

*"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**

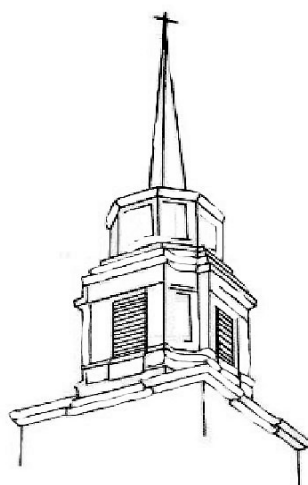
Edward Lally, Director  
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

**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, February 22, 2025

4:15 PM **Joseph Ginkus (2nd Anniv.)**, req. by Family;

**Edward Lindberg (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

### Sunday, February 23, 2025

8 AM **Joseph and Helen Gallati**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Patricia Casavant**, req. by Marie Bilzerian;

**Teresa Pozo and Jessica Lara**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Paul F. Jackson (Birthday Remembrance)**,

req. by Linda Jackson; **Lolita and Gil Catalan**, req. by

Family; **Edward Mallaghan (Month's Mind)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Health and Intentions of Isabella**

**Vancelette**, req. by Family; **Dolores Souza (10th**

**Anniv.)**, req. by Daughter Karen

### Monday, February 24, 2025

6:15 PM **Eladia Ferrer**, req. by Cecilia Catalan

### Tuesday, February 25, 2025

6:15 PM **Jose Montalban**, req. by Cecilia Catalan

### Wednesday, February 26, 2025

6:15 PM **Olga Kersis**, req. by Friends

### Thursday, February 27, 2025

6:15 PM **Bridget Opara**, req. by a Friend; **Wolf**

**Wolfensberger**, req. by Family

### Friday, February 28, 2025

6:15 PM **Frank Carroll**, req. by Family; **Katherine**

**Poor**, req. by Family

### Saturday, March 1, 2025

4:15 PM **Richard and Gail Gully**, req. by Family; **All**

**Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of**

**F.O.S.S.**

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

**Wilbur**, req. by Friends

### Sunday, March 2, 2025

8 AM **Ernie and Bernie Lajoie**, req. by Family; **Elliot**

**Smith and William Gildauskas**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Thomas Reynolds (13th Anniv.)**, req. by

MariFamily; **Jay Eager (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Mary Cadogan (5th Anniv.)**, req. by

Family; **Anthony P. D'Elia (58th Anniv.)**, req. by

Family

7:15 PM **Thomas Shaughnessy (18th Anniv.)**, req. by

Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

We welcome two guests this weekend, one is a familiar friend and the other a new friend:

My thanks to Fr. Steve Gemme for returning to St. John's and filling in for me at the 10:15 and 12:15 Masses. I know everyone always enjoys Fr. Steve and he enjoys being at St. John's. Blessings to you, my brother, especially in your important work at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Our new friend is Jacob King. He has travelled from Maine to represent the Hallow app. As you know, we at St. John's have entered into a partnership with Hallow, the number one Christian prayer app on the internet. To date, over 80 people are in our community group on Hallow. Jacob is going to speak after communion at the Sunday Masses and then assist those who would like to join Hallow. He will speak more in depth in the church hall after the 12:15 Mass. He will offer assistance to us who will be participating as a community in the Lent Pray 40 Challenge beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5. In addition, we will have access to other prayer challenges throughout the year. Welcome Jacob and thanks for your help.

Since we are always seeking to grow closer to the Lord, Lent is always well timed. This is also why the Mass readings leading up to Ash Wednesday are always helpful in our preparation for the penitential season. This is especially true this year as we hear passages from Luke's Sermon on the Plain. I suspect like many of you, I have grown increasingly frustrated with our elected officials – all of them. For too many years now, Washington has been more like a boxing ring than the seat of government. The primary focus has been on revenge and retaliation rather than leading and governing. This is true of both political parties. It is not a good situation. It does need to change.

Those of us who believe that Jesus Christ is the way and the truth and the life are uniquely called by this change that is so desperately needed. Today's Gospel passage is clear about this call:

*Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners and get the same amount back. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them...*

Jesus is right. His teaching is not easy, but it is the way to the truth and to life.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr John Madden

## ***THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

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

Entrance Song: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven #610

Psalm: 103 Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Resp: "The Lord is kind and merciful"

Offertory: Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord #661

Communion: Taste and See #945

Sending Forth: Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grave #697

### **TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #103 IN THE HYMNAL**

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

1 Cor 15:45-49

Lk 6:27-38

### **VOCATIONS REFLECTION – SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

- "I give you a new commandment says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you." Are you being called to strengthen His body through a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or send an email to donato.infante@gmail.com.

**THE FILIPINO CHOIR** will sing at the 4:15 p.m. Mass this Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. All are invited to a reception in the St. Francis Xavier Center immediately following the Mass.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**– Masses with the Distribution of Ashes will be held on Wednesday, March 5. Because this happens to fall during our Novena of Grace, Mass times are 9:15 AM, 12:15 and 6:15 PM. All are welcome to attend.

**THE 102<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER** will take place Tuesday, March 4 through Wednesday, March 12th. Masses will be celebrated weekdays at 9:15 AM, 12:15 and 6:15 PM. The weekend Mass schedule remains the same. On Saturday March 8 there will be Benediction and Novena Prayers at 2:15 PM. There are flyers at the entrances to the church with a full schedule of preachers. Novena booklets will be available at all Masses as well. All are welcome to attend.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Grades 1-8** Sunday, February 23, 9 AM in the Church Hall.

**Confirmation** 2/25 6:15-8 PM in the church hall.

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST REGISTRATION**

- Classes continue this Sunday from 9:00-10:00 AM at the Xavier Center. You can access the registration form and schedule for the classes on the St. John's Church website. If you have any questions, feel free to email Donna at mastrovi-to21@gmail.com or call at 508 450 8639.

**CHAIR YOGA** continues this Tuesday, February 25 at 5 PM. Please note there will be no Chair yoga on Tuesdays March 4th and the 11th. Our new Beginners Spring Chair Yoga class starts on Tuesday March 18th, all are welcome! Only \$5 for an hour of Body, Mind and Spirit!

**OUR COFFEE SHOPPE** is open for business after the 10:15 AM Mass every Sunday. Please stop by for both social and physical nourishment. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to RoxAnn Gusar (508-769-0187) or Dan and Deb Donovan (508-735-9345). All are welcome! **Please note there will be no Coffee Shoppe on March 9 due to the Novena of Grace.**

### **LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2025**

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 (March 9) through Trinity Sunday (June 15).

### **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 7th.

### **In Our Catholic Community...**

#### **OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING**

will be celebrated on Monday, February 24. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

#### **VENERINI ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE**

Discover the Venerini difference at one of our open houses. We are a leading Pre K3-Grade 8 private Catholic school in Worcester. Open house dates are 2/26 5-7 PM, 3/4 4:30-6 PM and 3/12 6-7:30 PM. To register or for more info please call 508-753-3210 or visit [veneriniacademy.com](http://veneriniacademy.com).

#### **DIOCESAN 75TH ANNIVERSARY MASS ON MARCH 2 AT 3 PM**

- All are welcome to St. Paul Cathedral as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Worcester which was established on March 7, 1950. Mass will be Sunday, March 2 at 3:00 pm. A light reception will follow in the Cenacle. We look forward to seeing you there!

**VIANNEY DINNER** - The next Vianney Dinner is Tuesday, March 4 at Our Lady of Hope Parish at Saint James Church, 89 Main St, South Grafton. The evening begins with 6 pm Mass, followed by 6:30 pm dinner, and 7:00-8:30 pm social. These are nights for men, high school aged and up, interested in learning more about a priestly vocation. Don't want to come alone? Bring a friend! An RSVP is not needed but it is helpful in getting an accurate count for food. Please Email [donato.infante@gmail.com](mailto:donato.infante@gmail.com).

**ESL CLASSES IN WORCESTER** - ESL Classes are offered on Monday & Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm at St. Bernard's Church, 228 Lincoln St., Worcester. Second Semester runs January 20 - April 23. \$40 Registration for adults; Free for teenagers. For more information, contact Meghan O'Sadnick at [mosadnick@olpworcester.org](mailto:mosadnick@olpworcester.org).

### **Financial Report**

Last weekend we received \$4765.00. We also received:

Free Press- \$407.00  
Stipends- \$130.00  
Donations- \$25,000.00

Total- \$30,302.00 Unrestricted- \$30,302.00 Restricted- \$0.00

Expenses- \$16,681.99

Altar (108.15) State Payroll Taxes (1802.76) Federal Payroll Taxes (1096.34) Rectory Drain Repair (747.50) Lithuanian Donation (530.00) Schola (578.44) Administration (3811.66)

**Food for the Poor Donations** - \$400 from a friend; \$150 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 IMO Cirilio and Matilde Varies; \$50 IMO Thomas Ziccardi; \$100 IMO Kathleen Shea

#### **FOOD FOR THE POOR:**

Income- \$850.00  
Annual Appeal- \$125.00  
Expenses- \$5071.74

This weekend's second collection is for the Church in Latin America

### **Our Parish Community...**

...Offers prayers and condolences for the family of Peter Bisnette, Denise Salmon and Scott Sauerbeck who has been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Magnus Jeffrey Zottoli who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

### **WORD OF LIFE**

**"Walking by faith, let us do good works. In these let there be a free love of God for His own sake and an active love for our neighbor. For there is nothing we can do for God. But because we have something we can do for our neighbor, we shall by our good offices to the needy gain the favor of Him Who is the source of all abundance. Let us then do what we can for others; let us freely bestow upon the needy out of our abundance."**

**St. Augustine**