

"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

Associate Pastor

Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice

Assisting Priest

Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Eduardas Meilus

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

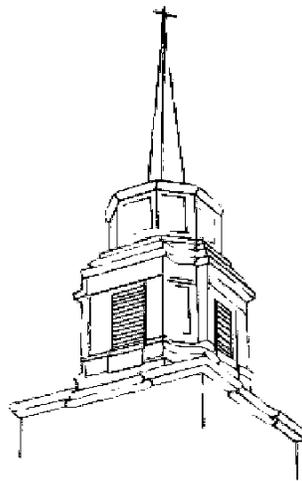
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

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
Monday – Wednesday
After the 6:15 p.m. Mass

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
Fourth Monday of the Month

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 26, 2022

4:15 PM **Robert “Bob” Zack**, req. by Friends.; **Thomas Reynolds (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joseph and Julia Senckowski and Christine Plouffe**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 27, 2022

8 AM **Bernadette Lajoie**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Carole Gamble (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Jack and Joanne Shea; **Tanya Vasalofski**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Debra Walsh**, req. by Friends; **Carole Gamble (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Monday, February 28, 2022

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

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

6:15 PM **Gina Marie Franchi**, req. by Carole and Frank Carroll; **Gail Gully (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Family

Wednesday, March 2, 2022– Ash Wednesday

12:15 PM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN’S**

6:15 PM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN’S**

Thursday, March 3, 2022

6:15 PM **Joann Brosnan (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Irene Kelley**, req. by Family

Friday, March 4, 2022

9:15 AM **Jack Kelly**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Liz Kennedy Blute**, req. by Tim and Joyce Cooney

6:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Friends

Saturday, March 5, 2022

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.**; **Dorothy Fresolo**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 6, 2022

8 AM **Susan Wright**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tagman**, req. by Daughter

12:15 PM **Mary and Kevin Carroll**, req. by Family; **Emilia Garofoli (14th 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 make our way through this “valley of tears,” all of us have many prayer intentions: for our family, our friends, and for ourselves; for the poor, the sick and for those who are mourning; for our city, our country and the nations of the world. This week, of course, we have added to these with our prayers for the people of Ukraine. St. John Paul II believed that “war is always a defeat for humanity.” Today the Ukrainians join the Haitians, the Afghans, the Ethiopians, the Syrians and far too many others who experience the consequences of humanity’s defeat. They are in urgent need of our prayers as well as our sacrifices and gifts on their behalf. If we are being honest, it is all more than a bit overwhelming. There is so much sadness in the world. We cannot help but wonder what, if anything, we could possibly do in response. Dorothy Day found herself in the same place: *I was thinking how, as one gets older, we are tempted to sadness, knowing life as it is here on earth, the suffering, the cross. And how we must overcome it daily, growing in love, and in the joy which goes with loving.*

This week we begin both the Season of Lent and the 99th Annual Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier. Thanks be to God, since they arrive just in time. Through the forty days – and more – of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with the help of the nine days – and more – of Francis’ powerful intercession, we are offered the grace necessary to grow in love and to experience (and share) the joy which only love can bring.

Continuing to follow God’s providence, in today’s Gospel passage Luke recounts the instruction Jesus gave which is necessary to receive this grace he offers. Jesus is Lord, of course. He is also a spiritual genius and profound teacher. I still marvel every time I hear the story of the woman caught in adultery. The Pharisees felt they had set the perfect trap for him. No so fast – *let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. (John 8:7)* The teaching in today’s passage is as clear and as blunt: *Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? (Luke 6:41)* In this present context as we are preparing for Lent, the Lord’s insight reminds that we are not merely enrolling in a self-help program. The great penitential season is an invitation to “change our minds.” Rather than be tempted to sadness, we are encouraged to see and to follow the way to overcome it; the way to peace.

In the midst of her suffering and cross, Helen Keller was able to see and proclaim that *the world is filled with sadness and the overcoming of sadness.* Please God, so can we.

In Christ’s Peace, Fr John Madden

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Factus est Dominus, Ps 18: 19, 20 (The Lord has become my protector; he has brought me forth into free and open spaces; he delivered me because he was well pleased with me.)*

Op.: # 517 Rise to Sing! The Light is Breaking
Ps. 92, "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." # 1132
Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 751 Deliver Us, O Lord of Truth
Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Comm.: *Cantabo Domino, Ps 13: 6 (I will sing unto the Lord who has dealt bountifully with me; I will praise the name of the Lord, the Most High.)*

940 Take and Eat

Cl.: # 631 Father, We Thank You Who Have Planted

SUNDAY'S READINGS #1132 IN THE HYMNAL

Sir 27:4-7

Psalm 92

1 Cor 15:54-58

Lk 6:39-45

THE 99th ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

begins on Friday, March 4 and runs through Saturday, March 12th. Masses will be celebrated weekdays at 9:15 AM, 12:15 and 6:15 PM. The weekend Mass schedule remains the same. On Saturday March 5 and 12th there will be Benediction and Novena Prayers at 2:15 PM. There are flyers at the entrances to the church with a full schedule of preachers. All are welcome to attend.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY – This year we are invited to “Be the Face of Christ” to our brothers and sisters in need. Our parish goal is \$76,600 again this year. To date, we have received gifts and pledges totaling \$11,815.00. Thank you to those who have donated already. There are multiple ways to donate to the appeal. Text giving is hands down the easiest and most secure way to give. If you know how to send a text message, you can make a gift in seconds on your phone and St. John’s gets the credit. Text donate to 84576. You can also make your gift online at partners-charity.net or use one of the gift/pledge envelopes available in the church and at the rectory. Please feel free to visit the Partners in Charity website for more information or to view the appeal video. As always, we are grateful for the generous support of the people of St. John’s.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist– This Sunday, February 27, 9 AM in the Xavier Center

Grades 1-6– This Sunday, February 27 9–10 AM in the Church Hall.

Grades 7-9– This Sunday, February 27 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Church Hall

Confirmation– Tuesday, March 1, at 6:15 PM in the chapel.

Masks are required by all during class.

ASH WEDNESDAY– Mass and distribution of Ashes will be at 12:15 and 6:15 PM on Wednesday, March 2.

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION - This Wednesday we begin Lent, a time of deepened prayer, penance and almsgiving. This year we ask you to consider supporting the Ash Wednesday Collection for the care of our retired diocesan priests as part of your Lenten Program. Our 49 retired priests have faithfully served us in our parishes across the diocese, often until the retirement age of 75 or older. Now, in their later years we can express our thanks and ease their concerns by supporting this Ash Wednesday Collection. On behalf of our retired priests we thank you for your support.

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 (March 6) through Trinity Sunday (June 12).

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.

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 4th and 11th.

In Our Catholic Community...

LIVE STREAMING MASSES will continue on the Parish Facebook Page according to the following schedule:

Weeknights at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:15 p.m.

Sunday Mass at 10:15 AM and 7:15 PM

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.

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, February 28th. After the 6:15 p.m. Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated for those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

VOCATION REFLECTION: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – "Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life." Are you called to belong to Christ alone as a priest, deacon or through the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)630-4473 or email donato.infante@gmail.com.

FORMED.ORG WEEKLY CHALLENGE: THIS WEEK'S QUESTION – Are you signed up to receive Daily Lenten Gospel Reflections from Formed right in your inbox? You must first be signed up for Formed.org if you are not signed up already. On any device - Go to Formed.org/signup, Enter 01604, select St John's parish, then enter your name and email address and you're in. Then to receive daily reflections in your email, using your browser type daily.formed.org. The sign up page will pop up and prompt you to fill in your email address. Then it will acknowledge that you have been signed up. Simple. (The correct answer to last week's question : Mark around 70 AD.)

Financial Report

This weekend we received \$7467.66. We also received:

Monthly- \$85.00	Restoration- \$117.00
Stipends- \$710.00	Donation- \$1350.00
School Rent- \$4833.72	Free Press- \$198.00

Total- \$14,761.38 Unrestricted- \$14,644.38 Restricted- \$117.00

Expenses- \$15,744.91

Schola (1139.44) Altar (80.95) Administration (5825.45) Church Gas (1859.65) Rectory Gas (2142.07) Funerals (152.80) Plowing Contract (3200.00) Maintenance Supplies (764.84) Postage (67.71) Preserve the Flame (542.00)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$50 IMO Ed Pero; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$24.22 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$150 IMO Elizabeth Blute; \$255 IMO Daniel Blanchard; \$100 IMO Theresa DePari; \$25 IMO Virginia Bercume; \$250 IMO Paul Bresnahan

FFTP Income- \$7395.00

FFTP Expenses- \$7228.94

YEAR TO DATE: - For the month of February we had an operating cash gain of \$9,604.62. This places our cash gain for FY 2021/2022 at \$81,034.15. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to the people of St. John's for your ongoing and generous support. Thank you.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Paul Bresnahan, Virginia Bercume, Jean Largess, Dr. Paul Farmer and Elizabeth Feen who have been born into eternal life.

WORD OF LIFE:

"Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours."

-St. John Bosco