

"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

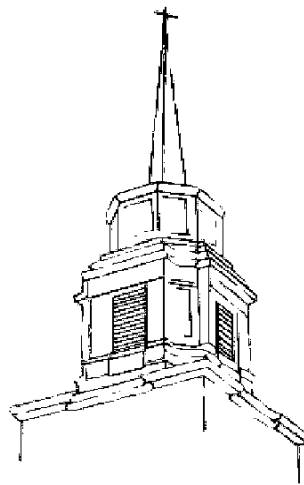
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

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, February 17, 2024

4:15 PM **Joseph and Julia Senckowski and Christine Plouffe**, req. by Family; **Joseph Ginkus, Jr. (6 Mo. Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family; **Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 18, 2024

8 AM **Donald Walczak**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Paul Bresnahan (2nd Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **John Kalagher**, req. by Bill & Karen

7:15 PM **Mary M. Morrissey**, req. by Dave Young

Monday, February 19, 2024

6:15 PM **Patrick Gowaski**, req. by Carole Ann and Frank Carroll

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

6:15 PM **Siobhan (1st Anniv.) and Bernard (2nd Anniv.) Dowd**, req. by Family

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6:15 PM **Paul Jacques**, req. by Alfred Roy and Sons Funeral Home

Thursday, February 22, 2024

6:15 PM **Judith Ann Hayden**, req. by Carole Ann and Frank Carroll

Friday, February 23, 2024

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

Saturday, February 24, 2024

4:15 PM **Christopher J. Shea**, req. by Nicolas Garry and Katelyn Comptois

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

Sunday, February 25, 2024

8 AM **Joseph and Helen Gallati**, req. by Family; **Michael Smith**, req. by Mastrovito and Povec Families

10:15 AM **Ann "Nancy" Beaudet (4th Anniv. And 90th Birthday Rem.)**, req. by Husband and Children

12:15 PM **Paul F. Jackson (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Thomas Reynolds**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Friends

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

Lent 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Jesus is calling us deeper." That reminder of our three-year National Eucharistic Revival is intended to "renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist" (www.eucharisticrevival.org). That call of renewal through a deepened relationship with Christ is particularly apt in this season of Lent.

We have begun our forty-day journey of deepened prayer, more frequent penance, and greater charity. We embark on the journey because we are sinners in need of and called to repentance by Jesus Christ. Lent's annual journey also prepares us for the fruitful celebration of the Paschal Mystery—from the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and His Passion and Death on Good Friday to his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The forty penitential days of Lent derive from Jesus' forty days of prayer and fasting in the desert. They also call to mind Moses' forty days on Mount Sinai during the forty-year journey of the Israelites through the desert to the Promised Land.

During that long journey, the Israelites were sustained by the manna which each night came down from Heaven to nourish and strengthen the people. Centuries later, Jesus would say, "I am the living bread which comes down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread that I give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6: 51). Just as the Israelites would not have made it to the Promised Land without the manna from Heaven, we cannot complete the journey of life to Heaven without the nourishment of Christ in the Holy Eucharist ("unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" [John 6: 53]).

In addition to Lenten penances and almsgiving, please consider going to weekday Masses and making visits to the Church outside of Mass to adore the Lord whether reserved in the tabernacle or exposed in the monstrance. Through a greater Eucharistic devotion, we will appreciate, even more, Christ's presence to us, the graces He offers at every Mass, and the peace and comfort of a prayerful visit to Church. Thus, nourished and strengthened, we will be better equipped to meet life's challenges, reflect God's love, and make progress on our journey to Him.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance Song: Jesus, Lead the Way #715
Psalm 25

Resp: "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to
those who keep Your covenant."

Offertory: The Kingdom of God #720
Sanctus: #304B

Mystery of Faith: #217C

Breaking of the Bread: Angus Dei #311B

Communion: On Eagles Wings #690

Sending Forth: Lord, Who Throughout These
Forty Days #461

TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1028 IN THE HYMNAL

Gn 9:8-15

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

VOCATION REFLECTION - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - "I establish My covenant with you." If in your listening to the Lord you are sensing the invitation to follow Christ as a priest, sister, or brother, talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

THE SOUPER BOWL was not as exciting as the Super Bowl, but it helped more people. Thank you for your generous donations that totaled \$1,319 and will help those who come to us for physical and spiritual nourishment each weekday. May you be abundantly blessed in return.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the **St. Francis Xavier Center**.

ONTO THE NEXT 100 YEARS- The 101st annual Novena in honor of St. Francis Xavier begins Monday, March 4 and runs through Tuesday, 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 9th there will be Benediction and Novena Prayers at 2:15 PM. There will be flyers at the entrances to the church with a full schedule of preachers. Novena booklets will also be available. All are welcome to attend.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6- Next class is Sunday, February 25 at 9 AM in the church hall.

Grades 7-9- Next class is Sunday, February 25 at 11:15 AM in the church hall.

Confirmation- Next class is Tuesday, February 27 starting with Mass in the Chapel.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST REGISTRATION - Classes continue this weekend from 9:00-10:00 at the Xavier Center. If you have any questions, feel free to email Donna Mastrovito at mastrovito21@gmail.com or call at 508 450 8639.

THE HALLOW APP- Have you ever struggled in your prayer life and found yourself wanting to strengthen it, especially during the season of Lent? Well this year we are very fortunate to offer all parishioners access to the @hallowapp for the 40 days of Lent. You will have access to all of the wonderful resources Hallow offers and you can learn more about the app and prayer at our Kickoff to Lent event. Join us Monday February 12th after the 6:15 PM mass for a short 20 minute presentation on prayer and a Q&A with one of the Hallow Parish Team members. Come and enjoy some fellowship, prayer and snacks and make this your best Lent ever!

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2024

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. Easter Duty Obligation must be made from the first Sunday in Lent (Feb 26) through Trinity Sunday (May 26).

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 8th.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated Monday, February 26. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

ST. JOHN'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE is hosting a bus trip to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge on Sunday, April 14th. The cost is \$55 per person which includes round trip on coach bus, dinner at the Golden Corral in Springfield (all you can eat buffet, coffee, tea or soft drinks, dessert, tax, & all gratuities are included). The Bus will leave St. John's at 11 AM and return around 7 PM. Dinner will be around 4:30 PM at the restaurant. To reserve seats, make checks payable to St. John's Church and either mail or drop off at the rectory. Include your telephone number, first and last names of who will be attending and put in envelope, attention Judy Burke. Checks need to be in by April 01. Any questions call Judy at 508 478-9813.

2024 CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE-

Saturday, March 16th at DCU Center in Worcester. Speakers include James Wahlberg, the "Dynamic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Michael Nicholson, former St. John's Asst. Principal & current Principal of Xaverian HS. Join other men from throughout the state and renew your faith during the lenten season. Tickets can be purchased online at catholicmenworc.com or email our parish contact BobSpellane@gmail.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FREE PICKUP OF DONATIONS-

The society of St. Vincent de Paul of Worcester County is now offering free curbside pick-up of clothing, shoes, books and household items. To schedule a free home pick-up, visit svdpworcester.org and click on "How You Can Help" tab, then "Schedule a Home Pick-Up." Or contact our partner (CMRK) at 508-474-8966. The funds received go to help our neighbors in need with services including food, clothing, rent and utilities.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$6174.00. We also received:

Free Press- \$78.00

Stipends- \$425.00

Total- \$6677.00 Unrestricted- \$6677.00 Restricted- \$0.00

Expenses- \$11,390.54

Altar (727.85) Schola (1603.64) Administration (3564.00) Funerals (305.60) Offering Envelopes (908.36) Church and Rectory Cleaning Supplies (1894.35) Church Electric (837.75) Rectory Electric (1254.76) CCD Books (46.35) House (126.41) Office Supplies (121.47)

FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS: \$30 from a friend; \$5000 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from the Little Franciscans of Mary

Food for the Poor

Income- \$5310.00

Expenses- \$20,502.73

Annual Appeal- \$50.00

This weekend's second collection is for the Catholic Free Press.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Donald Gullett and Dennis Hayes who have been born into eternal life.

WORD OF LIFE

"In this life no one can fulfill his longing, nor can any creature satisfy man's desire. Only God satisfies, he infinitely exceeds all other pleasures. That is why we can rest in nothing but God."

St. Thomas Aquinas