s secret and surprise because it is God’s plan for humanity and the cosmos. What we can be confident about is that the harvester Christ, at that future time, will be near ‘at the gates,’ holding them open for the entry of the faithful into the kingdom. We have the assurance of Jesus’ abiding word that this will come to pass.”** –Sr. Verna Holyhead