

"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

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

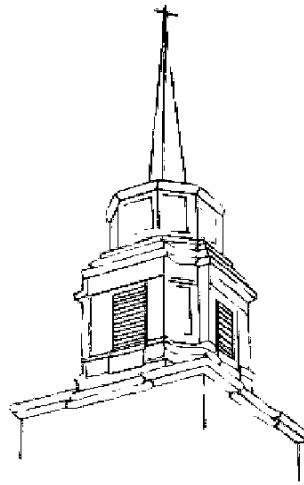
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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 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; **Birthday Remembrance for**

John F. Miller, Ruth Shepard and Sr. Ruth

Comiskey, O.C., req. by Family

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

Monday, December 14, 2020

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

6:15 PM **Guillermo "Billy" Caraballo, Jr.**, req. by Family

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

6:15 PM **Joseph Kane (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Donald and Dorothy Favreau

Thursday, December 17, 2020

8:00 AM **Norman Brenner**, req. by The Kerry

Brenner Family; **Anna R. Naum**, req. by Children

Friday, December 18, 2020

6:15 PM **Rd and Imelda Chviruk**, req. by a Friend

Saturday, December 19, 2020

4:15 PM **Josephine Kozlowski**, req. by Children

7:15 PM **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Coin**, req. by Family;

Louise Archambault, req. by Family

Sunday, December 20, 2020

8:00 AM **Mike Falvey**, req. by Family; **Michael**

Clancy, req. by Lorraine Laurie

10:15 AM **Frances Alonis (104th Birthday**

Remembrance.), req. by Carol; **Robert Pepi (2nd Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **M. Ruth Shea and L. Frank**

DesRosiers, req. by Family; **Joseph V. Kane (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Wife Barbara

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,

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near. (Philippians 4:4-5)

That is the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass. It is the reason why the Third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete ("rejoice" in Latin) Sunday. In the middle of the Advent Season, the liturgy calls us to rejoice. It explains why – *the Lord is near*. You recall that we receive this invitation in Lent, as well. In that season, it is the fourth Sunday, and it is referred to as Laetare Sunday.

An ancient tradition, reserved for these two Sundays, allows for the use of rose-colored vestments. Until recently, we did not have such vestments here at St. John's. Our beloved Fr. Armev kept pestering me about this liturgical lacuna. I kept resisting the idea of us wearing that particular color. Even though I enjoyed how he could act annoyed, I finally broke down and order one for St. John's. As these things often go, Fr. Armev became ill and never wore the new vestment. I refer to it now as the Fr. Armev Memorial Vestment. I am only half joking, whenever I see it, I think of him. You will, too, I hope. Whenever you see a priest in a pink (they can call it "rose" all they want!) vestment say a prayer for Fr. Armev. Better yet, since we can be confident that he is in the place of eternal rejoicing, ask him to pray for us.

We can all agree that the Third Sunday in Advent in Time of Pandemic carries with it an urgent need for rejoicing. Perhaps, it is also a time when we can see more clearly what the invitation of Gaudete Sunday truly is. It is not a facile, whistling in the graveyard "rejoicing." Rather, it is confronting the difficult challenge of being imperfect people living in an imperfect world...and opening our hearts more fully to the gift of faith which makes joy possible and real. It is only the eyes of faith which provide the vision necessary to rejoice. Faith, alone, provides the hope and confidence to rejoice that God will accomplish the promised salvation of all the nations.

This Friday's Morning Prayer included a passage from Habakkuk. When I finished it, I said – out loud! – "that's it!" Here is the passage:

*Decay invades my bones, my legs tremble beneath me.
I await the day of distress that will come upon the people who attack us.*

*For though the fig tree blossom not, nor fruit be on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive fail and the terraces produce no nourishment.*

Though the flocks disappear from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

Yet will I rejoice in the Lord and exult in my saving God

*God, my Lord is my strength; he makes my feet swift as those of hinds
And enables me to go upon the heights.*

In Christ's Peace, Fr John Madden

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Gaudete in Domino*, Phil 4: 4, 5

(Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice)

Op.: # 382 On Jordan's Bank

Responsorial Ps: Lk 1, "My soul rejoice, my soul rejoices in my God."

Alleluia: # 208 Gregorian

Prep.: # 395 When the King Shall Come Again

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

Comm.: *Dicite: Pusillanimes*, Is 35: 4

(Say: Take courage, you who are fainthearted, and do not fear; behold, our God will come and he will save us.)

386 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Cl.: # 387 O Come, Divine Messiah!

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

1 Thes 5:16-24

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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, it is available at the rectory, Tuesday-Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Confirmation- Next class is Tuesday, January 12, 6:15 to 9 PM in the church.

First Communion Registration for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist classes will be open until December 31st. If you have a child in second grade or older who wants to make these sacraments, please register on our website. Classes will begin January 17th and we will keep you informed if classes will be in person or remote depending on the state of the virus. If you have any questions, email Donna at mastrovito21@charter.net.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONER, KEVIN DOWD on the publication of his book *Your Confirmation Bible Companion - What Scripture as "God's Love Song" Means for You*. It is published by Twenty-Third Publications and would make a great gift for your favorite Confirmation candidate.

In Our Catholic Community...

DON'T FALL FOR THE GIFT CARD

SCAM! - Sadly the holidays are an opportunity for scams. At least two pastors have experienced a scam email claiming they needed gift cards. This is a reminder that the parish would only use normal and ordinary means to communicate any requests, particularly involving donations. If an email request looks odd, hit DELETE!

SENIOR FRAUD HOTLINE- RSVP's Senior Fraud HelpLine is a toll-free resource for seniors and their families to call when they are concerned that they are being targeted by scammers. If they are in doubt, they should check it out by calling 1-800-297-9760. Confidential. Knowledgeable. Local. Supportive.

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.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT- If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Worcester. The report can be made by phone, contact Judy Audette, Victims Assistance Coordinator, (508) 929-4363 or in writing, and sent to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$11,573.16. We have also received:
Monthly- \$575.00 Restoration- \$69.00
Stipends- \$985.00 Christmas- \$110.00
Donations- \$2500.00

Total- \$15,812.16 **Unrestricted-** \$15,743.16 **Restricted-** \$69.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$390 IMO Jane Scola; \$225 IMO Timothy Sweeney; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$30 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$917.70 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$250 IMO Daniel Collins; \$500 IMO Michael F. Clancy; \$100 IHO Fr. Madden's birthday; \$945 from the Costa Fruit and Produce Company; \$100 from the Cutler Charitable Foundation; \$100 Imo Jean Sullivan; \$1000 IMO Jack McKenna; \$100 IMO Bernard Saucier; \$100 IMO Pat Gaudette; \$100 IMO Marie Morrissey; \$100 IMO Jack Gagliastro; \$20 Thank you to St. Anthony for a favor received; \$40 IMO Glen Wilkin

Expenses- \$11,844.85
Schola (424.40) Altar (1108.64) Administration (7350.03)
House (64.18) Clergy Benefit Plan (1057.00) Office (264.44)
Federal Payroll Taxes (952.22) Church Hall Plumbing (368.89)
Funerals (152.80) CCD Books (102.25)

Food for the Poor
Income- \$25,000.00
Expenses- \$4985.16

This weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Milicent McMullen, Carol Mello, Richard Allen, Raymond Perkins and William Stuczko who have been born into eternal life.

Word of Life

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain" (Is. 40:3, 4). Then shall you see the salvation of God!"

- Excerpted from *Our Way to the Father* by Rev. Leo M. Krenz, S.J