

*"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](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org)

**Food for the Poor Website** [www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
[frjohnmadden@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnmadden@gmail.com)

**Associate Pastor**

Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice

**Deacon**

Eduardas Meilus

**Coordinators of  
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**Music Ministry**

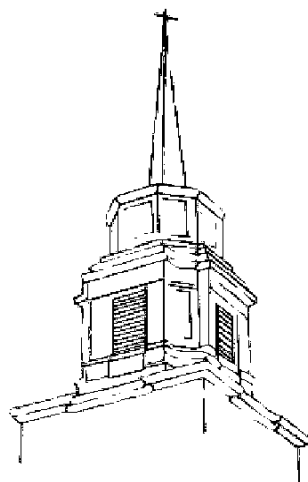
Edward Lally, Director  
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

**Sacristan**

Dolores Vito

**Director of St. FX Center  
And Facilities Manager**

Raphael Mesadieu



**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](mailto: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, March 16, 2024

4:15 PM **Carl Steele (7th Anniv.)**, req. by Family;  
**Christopher J. Shea**, req. by Comptois and Garry Families

7:15 PM **Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family;  
**Christopher Bruce**, req. by Friends

### Sunday, March 17, 2024

8 AM **Lucy Trepkus Thompson (48th Anniv.)**, req. by Daughter Barbara; **Patricia Tammi**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Donna Mulcahy (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Fr. Mike McEwen and Josephine Leber**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Nicole Kalagher (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Juozas, Janina and Joseph Miliauskas**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Birthday Blessings for Rosita Tinnigsmieh**, req. by a Friend

### Monday, March 18, 2024

6:15 PM **Health and Intentions of Gail McAuliffe**

### Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:15 PM **Robert Trottier**, req. by Carole Anne and Frank Carroll

### Wednesday, March 20, 2024

6:15 PM **Bill Pugliese, Jr. and Genevieve and Bill Pugliese, Sr.** req. by Family

### Thursday, March 21, 2024

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

### Friday, March 22, 2024

6:15 PM **John Tomlinson**, req. by Family; **Roberto Parra (14th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

### Saturday, March 23, 2024

4:15 PM **Lolita M. Catalan**, req. by Family; **Shawn Rand (2nd Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joshua and Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Lolita Catalan (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

### Sunday, March 24, 2024

8 AM **Rudolph Gaudette and Chad Rossi**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Debra Saucier (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **John Kalagher**, req. by Bill and Mary; **Richard W. McCluskey**, req. by Carole Anne and Frank Carroll

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

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The Novena of Grace has been referred to as the Annual Lenten Retreat of the Diocese of Worcester. It is an accurate description. This year was, as always, a wonderful and spiritual experience. I thank all of you who, along with many of our friends from around the area, made the retreat. We owe special thanks to Dolores and the liturgical ministers, Eddie and the Cantors, Bobby and the collectors for their efforts that allow the nine days to proceed seamlessly. I mentioned on the last day that it is bittersweet when the Novena comes to an end. Fortunately, we have another retreat just ahead of us. Next weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and the beginning of Holy Week; which I have referred to it – every year – as the Annual Retreat of the Universal Church. My parents were very devout (my mother still is!) and we always went to church on the Triduum. It probably had to do with being in church on a Thursday and Friday, but it struck me how special and important time it was and is. I found it, then and still, particularly amazing that Christians all over the world – including young children with their families – gather to celebrate the great mystery of our salvation, even on a Thursday and a Friday!

**Our Holy Week schedule is:**

**March 23/24 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion – regular weekend schedule.**

**Tuesday, March 26 – Mass of Holy Chrism – St. Paul's Cathedral 10:30 a.m.**

**Holy Thursday, March 28 – Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:15 p.m.**

**Good Friday, March 29 – Downtown Way of the Cross – leaving St. John's at 12 noon**

**Commemoration of the Lord's Passion – 7:15 p.m.**

**Holy Saturday, March 30 – The Easter Vigil – 7:30 p.m. (There is not a 4:15 p.m. Mass on Holy Saturday)**

**Easter Sunday, March 31 – 8 and 10:15 a.m., 12:15 and 7:15 p.m.**

This weekend is special, too, as they all are. The 10:15 a.m. Mass is the Sending Mass for the Confirmation Class. We are sending them to St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, April 7 to be confirmed by Bishop McManus. I have met with almost all of them – just three more need to be scheduled – and they are a terrific group of young people. To a person, they say that they are more ready and willing to be confirmed now than when they started the year. I think that is a good sign.

Then at the 12:15 p.m. Mass we will celebrate the Third and final Scrutiny with the five parish members who will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Deacon Ed and I agree that this has been an outstanding group. They have been serious and committed throughout the process. One of them even became a father for the first time recently.

In Christ's Peace, Fr John Madden

## ***FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

### **THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS**

Entrance Song: The Lord Is My Savior #691  
Psalm 130

Resp: "With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption."

Offertory: O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life  
Sanctus: #304

Mystery of Faith: #217 Save us, Savior of the World  
Amen: Danish #370

Breaking of the Bread: Angus Dei #311

Communion: Grant to Us, O Lord #957

"Grant to us, O Lord, a heart renewed; recreate in us  
Your own Spirit, Lord."

Sending Forth: From Ashes to the Living Font #463

### **TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1039 IN THE HYMNAL**

Ez 37:12-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45

### **VOCATION REFLECTION – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

– "Jesus went away to a secluded place and prayed." If you are seeking greater simplicity of life and a closer following of the Lord in prayer and action, consider that He may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or via email [dinfante@saintpaulknights.org](mailto:dinfante@saintpaulknights.org).

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY** – to date, we have received gifts and pledges totaling \$30,399. toward our parish goal of \$76,600. Sincerest thanks to all those who have donated to this critical diocesan appeal.

**SAVE THE DATE**– September 23, 2024 St. John's will host the First Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Food for the Poor Program at Sterling National Country Club. Keep an eye out for registration info soon!

**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 including the Pray40 challenge in which a number of parish members and friends are participating. Hallow is the # 1 Catholic prayer app in the country. There is still time to join us and help this be your best Lent ever!

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**First Communion**– Next class is Sunday, March 17, 9 AM in the Xavier Center.

**Grades 1-6**– Next class is Sunday, March 24 at 9 AM in the church hall.

**Grades 7-9**– Next class is Sunday, March 24 at 11:15 AM in the church hall.

**Confirmation**– Next class is Tuesday, March 26 starting with Mass in the Chapel.

**CONFIRMATION SENDING MASS** will be this weekend at the 10:15 AM Mass. Students should meet in the hall at 9:45 AM.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** is Sunday March 24, 11:15 am in the rectory. Children up to 6th grade are welcome with an adult.

**THE LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY** is happy to announce that the Kaziuko Muge- St Casimir's Fair will be held on Sunday March 24, 2024 from noon to 5:00 PM at Maironis Banquets 52 So. Quinsigamond Ave in Shrewsbury, MA. Crafts, baked goods and other delicacies, lottery and a traditional Lithuanian meal of sausages, sauerkraut, Kugelis, or baked chicken (available for \$20) will be waiting for you. All are welcome!

### **LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2024**

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence for all who have completed their 14<sup>th</sup> 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

## In Our Catholic Community...

**OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING** – will be celebrated Monday, March 25. 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### **SPRING MORNING OF REFLECTION FOR WOMEN**

- The Guild of Our Lady of Providence will hold its' spring Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 23 from 9 AM to Noon at Phelan Center at Blessed Sacrament Church, 551 Pleasant St., Worcester. Sister Francis Murphy SNDdeN will present a talk on "Inspirational Women Transforming Others Through Their Love of God". A donation of \$10 would be appreciated. To make reservations send your donation, your name, address, phone number, and email address to Patricia Matthews, 144 Moreland St. Worcester, MA 01609 or call Jo Luikey at 508-450-0478 *by Friday, March 15*. Checks should be made payable to the Guild of Our Lady of Providence.

### **IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS INFO SESSION**

- The Ignatian Volunteer Corps connects adults (50+) with opportunities for flexible volunteer service in their communities while offering support in the spirit of St. Ignatius of Loyola. IVC will be hosting a virtual information session with a special appearance of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM, of Loyola University basketball fame, on Thursday, March 21 at 3:30 pm. To register, contact the IVC offices @ [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org), or contact IVC New England ([newengland@ivcusa.org](mailto:newengland@ivcusa.org)) for more information.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$8835.00. We also received:

Donations- \$2342.42                      Stipends- \$1325.00  
Easter Flowers- \$125.00

Total- \$12,627.42 Unrestricted- \$12,627.42 Restricted- \$0.00

Expenses- \$9,677.11

Altar (392.00) Schola (2728.87) Funerals (450.00) Administration (3206.40) Stipends (300.00) House (65.19) Religious Ed (115.94) Church Electric (865.88) Rectory Electric (1302.83) Advertising (250.00)

**FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATIONS:** \$200.00 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50 IMO Cheryl Overs; \$242.50 from Worcester Railers; \$100 Imo Thomas Chviruk; \$5000 from the Spillane Charitable Fund; \$200 IMO David Zglobicki; \$50 Imo Jack O'Connell; \$200 IMO Joe and Irene Capurso

### **Food for the Poor**

Income– \$4226.07      Expenses- \$10,432.96

Annual Appeal- \$500.00

This weekend's second collection is The Catholic Relief Services offering.

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Patricia Healy, Patricia Ferarro, Steve Hyjek, Stephen Anderson, Eric Carmen and Robert Leardi who have been born into eternal life.

## WORD OF LIFE

**“God’s delays are mysterious; sorrow is sometimes prolonged for the same reason for which it is sent. God may abstain for the moment from healing, not because Love does not love, but because Love never stops loving, and a greater good is to come from the woe. Heaven’s clock is different from ours.”**

**Bishop Fulton J. Sheen**