

"To Preserve The Flame"
SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Fax: 508-754-5153

Parish Website www.stjohnsworcester.org

Food for the Poor Website www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. John Madden
frjohnmadden@gmail.com

Assisting Priests

Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Eduardas Meilus
Intern: Donald Pegg

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

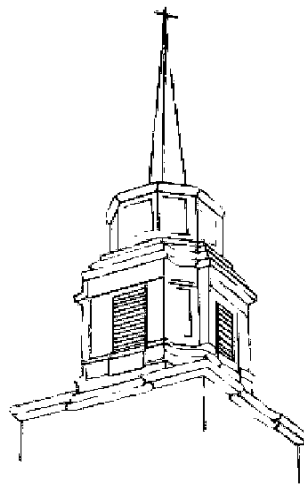
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

**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

Holy Days

Vigil 6:15 p.m.
Holy Day 12:15, 6:15 p.m.

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

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 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

Monday, March 2, 2020

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

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

6:15 PM **Joann (Dowd) Brosnan (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Friends

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

9:15 AM **Tony and Adele Dailida**, req. by Children
12:15 PM **John J. and Mary I. Welsh**, req. by Family
6:15 PM **Ruth, Anna and George Mange**, req. by Family

Thursday, March 5, 2020

9:15 AM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Anthony Charles and Stella Tankavich**, req. by Goddaughter Lorraine
6:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family

Friday, March 6, 2020

9:15 AM **Jack Kelley**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Kevin and Mary Carroll**, req. by Family
6:15 PM **Frank V. Wright**, req. by Family

Saturday, March 7, 2020

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; Dorothy Fresolo**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 8, 2020

8:00 AM **Eva James, Andrew Sokolowski, Edward, Cynthia, Wilbur & Teresa Roix, Brian O'Connell**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Joseph and Edna Gustowski**, req. by Daughter;
Emilia Garofoli (12th Anniv.), req. by Family
12:15 PM **Loriann Killoran (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family;
Anthony and Anna Dilida, req. by Grandchildren
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,

Last week, this space was dedicated – rightly so – to Fr. Sebastian's goodbye. This week – sadly – it must focus on Fr. Armeý's departure. But it is sad for us only. I know Fr. Armeý is resting in peace. I mentioned at the Vigil service, that he came to Temple Street at a time when both he and we were in a vulnerable place. At that time, Msgrs. Rocco and Tinsley had just died – one day after the other as you recall. Fr. Charlie had recently retired and was without a parish community that he could call his own. Over the more than four years together, we served each other well. Fr. Armeý was a witness to the sanctity and the power of the Eucharist. Through the physical struggles that left him so frail, he remained faithful to the Lord and to us. I can assure you that he loved the people of St. John's. He told me often, especially in his final days, that he was most grateful for your kindness and support. Thank you. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

On Wednesday we begin the 97th Annual Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier. As you know, it is one of the highlights of the year for us. In fact, the weekend Masses during the Novena are more crowded than Christmas or Easter. Flyers with the schedule of Masses and preachers is available in the church. We are happy to welcome back those that I refer to as "the usual suspects" – Bishop McManus, Brother Fahey, "Fr. (i.e. Msgr.) Frank," Fr. Jonathan, a son of St. John's, Fr. Fred who also has family roots here and Fr. Jeremy Zipple, S.J. who is coming in from his missionary work in Belize. Plus, we have two impressive Jesuits coming for the first time. Fr. Keith Maczkiewicz, S.J. who is in the Campus Ministry Department at Holy Cross and Fr. Matt Malone, S.J., a Massachusetts native, who is President and Editor in Chief at America Media in New York.

The graces received during the Novena are legendary. There have been healings of every kind; parents and family members having prayers for pregnancy and new births answered have been especially numerous; one woman who prayed that she would find a good Christian man ultimately married one named Francis Xavier! What strikes me is that the Novena is always new. This partly because it falls during different parts of the Season of Lent or, like last year, even a few days before Lent begins. Therefore, we hear different readings from one year to the next. It is ever new mostly, of course, because we are new. We come this year with the circumstances of our life at least a bit different from last year. We come this year with the depth of relationship with the Lord a bit different from last year. We hope it is deeper. We know that this is not always the case. Still, we begin again. The Novena starts in the shadow of Ash Wednesday and, through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier, promises the graces we need this year to faithfully respond to God's call in our lives.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. John Madden

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Introit: Invocabit me, Ps. 91: 15, 16
Op.: # 466 Forty Days and Forty Nights
Ps. 51, "Be merciful, o Lord, for we have sinned."
Gospel Acc.: # 208
Prep.: # 459 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert
Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, 306, 311
Comm.: Scapulis suis, Ps. 91: 4-5
Cl.: # 467 The Glory of These Forty Days

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18
1 Cor 3:16-23
Mt 5:38-48
Worship Hymnal #1127

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, March 8 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. Anyone who would like a complete copy of the translated Graudus Verksmai (Lamentations) sung at the Mass, email Steve at stevewalinsky@yahoo.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST this Sunday, March 1 at 9:00 AM in the Xavier Center.

GRADES 1-6– Sunday, March 8, 9 AM in the Church Hall

GRADES 7-9– Sunday, March 8, 11:15 AM in the Church Hall

CONFIRMATION– Sunday, March 8, 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 are also be available at the back tables of the church. 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 Tuesday, March 24 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.

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.

TRIP TO POLAND IN OCTOBER- Fr. Walter Riley, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, is leading a trip to Poland from October 12-22, 2020. This trip will include visits to Warsaw, Gdansk, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, Krakow, Malbork Castle, House of Nicholas Copernicus, the birthplace of St. John Paul II, and other historical and cultural sites and events. For more information and signup sheet regarding this wonderful that will include faith, history, and the Polish culture, please visit icworc.com and go to the heading Parish Pilgrimage To Poland.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$12,495.37. We have also received:

Monthly- \$12.00	Restoration- \$154.00
Candles- \$250.00	Parking- \$35.00
Stipends- \$930.00	Free Press- \$206.00
Transfer from FFTP- \$6737.59	

Total- \$20,819.96 **Unrestricted-** \$13,928.37 **Restricted-** \$6891.59

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$100 IMO Mary Shliapa; \$200 IMO Dickie Rafferty; \$500 from a friend; \$50 IMO Fr. Arney; \$100 IMO Dan Hastings; \$200 IMO Sheila and Don Smith; \$50 IMO Philip Powers; \$50 IMO Robert Shays

Expenses- \$17,668.48
Schola (922.08) Administration (5961.51) After School (55.00) Altar (46.78) State Payroll Taxes (1238.77) Church Gas (1348.17) Rectory Gas (1946.66) Ascension Gas (2307.86) House (125.45) Federal Payroll Taxes (1153.48) Funerals (582.00) Postage (1020.99) Preserve the Flame (92500) Rectory Alarm (34.73)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$8894.79
Expenses- \$14,731.73

YEAR TO DATE- In February we had an operating cash decrease of \$5547.96. That puts our increase for FY 19/20 at \$84,338.73. Thank you for your generosity to St. John's.

This weekends Second Collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

Our Parish Community...

... Welcomes Nora Grace Dawson, Peter Ignatius Ogle and Charlotte Jacqueline Angers who have entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

Word of Life

“The temptations of Jesus caution us, steel us. Remember, the Scriptures tell us that Satan is a deceiver, a total liar. Do not attempt to satisfy your spiritual hunger with anything less than the scriptural word and Eucharistic food...

God alone is worthy of your adoration.”

—Abbot John Classen, OSB