

"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. Jean Robert Simbert Brice
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Eduardas Meilus
Intern: Donald Pegg

Coordinators of Religious Education

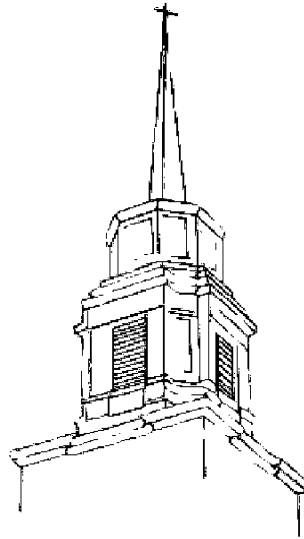
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Cor 3:16-23

Mt 5:38-48

Worship Hymnal #1127

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, February 22, 2020

4:15 PM **Donald Paldino (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family ; **Joseph and Julia Senckowski and Christine Plouffe**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:00 AM **Joe Gallatti (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Patrick Johnson and Elsie Gannon**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Louis A, Boucher (12th Anniv.) and Birthday Blessings for Lorenzo Pasquale**, req. by Family; **John Osodo**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Lolita Catalan**, req. by Family; **Robert J. Pellegrino**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family

Monday, February 24, 2020

6:15 PM **Jaime Rodriguez and Evelyn Flynn**, req. by Family

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

6:15 PM **Scott Gow**, req. by Friends

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

6:15 PM **Mary M. Kocot**, req. by Frank Carroll and Family

Thursday, February 27, 2020

6:15 PM **Thomas P. Reynolds (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Friday, February 28, 2020

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

Saturday, February 29, 2020

4:15 PM **Skip Granger and Hannah Walsh**, req. by Family; **Dorothy Palermo (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **James J. Hearn, Sr. (60th Anniv.) and James J. Hearn, III (25th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:00 AM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Juozas and Janina Miliauskas**, req. by Family; **Thomas Reynolds (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Gail Gully (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Family; **Patricia Benoit and Christopher Bosowski**, req. by Family

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,

As some of you know, this will be my last weekend at St. John's in Worcester. I have been assigned to St. John's in Clinton.

The first time that, as a teenager, I felt called to be a priest I applied for the diocese of my hometown. I was a regular teenager who went to Mass and sometimes I even volunteered as a lector, but I didn't know a lot about the Church. When I went to the interview in the seminary back then in 2004, I answered every question correctly. Except for the last one: "What do you do in the Church?" I answered, "I read the Gospel." There was a long silence in the room, and they told me something like "don't call us, we'll call you." They never called me. Then I learned the difference between the first reading and the Gospel's reading.

I was so upset with God and myself those days. But now, I look back and I can see that the "mistake" was a way that God used to take me out of my land and take me somewhere else as a missionary. A year ago, I arrived at your home, St. John's. And I am very glad that I have had the opportunity to be part of your community and learned how to be a priest in my first year of ordination. I want to thank you for that: for being patient and forgiving with me when I did make mistakes, for being always so kind, for being good disciples and missionaries because you have also evangelized me. I want to thank especially Fr. Madden for being so supportive. He embodies for me today's Gospel: he was there for me in difficult times; modified his lifestyle for working with me; when I lost my cleric collar and couldn't find it, he gave me his. He indeed walked the extra mile to help me. Indeed, all of you embody the Gospel. Look at what you do for the poor and all the people who knock at your door. I really feel very fortunate to know you and that is why it is very difficult to say goodbye. I am really going to miss you.

If I had the chance to talk with the people who interviewed me in 2004 to enter the seminary, I think I would still say the same "wrong answer." Yes, at "what do you do in the Church?", I will still answer that I read the Gospel, and not only the Word of God that is on those pages, but in the life of all of you. All of you together are a living Gospel and I thank you for opening the pages of your life so I can become a better priest every day. Thank you, I still count on your prayers.

Fr. Sebastian

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Introit: *Domine, in tua Misericordia*, Ps 13:6
Op.: # 616 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Ps 103, "The Lord is Kind and Merciful."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 857 For the Fruits of All Creation
Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Narrabo omnia mirabilia*, Ps 9:2, 3
937 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Cl.: # 805 God, Whose Giving Knows No End-
ing

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 26TH -

Mass and distribution of Ashes will be held at 12:15 and 6:15 PM. All are welcome!

THE 97th ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

will begin Wednesday, March 4 and run through Thursday, March 12. Mass and Novena prayers will be held on the weekdays at 9:15 AM, 12:15 and 6:15 PM and on the regular weekend schedule. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this great Lenten tradition.

THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB's next meeting will be Monday, March 23 at 7:00 PM in the rectory. The selection for March is "Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church" by Austin Ivereigh.

RCIA - Monday, February 24 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.

ST. JOHN'S LITHUANIAN CHOIR will be singing at the 10:15 AM Mass on Sunday, March 1st to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Casimir. The Choir is planning to sing the *Graudus Verksmai/Lamentations* before the Mass to observe the first Sunday of Lent. A light reception will follow the Mass downstairs in the church hall- all are invited and welcome.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST this Sunday, February 23 at 9:00 AM in the Xavier Center.

GRADES 1-6- This Sunday, February 23, 9 AM in the Church Hall

GRADES 7-9- This Sunday, February 23, 11:15 AM in the Church Hall

CONFIRMATION- This Sunday, February 23, 11:15 AM in the Xavier Center

MUSEUM OF FAMILY PRAYER- St. John's Social Activities committee is sponsoring a trip to a Contemporary Experience of Fr. Peyton's Ongoing Ministry, the Holy Family Ministry, in North Easton, MA. The cost of the trip is \$20 per person and includes Round Trip Transportation, Mass, Admission to Museum (with private tour), Movie, and a Box Lunch. The trip is Sunday, March 29, leaving St. John's at 10:30 AM and returning around 4:30 PM. Tickets should be purchased by March 21 by calling Judy at 508-478-9813. Seats are limited, reserve early.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2019

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 1) through Trinity Sunday (June 7).

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, except on the Friday of the Novena, March 6th.

In Our Catholic Community...

A MASS FOR HEALING will be held this Tuesday, February 25 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.

IRISH FESTIVAL AT ST. JOAN OF ARC- The Knights of Columbus at St Joan of Arc Parish will hold their 2nd Annual Irish Festival at the ARC, 570 Lincoln St., Worcester on Saturday February 29, 1 – 9 pm. (snow date: March 1) Music By The Fighting Donovans and the McInerney School of Dance Irish Step Dancers; Food all day: Grey Corned Beef Dinner including Corned beef, Cabbage, potatoes, carrots; corned beef sandwiches with Chips; Hotdogs, Hamburgers; Beer, Wine, Soda, Water. Admission: \$15 in advance incl dinner; \$5 At the Door (not including food) Vendor Tables available. Contact Mike O'Rourke with questions at 774-502-6195.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is offering a free six-week education program designed for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents living with emotional and behavioral issues. The next class begins on March 2nd. For more information you can call Robin at 774-239-3263.

20TH ANNIVERSARY DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE- Men are invited to this important conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, March 28. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Scott Hahn, Luis Soto and with Bishop Robert Reed of Boston speaking on the need for confession. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For further information or registration, call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345 or www.firstmensconf.org. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 11th, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$10, 212.66. We have also received:

Monthly- \$132.00	Restoration- \$103.00
Candles- \$266.00	Parking- \$245.00
Stipends- \$520.00	Novena- \$1400.00
School Rent- \$4833.72	Free Press- \$952.00

Total- \$18,664.38 Unrestricted- \$18,664.38 Restricted- \$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$135 from a friend; \$600 IMO Dan Hastings; \$25 IMO Philip Powers; \$700 IMO Michael Clancy; \$50 IMO Virginia Waitonis; \$100 from Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #4; \$25 IMO Philip Shea, Sr.; \$20 IMO Marshall Werblin

Expenses– \$28,594.73

Schola (878.40) Administration (5870.50) State Payroll Taxes (1182.58) Federal Payroll Taxes (3057.14) House (15.50) Rectory Electrical (5404.00) Ascension Plumber (336.42) Rectory Lock Repair (715.90) Church Plowing (2000.00) Ascension Plowing (1025.00) Funerals (152.80) Marriage Prep (27.50) February Budget Bill (7740.00) After School (188.99)

Food for the Poor
Income- \$1050.00
Expenses- \$3371.24

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Tony Fernandez, James Bishop, Fr. Charles Arney, Dan Radakovich and Nan Najaimy who has been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Dorothy Grace Tinsley who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

Word of Life

“Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.” –Saint Teresa of Calcutta