

# *"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.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.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**

Eduardas Meilus

### **Coordinators of Religious Education**

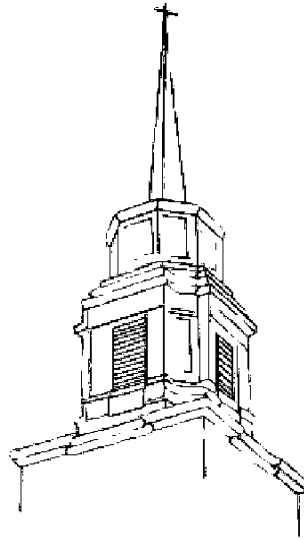
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

### **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**

Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-14

Mt 24:37-44

Worship Hymnal #1001

### **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 30, 2019

4:15 PM **Deacon Paul Pizzarella (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Carlo Morrissey; **The Bakanas Family and Joan Nichols**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joseph P. O'Coin (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Richard Ford**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 1, 2019

8:00 AM **Joyce Murphy**, req. by Family; **Ted and Gennie Laurie**, req. by Daughter Lorraine

10:15 AM **John Jacques (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Genevive B. Powers**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Birthday Wishes for Jonelle Garofoli**, req. by Family; **Carmen Hebert**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Donald Donovan (10th Aninv.) and Susan Brigham**, req. by Family

Monday, December 2, 2019

6:15 PM **Stephanie LeBlanc and Diane Norigian**, req. by Bob and Donna Mastrovito

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

6:15 PM **Paul Letsky**, req. by Norma

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

6:15 PM **Patrick Michael Dowling (15th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Thursday, December 5, 2019

8:00 AM **Joe Hickey**

Friday, December 6, 2019

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

Saturday, December 7, 2019

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; John M. Cahill, Jr. (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Conrad O'Donnell and Rolland Ricard**, req. by Friends

Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:00 AM **Elizabeth Spurr**, req. by Family; **Alexander "Al" Drisco**, req. by Friends at VAAH  
10:15 AM **Walter Pogorek (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Health and Intentions of John Malvarose**, req. by Wife  
12:15 PM **Albin Zukowski and Edward Belton**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

As far as our secular society goes, Thanksgiving is the holiday which kicks off the most festive time of the year, the commercial year. Our Catholic calendar is, of course, a different one from the secular. Today we begin a new liturgical year with the Season of Advent. As Christians one of the most important blessings available to us is hope. It is beginnings that provide the best setting for hope. Human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. Advent offers us hope.

For the past several years, the Ordo (also known as Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist, that is, the book which tells us what color vestments to wear and what prayers and readings to use!) has included an excerpt from "The Spirit of Advent" by Mark Searle. I have used one of his points over and over again. Let me offer you the full context:

*But one of the reasons why we read the Old Testament during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see; the deaf hear; the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the peoples of the earth, would be united in blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different than ours or from any human being's: lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain and misery.*

Our hope is emboldened by the coming of Jesus in history and his promise to be with us always, even until the end of the world. So we begin again, because we have something to live for and with the promise of its fulfillment to come,

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr. John Madden

## ***THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

### **THIS WEEK'S HYMNS**

Introit: *Ad te levavi*, Ps. 25: 1-3

Op.: # 386 O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Ps. 122, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 393 Awaken, Sleepers

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, 311

Comm.: *Dominus dabit*, Ps. 85: 13

# 405 Creator of the Stars of Night

Cl.: # 409 Sleepers, Wake!

**THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB** takes the month of December off. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. The selection for January is "Night's Bright Darkness; A Modern Conversion Story" by Sally Read

**BIBLE STUDY- THE PROPHET ISAIAH** will meet on Tuesday, December 3, 7-8 PM in the Rectory.

**RCIA** - This Monday, December 2 at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis Xavier Center begins the Catechumenate 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.

**ADVENT RECOLLECTION** will be held on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8. The day starts with the 12:15 PM Mass in the main Church, followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall at 1:15 PM. The Advent Recollection talk will be from 1:45 to 2:15 PM, followed by group discussions. Starting at 3:00 PM, there will be some quiet time and prayers in the Chapel, including adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and concluded with Benediction at around 4:00 PM. Fr. Juan Sebastian Sanchez, Associate Pastor of St. John's will be the speaker and will lead the prayers.

**THE ST. RAFOA'S PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will be meeting on Wednesday December 11 from 9:30-11:00 AM in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are very welcome to come and join us. (If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we can teach you!) if you need a prayer shawl for anyone please call Connie at 508-755-5172.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**GRADES 1-6**— Sunday, December 8, 9 AM in the Church Hall

**GRADES 7-9**— Sunday, December 8, 11:15 AM in the Church Hall

**CONFIRMATION**— class retreat December 7, 10-3 at Assumption College. No class 12/8.

**ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOPPE** will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM in the church hall. Kids can make gifts for family members. \$2 per child, max \$5/family. All are welcome!

**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 weekend of October 26th or by calling Judy 508-478-9813.

**ST. JOHN'S GIVING TREE ORNAMENTS** will be available at all Masses beginning this weekend. Please return all gifts UNWRAPPED with the ornament tag to the church or the rectory by December 15. We are currently sponsoring gifts for Pernet Family Health Center, The guests of the Free Meal and the Green Island Neighborhood Center. Thank you for your generosity during the holiday season.

**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.

## In Our Catholic Community...

**A MASS FOR HEALING** will be held Tuesday, January 28 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.

### **JOIN THE CHOIR FOR ADVENT AND**

**CHRISTMAS!**- There's so much great music for Advent and Christmas, and the choir is beginning to look at music of the season! Come join us in singing the most festive music of the year and help make the holidays even brighter! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in the Choir Loft in Church at 7:00 PM following the 6:15 Mass in the Lower Chapel. We meet on Sundays at 11:30 to warm-up and practice before singing the 12:15 Mass. We'd love for you to join us! If you have any questions please see Sean of Lucie after one of the Masses or contact the rectory.

### **ANNUAL MASS TO HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR CHILDREN**

- You are invited to attend the Pieta annual mass to honor and remember all of our children on Monday, December 2 at 7 PM at St George Church, 40 Brattle St., Worcester. Refreshments will be served following the Mass. Please invite any families who have lost a child. For more information, please call Terry Gentile at 508-284-0796 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, or email [pieta3@gmail.com](mailto:pieta3@gmail.com). Sponsored by Pieta Support Group for Bereaved Parents.

**ADVENT PRAYER PROGRAM**- The Sisters of Ste. Anne invite you to their annual Advent Prayer Program at Marie Anne Center at St. Bernard Church, 228 Lincoln St., Worcester on Tuesdays, December 3, 10 and 17 from 10 - 11:30 AM. Presenters in order to appearance are Fr. Sebastian Sanchez, Mr. Ernie Rivard and Sr. Yvette Belerose.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$10,401.47. We have also received:

Monthly- \$1522.00  
Candles- \$284.00  
Stipends- \$325.00  
CCHD- \$438.00

Restoration- \$90.00  
Parking- \$70.00  
School Rent- \$4833.72

**Total-** \$17,964.19 **Unrestricted-** \$17,436.19 **Restricted-** \$528.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$300 from Eat to Give, \$135 IMO John Harvey, \$500 from the Harp and Shamrock Charitable Foundation, \$100 from a friend, \$20 from a friend, \$30 from a friend, \$25 from a friend, \$25 from a friend, \$100 from a friend, \$500 from a friend, \$991.53 from a friend, \$150 IMO David and Paul Delude, \$25 IMO Andrew Stencil, \$50 IMO Stephanie LeBlanc, \$35 IMO Sally Duquette, \$150 IMO Wilfred Lariviere

**Expenses-** \$22,150.49

Schola (2049.88) Altar (1655.40) Administration (6347.96) Phone/Cable/Internet (614.20) Church Gas (550.69) Rectory Gas (817.19) Ascension Gas (981.49) House (591.61) Parking Lot Lines (1080.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (3018.74) Locksmith (28.00) Plowing Contract (2000.00) Ascension Plowing (750.00) Preserve the Flame (746.00) Funerals (252.80) Catholic Schools Assessment (400.00) Rectory Alarm (34.73) Office (231.00)

**Food for the Poor** Income- \$2568.42 Expenses- \$3556.24

This weekend's Second Collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Matthew Palumbo, James Graziano, Kevin Casey and Walter McGovern who have been born into eternal life.

## **Word of Life**

**"The Advent we keep is not a poetic make-believe, or a nostalgic historical pageant, or even an exercise in remembering our roots, although this might have value... The season of Advent celebrates in symbolic form a reality of our own lives and of all humanity's destiny with God, because he who came in weakness at Bethlehem is he who will come again."**

**--Sr. Maria Boulding, *The Coming of God***