

"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

Deacon

Eduardas Meilus

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

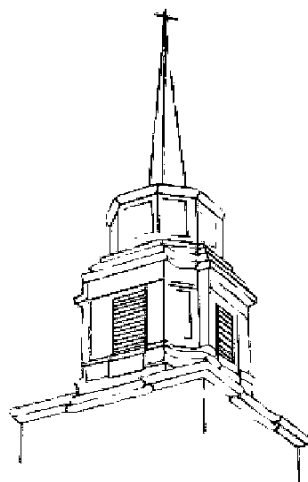
Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

Music Ministry

Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

Sacristan

Dolores Vito



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, December 10, 2022

4:15 PM **Dr. James Cosgrove, Helen Shea Cosgrove and Bridget Norman**, req. by James Cosgrove; **Nancy Morgan**, req. by Bill and Kathy Callahan
7:15 PM **Joe Comeau**, req. by Friends

Sunday, December 11, 2022

8 AM **Nancy Morgan**, req. by VAAH Residents; **Dennis Foley**, req. by Brenner Family
10:15 AM **Brad Lange and Stephanie LeBlanc**, req. by Donna Mastrovito
12:15 PM **John Trainor**, req. by Family; **Deceased Members of the Brignola Family**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka and Health and Intentions of Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Eunice White (7th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Monday, December 12, 2022

6:15 PM **Dan Martel**, req. by Family; **Margaret and Gene Gingras and Family**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

6:15 PM **Roger E. Marchand, Sr.**, req. by Alfred Roy and Sons Funeral Home

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

6:15 PM **Margaret T. Martin**, req. by Frank Carroll

Thursday, December 15, 2022

6:15 PM **Thomas W. and Sally V. Bennett**, req. by Lucia and Tommy

Friday, December 16, 2022

6:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Friends

Saturday, December 17, 2022

4:15 PM **Joseph Kane**, req. by Barbara Kirklauskas; **Eleanor Prevoski (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. O'Coin**, req. by Family; **Joseph O'Connor**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8 AM **Marie and Joseph Mastrovito**, req. by Family; **Jean Lotuff**, req. by Brenner Family
10:15 AM **Patricia Gaudette**, req. by a Friend; **Patricia Fields**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Mary Ruth Shea and Leon Frank DesRosiers**, req. by Family; **Edith Boudas (14th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka and Health and Intentions of Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The Entrance Antiphon for this Third Sunday in Advent is from Philippians 4:4-5:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

Therefore, we refer to it as Gaudete ('rejoice' in Latin) Sunday. At the halfway point of the Advent Season, the Church's Liturgy invites to reflect upon what awaits us, what we are preparing for, that is, the presence of the Lord. I am not sure if this is more challenging today than it ever has been, but I am sure that it is challenging. Still, at the Xavier Center this week we witnessed this challenge being met. On November 9, students from Quinsigamond Community College's Occupational Therapy program visited us. They attend the downtown campus on Federal Street. Therefore, they see the regular guests at our meal on a regular basis. They asked their professor if they could do something to assist these neighbors. This is what brought them to the meal. They came with notebooks and pens along with listening ears and hearts. The students spread out through the Xavier Center and under the pavilion and listened. At the end of the meal, they said they would be back.

True to their word, the students returned on this Wednesday. In the Xavier Center they set up various stations - one to assist our guests in locating and accessing an array of services, another to teach how to make Duct Tape wallets, a third to explore the calming effect of coloring. All those who participated were given a gift bag/care package, as well. The bags were filled with items that offered both refreshment and assistance. The report was that many other Quinsig students generously contributed to creating the bags, as well.

We rejoiced at having the students with us. They rejoiced that their plans came together and bore fruit. Our guests rejoiced at meeting caring people and having some fun. Truly, it was Gaudete Wednesday at 20 Temple Street this week. Further, it was a real template for rejoicing in a sometimes dark and always imperfect world. Our new friends saw a need, wondered what they could do to address it, asked the needy, went to work and came back.

Some of them have committed to helping at our Annual Winter Boots Giveaway Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 20th at 2 p.m. in the Xavier Center. (By the way, we are accepting pairs of boots any size, men and women's). Plus, they are already discussing what next semester's project will be.

In the darkness of his prison cell, John the Baptist wondered of Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?" Jesus' reply included "the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." I am sure that John rejoiced.

In Christ's Peace, Fr John Madden

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Be happy because of the Lord! Always be happy, always happy. Be gentle with others; be kind and tolerant to everyone; The Lord is very near. Have no anxiety at all, but if there is anything you need, make your requests known to God by prayer and supplication.*

Op.: ##386 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Ps 146, "Come and save us, Lord! Come and save us, Lord!" # 1007

Alleluia: *The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor..*

Prep.: #395 When the King Shall Come Again

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 217, 219, 311

Comm.: *Say to those whose hearts are faint of heart: You must not be afraid but take courage and be strong! Look, our God is coming with vengeance; and He will save us.*

#565 The King of Glory

Cl.: #387 O Come, Divine Messiah

READINGS ARE AT #1007 IN THE HYMNAL

Is 35:1-6a, 10

Jas 5:7-10

Mt 11:2-11

LIVE STREAMING MASSES can now be accessed through our parish website, stjohnsworces-ter.org, 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.

RCIA – any adult wishing to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church is invited to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you would like to receive any or all of the Initiation Sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – please contact the rectory by email or phone. Thank you.

THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will be meeting on Wednesday December 14 at 9:30-11:00 AM in the chapel. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you want to learn to make prayer shawls, we would love to help you learn. Any questions, please call Connie, 774-262-2512.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR FORMED.ORG.

AND DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS ? Now is the time to join fellow parishioners of St John's in signing up to have free, unlimited, no cost to you access to a wealth of information about our Catholic Faith. Using your browser from 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. No other passwords needed. To receive Daily Advent Reflections in your email, once you have access to the Formed.org platform, using your browser, type in daily.formed.org. The sign up page will pop up and prompt you to fill in your email address. Then it will acknowledge receipt of your sign up. If you haven't as of yet, please take advantage of our parish's gift to you.

VOCATION REFLECTION: THIRD SUNDAY OF

ADVENT – "I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you." Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 send an email to dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6– Sunday, December 18 9-10 AM in the Church Hall

Grades 7-9– Sunday, December 18 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM in the Church Hall.

CONFIRMATION– Next class will be held December 20 from 6:15-8 PM. Class is held in the chapel and church hall and includes Mass.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOPPE will be Sunday 12/11 in the Xavier Center, 11AM -1PM. Send your kids with a list for them to make Christmas presents. We will wrap and tag them. All are welcome. Cost is \$5/ family.

CLASSES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND

FIRST EUCHARIST will begin on January 23rd at 9:00 in the Xavier Center. Children in second grade or older are invited to participate. Please register before December 31, 2022 on the St. John's website. If your child is currently attending weekly CCD, note that there is a separate registration for sacrament classes. The schedule of classes can also be found on the parish website. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Mastrovito at mastrovito21@gmail.com or 508 450 8639.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, December 26. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

ST. JOHN'S CYC BASKETBALL- Our CYC Basketball team is open to all boys ages 14-18 that are members of the parish and are not on a varsity basketball team at their High School. Please contact coach Ray at 508-612-6007 or email ray-m577@gmail.com if interested in playing. There is no cost to anyone who wants to play.

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION- St. George Church, 40 Brattle St., Worcester will hold an Advent Evening of Reflection on Monday, December 19 from 6:30- 8:00 PM. This is an opportunity to take time out to remember the intention of Advent season and prepare for Christmas. Please come and join in prayer and reflection.

EMPTY MANGER ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING - Please join us on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 9:00 am as we gather across the street from Planned Parenthood, 470 Pleasant St. in Worcester for our annual "Empty Manger Caroling". We will again be singing Advent and Christmas Carols as we pray the Rosary for an end to abortion and the conversion of those involved in the abortion industry. We will then have the opportunity to attend Mass at 10:00am in the Problem Pregnancy Chapel, 495 Pleasant Street. Please consider joining us after Mass for fellowship and light refreshments. If you are able to donate a package of size 1 or 2 diapers to Problem Pregnancy, they will be able to share the love of the Christmas Season with those in need. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire family to celebrate the Advent season and witness to our faith as we prepare to welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Financial Report

This weekend we received \$7960.72. We also received:
Online- \$8223.20 Monthly- \$2174.00
Restoration- \$457.00 Stipends- \$110.00
Day's Pay- \$125.00 Flowers- \$100.00

Total- \$19,149.92 Unrestricted- \$18,692.92 Restricted- \$457.00

Expenses-17,218.87

Schola (1225.24) House (1561.39) Confirmation Retreat (349.25) Altar (301.80) Administration (5621.69) Clergy Benefit Plan (1132.00) Christmas (2700.00) Stipends (605.00) Plowing Contract (3200.00) Copier (522.50)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$10 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$1599.07 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$8873.58 from a friend; \$50 IMO C. Michael Lavin; \$500 from Amos and Ann Laura Wasgatt Fund; \$200 IHO Fr. Madden's birthday; \$100 IHO Martha Liddy; \$40 IMO Terry Dupont; \$250 IMO Roger and Florence Marchand; \$470 from School House Quilters; \$100 IMO Gettrude Donovan; \$30 IMO Walter Baldowski; \$200 IMO Deceased Members of the Everett Shea Family; \$500 IMO Joshua Kozaczka

Food for the Poor:

Income- \$10,160.13
Expenses- \$7520.23

This weekend's Second Collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Stephen Gagne, Brain McGrath, John Capuano, Adelina Gilardez, Alice Squadrito and Kirstie Alley who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Joseph Mark Byron who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

WORD OF LIFE:

**"O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage and strength to serve You. Enkindle Your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me."
St. Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**