

"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

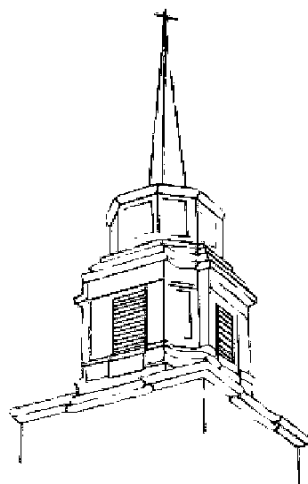
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

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, December 2, 2023

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; Birthday Blessings for Jonelle Garofoli**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

Sunday, December 3, 2023

8 AM **Carol Santa Maria**, req. by Family; **John Capuano (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Wife

10:15 AM **Jack Shea (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Teresa Canizares and Jaime Meneses**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Adelina Gilardez (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Stephen Gagne (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Thomas J. Walsh (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Grandson Thomas Vancelette

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

Monday, December 4, 2023

6:15 PM **Hector Roman**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

6:15 PM **Brian McGrath (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Paul and Mary Skowronski**, req. by Family

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

6:15 PM **Leo Tivnan**, req. by Ursula Arello

Thursday, December 7, 2023

6:15 PM **Conrad O'Donnell and Rollin Rickard**, req. by Family

Friday, December 8, 2023

6:15 PM **Frank and Sue Roland**, req. by Family; **Raymond Lussier**, req. by Wife

Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:15 PM **John and Ruth Kucharski**, req. by Family; **Raymond P. Turgeon, Sr.** req. by Wife Ann Marie and Sons

7:15 PM **Leah and Therese Derr**, req. by Friends and Family

Sunday, December 10, 2023

8 AM **Joseph and Lorraine Pulsifer**, req. by Mastrovito Family

10:15 AM **Patricia Gaudette**, req. by Family; **Robert Kett**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **John and Mary Jane Trainor**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joshua & Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Eunice White (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

During the week, I was reflecting on what to write in this column as we begin a new liturgical year and the Season of Advent. Perhaps something on the Gospel of Mark which is being presented to us this year. Perhaps something on our growing and intentional effort to invite, welcome and greet more people into our wonderful Christian community. Then, our Instagram page offered the following reflection from Eric Clayton, Deputy Director of Communications for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States:

For a handful of minutes on a highway in North Carolina, we thought we might start putting up Christmas decorations the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Then we hit traffic — and then we hit traffic again — and that dream vanished. It was all we could do to simply unload the car when we finally reached our driveway. I shook my fist at those neighbors whose homes already glistened with sparkly, colorful lights.

The very next morning, I woke up early thinking about Christmas cards. Specifically, sending them. What photos would we use? How many did we need? How did people manage to get their cards mailed before Thanksgiving?

My mind wandered to the Christmas gifts we still need to buy (read: all of them) and the two dozen or so traditions we need to cram into a meager four weeks. And, well, I never did fall back asleep.

It's easy to get overwhelmed during this most wonderful time of the year. It's tempting, too, to rush through these Advent days, checking items off our lists while telling ourselves that the main event is Christmas. Once we bake the cookies and wrap the presents and figure out which light on the strand is out, then we'll focus on welcoming the baby Jesus and our in-laws and whomever else decides to show up on December 24th.

Here's the thing: Jesus is coming anew at Christmas. We know this. But Christ is also already here in our midst.

Christ is there in the mall Santa and the Christmas carolers and that hopelessly tangled pile of Christmas lights. Christ is there when you bake your cookies and select your gifts and grumble about having to visit that one specific relative. Christ is in the faces on Christmas cards you receive (and send!), and Christ is there when you watch your favorite holiday movie.

But do we see Christ? Do we take the time to allow Christ to see us in these traditions? Or, are we moving too fast — too focused on checking items off of our lists, on getting it all in? Do we shrug and say, "Those are secular traditions. Christ has no time for them!"

Or, do we ask Christ to really help us manifest the joy that we so earnestly sing about sharing with the world, recognizing that God's delight can touch us in the most surprising of places? That God can speak to us both through the Nativity scene and a handful of gingerbread crumbs?

I invite you to pray with this notion during these Advent days. I invite you to seek out Christ in surprising places, to allow God to speak to you in all your holiday prep. To help you along the way, our community of writers will be sharing reflections on their own holiday traditions, on how they encounter God present in even the silliest of Christmas activities.

For more reflections like this go to [Jesuits.org/weekly](https://www.jesuits.org/weekly).

Happy Advent, Fr John Madden

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance Song: Christ Is Surely Coming #860
Psalm 80

Resp: "Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face
and we shall be saved"

Offertory: Creator of the Stars of Night #405

Communion Chant: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel."

Sending Forth: Awaken, Sleepers #393

TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1002 IN THE HYMNAL

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

1 Cor 1:3-9

Mk 13:33-37

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 per-
son over 18 who is interested in receiving the Sacra-
ments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist is
welcome to join our program. Please call or email the
rectory with any questions.

VOCATION REFLECTION: FIRST SUNDAY OF

ADVENT - "They shall beat their swords into plow-
shares and their spears into pruning hooks...." If you
think that God is calling you to serve the Lord of the
harvest as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact the
Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or
email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY IN FLOCKNOTE

for a variety of PRE-MADE resources from various
publishers for FREE weekly and periodic messages to
help your prayer and reflection during the season of
Advent.

PLASTIC BAG DONATIONS are always needed for
the St. Francis Xavier Center. Anyone who would like
to donate can do so by dropping them at Mass, the rec-
tory or at the Xavier Center. Thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6– Next class is Sunday, December 3 at 9
AM in the church hall.

Grades 7-9– Next class is Sunday, December 3 at
11:15 AM in the church hall.

Confirmation– Next class is Tuesday, December 12
starting with Mass in the Chapel. Registration is
closed.

MASS GREETERS NEEDED – along with our
"Bring a Family or Friend to Mass" effort, we are hop-
ing to have greeters at every Mass. It would be terrific
to have every person entering St. John's receive a per-
sonal welcome. If you are interested, please contact
the office with your email address and the Mass(es)
you prefer. The Last Monday of the Month group will
be in touch with you regarding scheduling.

**MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATION DEAD-
LINE APPROACHING!** - There's still time to regis-
ter for the bus trip to the 51st annual March for Life in
Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024! Buses will
leave from St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, Jan. 18
following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will
travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immac-
ulate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Fri-
day morning Mass followed by the March for Life at
noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately fol-
lowing the March, arriving back at St. Paul at approxi-
mately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20. Cost is \$125
per seat. Registration deadline is December
15. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-
first-served basis. For more information please con-
tact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311 or email
aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org. Can't attend this year
but want to help? Consider making a donation that
will help defray expenses for our students who want to
attend but might otherwise find it difficult to do
so. Thank you!

CAROLING AND COOKIES IN WORCESTER

Join the Emmaus Ministry on the front steps of St.
George Church for Caroling, Cookies, and Cocoa
on Sunday, December 3 beginning at 6:00 pm with
Caroling followed by Cookies & Cocoa in the Church
Hall. "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is sing-
ing loud for all to hear." – Buddy Questions? please
call 508-854-0864 or
email emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, December 18. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR IN LEICESTER- The New 2 You Thrift Shop/Furniture Gallery will be holding its third Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 9 from 9 am -3 pm at 759 Main St. Leicester. Enjoy a full day of shopping offering amazing discounts and a chance to win a Holiday Centerpiece. Take a chance on a variety of Raffles including \$400 & \$100 worth of scratch tickets, toy raffle table, 50/50, and more! We will also have crafts and games for children, face painting, and Christmas caroling performed by the Leicester High School Chorus. Join us for lunch offering homemade meatball subs & french fries, chicken nuggets, popcorn & baked goods. And don't forget your cameras for a chance to take your picture with Santa!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR IN CHARLTON- St. Joseph Parish in Charlton will host a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in St Joseph Church Hall, 10 H Putnam Road, Charlton. Free admission, free parking, food, baked goods, crafters, raffles, theme baskets, kids corner, music and Martha's closet. Santa will be in attendance!

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT- If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Worcester. The report can be made by phone, contact Judy Audette, Victims Assistance Coordinator, (508) 929-4363 or in writing, and sent to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$8483.00. We also received:
Monthly- \$247.00 Restoration- \$40.00
Donation- \$35,000.00 Stipends- \$330.00
Online- \$9202.92 Payroll Xfer- \$5349.88

Total- \$58,652.80 Unrestricted- \$53,262.92 Restricted- \$5389.88

Expenses- \$35,655.59

Altar (112.85) CCD (511.65) House Repairs (1020.00) Administration (9484.18) Schola (1453.64) House (478.67) Rectory Cable/Phone/Internet (516.40) State Payroll Taxes (1354.04) Federal Payroll Taxes (8236.36) Stipends (640.00) Funerals (152.80) Haitian Apostolate (1060.00) Lithuanian Donation (530.00) Diocesan Budget Bill (9438.00) Preserve the Flame (592.00)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$235 IMO Daniel O'Sullivan; \$100 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 for Thanksgiving Baskets; \$20 IMO Geraldine O'Donnell; \$512 from Filipino Thanksgiving Party; \$65 IMO Robert Deres; \$2500 from Holden Turkey Trot; \$20 IMO Dorothy Eggleston

Food for the Poor

Income- \$5619.75 Expenses- \$11,350.57

This weekend's second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

YEAR TO DATE— in November, we had a cash surplus of \$20,394.20. Our year to date surplus is \$20,380.19. Thanks for your great generosity to our parish.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Michael Jackson, Danielle Hamalainen and Henry Kissinger who has been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Adam Alamoula, Jonathan Peter Massad, Jr. and Carter Jude Madden who have entered the Catholic Community through the Waters of Baptism.

WORD OF LIFE:

"You never go away from us, yet we have difficulty in returning to You. Come, Lord, stir us up and call us back. Kindle and seize us. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love. Let us run."

St. Augustine