

"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

Follow us on Instagram at STJOHNSWORCESTER

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

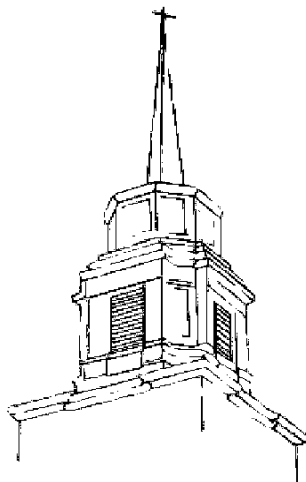
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

Sacristan

Dolores Vito

**Director of St. FX Center
And Facilities Manager**

Tim Dunn



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 18, 2023

4:15 PM **Paul Bresnahan (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 19, 2023

8 AM **Nancy Morgan (Birthday Rem.)**, req. by Residents at VAAH

10:15 AM **Donald Walczak**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Bernard Dowd (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Yolanda D'Elia**, req. by Family

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

Monday, February 20, 2023

6:15 PM **John Sofrin**, req. by Friends

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

6:15 PM **Jospeh Hickey**, req. by Friends

Thursday, February 23, 2023

6:15 PM **Lolita M. Catalan**, req. by Family

Friday, February 24, 2023

6:15 PM **Francis J (9th Anniv.) and Celia M. Polucha (Month's Mind)**, req. by Friends; **Lucy Kemunto-Obanyl (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family

Saturday, February 25, 2023

4:15 PM **Stanley Baronowski (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Friends; **Raymond A. Simoncini (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 26, 2023

8 AM **John Capuano**, req. by Dottie, Patty and Lorraine; **Joseph and Helen Gallatti**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Felicidad Oviedo and Eladio Murillo**, req. by Family; **Thomas P. Reynolds (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Paul Jackson (2nd Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Francis Joseph Zipple**, req. by Carole and Frank Carroll

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

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Today is the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. We will not celebrate another Sunday in Ordinary Time until June 18th. The reason being, of course, that this week we begin the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. On which, we will have Masses with the distribution of ashes at both 12:15 and 6:15 p.m.

In all candor, I am not a big fan that for many the focus of Ash Wednesday is limited to the ashes themselves. As one of my closest advisors likes to point out, at the Mass we hear the Gospel passage from Matthew in which Jesus instructs us "not to perform righteous deeds (almsgiving, prayer and fasting) in order that people may see them." Then the very next thing that we do is receive a mark on our forehead which announces to all who see us that we have begun forty days of performing righteous deeds. It opens us to the charge of "being like the hypocrites" which Jesus expressly asks us to avoid.

Conversely, then, I am a huge fan of the Season of Lent. For it is when we wash the ashes off our foreheads that the real work begins. We are not hypocrites, but we are sinners. We know that we are all in need of conversion. One of the significant blessings of the forty days, is that we undertake the penance together. An annual blessing for us at St. John's – for 100 years now – is the Novena of Grace in honor of St. Francis Xavier. Each year, at least part of March 4th to 12th, and usually all nine days, are in Lent. This year, not only is that true, but this includes two week-ends which only increases the communal aspect of the season for us.

It is important to note, too, that one of the most critical elements of a fruitful Lent is the time leading up to Ash Wednesday. We certainly want to hit the ground running. Indeed, we have always consider the time of preparation a necessary aspect of the season, as well. Similarly, what our teenagers and their families, our younger children and their families are doing now in Confirmation and First Eucharist classes will help to determine the fruitfulness of their celebration of the Sacraments themselves.

To that end, these past weeks of Ordinary Time has provided us with terrific preparation. The Sermon on the Mount, especially Jesus' six antithesis statements that we have heard the past two Sundays, remind us of the challenge that following Christ entails: *turn the other cheek as well; love your enemies; be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

This is going to take me more than forty days.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: *O Lord, I have trusted in Your loving kindness and mercy. My whole being rejoices because of Your salvation. And I will sing to You, for You, O Lord, have been good to me.*

Op.: #801 Lift Every Voice and Sing
Ps 103 "Bless the Lord, O My Soul."

Alleluia: *"Truly for those who keep the word of Christ, the love of God is perfected in them."*

Prep.: #743 To Love Just Those Who Love You
Eucharistic Accs.: # 365, 366, 367, 381

Comm.: #945 Taste and See

Cl.: #610 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

SUNDAY'S READINGS #1127 IN THE HYMNAL

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalm 119

1 Cor 3:16-23

Mt 5:38-48

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

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR NEEDED:

Seeking a motivated volunteer having a desire to assist the parish with outreach to parishioners and the wider community by managing our websites, social media accounts, and Flocknote email service. A basic knowledge of email, social media, and website design would be necessary, and training/support would be provided. Contact Fr. Madden at the rectory or at via email at frjohnmadden@gmail.com if interested. Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY Mass and distribution of Ashes will be at 12:15 and 6:15 PM on February 22.

THE 100th ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER begins on Saturday, March 4 and continues 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, except that on Saturday, March 4th and 11th there will also be Benediction and Novena Prayers at 2:15 PM. There are flyers at the entrances to the church with a full schedule of preachers. Novena booklets will also be available. All are welcome to attend.

VOCATION REFLECTION: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Cooperate with the Holy Spirit to discern God's will. Are you being called to serve the Lord in the consecrated life or priesthood? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6– Sunday, February 26 9-10 AM in the Church Hall

Grades 7-9– Sunday, February 26 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM in the Church Hall.

CONFIRMATION– Next class will be held February 21 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 not be held this weekend due to school vacation. Class continues next Sunday at 9:00 AM in the Xavier Center. The schedule of classes can also be found on the parish website.

FAMILY LENTEN REFLECTION– Religious Education is sponsoring a Family Lenten Reflection with prayer, music, and scripture Sunday, February 26 from 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM at the St. Francis Xavier Center. All ages are welcome. Lunch will be served.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2023

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 (Feb 26) through Trinity Sunday (June 4).

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 Friday of the Novena, March 10th.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, February 27. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY...

SAVE THE DATES - The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. Since the church is in the midst of a Eucharistic revival, St. John's will be offering an adult faith formation opportunity focused on the Eucharist and it's importance to us and our faith. The program consists of four sessions every other week meeting in the rectory according to the following schedule. Group one: Tuesdays at 4:30 PM on March 14, March 28, April 11 and April 25 or Group two: Thursdays at 7:00 PM on March 16, March 30, April 13, April 27. Each session will include a 45 minute media presentation from the Augustine Institute, the organization that offers Formed to parishes such as ours, followed by opportunity for sharing and discussion. For more information and to register for either group please contact Deacon Ed at his email : deacon.ed.02@gmail.com

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR FORMED.ORG.

AND DAILY 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.

CALENDAR RAFFLE BENEFIT - The Guild of Our Lady of Providence is sponsoring their second annual calendar raffle. The cost of the calendar for the month of March is \$10/31 chances to win \$100, \$50 or a gift card worth \$50. To purchase, call Jo-Anne Cronin at 508-842-1569. Proceeds assist the Guild in its mission to assist with the medical and educational needs in the Diocese of Worcester. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Financial Report

This weekend we received \$9412.00. We also received:

Monthly- \$516.00	Restoration- \$121.00
Stipends- \$950.00	Home Missions- \$454.00
CFP- \$78.00	Refund- \$60.00
Novena- \$2400.00	

Total- \$13,991.00 Unrestricted– \$13,416.00 Restricted-\$575.00

Expenses–\$13,051.33

Schola (1050.24) Clergy Benefits (1132.00) Funerals (176.40) Administration- \$3149.02) Envelopes (838.88) House (290.05) Church Electric (1332.26) Rectory Electric (1506.69) Home Missions (454.00) Novena (2400.00) Church Alarm (125.00) Office (596.80)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$83.69 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$515 IMO Judith Olson; \$200 IMO Jim McDonald; \$175 IMO Garry Power; \$540 from Our Lady of the Lake Parish; \$15 IMO Janice Sullivan

Food for the Poor:

Income- \$5038.69
Expenses- \$8606.23
Souper Bowl- \$1601.00
Annual Appeal- \$395.00

This Weekend's second collection is for the Earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Maria Remillard, Jo Raquel Welch, Conrad Dobler, James McCarver, Colleen Montalvo, George Alachoyan, Robert Zemaitis, John Benoit, Joseph Monfredo and Judith Griffin who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Owen Michael Marino and Emme Linh Cosme who have entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

WORD OF LIFE:

“Our sanctification did not depend upon changing our works, but doing for God's sake that which we commonly do for own...”

God regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.”

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection