

"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

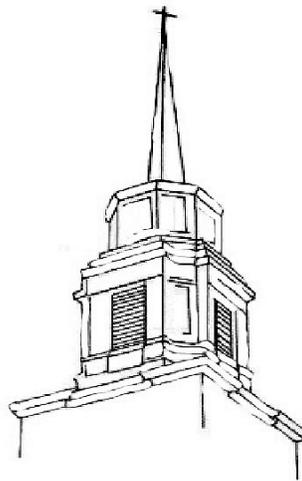
Dolores Vito

Director of St. FX Center

Raphael Mesadieu

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

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, December 6, 2025

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of 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

Monday, December 8, 2025

12:15 PM **Blanca Ortega**, req. by Friends

6:15PM **Elizabeth Spurr**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

6:15 PM **Stanley Grigas**, req. by Carol Grigas

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025

8:00 AM **Luis Rivera**, req. by Norma Nunag

Friday, December 12, 2025

6:15 PM **Margaret Jean Gingras & Mary Coomey**, req. by Family; **Rhonda Kielinen**, req. by Family

Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:15 PM **Sirkka Duggan**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Rita & Anthony Panarelli**, req. by Friend;
Sophie Kozaczka, req. by Family

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8 AM **Richard Gallant**, req. by Jessica

10:15 AM **Stephanie LeBlanc & Brad Lange** req. by Family; **Christmas Blessing For Gabriella Ruth Wira And Sammy Genduso** req. by Godparents John & Kerrie

12:15 PM **Joseph & Mary Bigos**, req. by Lucia & Tommy

7:15 PM **Eunice White (10 Anniv.)**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

When, on the First Sunday of Advent in 2011, the new translation of the Mass was put into effect my favorite Memorial Acclamation, "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again" was not eliminated per se but was removed from the official list. The reason that I am so fond of it - even though it is not present in the Latin texts and is in the third person - is because it is the source of one of my earliest spiritual experiences. I clearly remember as just a young kid being greatly consoled by the fact that the first two are definitely true, so the third one must be as well.

As the First Week of Advent 2025 has gotten underway, I find myself experiencing the same consolation. Though we do not know the day or the hour and cannot know the day or the hour, we can be certain that "Christ will come again." In the first reading on Friday of the First Week the prophet Isaiah says that "But a very little while" and the promises from God will be fulfilled. In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul describes what we endure here on earth as "this momentary light affliction." Does this mean that, according to the great prophet and the great missionary, our wait will be short and easy? I am sure that this is highly unlikely. What then does it mean?

The Second Week of Advent presents us with the powerful figure of St. John the Baptist and his call for us "to prepare the way of the Lord." He is the great forerunner of the Messiah who came to preach a message of repentance. In so doing, the Baptist spared no one, as he challenged soldiers, tax collectors, Pharisees, and Sadducees, indeed, all the people, to repent of sin and follow the Lord. Through him we learn that this season of joyful expectation must also be one of careful preparation. This means that we must work to make the world fit for the Christ Child, that is a better, more united and peaceful world than we now know.

Those of us who have accepted the Pray25 prayer challenge on the Hallow app have been helped in discerning how we can prepare ourselves and our world for the coming of Christ. Personally, I enjoyed the presentation on the Sabbath by Chris Pratt (surprisingly enough). He first points out that Hebrew word *Shabbat* means "Stop." The Sabbath calls us to stop wanting, working and worrying. Pratt then emphasizes the important truth that God rested. Are we busier and more important than God? *Shabbat* also means "Delight." How critical it is for us to stop and delight in all that God has given to us and in God Himself. In so doing, we can see that in a very little while, our momentary light afflictions will cease.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr John Madden

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance: A Morning Star Draws Near

Ps 72: O God, With Your Judgment

Resp: "Justice Shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever"

Offertory- On Jordan's Bank #392

Communion- O Come, O come, Emmanuel #386

Resp: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel"

Sending Forth- For God Risk Everything #778

TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1004 IN THE HYMNAL

Is 11:1-10

Rom 15:4-9

Mt : 3:1-12(4)

SECOND 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

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 ST. RAFQA 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!

THE FILIPINO CHOIR WILL SING AT THE 4:15 PM MASS ON DECEMBER 27, 2025. Following the Mass, we will have our holiday celebration with a potluck supper at the St. Francis Xavier Center. This is to celebrate Christmas and to ring in the new year 2026.

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 9, 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.

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.

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 for info or to register.

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 therus-sels125@gmail.com \$10 registration includes a devotional book. Walk-ins welcome!

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.

In Our Catholic Community...

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

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

- Plan now to attend the 52nd annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026! Buses will leave from St. Paul Cathedral on Thurs., Jan. 22 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Friday morning Mass followed by the March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul's at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 24. Cost is \$150 per seat. Registration deadline is December 12. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For more details and to download registration forms visit worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life. Can't attend this year but want to help? Consider making a donation that will help defray expenses for our students who want to attend but might otherwise find it difficult to do so. Thank you!

STORE ASSOCIATE AT THE LITTLE STORE IN WORCESTER - We're looking for team members who are friendly, dependable, and eager to help customers while keeping our stores running smoothly. If you are interested please contact Rod Pfannenstiel 508-831-7455 or emailcareers@urbanmissionaries.com.

Financial Report

This past weekend we received \$9236. We also received:

Restoration- \$260.00 Donations- \$817.00 Stipends- \$169.00

Total- \$10,482.00 Unrestricted- \$10,222.00 Restricted- \$260.00

Expenses- \$15,726.11

Administration (5204.77) Schola (1473.46) CCD (677.09) Rectory
Cable/Phone/Internet (651.94) Website (65.19) Stipends (700.00)
Envelopes (955.48) Haitian Apostolate (530.00) Federal Payroll
Taxes (2299.34) Church Hall Locks (230.79) Postage (143.07)
Church Hall Plumbing Repair (548.63) Priest Benefit Plan
(1132.00) CCHD (503.00) House (136.35) Copier (475.00)

Food for the Poor Donations - \$100.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$20.00 from a friend; \$75.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$150.00 from a friend \$50.00 from a friend; \$40.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$10.00 from a friend; \$200.00 from a friend; \$1,000 From the David Grenon Family Foundation; \$300 from a friend; \$100 IMO Mary Sullivav; \$200.00 IMO Mary Ryan \$1,246.00 From the Filipino Community; \$500 IMO Brian Buckley; \$150.00 IMO Patrick & Christopher Johnson; \$400.00 Melvin S. Cutler Foundation; \$4,300.00 From Bank Hometown, Worcester.

Food for the Poor

Income- \$15,370
Expenses- \$10,109.25
Hill-O-Ween- \$250.00

There weekend second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

YEAR TO DATE - in November, we had an operating cash loss of \$1,137.52. This leaves our loss for FY 25/25 at \$43,345.47

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences for the families of Rasa Chiras, Kate Reagon, Frank Zoeller, Jr. and Elden Campbell who has been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Asher Rein Sirtrai and Envee Teddi Foley who have entered the Catholic Community thru the waters of Baptism.

WORD OF LIFE:

“We know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life. We know that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton