

"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**

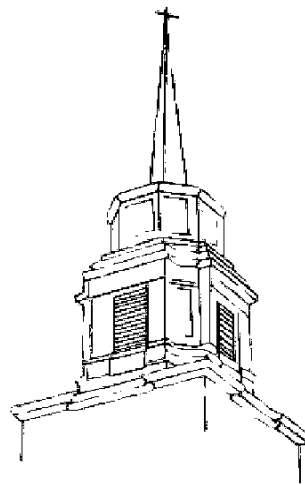
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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 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

Monday, December 28, 2020

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

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

6:15 PM **Jane Scola (Month's Mind)**, req. by
Daughter, Karen

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

6:15 PM **Patricia and George Roix**, req. by Family

Thursday, December 31, 2020– New Year's Eve

6:15 PM **John Long (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Friday, January 1, 2021– New Year's Day

12:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**

6:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**

Saturday, January 2, 2020

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased**

Members of F.O.S.S.; Anna Zukowsky, req. by

Family

7:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family

Sunday, January 3, 2020

8:00 AM **Jose Catalan**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Jennifer Kalinowski (16th Anniv.)**, req. by

Dianne Gustowski

12:15 PM **Donald Paldino (1st Anniv.)**, req. by

Family

7:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Family

The Rosary is prayed each weekday **beginning with**

the Angelus at 5:50 p.m.

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Merry Christmas. At this point, it is redundant to say that this year's celebration of Christmas was like one we never have had before. Still, I hope that all of you were able to enjoy the day. Some aspects of the Solemnity were the same as every year. For example, I cried while reading in Luke's Gospel that, when confronted with Mary's pregnancy, Joseph was "unwilling to expose her to shame." Yet, I am sure that this touching moment – and others – were affected by celebrating Christmas in the Time of Pandemic. If Joseph's humility and kindness, wisdom and understanding is a perennial example to us, those qualities are more critical today than ever. As I mentioned in my Christmas homily, agreeing not to expose the other to shame is a necessary and critical first step for us all if we are to live out the truth that we are in this together.

Still, this unprecedented time (another too often used, if true, phrase) has lessons to teach us and needed graces to uplift us. More than likely, I have mentioned this before, but when I first entered seminary, I was away from my family for 22 months. For almost two years, I did not see any of my family members. That was an unprecedented time. Yet, it proved to be a gift. At that age, I needed to gain wisdom. The absence made me see what a blessing my family, particularly my mother, was to me. The absence provided the wisdom which deepened my bond to my family, particularly my mother. The Time of Pandemic is offering a similar gift. In September, Rooney, my niece Elizabeth, and I spent a couple of nights in Vermont with family. On November 20th, our family had a few hours together celebrating the funeral rites for my Uncle David. On December 10th, my mother and I met at a strip mall in Bellows Falls, VT. We transferred the gifts for the Massachusetts and Vermont contingents, split a sandwich and were on our way in less than an hour. That has been about it for all these months. I am sure that this sounds familiar to everyone. The absence is hard. Hardest, I believe on our mothers. Yet, I feel that it is making my heart grow fonder, particularly with my mother. I hope it continues to do so – and for all our hearts.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and are reminded that their sanctity allowed them to transform the heartaches and challenges of family life into a deeper love for and devotion to each other. We seek their intercession that 2020's challenges which we have never experienced before will open our families to an unprecedented reception of grace and holiness.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

THE MOST HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Deus in loco sancto suo*, Ps 68: 6, 7, 36

Op.: # 440 Once in Royal David's City

Ps 128, "O Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 422 Sing We Now of Christmas

Eucharistic Accs.: 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Fili, quid fecisti*, Lk 2: 48, 49 (My son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you...)

415 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Cl.: # 424 Joy to the World

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve- 6:15 PM

New Year's Day- 12:15 PM and 6:15 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

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.

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>

In Our Catholic Community...

ADULT CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AWARDS

(SCOUTING)- The Worcester Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting is calling for nominations for Adult Catholic Religious Awards due by January 26, 2021. The awards are to recognize those adults in Scouting who have participated in promoting and teaching Catholic Faith Formation in Scouting through religious emblem programs, Scout Sunday observance, and various other activities relating to the Faith. For Nomination Forms please email Robert Ryan at rhrljr@att.net

CAR DONATION PROGRAM- Did you know you can donate your car, truck, motorcycle or boat to Catholic Charities and help us help your Worcester County neighbors? It's quick and easy to do. Just visit our website to donate your vehicle online at www.ccworc.org or call 1-888-CAR-7308 1-888-CAR-7308 to arrange a convenient pickup time and confirmation of your donation from Catholic Charities Donation Angel Program. The car in your driveway can help us to continue to offer many services to children, families and elders in our community so that they may regain home for a brighter future. Thank you!

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS DIRECTORY

- An extensive directory of mental health providers in Worcester who serve children and families, as well as bilingual providers, is available from the Worcester Community Action Council, Main St. Worcester.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of James Benoit, K.C. Jones and Kevin Greene who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Tala Paulette Estrella-Franklin who entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$5808.16. We have also received:

Stipends- \$395.00 Christmas- \$1783.00
Donations- \$1350.00

Total- \$9336.16 **Unrestricted-** \$9336.16 **Restricted-** \$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$200 from a friend; \$5000 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$450 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$270 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$30 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$1156.27 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$750 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$50 IMO Thomas and Elizabeth Salmon; \$50 IMO Ralph and Eileen Woodward; \$25 IMO Isabel Melendez; \$25 IMO Philip Shea, Sr.; 100 IMO Stanley and Bernice Rutkowski; \$25 IMO Maryann Kupstas; \$60 IMO Paul Maguire and Kathy Sullivan; \$100 IHO Tom Dodge; \$100 IMO Jane Scola; \$300 IMO Bernard LaPointe; \$75 IMO Mike Winders; \$100 IMO Robert Henry

Expenses- \$6753.74

House (263.25) CCD Books (29.64) Administration (5349.31) Church Electrical Repair (69.00) Ascension Alarm Repair (207.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (835.54)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$2200.00
Expenses- \$1906.66

There is one collection this weekend. Next weekend's second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

Word of Life

“We were made to love and be loved; we are meant to depend on one another, serving each other in humility and walking together in times of suffering. Our relationships are meant to help us grow in perfect love.”

— Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley