

"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

Assisting Priest

Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Eduardas Meilus

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

Music Ministry

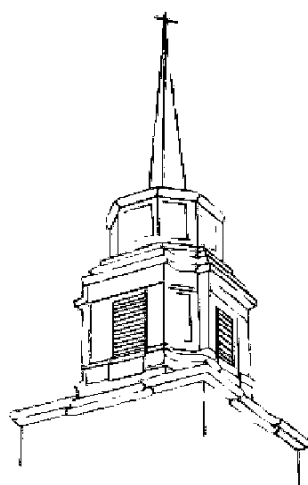
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

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

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, March 18, 2023

4:15 PM **Carl P. Steele (6th Anniv.)**, req. by Family;
Fr. Mike McEwen, req by Richard Ciambrone and Mary Piecewicz

7:15 PM **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. O'Coin**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 19, 2023

8 AM **Lucy Trepkus Thompson (47th Anniv.)**, req. by daughter Barbara

10:15 AM **Donna Mulcahy (4th Anniv)**, req. by Family; **Robert and Rita O'Leary**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **William A. and Margaret Riggieri**, req. by Family; **Kathleen Donahue Jones (5th Anniv)**, req by family

7:15 PM **Joshua and Sophia Kozaczka**, req by family; **Joseph Collins**, req. by Family

Monday, March 20, 2023

6:15 PM **Tony Sacovitch**, req. by Dianne Gustowski

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

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

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

6:15 PM **John Tomlinson**, req. by Family

Thursday, March 23, 2023

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

Friday, March 24, 2023

6:15 PM **Joshua Kozaczka (Birthday Remembrance.)**, req. by Family; **John F. Dowd, Sr. (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Saturday, March 25, 2023

4:15 PM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Judith Daley (14th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 26, 2023

8 AM **Ginny Atkinson**, req. by Barbara Thompson; **Chad Rossi and Rudolph Gaudette**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Teresa Canizares and Jaime Meneses**, req. by Family; **Henry S. Kozlowski (30th Anniv.)**, req. by Children

12:15 PM **Allen Piper, Thanksgiving for Rose Finnigmeiseu and Paul Casey**, 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,

Today's Gospel passage comes from the ninth chapter of the Gospel according to John. It is the story of the Man Born Blind. It is the second of three long stories that dominate the middle of the Lenten Season. Last week, you may recall, was the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. Next week, we will hear the story of the Raising of Lazarus. Fr Raymond Brown, S.S., who was considered by many as one of the most prominent American Biblical Scholars, especially in regard to the Johannine writings, opined that these three stories combine to reveal the fundamental and important teachings of the Christian faith. The stories are about forgiveness, suffering and resurrection. This is the reason behind the liturgy recommending the use of these Cycle A readings during the other two years when the catechumens are present.

Last week, we heard how the unorthodox, unexpected and intimate encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well unfolded in such a way that she was able to see her need to be saved. The Lord's honest and loving presence also enabled her to experience the redemptive mercy of God. It changed her life.

Today, we hear of another unorthodox, unexpected and intimate encounter. This one is between Jesus and a man born blind. As the question of his disciples, which opens the story, indicates, at the time any and all suffering was considered to be the consequence of sin – *Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?* Jesus sees things differently – *Neither he nor his parents sinned, it is so the works of God may be made visible through him.*

The truth is that whatever form suffering takes when it comes into our lives, it blinds us. We are unable to see the goodness of God or our dignity and value as a child of God. *But the Lord said to Samuel... 'Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.'* Only with God, who loves us unconditionally and sacrificially, can our eyes be opened to the divine light through the darkness of our suffering.

The annual Partners in Charity Appeal is underway. Our parish goal this year remains at \$76,600. To date we have gifts and pledges in the amount of \$20,385 – a great start. I thank those who have given and the many of you who will, as always, support this diocesan effort.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Int.: "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her! Let all come together who love her. You who were mourning over her, now can rejoice with her in gladness! Exult and be filled from her abundant breasts, and be satisfied with the comfort of her bosom."

Op.: #707 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Ps 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

Gospel Acclamation: "I am the light of the world, says the Lord: whoever follows me will have the light of life."

Prep.: #976 He Healed the Darkness of My Mind

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

Comm.: #584 Christ, Be Our Light!

Cl.: #650 Amazing Grace

SUNDAY'S READINGS #1136 IN THE HYMNAL

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalms 23

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41

LIVE STREAMING MASSES can now be accessed through our parish website, 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 IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS will be sponsoring a virtual information night on Thursday afternoon, March 21 @ 4pm. Please post this announcement in your parish bulletins on Sunday, March 12 and Sunday, March 19. In New England we currently have 53 volunteers assisting 30 non-profit organizations, schools, and parishes. Contact Dave for further information at dhinchen@ivcusa.org.

2023 VISITATION HOUSE ANNUAL DINNER -

We are excited to announce that Visitation House is hosting its Annual Fundraising Dinner on Thursday, April 27 from 5:30 - 9:00 pm at the Tsotsis Ballroom at Assumption University in Worcester. This event presents an opportunity for us to gather once again to raise funds to support homeless pregnant women in need of a safe harbor while preparing for childbirth and transitioning into motherhood. \$100 per person. Tables for 10 at \$1,000. Beer and Wine Cash Bar, Seated Dinner, Visitation House Presentation; keynote by Kailee Perrin, Silent Auction. For more information, visit our website www.visitationhouse.org/annual-dinner-2023.

VOCATION REFLECTION: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

– "...if someone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him." Are you being called to do the deeds of Christ as a priest or in the consecrated life, proclaiming the reign of the loving mercy of God our Father? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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

CONFIRMATION– Next class will be held March 21 from 6:15-8 PM.

CLASSES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

will not meet this weekend.

Classes will resume next weekend.

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.

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.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR FORMED.ORG. AND DAILY REFLECTIONS ?

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.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, March 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

THE HEARTWELL INSTITUTE OF WORCESTER is offering a free, vacation-week workshop for high schoolers and their family members. Adults and teens will spend time together and apart during the workshop, learning ways to de-stress, have easier communication, and enjoy relationships more. Join us as we learn to meditate, dance, do yoga, make art, and form deep bonds. Dinner is included! Five-session commitment, Monday through Friday, April 17th-21st from 3-7 PM. Space is limited so call today to reserve your space 774-243-6800 or email us at info@heartwellinstitute.org. This program is made possible through a generous grant from the Reliant Foundation.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE - The annual Mass for Life will be celebrated by Bishop Robert J. McManus on Friday, Mar. 24 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral of St. Paul. All are invited to join students from our Catholic schools who will be our special guests. The Diocese of Worcester's annual Pro-Life Awards will also be presented at this Mass. All are welcome to attend!

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA PARISH in Worcester has a few seats available for their pilgrimage to Northern Poland and Lithuania from June 30 to July 13, 2023. For more information please contact Christine at 508-865-9390 or visit www.oleworcester.com.

Financial Report

This weekend we received \$10,224.00. We also received:

Monthly- \$202.00	Restoration- \$222.00
Candles- \$429.00	Stipends- \$485.00
Novena- \$17,096.00	Flowers- \$40.00
Free Press- \$78.00	

Total- \$28,737.00 Unrestricted– \$28,515.00 Restricted- \$222.00

Expenses–\$8186.96

Schola (2349.99) Altar (45.00) Administration (2609.02) Church Electric (1356.60) Rectory Electric (1320.35) Latin America (381.00) Church Alarm (125.00)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$25 IMO

Eileen Woodward; \$250 IMO William Kasper; \$20 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$200 IMO M. Eileen Russell; \$100 IMO Anna Cullen; \$270 IMO Leo Tivnan; \$100 IMO John Trumpaitis

Food for the Poor:

Income- \$3450.00
Expenses- \$5497.03

There is one collection this weekend. Next week-ends second collection is for Catholic Relief Services.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Anthony Teixeira, Kathleen (Kay) Quinlivan, Earvin Johnson, Sr., Harry Grant, Jr., Richard Fosbury and Jesus Maria Rojas Alou who have been born into eternal life.

WORD OF LIFE:

“God wishes us to be meek even toward ourselves. When a person commits a fault, God certainly wishes him to humble himself, to be sorry for his sin, and to purpose never to fall into it again; but he does not wish him to be indignant with himself, and give way to trouble and agitation of mind; for, while the soul is agitated, a man is incapable of doing good.”

St. Alphonsus De Liguori