

"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**

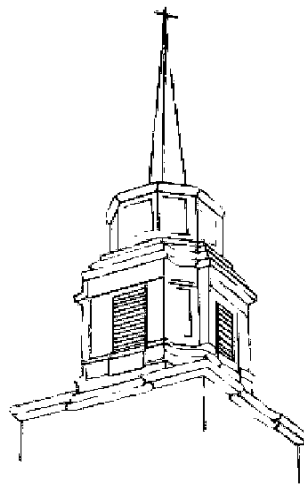
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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, March 13, 2021

4:15 PM **Carl Paul Steele (4th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Rich Linga**, req. by a Friend
7:15 PM **M/M Joseph P. O'Coin**, req. by Family;
Joseph Pezzella, req. by Family

Sunday, March 14, 2021

8:00 AM **Susan Wright (12th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **John Jack O'Grady**, req. by Al and Sue Johnson
10:15 AM **Donna Mulcahy**, req. by Family;
Francisca Obijiaku, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Jean P. Cosmo**, req. by Family; **Birthday Blessings for Patty Kelly Clark and Fran DiReda**
7:15 PM **Marta Brodeur**, req. by Family

Monday, March 15, 2021

6:15 PM **Richard Summers**, req. by Kerry Brenner and Family; **Bill Pugliese, Jr., Jen and Bill Pugliese, Sr.**, req. by Family

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

6:15 PM **Mary Donahue**, req. by Kerry Brenner and Family

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

6:15 PM **Mary Donahue**, req. by Frank Carroll

Thursday, March 18, 2021

6:15 PM **Richard Bourn**, req. by Kerry Brenner and Family

Friday, March 19, 2021

6:15 PM **Gervais Larochelle and David Sheehy**, req. by Family; **Joseph Collins**, req. by Family

Saturday, March 20, 2021

4:15 PM **Sandra Johns**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 21, 2021

8:00 AM **Lucy Trepkus Thompson (45th Anniv.)** req. by Daughter Barbara; **Patrick Johnson**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Francisca Obijiaku**, req. by Family;
Patrick Halvorsen (Month's Mind), req. by Family
12:15 PM **Francisco Austriaco**, req. by Family;
7:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: Laetare, Jerusalem, Is 66: 10, 11 Op.: # 601 The God of Abraham Praise

Ps 137, "Let My Tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!"
Gospel Acc.: # 208

Prep.: # 641 What Wondrous Love

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

Comm.: Jerusalem, quae aedificatur, Ps 122: 3, 4

490 My Song is Love Unknown

Cl.: # 602 Christ is the World's Light

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Sunday, March 28**— Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, regular weekend schedule
- **Wednesday, March 31**— St. John's Day of Prayer. Sign-ups on the parish website.
- **Holy Thursday, April 1**— 6:15 PM Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- **Good Friday, April 2**— 12 Noon Stations of the Cross. 6:15 PM Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
- **Holy Saturday, April 3**— 7:30 PM Easter Vigil
- **Easter Sunday, April 4**— Mass of the Resurrection, regular Sunday schedule

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

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 be heard on Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:45 PM in a section of the sacristy of the main Church. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

EASTER EGG DISTRIBUTION will be on Sunday, March 27 from 3-4:30 PM. Pull into the parking lot behind the rectory, and we will have gift bags for the kids. All ages, all children welcome! Bring a friend!

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 visitation-house.org.

ST. JOHN'S LENTEN DEVOTIONS

The Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday in Lent after the 6:15 PM Mass.

In Our Catholic Community...

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 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 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.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE SCHEDULE - SATURDAY, MARCH 20

- If you purchased a ticket for last year's (cancelled) conference we already know who you are. On Thursday, March 18 you will receive an email with a link to the 2021 conference. You do not have to pay anything. If you did not purchase a ticket last year and would like to participate in this year's 'remote and interactive' conference please call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345 for a ticket (\$20). You can view this year's entire conference from home or with friends. The schedule is: 12:00 noon to 12:45 pm ~ Welcome by Bishop McManus followed by: Dr. Scott Hahn: "*The Road to Emmaus: The Path to Lifelong Conversion*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Scott Hahn *** 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm ~ Bishop Robert Reed: "*O God, Just Give Me One More Chance*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Bishop Reed *** 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm ~ Luis Soto: "*Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Luis Soto *** 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm ~ Dr. Scott Hahn: "*The Power of the Sacraments*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Scott Hahn *** 4:00-5:00 pm ~ Mass with Bishop McManus and concluding comments.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$6578.16. We have also received:

Monthly- \$760.00	Restoration- \$129.00
Candles- \$840.00	Parking- \$35.00
School Rent- \$4833.72	Easter- \$30.00
Novena- \$4616.00	

Total- \$17,821.88 **Unrestricted-** \$17,692.88 **Restricted-** \$129.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$1000 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$75 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 IMO Theresa and Francis Bafaro; \$266.71 from St. Mary's Grafton; \$840 Imo Alice Haddad; \$100 IMO Mickey Jigarjian; \$25 IMO Eileen Woodward; \$50 IMO Suzanne Nicholas; \$500 IMO Joe Sullivan

Expenses- \$5653.45

Schola (1318.08) Administration (1897.86) Altar (120.00) Clergy Benefit Plan (1057.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (886.14) Funerals (152.80) Live Stream (75.00) Church Alarm (124.09) Office (22.48)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$4816.00

Expenses- \$6013.57

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Rheal Cormier, Marilyn Dolan, Fr. Gerard Walsh and George O'Toole who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Rowan Dix Quinlivan who has entered the Catholic Community through the water of Baptism.

Word of Life

"Our true worth does not consist in what human beings think of us. What we really are consists in what God knows us to be." - St. John Berchmans