

"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**

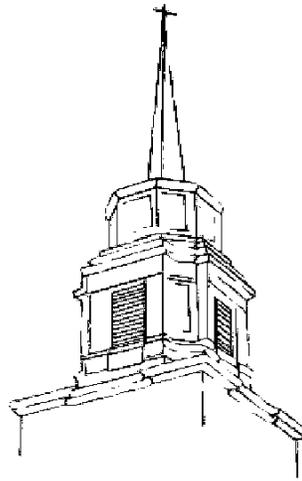
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOURS
FROM THE STAFF OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, January 4, 2020

6:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Friends

Tuesday, January 5, 2020

6:15 PM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Friends

Wednesday, January 6, 2020

6:15 PM **Robert Hegan**, req. by Family

Thursday, January 7, 2020

6:15 PM **Paul Letsky**, req. by Family

Friday, January 8, 2021

6:15 PM **Gloria Hegan**, req. by Family

Saturday, January 9, 2021

4:15 PM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**, req. by Friends

Sunday, January 10, 2021

8:00 AM **Robert Hegan**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **John J. (63rd Anniv.) and Claire K. (38th Anniv.) Healy**, req. by Family; **Henry S. Kozlowski**, req. by Children

12:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

7:15 PM **Scott and Gwen Gow**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Each year gives me an increased appreciation of the Catholic Liturgy. This increased gratitude gained momentum in 2020. The principal reason being, of course, all that we missed liturgically over these past several months. Quite literally missed - as we went so many weeks without public Masses. When we were able to gather again it still was not all of us. Plus, we could not sing. Further there were many weddings and baptisms that were, wisely, postponed. As we begin 2021, all of us are filled with hope. This hope will be fulfilled if we are able to develop a deeper appreciation for all that we missed in 2020.

Providentially - and an indication of the beauty of the Catholic Liturgy - our first Sunday of 2021 is the celebration of the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord. Each New Year is a journey, in religious terms, a pilgrimage. In 2021, more than ever, "the wise still seek Him."

A tradition of mine which organically developed over the past several years - and which, like everything else, I have mentioned before - is the placing of a quote on the cover of my appointment book. It is chosen because when reading it I am struck by its timely insight. The idea is to remember this insight each day. This does not always happen. Still, thankfully, it is January 1st again and there is reason for hope. More than that, it is January 1, 2021 so there is more reason than ever before in our lifetime.

This year's quote comes from the great Biblical scholar, Monika K. Hellwig. Specifically, from her classic work, *Gladness Their Escort*, a study, and reflection on the Sunday readings for the three-year liturgical cycle. Precisely from the Second Sunday of Advent, year B:

God has, so to speak, all the time there is and more. It is a matter of indifference whether the time is long or short: what is crucial is the opportunity for genuine repentance for all. The tension between the certainty that the promises will be fulfilled and the lengthening of the time of expectation, is not a reason for apathy or despair. It is proposed rather as a reason for re-dedication, more radical conversion, covenant renewal. Our times are unstable and unpredictable, but the time of the Lord transcends time. The time of the Lord is every time, and it does not make a difference whether we are speaking of a thousand years or of a single day.

He comes.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. John Madden

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Ecce advenit*, Mal 3: 1, 1 Chron 20:12 (Behold, the Sovereign Lord is coming; kinship, government, and power are in his hands.)

Op.: # 451 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Ps 72, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 448 What Star is This

Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Vidimus stellam*, Mt 2:2 (We have seen his star in the East, and we have come with our gifts, to worship the Lord.)

452 We Three Kings of Orient Are

Cl.: # 449 The First Nowell, beginning vs. 4

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

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 have received inquiries from five adults and will be holding our first meeting soon. If you wish to participate, please contact the rectory this week. 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!

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

In Our Catholic Community...

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.

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.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Charley Pride, Philip Niekro, Sr. Carol Proietti, S.S.A. and Paula Waters who have been born into eternal life.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$6482.16. We have also received:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stipends- \$420.00 | Christmas- \$6015.00 |
| Christmas Flowers- \$25.00 | Christmas Wafers- \$35.00 |
| School Rent- \$4833.72 | Donations- \$500.00 |

Total- \$18,310.88 **Unrestricted-** \$18,310.88 **Restricted-** \$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$100 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$65 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$50 IMO Timothy Keane; \$15 IMO Margaret Wilson; \$200 IHO Carlo Pellegrino; \$75 IMO Jane Scola; \$1000 Imo Nick Argento; \$100 IMO Daniel Moynihan; \$25 IMO David O'Loughlin; \$100 IMO Peter Regis; \$200 IMO Brian Buckley

Expenses- \$19,360.28

Schola (421.60) Administration (3575.38) House (92.13) Cable/Phone/Internet (727.08) Rectory Gas (1556.36) Stipends (1020.00) Envelopes (768.63) Church Plowing (2000.00) Ascension Plowing (1125.00) Alarm (102.90) December Budget Bill (8140.00) Preserve the Flame (69.00)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$12,230.00

Expenses- \$7398.35

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

YEAR TO DATE- In December, we had a cash operating gain of \$63,403.48. This leaves a cash gain of \$32,566.27 for FY 20/21. We also received a bequest in the amount of \$270,000. We are deeply grateful for all the generous support of St. John's Church.

Word of Life

"With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst."

- Thomas Merton