

*"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](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org)

**Food for the Poor Website** [www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
[frjohnmadden@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnmadden@gmail.com)

**Assisting Priests**

Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice  
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

**Deacon**

Eduardas Meilus  
Intern: Donald Pegg

**Coordinators of  
Religious Education**

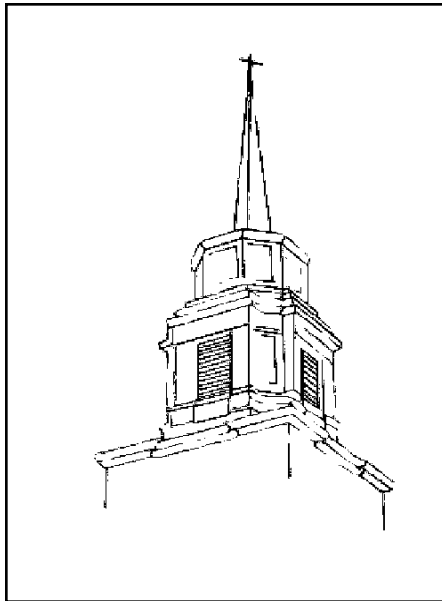
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**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](mailto: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, 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

Monday, March 9, 2020

9:15 AM **Scott Gow**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Michael Lewis**, req. by Family  
6:15 PM **Miguel Gilardez (4th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

9:15 AM **Scott Lindberg**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**, req. by Friends  
6:15 PM **Elizabeth Shea**, req. by Bob and Donna Mastrovito

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9:15 AM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Friends  
12:15 PM **Lorraine Rocheleau and Charlotte Brown**, req. by Best Friend Lorraine  
6:15 PM **Eunice K. Shea (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Family

Thursday, March 12, 2020

9:15 AM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends  
12:15 PM **Stella and Stanley Kulunas**, req. by Grandchildren  
6:15 PM **Fr. Charles Armev**, req. by Friends

Friday, March 13, 2020

6:15 PM **Ruth, Anna and George Mange**, req. by Family;  
**Joseph Pezzella**, req. by Family

Saturday, March 14, 2020

4:15 PM **Robert Gaucher (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Carl Steele (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Edward Swalec, Sr. and Edward Swalec, II**, req. by Family; **M/M Joseph P. O'Coin**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 15, 2020

8:00 AM **Susan Wright (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
10:15 AM **Health and Intentions of John Malvarose and Fr. Madden**, req. by Family; **Duddie and Bette Massad and Beloved Grandson Greg**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Milton Joseph Pepin, Sr.**, req. by Wife Helen and Family  
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Charles Gauthier (13th Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
The Rosary is prayed each weekday **beginning with the Angelus at 5:50 p.m.**

Dear Friends in the Lord,

As you can see, this week's bulletin includes a letter from Bishop McManus regarding the Coronavirus. It provides a comprehensive response to the evolving realities surrounding the spread of COVID-19. Please read it carefully. For our immediate attention, we will not be distributing the Precious Blood and are omitting the Sign of Peace. It is recommended that we limit handshaking, as well. The first response, of course, is "prayer and trust in Divine Providence."

You will see that the weekend of the Novena is the most crowded one of the year – even more crowded than Christmas and Easter. We welcome all our friends who help to make the Novena a time of tremendous grace. It is true, of course, that we need God's grace every day in every year. However, it seems that in these days in this year this is truer than ever. As Peter says to Jesus on the high mountain, "it is good that we are here." The Lord had "led them up" and is transfigured before them. In so doing, Jesus offers them (and us) a vision of what awaits those who, as Paul assures Timothy in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, "bear your share of hardship for the Gospel." Relying on the intercession of St. Francis Xavier and our mutual affection, we open ourselves to "the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest."

The Parish Council had a productive meeting this week. The fruit of that meeting is a survey that will be made available next weekend. Our intent is to gather information that will, on the one hand, enable us to contact you more efficiently and, on the other hand, to hear your hopes and ideas for continuing to build up our Christian community. More information will be in next week's bulletin. Until then, our first response, of course, is "to pray and trust in Divine Providence."

In Christ's Peace, Fr John Madden

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Introit: *Tibi dixit cor meum*, Ps 27: 8, 9

Op.: from the Novena Booklet

Ps. 33, "Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you."

Gospel Acc.: # 208 "Praise and honor..."

Prep: Novena Hymn

Eucharistic Accs: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Visionem*, Mt 17: 9

# 473 Hear Us Almighty Lord / Attende Domine

Cl.: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Novena Booklet)

### THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Gn 12:1-4a

2 Tm 1:8b-10

Mt 17:1-9

Worship Hymnal #1030

**THE 97th ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER** will continue this week 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 9 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.

**PLASTIC BAG DONATIONS**— Our Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry is in need of donations of plastic bags for our "to go" meals and various donations that are given out each day. Any and all donations are appreciated and can be dropped off at the St. Francis Xavier Center, the rectory, or left in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST** this Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 AM in the Xavier Center.

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

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

**CONFIRMATION**— This 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](http://www.firstmensconf.org). Adult tickets are \$45 until March 11th, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER WORCESTER** has been providing English language skills to help people thrive since 1973. We offer free, flexible, confidential, and individualized one-to-one tutoring for adults learning to speak English as well as adults developing basic literacy skills. In recent years, the demand for our English services has continued to grow. With over 100 students waiting for a volunteer tutor, we are calling on you to dedicate up to two hours a week to change someone's life. If you are over 18, have at least a high school diploma, and speak English proficiently, you can learn to tutor someone who is learning English. We provide a free, 18-hour training before matching you with a student, and we provide ongoing support and workshops to help you become the best tutor you can be! For more information and to apply, please visit [www.lvgw.org](http://www.lvgw.org) or call us at 508-754-8056.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$7568.70. We have also received:

Monthly- \$2057.00	Restoration- \$476.00
Candles- \$284.00	Parking- \$175.00
Stipends- \$35.00	Free Press- \$156.00
Latin America- \$502.00	Ash Wednesday- \$2410.00
FFTP Transfer- \$12,500.00	

**Total-** \$26,164.20 **Unrestricted-** \$13,188.20 **Restricted-** \$12,976.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$100 IMO Philip Powers; \$25 IMO Michael Clancy; \$50 IMO Christopher and Patrick Johnson; \$20 IMO Billy Ritacco; \$1000 from Jim O'Connell Insurance Agency; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$4,275 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 IMO Nan Nejaimey; \$50 IMO Jeannine Castonguay; \$50 IMO Russell Hicks; \$35 IMO Daniel Hastings; \$275 IMO Shirley Pace; \$100 IMO Robert Shays; \$95 from Pre Schoolers at Venerini Academy

**Expenses-** \$13,469.17

Schola (900.24) Lithuanian Reception (108.81) Administration (5294.38) Novena (1800.00) Altar (216.00) Rectory Phone/Cable/Internet (612.55) Ascension Phone (151.77) Fr. Sebastian Reception (467.94) Stipends (1365.00) Haitian Apostolate (1064.00) House (129.90) Marriage Prep (27.50) Postage (67.71) Latin America (502.00) Ascension Alarm (117.66) Copier (643.71)

**Food for the Poor**

Expenses- \$4234.93

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Deacon John Ledoux, Mary Cadogan, Rosalind Walter, Bob Molt and Karen Hearn who have been born into eternal life.

## **Word of Life**

**"May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us. May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the Hand of God protect us. May the Way of God direct us. May the Shield of God defend us. May the Host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May Christ be with us. Christ before us, Christ in us, Christ over us. May your salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore."**

**-St. Patrick**