

"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

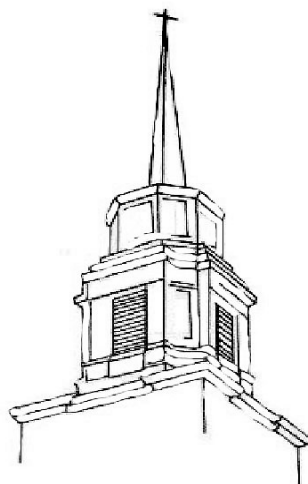
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

Sacristan

Dolores Vito

Director of St. FX Center

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

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, August 16, 2025

4:15 PM **George (7th Anniv.) and William**

Comptois, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Jacquelynn Utton**, req. by Friends;

Sophie Kozaczka, req. by Family

Sunday, August 17, 2025

8 AM **Kathleen Sirick**, req. by Friends; **Anthony Mastrovito**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Dominic Lam Nguyen**, req. by Family;

Ellie Gaudette, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Celeste Butcher (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Pat Riley and Kathy

Evans; **Robert Henry, Martha Santom, Henry and Angela Gorak**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Paul Benoit**, req. by Family

Monday, August 18, 2025

6:15 PM **Unborn Children of the Lapierre and Almeida Families**, req. by Family

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

6:15 PM **Raymond "Butch" Gleason**, req. by Family

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

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

Thursday, August 21, 2025

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

Friday, August 22, 2025

6:15 PM **Todd Wales**, req. by Al and Sue Johnson

Saturday, August 23, 2025

4:15 PM **Lolita Catalan**, req. by Family; **John Michael Cahill, Jr. (8th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Sunday, August 24, 2025

8 AM **Joe and Joan Crowley**, req. by Family; **Sharon Mercadante**, req. by Bob and Donna Mastrovito

10:15 AM **Timothy Scavone, Sr. and Timothy Scavone, Jr.**, req. by Family; **Teresa Canizares and Jaime Meneses**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Birthday Blessings for Matthew Garofoli**, req. by Family; **Health and Intentions of Isabella Vancelette**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Blanca Ortega**, req. by Friends

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

I have come to set the earth on fire and how I wish it was blazing!

Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?

No, I tell you, but rather division.

These words from Jesus in today's Gospel passage are not what we usually hear from him. Therefore, they can be more than a bit shocking to us. We prefer to tend toward his more familiar and comfortable sayings:

Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

We know that there is no duplicity in him so these sayings cannot conflict with one another. Then, what is the explanation? The first thing that helps is to remember the context. Today's Gospel verses follow immediately last week's Gospel passage. In it, as you remember, Jesus calls his followers to not be anxious or afraid, but to gird our loins, light our lamps and be vigilant as we await the Masters return. Then concludes:

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.

The Scripture scholars help us in pointing out that fire purifies. The verse today reminds us that Jesus brings the purifying fire of judgment to his preaching. We know that this message meets even to this day with acceptance and rejection and is a source of conflict and dissension even within families. What becomes clear to the Lord is that this reality will be the source of not only his own suffering and death, but that of any who will follow him faithfully. It is critical that we recognize that this dissension and subsequent suffering is not intentional on his part, but the tragic consequence of a fallen world which he obediently accepts as he fulfills the Father's will. Then and still, offers every grace we need to be faithful, as well..

These consequences are being experienced all over the world today. Most notably, in Ukraine and Gaza. Less notably, but as horribly, in Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, the Sahel Region, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Nagorno-Karabakh and Yemen, as well. Not to mention the challenges in our own nation, city and homes. We know that with the gift of faith we have been entrusted with more. We know this means we are required to share the redemptive power of Jesus' sacrificial and purifying love.

We, too, wish it would blaze now. Yet, we know the mission is not easy. Often we feel as though we have done so little and even have failed. Still, we are sure that God is more powerful than Satan – which means that mercy trumps vengeance, light overcome darkness, love is more powerful than hate – so we can carry on humbly and hopefully.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Eye Has Not Seen #713

Ps 40: I Have Waited, Waited for the Lord

Resp: "Come to my aid, O Lord, come to my aid!"

Offertory- God, Whose Purpose Is to Kindle #797

Communion: Center of My Life #678

Resp: "O Lord, You are the center of my life: I will always praise You, I will always serve You, I will always keep You in my sight."

Sending Forth- As a Fire Is Meant for Burning #734

TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1167 IN THE HYMNAL

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

Heb 12:1-4

Lk 12-49-53

VOCATION REFLECTION – TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – "Run the race which lies ahead."

Are you called to keep your eyes fixed on Christ and run the race of faith to heaven as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)630-4473 or email: donato.infante@gmail.com

OUR COFFEE SHOPPE is CLOSED this weekend and will re-open next Sunday, August 24.

ST. JOHN'S FOOD FOR THE POOR is in the process of putting together an electronic mailing list for our database. We would like to be able to email news, events, fundraisers and any other Xavier Center news that we would like you to know about. If you are interested in receiving these emails please email Krystal at krystal@stjohnsfoodforthepoor.org and she will add you to the list. Thank you for your support.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS - it is time – actually, well past time - to update our list of homebound parishioners. If you are aware of someone who is no longer able to come to Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist, please contact us by mail, email or telephone. Thank you.

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY AND CHOIR will be at the 4:15 pm Mass on Saturday, August 30. Following the Mass there will be a Potluck Supper at the St. Francis Xavier Center. All are welcome.

OUR CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB will meet on Monday, September 29 at 7 p.m. in the rectory. Our selection is *Listening Together: Meditations on Synodality* by Timothy Radcliffe, OP. This is the full collection of conference talks from Pope Francis' appointed retreat master heard first during the historic October 2021 General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality. We have access to copies of the book, if anyone is in need of one. All are welcome.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES begin Sunday, September 21. The tentative schedule is available in the back of the church, and posted on the parish website. Registration opens Monday, July 14. We are in need of a 9th grade teacher and classroom aides. Please contact Dianne at dhgustowski@gmail.com if interested.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin Tuesday, October 7. The tentative schedule is available in the back of the church and on the parish website. High Schoolers aged 15+ are eligible. Registration opens Monday, July 14. A 10-hour service commitment is required. If your child wishes to get a head start on this over the summer please contact Dianne at dhgustowski@gmail.com, or call 774-670-3674.

SAVE THE DATE DINNER SHOW- St.

John's Social Committee is Sponsoring a Dinner and a show on Saturday, September 13th, after the 4:15 PM Mass. The Dinner includes a Buffet of Fresh Garden Salad, Rolls & Butter, Pot Roast, Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes, Stuffed Chicken Breast, & Vegetable Lasagna. Coffee and Tea with Ice Cream for Dessert. The Show a Neil Diamond Tribute featuring Charlie Lask Charlie doesn't consider himself a impersonator, but a tribute artist who adds a twist of Charlie Lask to every song. Great Dinner and Show all for \$35.00 per Person. Also, there will be Raffle Baskets and a 50/50 Raffle. All proceeds will benefit St John's Food for the Poor. Tickets will be sold at some Masses or by calling Judy Burke (508) 478-9813. Get your tickets early, limited seating.

THE SHARING HOPE BEREAVEMENT

SEMINAR continues at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main Street, Holden on Saturday, September 13 from 1-3 pm. The session is *Grief: Becoming Strong in Broken Places*. The seminar is free of charge and includes a light lunch and a free book. Pre-registration is requested. Call Miles Funeral Home at 508-829-4434. Everyone is welcome.

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING – will be celebrated on this Monday, August 25. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2025 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish invites you to our Italian Festival at 37 Massasoit Rd., Worcester. Hours of operation are: Thursday, Aug. 14 (5-10 pm), Friday, Aug. 15 (5-10 pm), Saturday, Aug. 16 (Noon-10 pm), and Sunday, Aug. 17 (Noon - 6 pm). Come and enjoy Fried Dough, Sausage Sandwiches, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Beer & Wine, and, of course, ITALIAN COOK-IES!! There will also be participation by Boulevard Diner, a Cannoli Truck, an Ice Cream Truck, and other great vendors. For entertainment we will have Boom Box, XS Band, Decades by Dezyne for the adults, Bouncy Houses for the kids, and Italian Novelties, as well as a Money Raffle. We will also honor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto at our shrine. Mark your calendars now. Check our website, MTCARMELFESTIVAL.ORG for more information.

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS (IVC) New England is interviewing applicants now for fall openings. IVC Service Corps Members combine direct service opportunities at local non-profits serving those in need in our communities with monthly spiritual reflection in the Jesuit tradition. Volunteers, 50 years of age and better, serve one or two full days/week from September through June. For more information and an application, contact IVC New England Director Dave Hinchin at dhinchin@ivcusa.org or check out our website ivcusa.org/newengland.

MIDDLE EASTERN PICNIC IN WORCESTER - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church in holding a Middle Eastern Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7 from Noon - 6:00 pm. featuring a wide variety of middle eastern food, along with entertainment for all ages and raffles. Located at 256 Hamilton St., Worcester.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$6217.00. We also received:

Monthly- \$266.00	E. Europe- \$484.00
Stipends- \$775.00	Donation- \$1900.00

Total- \$9642.00 Unrestricted- \$9158.00 Restricted- \$484.00

Expenses- \$13,363.30

Schola (648.76) House (186.26) Administration (3708.88) Funerals (225.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (1490.73) Rectory Restoration (2467.80) Altar (297.20) Church Electric (943.17) Rectory Electric (2508.25) Eastern Europe (484.00) Confirmation (403.25)

Food for the Poor Donations - \$50 from a friend; \$1500 from a friend; \$400 from a friend; \$775 IMO Robert Ford; \$350 IMO Edward Sheridan; \$50 IMO Connie Anderson; \$50 IMO Joseph Cote; \$25 IMO Bill Donovan; \$100 IMO Francis Allelunas

FOOD FOR THE POOR:

Income– \$1960.00
Golf Tournament- \$1,000.00
Hill-O-Ween- \$1,500.00
Expenses– \$13,494.81

There is one collection this weekend.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences for the family of **Brother Thomas Fahey, CFX** who has been born into eternal life.

WORD OF LIFE

**“I will not allow my life's light
to be determined
by the darkness around me.”
Sojourner Truth**