

*"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](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org)

**Food for the Poor Website** [www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
[frjohnmadden@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnmadden@gmail.com)

**Assisting Priests**

Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice  
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

**Deacon**

Eduardas Meilus

**Coordinators of  
Religious Education**

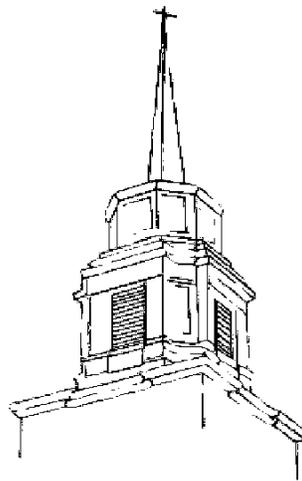
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**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](mailto: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, February 6, 2021

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; Blair Deeney (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Paul Gingras (9th Anniv.)**, req. by Children;  
**Patricia Brunelle (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Phillip Brunelle & Family

Sunday, February 7, 2021

8:00 AM **Alexander "Al" Drisco (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Patty, Nancy, Lorraine and Friends at VAAH; **Richard Linga**, req. by Lorraine Laurie  
10:15 AM **Paul and Winifred Gingras**, req. by Children;  
**Antoinette & Kenneth Sullivan, Helen Etre, Nicholas Augusto, Barbara O'Connell and Colleen O'Connell-Tremble**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **John "Brad" Lange (Month's Mind)**, req. Bob and Donna Mastrovito; **William Riggieri**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **James Connley**, req. by Family

Monday, February 8, 2021

6:15 PM **Timothy Lynch**, req. by Frank Carroll and Family

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

6:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

6:15 PM **Sr's. Monique, Marguerite and Gertrude**, req. by Dianne Gustowski

Thursday, February 11, 2021

6:15 PM **Benidicta Z. Mayefski (61st Family)**, req. by Family

Friday, February 12, 2021

6:15 PM **Winifred Gingras (6th Anniv.)**, req. by Children

Saturday, February 13, 2021

4:15 PM **Lousi Boucher (13th Anniv.)**, req. by Family;  
**Robert Dufresne**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 14, 2021

8:00 AM **Daniel O'Shea**, req. by Family  
10:15 AM **John "Brad" Lange and Juliann Shea**, req. by Family; **Frank Riccardi**, req. by Wife and Family  
12:15 PM **Michael Fromm**, req. T. Vancelette; **Walter and Katharina Perduta**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Eleanor Boyle (57th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

During this time of pandemic, we have been catching up on several projects here on Temple Street. We started in the church and are now moving to the rectory, specifically the kitchen. This week, we replaced the overhead garage doors. The motor for the opener of my stall needed to be replaced. This means that I must get out of my vehicle, manually open the door, get back in it, pull into the garage and, finally, close the door manually. I am exhausted.

Seriously, one of the most important things that Life in the Time of Pandemic can help us remember is what is an actual problem and what is not. *Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth drudgery?* This begins today's first reading. It is one of only two times that the liturgical readings include a passage from the Book of Job. (The other time is the Twelfth Sunday in Year B, which is Fathers' Day this year.) Job, of course, has reason to voice his question about the state of life here on earth for he has *been assigned months of misery*. This is also an accurate way to describe these past months for many of us, as well. So much of what Job endured – the deaths of children and others, the severe economic hardships, his own physical ailments – is being experienced by so many today.

Earlier this week, when looking at the reading from Job for the first time, my immediate response was: No, life on earth is not drudgery. I must admit, though, that more than anything else, this response is an indication of how I have been spared much of what so many have had to endure. On Saturday morning, we held the funeral of a 17-year-old young man. The word "celebrate" does not fit in that situation. Nor does it fit in so many others that have been experienced over these past months. These situations affirm that suffering is impossible for us to understand. Therefore, the ways we have developed to try and understand are insufficient.

The great wisdom of the Book of Job lies in the fact that God does not offer Job an explanation. Essentially, God reminds Job, "I am God. You are not." Amazingly, this is enough for Job. Whether it is due to his goodness, his holiness, or his fidelity, Job acknowledges both God's creative power and care for him. Job is thankful to God for appearing to him and entrusts himself and his life to God.

My hope and prayer is that our goodness, holiness, and fidelity will help us to gain this same wisdom. So, in all things, we will bless the name of the Lord and rise above the drudgery which threatens us.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr John Madden

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: Venite, adoremus, Ps 95: 6, 7 (Come, let us worship God and bow down before the Lord; let us shed tears before the Lord who made us, for he is the Lord our God.)

Op.: # 972 Your Hands, O Lord in Days of Old Ps 147, "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 534 Come Down, O Love Divine

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

Comm.: Multitudo languentium, Lk 6: 17, 18, 19 (A multitude with diseases, and those who were troubled by unclean spirits, came to him, because a power emanated from him which healed them all.)

# 705 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

Cl.: # 606 New Songs of Celebration

### THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Mk 1:29-39

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>** – in this Time of Pandemic, ashes cannot be imprinted on our foreheads this year. Rather, we will adopt what is the normal practice in Rome – and the ashes will be sprinkled on our heads. We simply make a slight bow before the priest, deacon or minister and they will sprinkle the ashes. Masses will be celebrated and ashes distributed at 9:15 a.m., 12:15 and 6:15 p.m. on February 17

### COLLECTION FOR PRIEST RETIREMENT -

Please help us support our retired priests this Ash Wednesday as a part of our new Collection for Priest Retirement. A recent review of the benefits and expenses of priest retirement for our diocesan priests recommended a number of changes in benefits for those priests who have not yet retired. Bishop McManus accepted those recommendations after receiving the input and agreement of the priests in our diocese. These changes are projected to save up to \$12 million through the year 2050. Even with the change in benefits, however, annual deficits in funding for priest retirement as high as \$374,000 are projected for another eleven years. Please consider a donation to this Ash Wednesday Collection as a way to express your appreciation of the dedicated service of our retired priests to the people of our diocese. Review the Retirement Report Summary found at [worcesterdioocese.org](http://worcesterdioocese.org) to learn more.

### 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. Thanks so much for your patience and understanding.

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

**First Communion-** There is a change of location for the Reconciliation/Eucharist book pick up this Sunday from 9:00-10:00. Instead of meeting behind the rectory we will meet at the Xavier Center. Please line up outside the door following the Covid Protocol of wearing a mask and 6 feet social distancing. Donna will be there to greet you and will give you further information at that time. If your child was baptized at a church other than St. John's, I will need a copy of their baptismal certificate. Any questions please email Donna [mastrovito21@charter.net](mailto:mastrovito21@charter.net)

### **THE 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

– also known as the Lenten Retreat of the Diocese of Worcester, will be held from March 4<sup>th</sup>- March 12<sup>th</sup>. Obviously, we need to ensure everyone's safety. To that end, a reservation will be needed to guarantee a seat. You can make a reservation through the parish website or by calling the rectory office. The weekend of the Novena is March 6 and 7 and, even if you are not making the Novena, you will need to reserve a seat for the weekend Mass you wish to attend. Please contact the rectory with any questions. Thank you.

### **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 to the following schedule on the parish Facebook Page:

*Saturday Vigil: Live-streamed @ 4:15 PM*

*Sunday Mass: Live-streamed @ 10:15 AM*

### **In Our Catholic Community...**

**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.

### **BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR PROGRAM & LENTEN**

**STUDY-** The Immaculate Conception Center, in partnership with St. John's, is offering two upcoming faith formation programs. The Bible-In-A-Year Program (starting on January 24th) will help you read and study Scripture, with a monthly Bible-reading plan, study resources and opportunities to share your experience with other participants. The Lenten Study (starting on February 17th) will take you on a guided journey through the Sunday Mass readings of Lent, with Scripture commentary, reflection questions, and an optional faith-sharing discussion each week on Zoom. To sign up, visit [stjohnsworcester.org/adult-faith-formation](http://stjohnsworcester.org/adult-faith-formation) and follow the instructions to join the "Adult Faith Formation" group on Flocknote.

### **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.

### **JOB OPPORTUNITY - PARISH SECRETARY -**

St. Brigid and Assumption Parishes in Millbury are looking for a secretary to work Monday through Thursday 8:30 am- 3:30. pm Must be computer literate, and familiarity with office and church responsibilities would be an asset. Salary and hours are negotiable. Call Deacon Ron Buron at 508-865-6624 if interested or with questions.

### **Financial Report**

Last weekend we received \$6088.16. We have also received:

Monthly-	\$37.00	Restoration-	\$40.00
Stipends-	\$440.00	Home Missions-	\$258.00
Free Press-	\$39.00		

**Total-** \$6902.16 **Unrestricted-** \$6644.16 **Restricted-** \$258.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$50 IMO Dan Moynihan; \$325 IMO Christine Anderson; \$2930 IMO Theresa and Francis Bafaro; \$50 IMO Grace Kristolaitis; \$1000 IMO Nick Argento; \$150 IMO Robert Sullivan; \$150 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$228.75 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$60 IMO Debra Simulevich; \$20 for a favor received; \$500 IMO Michael Clancy

**Expenses-** \$14,706.18

Administration (4765.45) Schola (661.04) Rectory Phone/Cable/Internet (622.28) Clergy Benefits (1057.00) Copier (195.00) CCD (101.02) Ascension Electric (138.00) Stipends (1015.00) Haitian Apostolate (562.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (1839.18) Ascension Plow (125.00) Funerals (76.40) House (398.80) Marriage Prep (27.50) Legal Fees (2500.00) Home Mission (258.00) Ascension Alarm (124.09) Office (240.42)

### **Food for the Poor**

Income- \$5520.00 Expenses- \$8393.52

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

### **Our Parish Community...**

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Patrick Halvorsen, Carol Groccia, Jacqueline Gemme, Grant Jackson, Mary Donahue, Michael Clancy and Dustin Diamond who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Thomas Roland Avery who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

## **Word of Life**

**"Give me that grace, that *sensus Christi*, your very heartbeat, that I may live all my life, interiorly and exteriorly, proceeding and discerning with your spirit, exactly as you did during your mortal life."**

**Servant of God Pedro Arrupe, S.J.**