

"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**

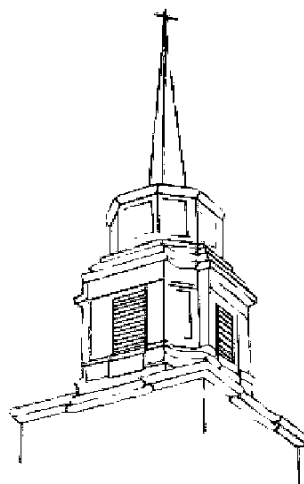
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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, December 5, 2020

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; John Michael Cahill (Birthday Remembrance.)**, req. by Family; **Victoria Steele, Carl Steele, Sr., Carl Paul Steele**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Scott Lindberg**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 6, 2020

8:00 AM **Joyce Murphy**, req. by Family; **Katherine Torres**, req. by Friends at VAAH
10:15 AM **Walter Pogorek (9th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **In Honor of John Malvarose's 50th Birthday**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Birthday Blessings for Jonelle Garolfoli**, req. by Family; **George and Julia Bakanas, George Bakanas and Joan Nichols**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Patrick Michael Dowling**, req. by Family

Monday, December 7, 2020

6:15 PM **Rollin Rickard and Conrad O'Donnell**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

6:15 PM **David Ramelli**, req. by The Kerry Brenner Family

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

6:15 PM **Sr. Marguerite Morian**, req. by Dianne Gustowski

Thursday, December 10, 2020

8:00 AM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family

Friday, December 11, 2020

6:15 PM **Jean Lotuff**, req. by The Kerry Brenner Family

Saturday, December 12, 2020

4:15 PM **John Trainor**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Friends

Sunday, December 13, 2020

8:00 AM **Elizabeth Spurr**, req. by Family; **Robert Abbruzzese (4 Month Anniv.)**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Joseph Lane (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Stephanie LeBlanc**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Elizabeth Miller**, req. by The Kerry Brenner Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Eunice White (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."

This is the first line from today's first reading. It is from Isaiah 40:1. The first time I remember hearing it was my first year in seminary. By then I had been at nearly twenty Masses on the Second Sunday of Advent. Yet, this was the time I remember "hearing" it for the first time. Msgr. Charles Murphy, a priest of Portland, ME and the Rector of the seminary, can be credited for my truly hearing those words and their message.

Msgr. Murphy made it so clear that the foundational mission of the Church is "to give comfort" to God's people. So, curiously, I have always thought that the passage is read on the First Sunday of Advent. I had been a seminarian for just over three months. I still had not figured out what I had gotten myself into and what it might mean for my life. What does a priest do? "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."

We know that it is not only the priest, but all the baptized, who are responsible for the Church's mission. If the Church is to be faithful to Christ and to her mission, then all Her members must never cease to be his comfort in the world. She must proclaim the good news of God-with-us. Her hands must be extended to the poor and the sick; the neglected and the excluded.

"Spiritual physics" promises that blessed are those who comfort, for comfort will be theirs. And I am sure you will agree that in the Time of Pandemic, this Advent requires an extra helping of comfort. Therefore, like the Baptist, we must be voices crying out in the wilderness "prepare the way of the Lord" knowing that the comfort which we seek is His gift to us.

The short Gospel passage on Friday of the First Week of Advent recounts an exchange between Jesus and two blind men who seek comfort from him. I find it instructive and helpful. The question he asks them is critical, "Do you believe that I can do this?" When they respond – immediately – "Yes," he offers them – and us – a promise: "Let it be done for you according to your faith." This Advent is an invitation to grow our faith that in comforting those who are in distress, we will be comforted in the truth that "God is with us."

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

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

(People of Zion, behold, the Lord is coming to save all nations...)

Op.: # 392 On Jordan's Bank WINCHESTER NEW
Ps 85, "Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation."

Alleluia: # 208

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

Eucharistic Accs: # 304, 305, common tone "Amen",
311

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

(Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high; and behold the joy that shall come to you from your God.)

438 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN
ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8

CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS- Individuals and families planning to attend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses at St. John's must sign up ahead of time to reserve seats on the parish website. Those who sign up to reserve a pew will receive a confirmation email that will serve as their "ticket" to attend the Mass. Each individual or family will be asked to show their reservation email "ticket" upon entry - either on their cell phone or as a paper print-out. This is the only way you will be guaranteed a seat. Those who wish to reserve a seat, but are not on the internet, can call the rectory Tuesday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Jimmy will assist you and have your "ticket" available for pick up.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve- 3:15 and 5:15 PM

Christmas Day- 8 and 10:15 AM, 12:15 PM

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS-

Anyone who is interested in receiving any of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) please contact Fr. Madden either by phone or by email. If you are aware of someone who is or might be interested in the receiving the sacraments, please ask them to contact us. We will be accepting names until the middle of December. At that point, we will determine how to proceed with the program. Thank you.

PRAYER SHEETS AND BULLETINS are available at the back of the church. Please remember you must take them with you when you leave. Please do not leave them in the pews. The prayer sheet contains the Gloria and the Creed, the Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel and the Prayer in Time of Pandemic.

REMINDER:

Holy Communion will be distributed at 11:30 AM on Sunday morning. Please enter off of Harding Street and proceed behind the rectory and church to the communion station. Please wear a mask at all times and remain in your vehicle.

Confessions will now be heard on Saturday from 3:00 to 3:45 PM in the Church. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing while waiting.

LIVE STREAMING- Sunday Masses will be live-streamed according the following schedule on the parish Facebook Page:

Saturday Vigil: Live-streamed @ 4:15 PM

Sunday Mass: Live-streamed @ 10:15 AM

THE LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS WAFERS are now available in the sacristy after Mass or at the Rectory Tuesday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM for a donation of your choosing.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-9- Regular CCD classes in person are still on hold. If you have not picked up your child's packet, we will be available this Sunday, December 6, from 3-5 PM. Enter via Harding Street and drive behind the rectory. Pull in front of the table, roll down your window, and we will hand you the CCD supplies. Please wear a mask.

Confirmation- Next class is Tuesday, December 8th, 6:15 to 9 PM in the church.

First Communion registration closes on December 10th. If you wish to have your child receive First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, you must register by December 10th. Registration is available on the parish website. Thank you

Traveling Holy Hour for Vocations- The December traveling holy hour will be on December 8 at 6 pm at Saint Mary Church in Uxbridge as part of their 40 Hours Devotion. All are invited to join in praying for an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life.

In Our Catholic Community...

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS— On Friday, December 11 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM a holy hour 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 to pray for our priests. Repeats every second Friday of the month.

FACING FEAR WITH JESUS IN A COVID-19 WORLD - Our country faces a host of fears: sickness and death from a worldwide pandemic, job, and financial loss, loneliness, and radical changes in our society. But the storm that surrounds us is nothing that we cannot handle with Jesus' help. He is not asleep in our boat. Explore eight concrete tips from the Bible, the Saints, and our Catholic Faith. The session includes prayer, reflection, small group sharing, and presentations. Speakers: John and Therese Boucher, teachers and authors of hundreds of articles and many books. Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-9:00 PM. FREE REGISTRATION! Send an email with your name, email, and phone number to Esperanza Oliveras cje21@verizon.net by Monday, December 7, 2020, to receive the Zoom.com video session link. (Hosted by the Parish Renewal and Evangelization Committee, Diocese of Worcester.)

A TIME WILL COME FOR SINGING is a four-session program for adults during Advent. Each weekly session will be online and will include a brief lesson and prayer, a short Advent-related video, and closing comments and prayer. Twenty minutes tops - from your own laptop, tablet, or mobile phone! Login whenever you want to during each of the four weeks. Take a step back from the hectic pace of the holidays to reflect on the true reason for the season. FREE, but you must register ahead of time so you can receive a link each week. Contact Romeo Marquis via email for more details or to register Rmarquis48@outlook.com.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$16,162.16. We have also received:
Stipends- \$300.00 Donation- \$10,550.00

Total- \$16,162.16 **Unrestricted-** \$16,162.16 **Restricted-** \$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$100 from a friend; \$10,000 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$600 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$10,000 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$400 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$450 from a friend; \$25,000 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$75 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$60 Imo Christopher and Patrick Johnson; \$205 IMO Wilfred L. Lariviere; \$241 from National Honor Society, North Brookfield High; \$100 IMO Dr. Robert Connors; \$1200 from Haulin 4 Hunger 2020; \$50 IHO E. Sandra Shook; \$25 IHO Mahroo Morgan; \$250 IMO Joseph Lane; \$100 IMO Nicholas Argento, Sr.; \$100 IMO Robert LaRocque

Expenses— \$16,636.97

Schola (588.60) Altar (263.06) Administration (2050.66) Rectory Cable/Phone/Internet (532.28) State Payroll Taxes (1014.96) Office (352.18) Church Livestream (833.00) House (3640.00) Stipends (895.00) Haitian Apostolate (562.00) Church and Rectory Boilers (3402.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (1712.68) Alarm (122.39) Copier (668.16)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$19,442.30 Expenses— \$6145.48

This weekend's second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

YEAR TO DATE— In November we had a cash operating gain of \$499.15. This puts our operating loss for the 1st quarter of FY 2020/2021 at \$30,826.65. Thank you for your support of St. John's.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Jane Scola, Anna Lemanski and Rafer Johnson who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Audrey Robbie Graham who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of baptism.

Word of Life

“Mary did not cry, ‘I cannot, I am not worthy,’ nor ‘I have not the strength.’ She did not submit with gritted teeth, raging, coerced. Bravest of all humans, consent illumined her. The room filled with its light, the lily glowed in it, and the iridescent wings. Consent, courage unparalleled, opened her utterly.” —Denise Levertov