

"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**

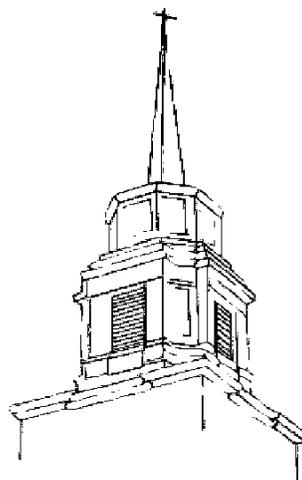
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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

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, May 1, 2021

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; M/M Herbert Fairbanks and John Reidy**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Scott Gow**, req. by Friends

Sunday, May 2, 2021

8:00 AM **Kathleen Shugrue and Karen Hippert**, req. by Lorraine Laurie
10:15 AM **Shamoun Butros**, req. by Family;
Birthday Blessings for Remedios Piper, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Raymond Habib**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka**, req. by Family;
Elizabeth Brosnihan (2nd Anniv.), req. by Family

Monday, May 3, 2021

6:15 PM **Brian O'Connell**, req. by a Friend

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

6:15 PM **Christopher Evers**, req. by Family

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

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

Thursday, May 6, 2021

6:15 PM **Edgardo Nicomedez**, req. by Norma Nunag

Friday, May 7, 2021

6:15 PM **Richard Conley (Month's Mind)**, req. by John Caparso

Saturday, May 8, 2021

4:15 PM **Anna Krusas**, req. by Family; **Patricia Roix**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Coin**, req. by Family

Sunday, May 9, 2021

8:00 AM **Elsie Gannon and Joan Crowley**, req. by Family; **Zachary Covello**, req. by his Mom
10:15 AM **Stacey Vaitkunas**, req. by Sister Danute Snarskis; **Justin Horton**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Walter and Katharina Perduta, Catherine McGurl**, req. by Family; **John F. and Annette E. Coakley**, req. by Antul 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,

Following on last Sunday's image of the Good Shepherd, in today's Gospel passage Jesus presents us with the image of the vine and the branches: *I am the vine, you are the branches (Jn 15:5)*. We are reminded again that Christianity is not an ethical system or a political philosophy. It is, primarily and fundamentally, a person, Jesus Christ, and our relationship with him.

Though I often miss it, the image is fuller still because he also says the Father is the vine grower. Jesus recognizes that his mission includes drawing us closer to the Father. The dominant theme in the parable is the need to "remain." The word is used eight times in the eight verses. Six times its reference is for us to remain in Him, only one reference is to the Lord and another to his Word remaining in us. The fidelity of Jesus and his Word, whether to us or to the Father, is not in doubt. The challenge is for us to remain – to abide – in him.

Jesus highlights how critical it is for us to meet this challenge *because without me you can do nothing (Jn 15:5)*. To that end, the Father "prunes" us so that we may experience an ever-deepening relationship with His Son. One in which we glorify the Father by bearing much fruit. As elusive as the message of John's Gospel can be, I can see how this parable speaks to our situation even all these thousands of years later. The parable makes clear that, though we have already produced fruit, by allowing the Father to clear away the dead wood which creeps into our lives, we can bear even more fruit. St. John Chrysostom interprets this pruning action in a specific way. He says that *(Jesus) alludes here to the tribulation and trials which were coming upon them, the effect of which would be to purge and so to strengthen them*. The "golden-mouthed" Saint captures the work of pruning which is necessary for us, in our own time, as well.

Perhaps, First Communion Sunday during Life in the Time of Pandemic is a perfect time to open ourselves to the Father's cleansing and strengthening action. Continued growth is required in every relationship, of course, and especially, in our relationship to God. Still, there is a transforming grace needed if we are to allow life's trials and tribulations to strengthen our relationship with God and one another. The regular reception of the Eucharist, the source and summit, of the Christian life offers us this very grace.

Congratulations to and prayers for the First Communion class. Thanks be to God for the gift of Jesus and the grace he offers all who remain with him.

In Christ's Peace, Fr. John Madden

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: Cantate Dominum, Canticum novum, Ps 98:1
(Sing to the Lord a new song, alleluia; for the Lord has accomplished wondrous deeds, alleluia; he as revealed his justice in the sight of the Gentiles, alleluia, alleluia.)

Op.: # 496 Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Gloria: # 323

Ps 22, "I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people."
Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 497 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death

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

Comm.: Ego sum vitis vera, Jn 15:5 (I am the vine, and you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit, alleluia, alleluia.)

495 Now the Green Blade Rises

Cl.: # 508 This is a Day of New Beginnings

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 9:26-31

1 Jn 3:18-24

Jn 15:1-8

THE 10:15 A.M. MASS THIS SUNDAY, MAY 2 WILL BE THE PARISH FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION

— there are 25 young people in the class this year. Since we will be reserving a pew for each family, please be advised that there will not be much room to safely accommodate others, except in the balcony. Thank you for your understanding.

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 \$52,974. 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.

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.

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.

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS- On Friday, May 14, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM a holy hour to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration, as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. Please join us to pray for our priests. Repeats every second Friday of the month.

SEX ED IN THE WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS -

Thank you to all who made calls and appeared virtually at last Monday's meeting on sex-ed proposals. Unfortunately, the Standing Committee voted 2-1 to recommend to the full School Committee that "Rights, Respect & Responsibility" be implemented this fall as a comprehensive "health" curriculum in the Worcester Public Schools. There was some discussion about sex-ed being for middle school as part of a comprehensive health program for K-12. However, the recommended program is identified by its publisher as a sex-ed curriculum and includes objectionable lessons as early as kindergarten. We are seeking clarification as to whether the recommendation includes those lessons and will inform you by Flocknote. The full School Committee will consider the matter at its meeting this Thursday, May 6 at 6 PM. The Zoom information for that meeting will also follow by Flocknote. Thank you.

In Our Catholic Community...

SAVE THE DATE- In a blink of an eye, anything and everything can change. Please participate in the 36th Annual *Virtual* Walk for the Homeless, May 16-May 23. The WALK will to benefit Catholic Charities Family Shelter, Homeless Prevention programs of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program of Friendly House, and St. John's Food for the Poor. For more information please visit us at walkforthehomeless.org or call Ann Gibbons Smith at 774-243-3809.

THE MOTHER'S DAY ROSE DRIVE TO SUPPORT PROBLEM PREGNANCY OF WORCESTER will be doing a GoFundMe campaign this year. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 between now and Mother's Day weekend. Please join the campaign by going to this link gf.me/u/zqhc3q. Problem Pregnancy of Worcester provides women a real choice by removing the barriers that often block them from keeping their babies. They offer free housing, medical care, ultrasound tests, baby clothes, cribs, car seats, legal help, immigration aid, maternity clothes, life skills counseling, spiritual counseling, and vocational help. Please support Problem Pregnancy of Worcester. If you would like to mail a check then please send it to Problem Pregnancy, 495 Pleasant Street. P.O. Box 7422 Worcester MA 01605-7422.

PIETA ANNUAL MASS TO HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR CHILDREN - On Monday, May 3 at 7:00 pm everyone is invited to attend the Pieta annual Mass to honor and remember all of our children. Sponsored by Pieta Support Group for Bereaved Parents and held at St. George Church, 40 Brattle St., Worcester. This is a special time to come together with family and friends in remembrance of our children. Please feel free to invite any families who have lost a child. For more information contact Annie Doyle, St. George Outreach Coordinator, 508-853-0183 or Terry Gentile 508-284-0796 or email the office at pieta3@gmail.com.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$7177.16. We have also received:
Monthly- \$540.00 Restoration- \$35.00
Stipends- \$1205.00 Easter- \$100.00
Donation- \$20.00 Reimb.- \$20.00
Online- \$13,612.12

Total- \$22,709.28 Unrestricted- \$22,674.28 Restricted- \$35.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$350 IMO Alexander Kulesa; \$2000 from a friend; \$300 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$100 IMO George Bailey; \$240 IMO Richard Conley; \$50 IMO Robert Henry; \$70 IMO Linda Oroszko's 70th Birthday; \$50 IMO Thomas Holden; \$100 IMO Jack O'Loughlin; \$5 IMO Joanne Shea; \$1293 IMO Virginia Ford; \$95 IMO Robert Sullivan; \$20 IMO Mike Silva; \$20 IMO Theresa and Francis Bafaro; \$20 IMO Stephen Palmieri; \$20 IMO John and Annette Coakley; \$25 IMO Donald Holmes; \$100 IMO Christopher and Patrick Johnson; \$150 IMO Jack Morrisey

Expenses- \$10,933.44

Schola (978.04) Administration (5569.31) Rectory Cable/Phone/Internet (622.28) Church Gas (642.21) Rectory Gas (802.54) Rectory Electric (146.00) House (179.85) Funerals (329.20) Office (951.00) Legal Fees (331.11) Preserve the Flame (406.00) Rectory Alarm (36.90)

Food for the Poor

Income- \$13,516.09 Expenses- \$29,899.93

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

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Albert DiNinno, Jane Peckaitis, Deborah Valentino, Christa Ludwig, Alexander Torres and Bernice Frankel who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Anzio Grae Vega who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

Word of Life

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”
Pope Francis’ “Day for Life Greeting”