

"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

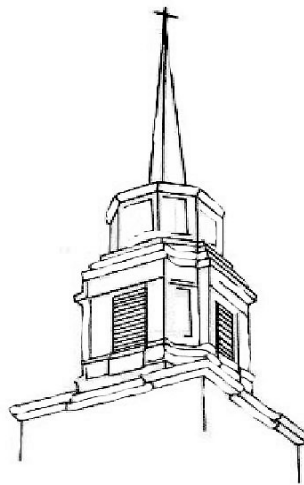
Edward Lally, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

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:

Mon.-Fri. 9 am - 2 pm

Angie Perez, Secretary
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, September 13, 2025

4:15 PM **Kelly O'Neil**, req. by Family; **Paul Murphy (17th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Debbie and Cindy Trotto**, req. by Friends

Sunday, September 14, 2025

8 AM **Eugene Foley**, req. by Family; **Peggy Palmer (16th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
10:15 AM **Donald and Jonathan Favreau**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **John Belanger (7th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Joseph J Donovan, Sr. (10th Anniv.) and Madeline Inangelo (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Enrique Delgado Gracia**, req. by Friends

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:15 PM **Robyn Czepiel**, req. by Family; **Layla Perez**, req. by Family

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

6:15 PM **Rose and Joseph Pezzela**, req. by Family; **Luis Rivera**, req. by Family

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

6:15 PM **Patrick Foley**, req. by Family; **Bill Pugliese**, req. by Family

Thursday, September 18, 2025

6:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Friends; **Inet Calderon**, req. by Family

Friday, September 19, 2025

6:15 PM **Msgr. Edmond Tinsley (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Friends; **Edwin Gonzalez**, req. by Joshua Garcia

Saturday, September 20, 2025

4:15 PM **Paul F. Jackson**, req. by Linda Jackson; **Henry A. Kozlowski (B-day blessing)** req. by Sisters
7:15 PM **Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family; **Teresa and Alfred Lewis**, req. by Family

Sunday, September 21, 2025

8 AM **Msgr. Edmond Tinsley**, req. by Friends
10:15 AM **Oswaldo and Fabian Molina**, req. by Family
12:15 PM **Francisco Austriaco** req. by Family; **Health and Intentions of Isabella R. Vancelette**, req. by Family
7:15 PM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

This week I received my first Social Security check. It has forced me to face two facts: I am getting old, and I have not had a financially successful life. Both of which help to motivate me not to turn into a grumpy old man. A tough task for us all, young and old, in these difficult days. Whether things have never been worse or not, they certainly are bad. So it is providential that as we gather this weekend we are invited to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Other religions find a certain redemptive value in suffering and, for some, in death, as well. Though their interpretations differ significantly.

In Judaism, our elder brothers and sisters can view suffering as a test from God that builds character and fosters spiritual growth. We are very familiar with the "Suffering Servant" songs in Isaiah, sometimes interpreted as representing the people of Israel, whose suffering help brings redemption to humanity. In Islam, trials and hardships are seen as tests from Allah, intended to strengthen one's faith and patience. In Hinduism, suffering is seen as a natural, though not permanent, part of the cycle of existence. Accepting it with patience and detachment helps the soul evolve and move closer to liberation from the cycle of rebirth. In Buddhism, suffering is seen as a noble truth that can lead to enlightenment. It focuses on the compassionate alleviation of suffering, both for oneself and others.

Christianity, particularly Catholicism, sees "redemptive suffering" rooted in the passion of Jesus Christ, as a central doctrine and fundamental feature of our theology and spirituality. The gift that this revelation is, also comes, as all gifts do, with a responsibility. We have a central role in witnessing to the transformative power that suffering and, even, death possess. A few years ago, when I was wrongly but publicly accused of bad things, I was uplifted by your support and that of many others. I remain deeply grateful. At that time, I was given a prayer titled "Learning Christ," which remains a part of my daily prayers. This week it occurred to me that I should pray for us all since it reads, in part:

*Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes
across my path. Let me so use it that
it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me,
that it may make me patient not irritable,
that it may make me broad in my forgiveness,
not narrow, haughty and overbearing.*

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance Song: When I Survey the Wonderous Cross
#494

Ps 78: Hearken, My People

Resp: "Do not forget the works of the Lord!"

Offertory— The Cross of Jesus #465

Communion: Jesus, Being in the Form of God

Resp: "We give you thanks, O Lord! Through your cross
you bring joy to world!"

Sending Forth— Lift High the Cross #885

TODAY'S READINGS ARE AT #1224 IN THE HYMNAL

Nm 21:4b-9

Phil 2:6-11

Jn 3:13-17 (638)

**VOCATION REFLECTION – THE EXALTATION
OF THE CROSS** – *For God so loved the world that He
gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him
might not perish but might have eternal life.*" (John
3:16) Are you open to discerning whether God is calling
you to share in this mission through a vocation to the
priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or
contact the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or
email: donato.infante@gmail.com.

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF
ADULTS (OCIA)** – we are happy to report that we have
already had five inquiries into the program for this year.
Our initial meeting will be on Monday, October 6 at 7
pm in the rectory. If you or anyone that you know is in-
terested in full initiation into the Catholic Church
through the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Eu-
charist and/or Confirmation, please contact the rectory
by phone, email or parcel post. Thank you.

**THE FILIPINO'S CHOIR WILL BE AT THE 4:15
PM MASS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27,
2025.** Following the Mass, there will be fellowship/
potluck supper at the St. Francis Xavier Center. This
will be our celebration in honor of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, the
first Filipino saint. The feast day of St. Lorenzo Ruiz and
his Companions is September 28. All are welcome.

OUR COFFEE SHOPPE is open this weekend follow-
ing the 10:15 AM Mass. All are welcome.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES begin Sun-
day, September 21. The tentative schedule is availa-
ble in the back of the church, and posted on the par-
ish website. Registration opens Monday, July 14.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin Tuesday, Oc-
tober 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 774-
670-3674 or email dhgustowski@gmail.com

**FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST
CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY** – any person who
has reached the age of 7 is eligible to receive these
sacraments. Registration is ongoing and available on
the parish website.

**OUR ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST.
THERESE OF LISIEUX** will begin on Tuesday,
September 23rd and will conclude on her feast day,
Wednesday, October 1st. Novena prayers will be of-
fered at every Mass throughout the nine days. In so
doing, we confidently rely on the Little Flower's pow-
erful intercession and her guidance in living the Little
Way. All are welcome and bring your friends.

OUR CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB will meet on Mon-
day, September 29 at 7 p.m. in the rectory. Our selec-
tion is *Listening Together: Meditations on Synodality*
by Timothy Radcliffe, OP. This is the full collection
of conference talks from Pope Francis' appointed re-
treat 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.

SCHOLA RETURNS THIS SUNDAY- The St.
John's Schola Cantorum returns this Sunday to sing
for the 7:15 evening Mass. This will be the Schola's
27th year of providing effective and appropriate music
to enhance the beauty of our sacred liturgy. The reper-
toire for next Sunday's Feast of the Exaltation of the
Holy Cross will include Anton Bruckner's stirring mo-
tet "Christus Factus Est" and "Crux Benedicta" by the
Spanish Renaissance composer Francisco Guerrero.

CHAIR YOGA IS BACK- Chair yoga for flexibility,
mobility and strength continues every Tuesday from 5-
6 PM, at the Xavier center. Only \$5. All are welcome!

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING –

will be celebrated on Monday, September 22. After the 6:15 PM Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered to those seeking God's healing and merciful grace.

ANNUAL MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

IN WORCESTER - Our Lady's Annual Miraculous Medal Novena continues every Tuesday night, ending on Oct. 28 at Our Lady of Loreto Church, 37 Massasoit Rd., Worcester. Mark the dates and plan to come and bring a friend. This year's speakers are (in order) Rev. Michael A. DiGeronimo, Rev. Juan D. Echavarria, Rev. Stephen J. Mullaney, Rev. Peter P. Bui, Rev. Carlos F. Ardila, Rev. J. Sebastian Sanchez, Deacon Donald J. Pegg, Bishop Robert J. McManus, and Rev. Kenneth R. Cardinale. All are welcome.

REGISTER FOR WORCESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- All women are invited to this exciting Conference, "I Thirst for the Salvation of Souls", to be held at St. Joseph School in Webster on Saturday, Sept. 27. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders, Noelle Mering, Dr. Madeline Colon-Usowicz, Tim Francis, and Adam Janke. Diocesan and religious priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass. For more information and to register, visit our website at www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT IN WEST

BOYLSTON - Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, 111 Worcester Street, West Boylston will hold its next 6-part series of "A New Day" bereavement support group starting on Monday, Oct. 6 from 1-2:30 pm and ending on Nov. 10. For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the sessions) call Renate Isbell (508) 835-3286.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$8500.98 We also received:

Monthly - 2441.00 restoration - 345.00
Stipends- \$10.00

Total- \$11,296 Unrestricted- \$10,951.98 Restricted- \$345.00

Expenses- \$20,091.91

Altar (856.35) Administration (4089.53) Schola (785.64)
Funerals (225.00) House (708.99) Rectory phone/cable/
internet (636.63) Federal Payroll taxes (3514.72) Postage
(143.07) Dinner Show (2000.00) Clergy Benefit Plan
(1132.00) Be like Brit Sponsorship (6000.00)

Food for the Poor Donations - \$40 IMO C. Michael Lavin; \$175 IMO Binnie O'Leary; \$20,000 From Withstandley Family Charitable Foundation; \$100 from a Friend; \$31.00 from a Friend; \$25.00 from a Friend; \$100.00 from a Friend; \$10.00 from a Friend; \$50.00 from a Friend; \$500.00 and \$600.00 IMO Edward Sheridan

FOOD FOR THE POOR:

Income– \$22,596.00
Golf Tournament- \$2600.00
Expenses– \$7925.49

There is one Collection this Weekend. Next weekend's second Collection is the One Day's Pay collection

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences for the families of David Johnson, Kenneth Dryden and Charles Kirk who has been born into eternal life.

WORD OF LIFE

**"All the science of the Saints is included in these two things: To do, and to suffer.
And whoever has done these two things best, has made himself most saintly."**

Saint Francis de Sales