

"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**

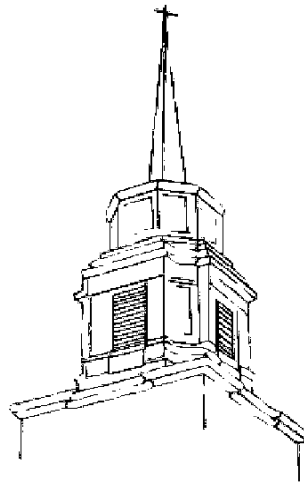
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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 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

Monday, December 21, 2020

6:15 PM **Emilio Migliorelli (40th Anniv.)**, req. by
Family; **Sally V. Bennett (9th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

6:15 PM **Victor Rivera**, req. by Family

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

6:15 PM **Lolita Catalan**, req. by Family; **Rose and
Joseph Pezzella, Michael Lewis**, req. by Family

Thursday, December 24, 2020– Christmas Eve

3:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**
5:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**

Friday, December 25, 2020– Christmas Day

8:00 AM **For the People of St. John's**
10:15 AM **For the People of St. John's**
12:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:15 PM **Eleanor Prevoski**, req. by Family; **Rocco
Fresolo, Jr. (30th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:00 AM **Alfred Johnson, Sr.**, req. by Family; **Edith
Boudas (12th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Adele Zemaitis (39th Anniv.)**, req. by Danute
Miner; **Pat Gaudette**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Carmela Luca**, req. by Family; **Joseph Milton
Joseph Pepin, Sr. (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Wife Helen and
Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka and Boleslaw Burzynski**,
req. by Family

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

Christmas 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Advent gives way to Christmas, we find our-
selves in a continued state of waiting, longing and expecta-
tion for a promised vaccine. How our world has changed
in a year!

Last Christmas, none of us had heard of COVID-
19. Since then our lives, jobs, recreation and worship have
been shaped by it. COVID precautions have led to COVID
-fatigue as we long for a return to normal life.

Anxious waiting and expectation for the vaccine
marks and impacts our celebrations. Gatherings in church
and at home will be smaller, travel truncated, carols fewer,
precautions increased and parties cancelled.

But Christmas is not cancelled. Our way of cele-
brating has changed, but our reason for celebrating re-
mains the same. While the world awaits the arrival of a
vaccine, we celebrate the arrival of the world's Savior.

We hope for a vaccine that for a time will ward off
illness and death. The Divine Savior whose birth we cele-
brate gives us resurrection and reunion. We pray the vac-
cine will restore normal life on earth. The grace Christ of-
fers promises eternal life in Heaven.

For two millennia Christians throughout the world
have celebrated Christ's birth. Many of these Christmases
have been marked by famine, plagues and wars. Through
those hardships and others, Christians have found in Christ
the strength, hope and joy to persevere, endure and tri-
umph over all of life's uncertainties.

As we wait for the vaccine to come, let us rejoice,
give thanks and find peace in the Savior who has already
come, defeated sin and death and will come again to share
His definitive triumph of eternal life.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and
Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: Rorate caeli desuper, Is 45: 8

(Skies, let the Just One come forth like the dew, let him descend from the clouds like the rain. The earth will open up and give birth to our Savior.)

Op.: # 386 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Ps 89, "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Gospel: # 208 Gregorian

Prep.: # 398 People, Look East

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

Comm.: Ecce virgo, Is 7:14

(Behold, aa Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel."

438 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Cl.: # 388 Savior of the Nations, Come

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

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- Out of an abundance of safety, regular Religious Ed classes will not be held in person for the foreseeable future. The next set of Pflaum Gospel Weeklies will be available in January. If you have not picked up your first set of weeklies, please do so. They are waiting for you at the rectory. Thanks so much for your patience and understanding.

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.

In Our Catholic Community...

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.

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!

EMMET CAHILL AND SEAMUS BRETT have sent us a link to a Christmas concert they performed in Ireland. "This is a short Christmas Concert from Ireland with Emmet Cahill & Seamus Brett recorded on Dec 12th 2020. This event is dedicated in part and our gift to St. John's and the entire parish community that welcomed us with open arms. We have missed visiting as a result of the restrictions in 2020 and hope to see you soon in Worcester! Merry Christmas!" <https://youtu.be/Cgs0a1VboCQ>

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 \$8254.28. We have also received:

Online- \$11,058.47	Candles- \$499.00
Parking- \$35.00	Stipends- \$510.00
Christmas- \$470.00	Donations- \$40,350.00
School Rent- \$4833.72	Retired Religious- \$622.00
Flowers- \$100.00	

Total- \$66,732.47 **Unrestricted-** \$66,110.47 **Restricted-** \$622.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$500 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$15 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$100 IHO Fr. John Madden; \$200 IMO Jane Scola; \$50 IMO Tim Sweeney; \$5000 IMO Edward and Mary Walsh, former members of St. John's; \$150 IMO Jim McDonald; \$200 IMO Robert Connors; \$350 IMO Edmund and Ellen Foley; \$470 from Thanksgiving Charity Fun Run; \$50 IMO Eileen and Barry Woodward; \$2200 from Employees at Harvard Pilgrim

Expenses- \$8386.73
Altar (435.38) Administration (5477.86) Ascension Plowing (125.00) Church Electric (543.83) Rectory Electric (863.10) House (197.17) Retired Religious (622.00) Church Alarm (122.39)

Food for the Poor
Income- \$18,498.05
Expenses- \$5942.54

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Anne Reidy, George Roix, Maggie Wilson and Timothy Keane who have been born into eternal life.

Word of Life

“This day in David’s city, a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord.”

Luke 2:11