

"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
Fr.sebastian2019@gmail.com

Assisting Priests

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

Deacon

Eduardas Meilus

Coordinators of Religious Education

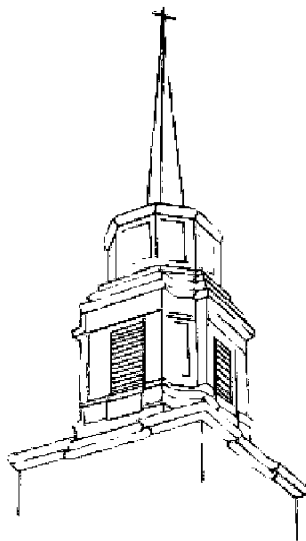
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21

Mt 2:13-15

Worship Hymnal #1017

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 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 28, 2019

4:15 PM **Charles Dolan**, req. by Joe Fitzgerald
7:15 PM **Josephine Ginese (20th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
John W. Long (7th Anniv.), req. by Family

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:00 AM **Edith Boudas (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family;
Deceased Members of the Quinlivan Family
10:15 AM **Robert Pepi (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family;
Hammy Williston, req. by Mike and Ivy Lobo
12:15 PM **Milton Joseph Pepin, Sr.**, req. by son Wife
Helen and Family; **Carmela Luca**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka and Bloeslaw Burzynski**,
req. by Family

Monday, December 30, 2019

6:15 PM **Michael McCarthy (Month's Mind)**, req. by
wife Mary and Family

Tuesday, December 31, 2019– New Year's Eve

6:15 PM **John F. Madden (26th Anniv.)**, req. by
Family

Wednesday, January 1, 2020– New Year's Day

12:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**, req. by Friends
6:15 PM **Jose L. Catalan**, req. by Family

Thursday, January 2, 2020

8:00 AM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Friends

Friday, January 3, 2020

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

Saturday, January 4, 2020

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased
Members of F.O.S.S.; Albin and Anna Zukowski**,
req. by Family
7:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

Sunday, January 5, 2020

8:00 AM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Jennifer Kalinowski (15th Anniv.)**, req. by
Dianne Gustowski
12:15 PM **Elizabeth Doyle**, req. by Arlene Abraham
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

There is so much that happens around Christmas. A lot of it good, too. We all bemoan the commercialization of the season, but rarely complain about the gifts we receive! Then there is the Giving Tree, the Annual Boots Giveaway, the Food Pantry Christmas Party, Lessons and Carols, the classic movies...on and on. Still, it is the Christmas Masses that are always the best part, the real celebration. The crowd and mania of the 4:15, the holiness of the silent night at the 10:15 and the extra joy at those on Christmas Day itself. There are so many people that make sure all the activities go off without a hitch, especially the liturgical ministers whose faith issues forth in service at the services. A thousand thanks to all for your generosity and energy and love. Merry Christmas.

As you know, the celebration of Christmas itself is just the beginning of the celebrations which make up the Christmas Season. This weekend we gather as God's family to remember and honor the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This solemnity, particularly through the Scripture readings, highlights our first concern. The Telegram ran a story over a week ago that related a study claiming that the majority of people do not celebrate Christmas as a religious event. This is not a surprise to any of us at this point. Pope Francis highlights the work of evangelization as vital to the Church today. He joins at least the last four of his predecessors in this regard. As the number of people actively practicing the faith decreases and the number of "nones" increases, evangelization becomes more and more our mission priority.

Therefore, it is important to remember that the most effective tool of evangelization that we have is the manner of our lives. Indeed, this is how the first followers of the Way attracted others to the Church. People witnessed how they lived and wanted to become part of the community themselves. In following Paul's exhortation in his Letter to the Colossians, we, too, will attract others:

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

Here Paul points to the first gift of Christmas. In becoming one of us, Jesus reveals that we, too, are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.

Merry Christmas Season,
Fr. John Madden

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THIS WEEK'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

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD will be celebrated with Masses on Tuesday, December 31 at 6:15 PM and Wednesday, January 1 at 12:15 and 6:15 PM.

LEGACY OF HOPE UPDATE— To date we have received \$445,525 from 161 gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

RCIA - Monday, January 6 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.

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.

DAILY MASS ON TV AND THE INTERNET - Tune in on Monday through Friday on Charter TV3 on channel 193 at 9 am for the local Daily Mass on cable celebrated by various priests from around our diocese. Also airs at 4:30 pm in Shrewsbury on Ch. 28, and 5 pm in Clinton area on Ch. 8.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GRADES 1-6— Sunday, January 5, 9 AM in the Church Hall

GRADES 7-9— Sunday, January 5, 11:15 AM in the Church Hall

CONFIRMATION— Sunday, January 5, 11:15 AM in the Xavier Center

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 MADDEN to 84576 to join.

THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will be meeting on Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30-11:00 AM in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to come. If you would like to learn, we could teach you. Anyone who would like a prayer shawl for someone in need, please call Connie at 508-755-5172.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH EVENT IN WORCESTER— Can't make it to the March for Life in D.C.? Let's kick off Respect Life Month locally! "Let Life Live" event to be held at Sacred Heart-St. Catherine of Sweden Parish Hall, 596 Cambridge St. Worcester on Saturday, Jan. 11 from Noon-3:30 pm. We will have music from Musicians for Life, speakers, Reps from Problem Pregnancy, Visitation House, Mass Citizens for Life, 40 Days for Life, First Concern and more! For more information call Lynn at 508-612-3999.

TAIZE PRAYER IN WORCESTER— All are welcome for Taize prayer— Sacred Music for Vespers on Sunday, January 12, 7 - 7:45 PM. 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. To be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster St., Worcester. Social to follow with Mulled Cider and light refreshments. Free to people of all faiths and walks of life. Free will offering gratefully received. Please call or text Will Raymond if you have any questions. Cell/Text 978-368-3294.

TRAVELING HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS— Join us for the traveling holy hour for vocations on Wednesday, January 15 at 7 PM at St. Luke Church in Westboro. All are welcome to attend and pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life in our diocese.

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.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE KING - ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE will be held at Fiddlers' Green Pub, 19 Temple St. Worcester, MA On Friday, January 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are only \$10.00!! Please contact Beth Doyle at 508-847-2969 or bethdoyle61@gmail.com for more information. The Kitchen will be open so feel free to come early and enjoy a meal. Food Special: The King's Favorite: Fried Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwiches!

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS IN CLINTON- The Sacred Music Series at St. John Guardian of Our Lady in Clinton continues with a special Festival of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, January 11 at 7 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. Freewill donations will be accepted at the door for the benefit of First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center of Clinton. This event was a resounding success last year -- help us make it even bigger and better this year! Located at 80 Union St. in Clinton and the church is ramp accessible.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$9754.16. We have also received:

Candles- \$207.00 Parking- \$70.00
School Rent- \$4833.72

Total- \$14,864.88 Unrestricted- \$14,864.88 Restricted-\$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$100 IMO Brian O'Connell; \$300 IMO Dorothy Evangeline; \$100 IMO Dan and Pat O'Connor; \$5000 from the Highland St. Foundation; \$100 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$60 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$400 from a friend; \$1000 from Price Chopper's Foundation; \$100 IMO Robert Connors; \$950 IMO Walter McGovern; \$50 Imo Joseph Kane; \$50 IMO John and Mabel McDermott; \$30 IMO LeeAnn Desy; \$250 IMO Thomas and Terrence Looney; \$100 IMO Kathleen Conlon; \$1000 IMO Michael McCarthy; \$100 IHO James Hogan; \$500 IMO Justine Brennan, John P. and Rosemary T. Walsh, Joseph M. Brennan and Suellen LaMothe; \$500 IMO Mary Atchue; \$250 IMO Kevin and Barbara Casey; \$50 IMO Paul Maguire and Kathy Sullivan; \$100 IMO Eileen and Barry Woodward; \$250 IMO Robert Connors; \$50 IMO Tomas and Elizabeth Salmon; \$100 from peppercorns; \$100 IHO the Osborne Family of Millbury; \$50 IHO Madeline Leazes; \$10,000 from the William McKee Foundation; \$25,000 from a friend

Expenses- \$15,623.86

Schola (997.08) Admin (5466.58) State Payroll Taxes (1075.84) Office (1285.55) Envelope Service (748.80) House (759.80) Federal payroll taxes 4 weeks (5003.46) Rectory Alarm (60.00) Funerals (152.80) Priests Retreat (25.00) Maintenance (48.95)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$10,824.63

Expenses- \$1875.50

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Richard Rafferty, Edou Bellevue, Linda Villani, Al Valentino and Hilda Farrell who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Jameson Paul Taverna and Luisa Lee Morris who have entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

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