

"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

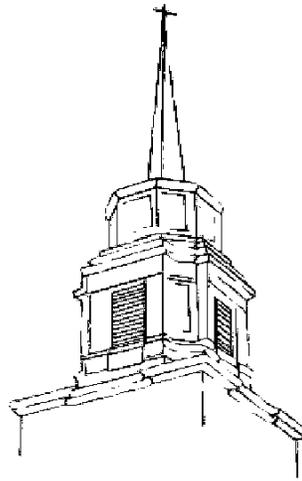
Music Ministry

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 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

Monday, December 19, 2022

6:15 PM **Josephine Kozlowski**, req. by Children

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

6:15 PM **Walter J. Baldowski**, req. by Wife Lucia

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

6:15 PM **Francisco Austriaco**, req. by Family

Thursday, December 22, 2022

6:15 PM **Victor Rivera**, req. by Family

Friday, December 23, 2022

6:15 PM **Lolita M. Catalan**, req. by Family; **Rose and Joseph Pezzella, Alfred, Theresa and Michael Lewis**, req. by Family

Saturday, December 24, 2022– Christmas Eve

4:15 PM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S**

10:15 PM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S**

Sunday, December 25, 2022– Christmas Day

8 AM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S**

10:15 AM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S**

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

There is no 7:15 PM Mass on Christmas.

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel passage from Matthew begins:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

If they had asked me, I would have suggested that we hold off until Christmas for that passage. Though, I do readily admit that they know what they are doing and I marvel at the Catholic Liturgy. Just the same, I prefer to wait until Christmas to reflect on the Lord's birth. For this final Sunday of Advent, let us maintain our focus on the traditional Advent figures. The prophet Isaiah has been featured in the first reading all four Sundays in Advent. John the Baptist was highlighted on two Sundays, from two different periods in his ministry. To conclude the season we are presented Mary and Joseph. Mary is featured throughout the Liturgical year, fittingly so. This Advent, we have experienced sort of a Marian Novena. From the Immaculate Conception on December 8th to the Feast of Juan Diego on the 9th and Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th to this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we have relied on her intercession that we might imitate her humility and fidelity, her courage and her strength.

Likewise, if more quietly, we seek the power of her husband's intercession that we might imitate him. In the Gospel passage, when Mary is "was found with child," we see one specific and important way the imitation of Joseph is critical for today:

*Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.*

One of the more striking verses in the Scriptures, in this age when so many are more than willing to expose others to shame, it carries real depth. Where did it come from? What grace did Joseph receive that made him righteous and merciful? I think it must be that he truly believed and accepted the revelation God made to Isaiah: *my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways*. More still, Joseph knew that God's time is not our time. Thus was he able to discern God's plan in the midst of the mysterious situation in which he had been called.

God has, so to speak, all the time there is and more. It is a matter of indifference whether the time is long or short: what is crucial is the opportunity for genuine repentance for all. The tension between the certainty that the promises will be fulfilled and the lengthening of the time of expectation, is not a reason for apathy or despair. It is proposed rather as a reason for rededication, more radical conversion, covenant renewal. Our times are unstable and unpredictable, but the time of the Lord transcends time. The time of the Lord is every time, and it does not make a difference whether we are speaking of a thousand years or of a single day. He comes.

Monika K. Hellwig

In Christ's Peace, Fr John Madden

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *Your heavens, drop down dew from above, let clouds rain down the Just One; O let the earth be opened and let it bring forth a Savior.*

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

Ps 24, "Let the Lord Enter; He is king of glory."
1010

Alleluia: *The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*

Prep.: #438 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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

Comm.: *And holy is your name through all generations! Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen, and holy is your name.*

#122 Holy is Your Name

Cl.: #388 Savior of Nations, Come

READINGS ARE AT #1010 IN THE HYMNAL

Is 7:10-14

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve- 4:15 PM (Filipino Community)
and 10:15 PM (Schola)

Christmas Day- 8AM, 10:15 AM, 12:15 PM

Confessions will be heard at 10 AM on Saturday,
December 24 in the main church.

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.

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: FOURTH SUNDAY

OF ADVENT – "When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him." Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS WAFERS are available in the sacristy before and after Mass and at the rectory anytime. A donation of your choosing is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Grades 7-9– This 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.

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.

CAR DONATION PROGRAM- Did you know you can donate your car, truck, motorcycle or boat to Catholic Charities and help us help your Worcester County neighbors? It’s quick and easy to do. Just visit our website to donate your vehicle online at www.ccworc.org or call 1-888-CAR-7308 1-888-CAR-7308 to arrange a convenient pickup time and confirmation of your donation from Catholic Charities Donation Angel Program. The car in your driveway can help us to continue to offer many services to children, families and elders in our community so that they may regain home for a brighter future. Thank you!

SENIOR FRAUD HOTLINE- RSVP’s Senior Fraud HelpLine is a toll-free resource for seniors and their families to call when they are concerned that they are being targeted by scammers. If they are in doubt, they should check it out by calling 1-800-297-9760. Confidential. Knowledgeable. Local. Supportive.

Financial Report

This weekend we received \$12,069.40. We also received:
School Rent- \$73,543.75 Monthly- \$215.00
Restoration- \$225.00 Stipends- \$910.00
Holy Day- \$1357.00 Retired Religious- \$2038.00
Flowers- \$160.00

Total- \$90,518.15 Unrestricted– \$88,255.15 Restricted- \$2263.00

Expenses–11,561.84
Schola (1253.40) Altar (379.44) Christmas Flowers (1475.00) CCD (510.00) Administration (2175.36) Funerals (482.00) Envelopes (831.84) House (893.10) CYC Basketball (1400.00) Retired Religious (2038.00) Church Alarm (123.70)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$25 IMO Robert Sullivan; \$250 IMO Robert Connors; \$1000 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$712 IMO Fr Jim Hoey; \$5000 from Highland St. Foundation; \$50 IMO Brian McGrath; \$200 IMO John P. O’Loughlin; \$200 IMO John and Helen Horgan; \$200 IMO Mary E. Horgan; \$20 in thanksgiving to St. Anthony; \$500 IMO Justine Brennan, John P. and Rosemary T. Walsh, Joseph M. Brennan and Suellen Lamothe; \$50 IMO Eileen and Barry Woodward; \$500 IMO Steve Gagne; \$100 Imo Catherine Morrissey; \$40 IMO my Brother; \$100 IHO Fr. Madden; \$11,935 for the Annual Appeal

Food for the Poor:
Income- \$17,668.58
Expenses- \$12,458.24

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Paul Silas, Stuart Margolin, Michael Leach, George Carreau and Dino Danelli who have been born into eternal life.

... Welcomes Charlie Robert Bibaud and Cameron David Angers who have entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

WORD OF LIFE:

“With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst.”- Thomas Merton