

# *"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**

Eduardas Meilus

### **Coordinators of Religious Education**

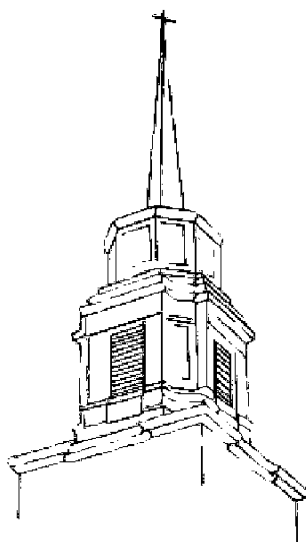
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

### **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 11:1-10

Rom 15:4-9

Mt 3:1-12

Worship Hymnal #1004

### **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, 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;  
**Leo and Eleanor Wheeler, Celine Lizotte**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Family

Monday, December 9, 2019

6:15 PM **Frank Wright**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

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

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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

Thursday, December 12, 2019

8:00 AM **Dan Martel**, req. by Family

Friday, December 13, 2019

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

Saturday, December 14, 2019

4:15 PM **Carl and Victoria Steele**, req. by Family;  
**Fr. Jim Walsh and Nicholas Walsh**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Friends

Sunday, December 15, 2019

8:00 AM **Mike Falvey**, req. by Sue and Al Johnson;  
10:15 AM **Joseph Lane (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Wife Nancy;  
**Linda Chiras (6 Mo. Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Michele Sargent (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Eunice White (4th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Fr. Mike Bafaro's Funeral Mass on Thursday at Our Lady of Loreto Church was a religious experience. So was his life. Fr. Bafaro was one of the most influential and inspirational figures in the City of Worcester over the past several decades; and in the Diocese of Worcester and in the individual lives of so many of us. Mike was a true role model, indeed, a hero to me personally.

Fr. Mike's good friend, Msgr. Frank Scollen (does "a pair that beats a full house" seem applicable?) preached the homily at the Mass. He relayed a story from Bishop Flanagan. In the great spirit of Vatican II dioceses in North America were encouraged to twin with dioceses in Latin and South America. To this end, Bishop Flanagan received a letter requesting that Diocese of Worcester partner with the Diocese of Sicuani in Peru. The Bishop said that after reading the letter he wondered who he could possibly find to go to Sicuani? Twenty minutes later, Fr. Bafaro appeared at the Bishop's office proclaiming that he wanted to be a missionary. He spent the next twelve years in the Diocese of Sicuani!

As you know, I am crier. I cried when Frank told that story – and throughout his homily – and I am crying as I type it here. They are tears of sadness, of course, since Fr. Mike is gone. They are tears of joy, of course, because we are confident in where he has gone. They are, also, tears of gratitude for the reminder that God is still active in our world. This is a lesson particularly fitting for the Season of Advent.

In beginning Advent, I was particularly struck by one commentator who suggested that we can only truly prepare for the coming of the Lord, if we know that the Lord is here present. Fr. Mike knew that the Lord was present, and he was always prepared to respond to the call of God in his life. We can be confident that Fr. Bafaro is now interceding on behalf of both the Diocese and City of Worcester and for us personally so that, like him, we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord into our world, our homes and our hearts.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr. John Madden

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Int.: *Populus Sion*, Is 30: 19, 30

Op.: # 392 On Jordan's Bank

Ps. 72, "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 390 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, Amen (sung on one pitch), # 311

Comm: *Jerusalem surge*, Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

# 405 Creator of the Stars of Night

Cl.: # 402 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB takes the month of December off. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 27 at 7:00 PM 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 10, 7-8 PM in the Rectory.

RCIA - Monday, December 16 at 7 PM in the St. Francis Xavier Center continues 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- This Sunday, December 8, 9 AM in the Church Hall

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

CONFIRMATION- No class this weekend.

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 Center. Thank you for your generosity.

GIFT CARD STOCKING STUFFERS- Pick up Hope for Housing gift cards this month on the weekend of December 14th & 15th, Saturday 4:15 and Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 Masses. Dunkins, Panera, Stop & Shop and more. Great gifts for family and friends - and help the less fortunate at the same time! Need a reminder? Join the Flocknotes group on the parish website.

CATHOLICISM 101 ADVENT STUDY- The St. John's Adult Faith Formation group will be hosting an online Advent study from December 1st to January 6th using Bishop Barron's "Catholicism 101" video series. Join in and deepen your faith this Advent season! See our page on the parish website or text MAD-DEN to 84576 to join.

THE FILIPINO CHOIR will be at the 4:15 PM Mass on Saturday, December 28, 2019. After the Mass, a reception will follow at the St. Francis Xavier Center. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

### 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.

**TAIZE WORCESTER-** Sacred Music for Vespers on December 8th, 7-7:45. Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox musicians come to together in sacred choir to sing simple, pure music to support peace and respect between all Christians and Non-Christians. Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA. 01609. Join us! Free to people of all faiths and walks of life.

### **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.

### **HOLY HOUR FOR LAY PEOPLE TO**

**PRAY FOR PRIESTS-** On Friday, December 13 from 7- 8 PM, a holy hour for lay people to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration, as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. Please join us for this important act of service and prayer for our priests. Repeats every second Friday of the month

### **Financial Report**

Last weekend we received \$8634.16. We have also received:

Monthly- \$2253.00	Restoration- \$263.00
Candles- \$227.00	Parking- \$40.00
Stipends- \$650.00	Thanksgiving- \$218.00
Donation- \$135.00	IMO Brian O'Connell- \$50.00

**Total-** \$12,470.16 **Unrestricted-** \$12,207.16 **Restricted-** \$263.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$450 IMO Solange "Sally" Duquette; \$40 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$55 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$550 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 IMO George and Ellen Cote; \$50 IMO Terence Looney; \$50 IMO Sheila Morrissey Smith; \$100 IHO Fr. Madden's Birthday; \$775 IMO Walter McGovern

**Expenses-** \$9815.02

Administration (4590.88) Ascension Phone (152.23) Stipends (1445.00) House (1027.70) Ascension Plumbing (90.74) Altar (248.42) CCD (961.65) CCHD (438.00) Ascension Alarm (118.98) Copier (643.71)

### **Food for the Poor**

Income- \$31,135.00 Expenses- \$7304.51

This weekend's Second Collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious

**YEAR TO DATE-** In November we had a cash operating loss of \$11,761.62. This leaves us with a cash operating gain of \$63,122.95 for FY 19/20. Thank you for your generosity to St. John's.

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

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Fr. Michael Bafaro, Michael McCarthy and Myriam Pinzon who have been born into eternal life.

### **Word of Life**

**"It is said that you will come again, and this is true. But the word *again* is misleading. It won't really be 'another' coming, because you have never really gone away. In the human existence that you made your own for all eternity, you have never left us... O God who is to come, grant me the grace to live now, in the hour of your Advent, in such a way that I may merit to live in you forever, in the blissful hour of your eternity." -Karl Rahner**