

"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

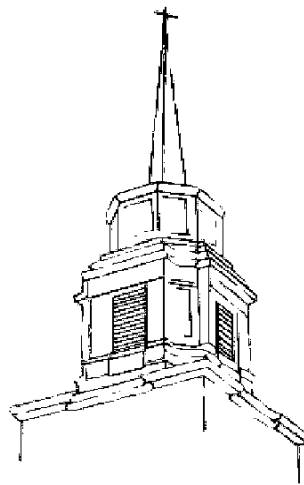
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

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 30, 2023

4:15 PM **Daniel E. O'Sullivan**, req. by Marje and Paul Korpinen; **Vincent Richardson, III**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Mary Ellen and Hazel Devlin, William and Dottie Devlin**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8 AM **John F. Madden, Jr. (30th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Otilia Martinez and Oswaldo Molina**, req. by Family; **Stephanie LeBlanc and Brad Lange**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Billy Hinson, Jr. (2nd Anniv.) and Dolores (11th Anniv.) and Edward Dacri (39th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joshua and Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **John Long (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Wife and Family

Monday, January 1, 2024— NEW YEAR'S DAY

6:15 PM **Paul Letsky**, req. by Family

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

6:15 PM **Henry J. Rafferty and Family**, req. by Family

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

6:15 PM **Tawny Hilton**, req. by a Friend

Thursday, January 4, 2024

6:15 PM **Gaetano Corso**, req. by Friends

Friday, January 5, 2024

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

Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; Health and Intentions of Steve Smajkiewicz**, req. by Friends

7:15 PM **Robert Hegan**, req. by Family

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8 AM **Ann Degan**, req. by Mastrovito Family

10:15 AM **John J. (66th Anniv.) and Claire K. Healy (41st Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Marth (Ruth) Shea and Leon (Frank) DesRosiers**, req. by Family; **Thomas Okomo**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **John Sofrin**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Many thanks to the many people that made our Christmas joyful and meaningful.

Our Christmas giveaway party was a lot of fun. We had more boots, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletries and children's toys than ever before. We are grateful for all who donated and those who came to assist with the giveaway. We ranged in age from 6 to over 60 and all were a great help. Finally, it is always the gratitude of our friends who come to celebrate with us that resonates most deeply. Our liturgies, beginning with the Fourth Sunday of Advent and, of course, the Masses on Christmas, were precious. The big crowds are great. We could all benefit from spending more time in church. Given that hope is increased as our numbers rise, let's keep encouraging family and friends to join us more regularly. After all, it is the people that make the difference. To that end, our deepest thanks go to Dolores and her team who, with only a couple of hours to work with, created a beautifully decorated sanctuary which deepened our worship. Likewise to Eddy and the music ministers who, along with the liturgical ministers raised us up.

You may recall that at the beginning of Advent I shared a reflection from Eric Clayton which a friend had sent me from Jesuit.org. It was extensive. In fact, someone commented, "I enjoyed the encyclical." As we prepare to begin a new year and contemplate our resolutions, the same friend sent me another reflection from Clayton, the Deputy Director of Communications for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Like the previous one – and his job title – it is long and helpful. So, I signed up for the weekly reflection. Still, I will edit his essay:

*There's a phrase in the Ignatian tradition that flies under the radar: agere contra. It doesn't get quite the same amount of press time as magis or contemplatives in action or discernment or people for others. But it's an essential spiritual practice, one that Ignatius himself writes about in the *Spiritual Exercises*.*

Quite simply, it means to act against. Ignatius invites us to identify those points of vulnerability in our spiritual lives – patterns of behavior, bad habits, personal insecurities or doubts – to name them, and then to, in short, overcompensate in order to strengthen them. For example, if we find ourselves constantly falling asleep during our time of prayer, Ignatius recommends that we double our prayer period and do so standing up.

We act against that which prevents us from encountering the joy and delight God desires to shower upon us. We act against those pernicious tendencies through which the enemy of our human nature might sow seeds of darkness.

As we continue our journey through Christmas and the New Year, what might we consider acting against in our own spiritual life? What simple, ordinary ways might we choose to train this spiritual muscle? And how might God be trying to shower us with joy and delight as a result?

In Christ's Peace, Fr. John Madden

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES FROM ALL OF US AT ST. JOHN'S!!!

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance Song: The First One to Know #441
Psalm 105

Resp: "The Lord remember His covenant, His covenant for ever."

Offertory: Now Let Your Servant Go in Peace #872

Communion Chant: *"Be Happy! Be Happy! Christ has come to us today. Be Happy! Be Happy! Of the Virgin Mary born."*

Sending Forth: Go Tell It on th Mountain #428

TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1017 IN THE HYMNAL

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:22-40

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS- Since the January 1st Holy Day falls on a Monday the obligation is lifted. We will have the regular Sunday schedule for the Feast of the Holy Family on Saturday, December 30 and Sunday, December 31. The 6:15 p.m. Mass on Monday, January 1 will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

VOCATION REFLECTION- FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - "I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." If you feel God is offering you the gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life as a sister, brother, or consecrated virgin, talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or send an email to dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

INVITE SOMEONE TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!- So many messages during the Christmas Season are about coming home, being with family and friends. Consider inviting someone with you and your family to Mass and experience the joys of the Christmas Season. It could be the greatest gift you give this year!

CYC BASKETBALL- High School Boys CYC Basketball season is here for boys ages 14-18! Please email or call Coach Ray Mattress if you are interested. The season starts in Early January. We are ready to start practicing. Coach Mattress can be reached at 508-612-6007 or raym577@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6- Next class is Sunday, January 7 at 9 AM in the church hall.

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

Confirmation- Next class is Tuesday, January 9 starting with Mass in the Chapel.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST REGISTRATION - Students in grade 2 and older are invited to register for classes to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Classes begin on January 7, 2024 from 9:00-10:00 at the Xavier Center. You can access the registration form and schedule for the classes on the St. John's Church website. Please note: If you child is currently attending religious ed classes you will need to fill out a separate registration for the sacrament classes. Registration will close on 12/31/23. If you have any questions, feel free to email Donna Mastrovito at mastrovito21@gmail.com or call at 508 450 8639.

THE ST. RAFQA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will be meeting on Wednesday January 10 from 9:30-11:00 AM in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to come. We have yarn and needles. We can teach you how to knit! Any questions please call Connie at 774-262-2512!

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2024 MEN'S CONFERENCE - Tickets are now available for the 2024 Worcester Catholic Men's Conference which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Worcester's DCU Center. The early availability is for those who may wish to purchase tickets as Christmas gifts! Tickets are only \$50 for Adults and \$30 for Students and can be purchase online at catholicmen-worc.com or by calling (978) 537-3016.

PRO-LIFE MORNING OF REFLECTION – JANUARY 13 - All are invited to attend a Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment on Saturday, Jan, 13 from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. The day will include reflections by Msgr. James Moroney, Mass, and light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, send your name, parish, and email address to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org, or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on Monday, January 22. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE IN WORCESTER– Come support American Heritage Girls Troop 0716! We are having a bottle & can drive! Bring your empty redeemable bottles and cans to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Loreto parking lot at 33 Massasoit Rd. Worcester on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 9am-Noon. Please support our troop!

JANUARY PRO-LIFE MASS - All are invited to join Bishop McManus for the annual Mass for Life on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. Please join us to pray for and with our pilgrims who will be travelling to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life on Jan. 19, and to pray for an end to abortion and the conversion of our nation. All are welcome!

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 \$8932.00. We also received:

Online- \$8629.63	Payroll Xfer- \$5349.88
Stipends- \$1275.00	Donation- \$2500.00
Free Press- \$39.00	Christmas- \$11,811.00

Total- \$38,536.51 Unrestricted- \$33,186.63 Restricted- \$5349.88

Expenses- \$36,917.93
House (2695.54) Administration (7267.96) Schola (1703.40) Altar (111.50) State Payroll Taxes (1716.86) Funerals (482.00) Church Gas (1334.53) Rectory Gas (1632.26) Haitian Apostolate (530.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (5212.88) Plowing Contract (3200.00) Diocesan Budget Bill (10,625.00) Preserve the Flame (406.00)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$600 IMO Justine Brennan, John P. Walsh, Rosemary T. Walsh, Joseph M. Brennan, Suel-len LaMothe and Ronald Hewett; \$25,000 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$2500 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$250 from a friend; \$85 from a friend; \$10,000 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$500 IMO Frank Wolochowicz; \$100 IHO Frank Carroll; \$100 IMO of Stanley and Bernice Rutkowski; \$150 IMO Robert Connors; \$50 IMO Eileen and Ralph "Barry" Woodward; \$125 IMO Nolan Miller; \$500 IMO George Bailey; \$100 IMO Daniel O'Sullivan; \$500 IMO Stephen Gagne; \$550 IMO Ann Marie Rushford; \$50 IMO John "Jack" Navin; \$8000 from Hoche-Schofield Foundation; \$2000 from Laurant Charitable Foundation; \$500 IMO Charlene Kinneavy; \$1552.36 IMO Peg, Bill and Jack McKenna and Bob Mangaudis; \$46 IMO Jack Navin; \$1000 from the Francis A. Ford and Shirley A. Doyle Fund; \$5000 IHO Albert and Carol LaBelle

Food for the Poor

Income- \$40,786.26 Expenses- \$21,958.16

There is one collection this weekend. Monday's Collection will be for the Solemnity of Mary.

YEAR TO DATE: In December, we had a cash operating loss of \$12,351.13. This leaves our cash operating gain for FY23/24 at \$8,015.06. Thank you for your continued generosity to St. John's Church.

WORD OF LIFE:

"If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family."

St. Teresa of Calcutta