

*"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**

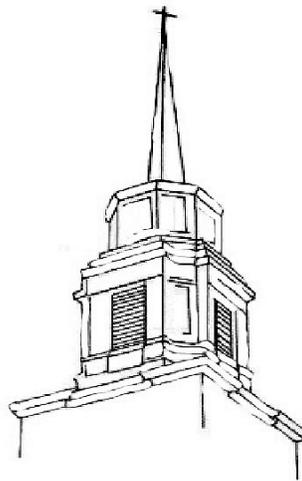
Dolores Vito

**Director of St. FX Center**

Raphael Mesadiou

**Parish Secretary**

Angie Perez



**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  
[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, November 29, 2025

4:15 PM **Frank Carroll**, req. by Family; **George & William Comptois**, req. by Family; **John Tierney** req. by Family

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

### Sunday, November 30, 2025

8 AM **Mr. Joseph P. O'Coin (17th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Merilyn Grzyb**, req. by a Friend

10:15 AM **Maria Ngat Nguyen**, req. by Family; **Ricardo & Lenin Almeida**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Birthday Blessings For Jonelle Garofoli**, req. by Family; **Jane Scola (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Donal Patnod**, req. by Family

### Monday, December 1, 2025

6:15PM **Donald Donovan and Susan Brigham** req. by Family

### Tuesday, December 2, 2025

6:15 PM **Roberta Adams**, req. by Dianne Gustowski

### Wednesday, December 3, 2025

6:15 PM **Stephen Gagne**, req. by Family

### Thursday, December 4, 2025

8:00 AM **Paul Letsky**, req. by Norma Nunag

### Friday, December 5, 2025

6:15 PM **Stephen Cox**, req. by Norma Nunag

### Saturday, December 6, 2025

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of the F.O.S.S.**

7:15 PM **Jack Marino (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family

### Sunday, December 7, 2025

8 AM **Carol Santa Maria** req. by Family; **John Capuano (3rd Anniv.)**, req. by a Family; **Timothy French**, req. by Elizabeth French & Family

10:15 AM **Stase Vatkunas** req. by Daughter; **Mary & Frank Riccardi**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Conrad O'Donnell & Rollin Rickard**, req. by Family; **Genevieve B. Powers (14 Anniv.)** req. by Family

7:15 PM **Mr & Mrs Joseph & Mary Sullivan**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Every year, I find that winter is harder to take. The worst part is the darkness. I am not sure that this is true, but it sure seems as though every year it gets darker earlier. Amid this whining, it occurred to me that the Advent Season begins at the darkest time of the year. This is significant. We are told that the season has a two-fold focus: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the end of human history and the historical incarnation of Jesus two thousand years ago. As such, the mystery of Advent also seeks to lead us to a deeper recognition that He is, in fact, here. The Advent refrain "Come, Lord Jesus" is sung for today and forever and ever. It might be completely dark when we arise in the morning and when we are heading home from school or work, but our patron, John, reminds us that *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.*

The Season of Advent is filled with beautiful Scripture readings, songs, prayers and traditions. They abound with the images of God's promise and our longing for the ultimate fulfillment of that promise. A fulfillment that is achieved through the beauty that is present in both light and, even, darkness. On this journey, we face the earth's sorrows and its bounty and experience both the goodness and the mystery of time. Today, as we begin, the Psalmist leads us in singing *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.* It's most beneficial if we go together.

To that end, allow me to highlight a couple of helpful tools. They are both available to all the members of St. John's. Indeed, many of you are already utilizing them. The Hallow app is the largest prayer site today and is offering an Advent Challenge. The challenge begins today and if you join the parish group you can still receive the free promo. Also, you can join over 200 parishioners with a free and unlimited membership on Formed.org which gives you access to a wealth of information about our Catholic faith. To join go to [Formed.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/signup), enter 01604 and select St John's parish. Then enter your name and email address and you're in, no other passwords needed.

Finally, we have been greatly blessed this past year by our Deacon Intern, Dan Malo. This weekend marks the end of his time with us. Soon after he arrived here, Fr Brice said to me "they should ordain him now." I agree, Dan will be a terrific Deacon. He's almost there, too. He will be ordained in the spring. I know that I join with all of you in extending thanks to Dan for his ministry to and with us – and to his wife, Andrea who has been a regular volunteer at the St. Francis Xavier Center. May God continue to fill you both, and your son with many blessings. Pray for us and be sure of our prayers for you.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr John Madden

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Entrance: Awaken, Sleepers #393

Ps 122: I Rejoiced (all Verses)

Resp: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Offertory- Creator of the Stars of Night #405

Communion-Wait for the Lord #410

Resp: "Wait for the Lord, His day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Sending Forth- O Come, Divine Messiah! #387

### **TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1001 IN THE HYMNAL**

Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-14

Mt : 24:37-44

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** - "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42) God calls us to be vigilant, ready to respond to His invitation. Could He be stirring your heart toward priesthood or consecrated life, to serve His Church with unwavering dedication? Stay awake to His call through prayer. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or via email: [donato.infante@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:donato.infante@worcesterdiocese.org)

**OUR COFFEE SHOPPE** is open this Sunday after the 10:15 AM Mass. All are welcome to join!

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

**THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY AND CHOIR** will be at the 4:15 PM Mass on Saturday, November 29, 2025. Following the Mass, we will have a potluck supper to celebrate Thanksgiving with the Parish community. We will have a raffle to benefit the Food For the Poor Program of St. John's. All are welcome.

**THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will be meeting on Wednesday December 10 at 10:00-11:30am in the lower chapel! All knitters and crocheters are welcome! Any questions, please call Connie at (774) 262-2512!

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**GRADES 1-9** Classes will continue Sunday, December 7, 9:00 am in the church hall. Registration is still open, sign up online.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** Will meet on Tuesday, December 2, 6:15 pm in the chapel for Mass.

**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.

**WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A 9TH GRADE TEACHER.** Please contact Dianne at [dhgustowski@gmail.com](mailto:dhgustowski@gmail.com). Thanks!

**ADVENT RECOLLECTION AND DINNER SAT 12/6 AT THE ST FRANCIS XAVIER CENTER** - Our Confirmation class is sponsoring a chicken dinner followed by an Advent reflection of song, scripture, and readings. Dinner is served at 5:30p, followed by our presenters Pam and Chuck Hamilton. 50/50 raffle to benefit the Food for the Poor. All ages welcome!

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOPPE** is on Sun 12/14, 11:15-1, at the Xavier Center. Kids can come and make/wrap Christmas presents for their family members and friends. No limit to the number of gifts. Cost is \$5/child. We will have snacks available. Feel free to drop your child off and spend the time however you wish! Ages 5 and up.

**THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB** will meet on Monday, January 19, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the rectory. We will discuss *Experiencing God in the Ordinary* by Worcester's own Fr. William A. Barry, SJ. All are welcome.

**ADVENT BOOK STUDY IN CHARLTON** - Calling Young Women to join in an Advent book study on Mondays during Advent from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at St. Joseph Church, Charlton in the St. Gabriel Conference Room. This will be a space for women in the 20s and 30s seeking peace and purpose. Email Brittany with any questions or to register [therussels125@gmail.com](mailto:therussels125@gmail.com) \$10 registration includes a devotional book. Walk-ins welcome!

## IN OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY...

**OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING** will be held on Monday, December 22nd at 6:15 p.m. Anyone in need of the Sacrament of the Sick is welcome.

**FAMILY HOLY HOUR-** All are invited to a Family Holy Hour on Saturday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Worcester. Adoration will be followed by fellowship with light snacks and gym space for kids to run around! Confessions available during holy hour. RSVP and learn more at [bit.ly/family-holy-hour](http://bit.ly/family-holy-hour).

**LADIES CANDLELIGHT EVENT IN WORCESTER** -Our Lady of Mercy Maronite Catholic Church invites ladies to a candlelight event to prepare for Christ's birth. Experience beautiful carols, inspirational talks, refreshment as you are joined by Bishop Gregory Mansour and Keynote speaker Sr. Therese Maria Toumas of the Maronite Servants of Christ. Takes place on Friday, Dec. 5 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Donation \$30. Call Mimi at 508-769-6307 or visit [www.cedaroflebanonfcc.com](http://www.cedaroflebanonfcc.com) for info or to register

**CHRISTMAS FAIR IN UPTON-** St. Gabriel Parish, 151 Mendon Street, Upton will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 am to 2 pm. The fair has a wide variety of fresh balsam wreaths, cemetery baskets, gift and bake tables and raffles. Free admission! Come and enjoy!

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR IN CHARLTON-** All are welcome to a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at St. Joseph Church Hall, 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Actively seeking crafters and vendors for this event. Call Joyce at 774-262-0820 for a registration form or information.

## Financial Report

### Income

Sunday-	\$7946.00	Candles-	\$720.00
CCHD-	\$503.00	Stipends-	\$530.00
Donations-	\$1450.00	Online-	\$9543.38
Payroll X-Fers-	\$11,077.60	T-Day Baskets-	\$4109.50
Money Markey Transfer-	\$75,000.00		

Total- \$110,879.48    Unrestricted- \$95,189.38    Restricted- \$15,690.00

Expenses- \$54,108.77

Administration (16,168.22) Schola (1711.90) Thanksgiving Baskets (4109.50) Altar (40.50) Advertisement (750.00) Funerals (200.00) Church Electric (829.45) Rectory Electric (1092.88) Church Boiler (2835.00) Rectory Boiler (3059.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (1495.39) Rectory Office Restoration (32,994.75) Marriage Prep (35.00) Preserve the Flame (318.00)

**Food for the Poor Donations** - \$100.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$150.00 from a friend; \$500.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend \$50.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$300.00 from a friend; \$75.00 from a friend; \$125.00 IMO Mary Sullivan; \$65.00 IMO Mary Ryan \$150.00 IMO Jim McDonald; \$5,000 IMO Burke Family Charitable Fund; \$300.00 IMO Jane Scola; \$100.00 IMO Pat Gaudette; \$2,000.00 From the Greg Hill Foundation

### Food for the Poor

Income- \$1,962,254  
Expenses- \$28,648.95

There is One collection this weekend .

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences for the family of Lindsay Gemmell and James Chambers who have been born into eternal life.

## **WORD OF LIFE:**

**“Our true worth does not consist in what human beings think of us. What we really are consists in what God knows us to be.”**

**St. John Berchmans**