

*"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](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org)

**Food for the Poor Website** [www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org)

Follow us on Instagram at STJOHNSWORCESTER

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
[frjohnmadden@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Music Ministry**

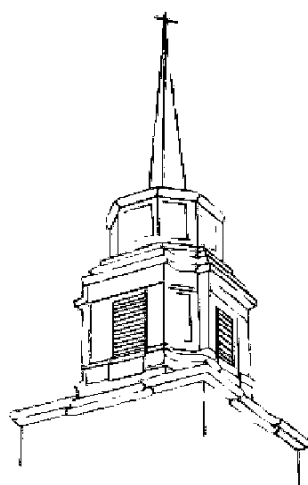
Edward Lally, Director  
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

**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](mailto: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 and  
Sacrament of Confirmation for  
adults (18+)**

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 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 & 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

#### Monday, February 27, 2023

6:15 PM **Wolf Wolfensberger**, req. by Friends; **Thomas P. Reynolds (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

#### Tuesday, February 28, 2023

6:15 PM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Family

#### Wednesday, March 1, 2023

6:15 PM **Deacon Paul Pizzarella**, req. by Friends

#### Thursday, March 2, 2023

6:15 PM **Alice & George Haddad**, req. by Family

#### Friday, March 3, 2023

6:15 PM **Joann Brosnan (4th Anniv.) and Irene Kelley**, req. by Family

#### Saturday, March 4, 2023

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

7:15 PM **Gaetano Corso**, req. by Family

#### Sunday, March 5, 2023

8 AM **Bernadette Lajoie**, req. by John Foley; **Susan Wright (14th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Mary and Kevin Carroll**, req. by Family; **Joseph and Julia Senkowski, Christine Plouffe**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Emilia Garofoli (15th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Brian Campbell (17th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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,

Clearly, I stand corrected. Last week, I expressed a less than enthusiastic attitude toward Ash Wednesday based on people overemphasizing the receiving of the ashes and not giving the necessary attention to doing the actual work of penance that the ashes symbolize. However, after the Masses on Wednesday, my attitude changed dramatically. This year's Lenten season began in a most positive manner. The Masses were well attended – some of the biggest crowds since the pandemic – and, given the spirit in the church, the Spirit was clearly present. As well, as always, was the Real Presence of Christ. An additional and critical reality is that we were together, not only physically, but spiritually. We are all aware of how divide the world and even the church is at present. Therefore, it is important that we undertake our Lenten mission united as God's children.

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent focus on an aspect of life here on earth that is ever present and challenging – temptation. The evil one, who comes in many forms, is good at his mission and committed to it. Whatever form is taken, the message he delivers is the same: *You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil.* Yet, Jesus models the means of resisting the temptations which come into our lives. We are to rely upon God's Word and God's support; to worship and to serve God alone. To do so, we must – unlike Adam and Eve – support one another.

One thing that I mentioned last week which is correct, is the unique blessings that we have at St. John's in the Annual Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier. All blessings come because of the love and mercy of God. The unique blessings which come during March 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> each year are due to Xavier's sanctity and intercessory power, the length and continuity of the Novena, and the large number of us gathered together to pray. For me, the Novena verifies the truth of this reflection from Harold Gardiner, S.J. (like Xavier a member of the Friends of Jesus):

*The ultimate goal and purpose of Lent is not penitential. To be sure, Lent means or connotes penance. It entails a certain amount of abstaining from food and drink. It suggests some curtailment of other normal pleasures. Its vestments and liturgy are keyed to the tone and color of sorrow and compunction. But the fruit of all the Lenten observances is not the spirit and practice of abnegation in itself. Such spirit and practice are but means to an end, and the end is a deepening spirit of union with Christ in His passion and death, of union with Him in the period of His earthly life when He, the source of all holiness, merited superabundantly the graces which would sanctify the Church, His mystical body, and us, its members. The ultimate goal and purpose of Lent is not precisely penitence but holiness.*

A Blessed Lent,  
Fr John Madden

## ***FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT***

### **THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS**

Int.: *"When you call on Me, I will answer. I will be with you when you are in trouble. I will save you and give you glory. I will content you with a long life; I will show you My saving power."*

Op.: #957 Grant to Us, O Lord

Ps 51 "O God, in your Goodness."

Alleluia: *"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

Prep.: #459 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 217, 370, 311

Comm.: #690 On Eagle's Wings

Cl.: #461 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

### **SUNDAY'S READINGS #1127 IN THE HYMNAL**

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Psalm 119

Rom 5: 12-19

Mt 4: 1-11

**LIVE STREAMING MASSES** can now be accessed through our parish website, [stjohnsworcester.org](http://stjohnsworcester.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*

### **THE 100th ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

begins next 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.

### **HOLY HOUR DURING LENT IN WORCESTER**

at St. Christopher Church, 950 West Boylston Street in Worcester on Wednesdays beginning March 1 from 6 - 7 pm. This Holy Hour will consist of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Prayer, and Benediction. All are welcome to come as your schedule allows.

### **MEN'S CONFERENCE ON MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> AT ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY**

-Tickets are \$50.00 for adults and \$30.00 for students, but prices go up March 13<sup>th</sup> to \$65.00 per adult and \$30.00 for Students. To register and for more information visit [catholicmen-worc.com](http://catholicmen-worc.com).

### **VOCATION REFLECTION: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT-**

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the state in life God has prepared for you? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or by sending an email to [dinfante@saintpaulknights.org](mailto: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 March 7 from 6:15-8 PM. Class is held in the chapel and church hall and includes Mass.

### **CLASSES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION**

**AND FIRST EUCHARIST** continues this weekend 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 \$7445.89 We also received:

Online- \$9471.47	Monthly- \$2256.00
Restoration- \$293.00	Earthquake Relief- \$790.00
Stipends- \$540.00	Free Press- \$535.00

**Total-** \$21,331.36 Unrestricted– \$20,248.36 Restricted-\$1083.00

**Expenses**–\$29,826.35

Schola (932.40) Altar (592.50) St. Francis Novena (4471.64) CCD (1215.50) State Payroll Taxes (1091.72) Administration (4430.53) Funerals (76.40) Haitian Apostolate (562.00) Lithuanian Donation (530.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (6501.66) Earthquake Relief (790.00) Diocesan Budget Bill (8632.00)

**FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS:** \$150 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 IMO Paul Bresnahan; \$25 IMO John Quinlivan; \$75 IHO Kansas City Chiefs; \$200 IMO Gary Power; \$150 IMO Julie Shea; \$200 IMO Judith Griffin

### **Food for the Poor:**

Income- \$8521.64  
Expenses- \$4656.51  
Annual Appeal- \$6031.07

There is one collection this weekend. Next weekends second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

### **Our Parish Community...**

...Offers prayers and condolences to the family of Diane Barriere who has been born into eternal life.

### **WORD OF LIFE:**

**"Heaven is filled with converted sinners of all kinds, and there is plenty of room for more."**

**St. Joseph Cafasso**