

*"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**

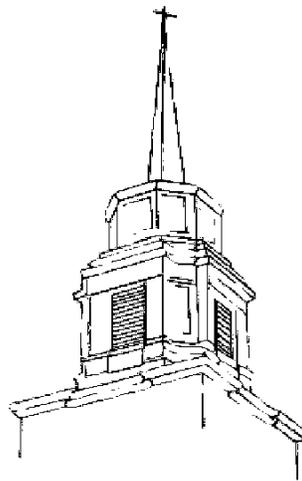
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**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**

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 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

Monday, March 22, 2021

6:15 PM **John Tomlinson**, req. by Family

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

6:15 PM **Lolita M. Catalan**, req. by Family; **Roger Hessel**, req. by Frank Carroll and Family

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

6:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family

Thursday, March 25, 2021

6:15 PM **Holy Souls in Purgatory**

Friday, March 26, 2021

6:15 PM **Henry S. Kozlowski**, req. by Children

Saturday, March 27, 2021

4:15 PM **John and Mildred Ahern**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Judith Daley**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 28, 2021

8:00 AM **Michael Brennan**, req. by Family; **Rudolph Gaudette and Char Rossi**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Alice Haddad**, req. by a Friend

12:15 PM **Stella Tiscione (1st Anniv.)**, 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.**

Dear Friends in the Lord,

As we concluded the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier last week, all of us were grateful to God for another inspiring and safe nine days together. Further, all the Covid numbers were trending in the right direction, more and more people were being vaccinated every day and the weather was beginning to offer the chance to be outside. We were brimming with hope. One thing we have learned over the more than a year of Life in Time of Pandemic, though, is we can never be overconfident when dealing with this evil virus. We are hopeful, yes – but we need to be wise, as well. There are, of course, other lessons to learn from this past year, as well.

Today's Gospel passage comes from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of John which marks the beginning of Holy Week. The exchange we hear this week follows the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem which we celebrate next week on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. Rather than mucking up the timing, I think the Liturgy has presented us a Gospel passage – along with the other readings – which can help us to end Lent well and be prepared for a meaningful celebration of Holy Week. The readings illustrate that Jesus did not welcome suffering, Hebrews tells us: "he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears." Yet, neither did he deny the presence of suffering: "Yet, what should I say? Father save me from this hour?" We tend to behave in the opposite way. Behavior to which Jesus said to Peter (and us): "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do."

Thinking as God does, Jesus knew that his prayers and supplications were heard by his Father. For Hebrews says that it was through what he suffered that "he was made perfect." It is this trust, and faith, and wisdom which is the source of our eternal salvation. Therefore, though we pray with loud cries and tears we have been given the grace to transform them into a deeper trust in God and greater love for one another.

In Christ's Peace, Fr John Madden

**ST. JOHN'S DAY OF PRAYER-** Around this time last year, as the full force of the coronavirus was becoming more evident, Bishop McManus asked each parish in the diocese to take one day – one 24 hour period – during which at each hour, from home, one or more of our parishioners would pray for an end to the coronavirus pandemic, the healing of the sick, the salvation of the dead and the protection of healthcare workers and those on the frontline fighting Covid-19. In this hope, we continue to pray. As we did last year, we have chosen Wednesday of Holy Week, March 31st as our day. Our hope is that one or more parishioners of St. John's can commit to pray during each hour of March 31st. Please go to the parish website to sign up. Thank you.

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: Iudica me, Deus, Ps 43: 1, 2 (Judge me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly nation; from wicked and deceitful men deliver me, for you are my God and my strength.)

Op.: # 466 Forty Days and Forty Nights

Ps 51, "Create a clean heart, a clean heart in me, O God."

Gospel Acc.: # 208

Prep.: # 476 Restore in Us, O God

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

Comm.: Qui mihi ministrat, Jn 12: 26 (If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there, too.)

# 468 Before the Fruit Is Ripened by the Sun

Cl.: # 489 O Sacred Head Surrounded

### THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jer. 31:31-34

Heb 5:7-9

John 12:20 -33

### 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

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY** — the Annual Appeal of the Diocese of Worcester is underway. This year we are invited to "Be the Face of Christ" to our brothers and sisters in need. As you know, the Partners in Charity appeal supports the works of prayer, charity, and education in the diocese. Our parish goal is \$76,600 again this year. To date, we have received gifts and pledges totaling \$30,260.38 Thank you to those who have donated already. There are gift/pledge envelopes available in the church and at the rectory. As always, we are grateful for the generous support of the people of St. John's.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://visitationhouse.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...

**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*

**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.

### **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](http://stjohnsworcester.org/adult-faith-formation) and follow the instructions to join the "Adult Faith Formation" group on Flocknote.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$6040.16. We have also received:

Monthly- \$166.00

Restoration- \$75.00

Candles- \$767.00

Parking- \$35.00

Stipends- \$30.00

Novena- \$9932.00

Donations- \$1152.13

**Total-** \$18,197.29 **Unrestricted-** \$18,222.29 **Restricted-** \$75.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$1340 IMO Alice Haddad; \$200 IMO Theresa and Francis Bafaro; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$10 from a friend; \$59 from a friend; \$15 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$13,061.93 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 IMO Vito Gadilauskas; \$50 IMO Joseph Perro-ne; \$100 IMO Thomas Reynolds; \$100 IMO Beth O'Rourke; \$50 IMO Robert Sullivan; \$100 IMO Stella Tiscione; \$100 IMO Paul Jackson

**Expenses-** \$15,967.35

Schola (588.60) Altar (1420.58) Administration (3042.01)

Annual Fire Permit (600.00) Federal Payroll Taxes

(1131.70) Church Electric (553.27) Rectory Electric

(963.14) March Diocesan Budget Bill (7699.00) Office (69.05)

**Food for the Poor**

Income- \$15,967.35

Expenses- \$4090.51

This weekend's second collection is for the Catholic Relief Services.

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Nicole Kallagher, Yaphet Kotto, William Kasper, Richard Hoyt, Maureen Kenedy Crosson and Marvin Hagler who have been born into eternal life.

## Word of Life

**"Now there's no one who approaches God with a true and upright heart who isn't tested by hardships and temptations. So, in all these temptations see to it that even if you feel them, you don't consent to them. Instead, bear them patiently and calmly with humility and longsuffering." -St. Albert the Great**