

"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

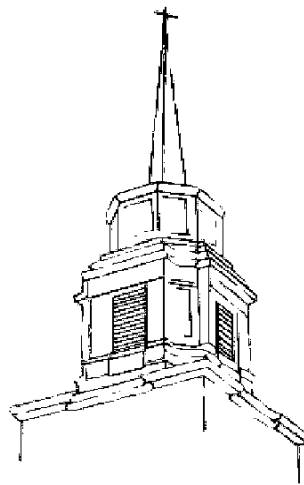
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

Sacristan

Dolores Vito

**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, September 2, 2023

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

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

Sunday, September 3, 2023

8 AM **Thomas Foley**, req. by John Foley; **Frances and David Vautrain**, req. by Niece Barbara

10:15 AM **Jose and Natividad Catalan**, req. by Cecilia Catalan

12:15 PM **Michael Gonsalves**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joshua & Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family

Monday, September 4, 2023

6:15 PM **Richard J. Nolan**, req. by Frank and Carole Carroll

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

6:15 PM **Carol Gambol, Tanya Vasalofsky and Judith Czajkowski**, req. by Family

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

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

Thursday, September 7, 2023

6:15 PM **Robert A. Olson, Jr.**, req. by Frank and Carole Carroll

Friday, September 8, 2023

6:15 PM **Anthony, Anna and Olga Kersis**, req. by Family

Saturday, September 9, 2023

4:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

7:15 PM **Deacon Michael Chase**, req. by Friends

Sunday, September 10, 2023

8 AM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Friends

10:15 AM **Stase Vaitkunas**, req. by Daughter; **Kathleen Loftus**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Joseph James Donovan, Sr. (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joshua & 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 2022/2023 fiscal year ended on Thursday, August 31st. The parish account ended with a surplus of \$97,786.58. The Food for the Poor account's surplus was \$7,403.83. Both are testaments to the generosity and kindness of the people of St. John's and our friends. Thank you.

As we begin the 2023/2024 fiscal year, I have a concern. As reported previously, the lease with the Worcester Public Schools for the use of St. Casimir's School ended on June 30th. This constitutes a loss of around \$100,000 of income. Therein is my concern. I am meeting this week with the Finance Committee. We will be reviewing the last fiscal year's report and discussing the present fiscal year. I am sure you will be hearing from me shortly afterward. Again, thank you all for your support of our faithful and wonderful Christian community.

Today's Gospel passage continues with one of the critical periods in the relationship between Jesus and the apostles. It includes both Jesus' first prediction of his passion and his presentation of the conditions of discipleship. The latter is not the first presentation but it is the most expansive. In that regard, the demands these conditions place on those who would follow him are made clear: *Whoever wishes to follow me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

Admittedly, I have become increasingly preoccupied by the decline in religious practice in the United States, specifically in Worcester County. Obviously, I am not the only one. Clearly, nearly everyone reading this bulletin is concerned, as well. Wisely, we are addressing this challenge. This month's book club selection and our discussion promises to shed some light on ways that we can respond. Fortunately, we have already been proactive in responding to the situation. An increased social media presence will bear fruit, especially as we grow our efforts. Indubitably, however, a major factor in the decline is related to the conditions of discipleship. Our patron, John, recounts: *Then many of his disciples who were listening said, 'This saying is hard; who can accept it?'* Paradoxically, this is the very reason for our hope. The decline in religion has been accompanied by an increase in addiction, suicide and life's various pandemics.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. There is no question, then, that the decline will be reversed. Perhaps not in my lifetime or yours. Nonetheless, we continue on in preparation when people will follow Paul's advice: *Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.*

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1172 IN THE HYMNAL

Jer 20:7-9
Psalm 138
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

LIVE STREAMING MASSES will continue on the Parish Facebook Page 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 AND ADULT CONFIRMATION – any person over 18 who is interested in receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist is welcome to join our RCIA program. We will begin the Inquiry phase on Monday, October 2 at 7:00 PM in the rectory. Please call or email the rectory with any questions and to register. Thank you.

PARISH CHOIR– The Music Ministry at St. John's is proud to announce that the Parish Choir is coming back this fall! Anyone who was previously a member or would like to join new, please contact Ed Lally edlallycc@gmail.com. No prior experience is necessary, just a love of music and willingness to learn. All are welcome.

THE SCHOLA CANTORUM OF SAINT JOHN'S returns from Summer break next Sunday at the 7:15 PM Mass. You can hear this group of amazing singers every Sunday evening at the 7:15 PM Mass where they will add beauty to our Catholic Liturgy.

VOCATION REFLECTION: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” Are you being called to be a priest or deacon, brother or sister? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION- The 2023-2024 Religious Education schedule and registration information is up on the parish website. If you are willing to volunteer for Religious Ed, please indicate so on the registration form. Please reach out to Dianne at dhgustowski@gmail.com with any questions.

CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB – the monthly book club will meet on Monday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. We will discuss *Why They Follow: Lessons in Church Communication from that One Lost Sheep* by Matthew Warner. A vital topic for the future of the parish. If you would like to have a copy of the book, we only have a few left, please notify the rectory and arrange a pick up time.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH ETHNIC POTLUCK DINNER - St. John's Social Committee will be holding an Ethnic Potluck Dinner with Entertainment (by Mr. Magic) to be held on Saturday, September 9th following the 4:15 Mass at the St. Francis Xavier Center. The Committee is asking parishioners to bring an ethnic dish to share with your fellow parishioners. A sign-up sheet has been placed on a table in the back of the church. All are welcome.

BUS TRIP TO ST. THERESA'S SHRINE AND WRIGHTS CHICKEN FARM – On Thursday, October 19, we will celebrate the 100th year of the shrine in Burrillville, RI. The cost is \$40.00 a person and includes round trip coach to the Shrine and to Wright's Chicken Farm for an all you can eat Lunch which includes Salad, Pasta, Chicken, French Fries, Rolls & Butter, Coffee and Dessert. Seats are limited, if interested send cash or check payable to St. John's Church, by October 1st. We will leave the church parking lot at 10: 30 AM and return by 5:30 PM. The Vatican stated “plenary indulgence is available to all those who visit the Shrine during the Centennial Year.” If you have any questions call Judy Burke (508) 478-9813

THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will resume meeting on Wednesday Sept 13 at 9:30 -11:00 am in the downstairs chapel. If you knit or crochet or want to learn, we would love you to come! All are welcome! If you have any questions please call Connie at 774-262-2512. Can't wait to see you!

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS - On Friday, Sept. 8 from 7 - 8 pm, a Holy Hour to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. The holy hour consists of time for silent Adoration, a short reflection, the Rosary, and Benediction. Please join us to pray for our priests. Repeats every second Friday of the month.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, September 25. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

FAMILIES SEEKING FAMILIES TO JOIN THEM FOR FAM BAM (BREAKFAST AFTER MASS) -

Come and share some donuts, coffee, and fellowship with other young families in our St. John's Parish after the 8AM Mass on September 24, 2023. We will have breakfast food and activities for the kids so that parents and children alike will be able to socialize! We look forward to seeing you there!

A MULTI-CULTURAL HEALTH FAIR will be held on Saturday, September 9 from 9am – 2pm at Fuller Family Park and next door at the YMCA and adjacent parking areas. UMass Memorial Health and the YMCA have been collaborating on this exceptional project. The goal is to create a starting point for accessing care in a fun, family environment that will hopefully break down some of the barriers that currently exist.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA AT OUR LADY OF LORETO CHURCH IN WORCESTER - Our Lady's Annual Miraculous Medal Novena begins on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7:00 pm and continues for nine consecutive Tuesday nights, ending on Oct. 31st. Mark the dates and plan to come and bring a friend. This year's speakers (in order) are: Rev. Lucas Laroche, Rev. Jonathan Slavinskas, Bishop Robert McManus, Rev. Richard Polek, Rev. Kenneth Cardinale, Deacon Donald Pegg, Deacon Paul Audette, Rev. Frederick Fraini and Rev. Paul O'Connell.

THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN EVERYDAY LIFE, a 30-week directed prayer experience will begin on September 26, 2023, at St. Peter's Church in Worcester, Ma. More information and an application form are available at IgnatianSpiritualExercisesworcester.com or by sending an email to worcspex19@gmail.com. Applications are due by Sept 7th. For more information please feel free to call Dick Kirk at (508) 887-0107.

Financial Report

This weekend we received \$8038.00. We also received:

Online- \$5655.00 Stipends- \$170.00

Total- \$13,863.00 Unrestricted- \$13,863.00 Restricted- \$0.00

Expenses- \$17,826.24

Administration (3688.49) Schola (649.40) Altar (649.65) State Payroll Taxes (1316.86) Church Gas (21.00) Rectory Gas (59.39) Stipends (590.00) House (771.82) Advertising (220.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (7944.60) Lithuanian Donation (1060.00) Postage (143.07) Eastern Europe (424.00) Preserve the Flame (387.00)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$135 IMO Bonnie Lemoine; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$16 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$250 IMO Paul Wright; \$40 IMO Kathleen Loftus; \$150 IMO John Bowler; \$20 IMO Kathleen Roy; \$25 IMO Richard Meagher; \$50 IMO William Kennedy; \$150 IMO Christopher and Patrick Johnson

FFTP Income- \$7116.61

FFTP Expenses- \$5482.37

This weekend's Second Collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Kathleen Roy, Kathleen Sargent, Robert Barker, Patrick Corrales, and Gil Brandt who have been born into eternal life.

WORD OF LIFE:

"Do not seek to be regarded as somebody, don't compare yourself to others in anything. Leave the world, mount the cross, discard all earthly things, shake the dust from off your feet."

St. Barsanuphius