

"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**

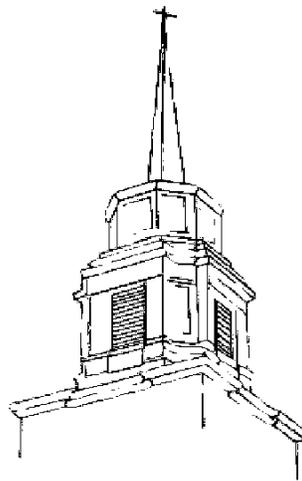
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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, February 20, 2021

4:15 PM **Birthday Blessings for Lorenzo Pasquale**, req. by Family; **Eugene and Timothy Sweeney**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Paul Letsky**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 21, 2021

8:00 AM **Patrick Johnson and Elsie G. Gannon**, req. by Family; **Joseph and Helen Gallati (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Donald Walczak (9th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Robert Sullivan (Month's Mind)**, req. by Joe and Mary McCluskey

12:15 PM **Francisco Austriaco**, req. by Family; **Marie Daige**, req. by Family

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

Monday, February 22, 2021

6:15 PM **Michael Fromm (Month's Mind)**, req. by Dianne Gustowski

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

6:15 PM **Lolita M. Catalan**, req. by Family

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

6:15 PM **Fr. Charles Armev (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Friends

Thursday, February 25, 2021

6:15 PM **Edward B. Swalec, II**, req. by Swalec Family

Friday, February 26, 2021

6:15 PM **Francis and Theresa Bafaro**, req. by Frank Carroll and Family

Saturday, February 27, 2021

4:15 PM **Thomas Reynolds (9th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Joseph and Julia Senckowski, Christine Plouffe**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Scott Lindberg**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 28, 2021

8:00 AM **David Covello**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Patricia Benoit and Christopher Bosowski**, req. by Family; **John Connors, Esq.**, req. by The Sokolowski Family

12:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Family

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

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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year's Lenten journey to Holy Week and Easter will again be different. But COVID notwithstanding, the reasons for, and the fruits of, this annual holy season of prayer, penance and almsgiving remain the same.

Strive as we do, we sin. Strive as we may, sanctity, the goal of us all, can always be more fully embodied. In both our striving and our shortcomings we should never be discouraged. God's grace abounds.

We should always welcome this penitential but joy-filled season to narrow our focus on what is most important. For when, through deepened prayer, greater penances and more generous alms-giving, we turn from sin to grow in holiness, our greater awareness and receptivity to God's mercy, love and grace prepare us to share in and celebrate ever more joyfully Christ's Easter triumphs.

In these COVID times our personal circumstances may not allow us to gather in great crowds at church for Masses, weekly Stations, Bible classes or even the liturgies of Holy Week. We might worry that this may lead to a diminished Lent. But God will not be denied. He will not deny us an abundance of graces for a good Lent if we do not deny Him or forego a vigorous season of repentance as our circumstances allow.

On the way to the first Holy Week much of what the Apostles thought necessary seemed lacking and events did not play out as they hoped. Peter sought to deter Christ from the Cross. James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume those who did not receive Jesus. Andrew wondered aloud what good five loaves and two fish were among so many. On Good Friday all seemed lost. But Christ rose and triumphed over all for all.

This Lent, our parishes and diocese will again be creative so that the Word will be preached, the Sacraments celebrated and the good works carried on. Together with those public liturgical gatherings that your prudent decisions allow you to attend, your deep private prayer and penances, pondering of Scripture, examination of conscience, and acts of charity will give glory to God and draw you closer to Him.

Let us then, like Christ led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for forty days of prayer and fasting, embark upon this Holy Season to repent of our sin, grow in holiness and draw closer to Christ. For it is only in Him, by the way of the Cross, that we will find and forever share in the deepest longing of our hearts, the love of the Trinity which triumphed at Easter.

With every prayerful best wish for a fruitful Lent, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Invocabit me*, Ps. 91: 15-16 (When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will rescue him and honor him; with long life will I satisfy him.)

Op.: # 462 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Ps. 25, "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant."

Gospel Acc.: # 208, "Praise and honor, to you, O Lord Jesus Christ."

Prep.: # 474 Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

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

Comm.: *Scapulis suis*, Ps 91:4-5

471 O Sun of Justice

Cl.: # 720 The Kingdom of God

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Gn 9:8-15

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

THE 98TH 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 4th-March 12th. 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.

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

DEACON INFORMATION SESSIONS- The Office of the Diaconate is seeking active men of faith in the Diocese of Worcester who may be discerning a vocation as a permanent deacon. Two online information sessions have been scheduled on February 23 and March 4 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Each session should last from 1.5 to 2 hours. Men between the ages of 31 and 60, married or single, who are interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate and the process for become a deacon may pre-register for one of the Information Sessions at worcesterdiocese.org/register-for-information-session. An email with the link to the online session will be sent out prior to the scheduled date.

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 23, 6:15 to 9 PM in the church.

First Communion- If your child was baptized at a church other than St. John's, Donna will need a copy of their baptismal certificate. Any questions please email Donna at mastrovito21@charter.net

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2021

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence for all who have completed their 14th year. On Week Days of Lent there is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended. Voluntary Self-Denial may include, in addition to fasting, participation in daily Mass, spiritual studies, Lenten Devotions, Stations of the Cross, saying the Rosary, deeds of mercy and kindness. Easter Duty Obligation must be made from the first Sunday in Lent (February 21) through Trinity Sunday (May 30).

DEEDS OF MERCY AND KINDNESS:

Rice Bowls will be available on the back tables of the Church and at the rectory. You are invited to place the money you would have spent on what you "give up" for Lent into the bowls, or a separate envelope, which will support the great work done by Catholic Relief Services all across the globe.

Virtual Baby Bottles—Due to the pandemic the baby bottle fundraiser is virtual this year. You are invited to take the money you would have spent on what you "give up" for lent and donate to this wonderful prolife cause. Donations can be made online at give.visitationhouse.org or mailed to Visitation house Inc., PO Box 60115 Worcester, MA 01606. Families are also encouraged to get your children involved by starting a family project. For more information please take a flyer from the back table for more information or visit visitationhouse.org.

ST. JOHN'S LENTEN DEVOTIONS

The Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday in Lent after the 6:15 PM Mass, except on the Fridays of the Novena, March 5th and 12th.

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.

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.

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 and follow the instructions to join the "Adult Faith Formation" group on Flocknote.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION EVERY THURSDAY at St. Bernard's Church (228 Lincoln St. Worcester) during Lent. Exposition begins following the 8:15 am morning mass and reposition takes place prior to the 7 pm Mass in Spanish. If you are interested in signing up for an hour please call 508-755-3820 or email parish@olpworchester.org

LENTEN LUNCHEES IN WORCESTER - St. Bernard Church of Our Lady of Providence Parish will offer a baked haddock lunch on Fridays during Lent for pick up only at 228 Lincoln St. by the gym entrance. The \$15 meal comes with rice pilaf and carrots and must be preordered by Wednesday before, online at olpworchester.org/lenten-fish or call the parish at 508-755-3820.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$6638.66. We have also received:

Candles- \$664.00 Stipends- \$760.00
Free Press- \$393.00

Total- \$8455.66 Unrestricted- \$8455.66 Restricted- \$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$2000 from a friend; \$366.74; \$50.00; \$50 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$30 IMO Jack O'Grady; \$100 IMO Robert Sullivan; \$50 IMO Theresa and Francis Boucher; \$50 IMO Debra Simulevich; \$25 IMO Bob Olson; \$250 from Worcester Firefighters Local 1009; \$200 from Oli's Italian Bakery

Expenses- \$14,952.61
House (669.35) Schola (553.64) Administration (2787.86) Federal Payroll Taxes (936.74) Ascension Plowing (375.00) Funerals (76.40) Church Electric (542.15) Rectory Electric (807.47) Garage Repair (505.00) Diocesan Budget Bill (7699.00)

Food for the Poor
Income- \$11,590.00
Expenses- \$6,148.00

This weekends second collection is for the Church in Latin America.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Robert Olson, Thomas Stachura, Paul Letsky, Jr., Rush Limbaugh, Ewart Beckford and Vincent Jackson who have been born into eternal life.

Word of Life

"As I live says the Lord, I do not wish the death of the sinners but their repentance. He added this evidence of his goodness: House of Israel, repent of your wickedness. Tell the children of my people: If their sins should reach from earth to heaven, if they are brighter than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, you need only to turn to me with your whole heart and say, "Father," and I will listen to you as to a holy people."

- From a letter to the Corinthians by Saint Pope Clement