

*"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**

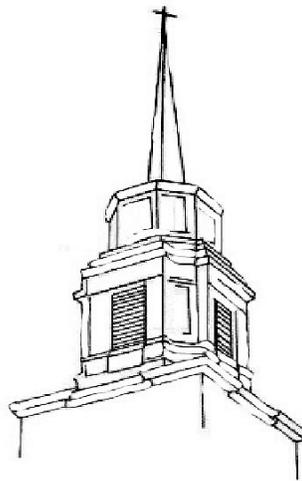
Dolores Vito

**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, 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; **Skylar Rose Sritrai**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Joseph & Mary Bigos**, req. by Lucia & Tommy  
7:15 PM **Eunice White (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Lindsay Gemmell & Steven Bisson**, req. by Linda Murphy

### Monday, December 15, 2025

6:15PM **Lanard Zalauskas**, req. by Caryn Cosenza & Carol Grigas

### Tuesday, December 16, 2025

6:15 PM **Raymond Turgeon Sr**, req. by Wife & Sons

### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:15 PM **Thomas Gentile**, req. by Friend

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

6:15 AM **Henry Rocko**, req. by Daughter & Family

### Friday, December 19, 2025

6:15 PM **Josephine Kozlowski**, req. by Children;  
**William Kennedy**, req. by Family

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

4:15 PM **Edith Boudas (17th Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **M/M Joseph P. O'Coin**, req. by Family;  
**Sophie Kozaczka**, req. by Family

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

8 AM **Patricia Gaudette**, req. by Family; **Norbert Sargent**, req. by Donna & Bob Mastrovito  
10:15 AM **Thomas M. C. Lawler** req. by Friend;  
**Tracy & Evan Landry** req. by Family & Friends  
12:15 PM **Francisco Austriaco**, req. by Family;  
**Health & Int of Isabella R. Vancelette**  
7:15 PM **Paul Jackson** req. by Family; **Dolores Sousa (11th Anniv.)** req. by Daughter Karen Shaughnessy

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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This weekend of our parishes will be conducting the collection for the national Retirement Fund for Religious. Religious communities of women and men were devoted to establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

Escalating healthcare costs and a lack of traditional retirement plans have created financial challenges for many religious communities. The Retirement Fund for Religious addresses this need, supporting more than 19,000 religious over the age of 70. In 2024, the average annual cost for their care was roughly \$56,600 per person. With skilled nursing care, the average cost was \$96,000.

In 2024, parishioners in our diocese contributed \$95,604.36 to the collection. That same year, a combined total of \$275,924 from this national fund was distributed to assist five communities in our diocese: the Benedictine sisters at St. Scholastica Priory, the Religious Venerini Sisters, Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph's Abbey, and St. Mary's Monastery. That would not have been possible were it not for this national fund.

Just as our annual Celebrate Priesthood event helps our diocese to care for its retired diocesan priests, this national collection assists many religious communities to provide for aging members. Pope Francis wrote, "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." While this annual collection assists those who have retired from their careers, they never retire from their vows and keep the needs of the people they served for a lifetime in their daily prayers.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance in this season; I ask simply that you consider giving to those who have given a lifetime. If you are unable to donate at Mass, please mail your gift to your parish, donate through your parish's online giving platform, if available, or donate at the diocesan website [worcesterdiocese.org](http://worcesterdiocese.org). In gratitude for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's blessing on our nation's elderly and infirm religious women and men.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #386  
Ps 146: The Lord Keeps Faith  
Resp: "Come and save us, Lor! Come and save us, Lord!"  
Offertory- Are You the Coming One #399  
Communion- My Soul in Stillness Waits #404  
Resp: "For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.."  
Sending Forth- O Come, Divine Messiah #387

### **TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1007 IN THE HYMNAL**

Is 35:1-6A,10  
JAS 5:7-10  
Mt : 11:2-11(7)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** - "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3) John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or 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 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.

**CYC BOYS BASKETBALL** - Any boy age 14-18 in high school that would like to play CYC Boys Basketball on the parish team can call or email our coach, Raymond F. Mattress III at 508-612-6007 or [raym577@gmail.com](mailto:raym577@gmail.com). If you are playing Varsity basketball at your school, you are not eligible for the CYC team.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**GRADES 1-9** Classes will continue Sunday, December 14, 9:00 am in the church hall. Registration is still open, sign up online.

We are still in need of a 9th grade teacher. Please contact Dianne at [dhgustowski@gmail.com](mailto:dhgustowski@gmail.com). Thanks!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** Will meet on Tuesday, December 16, 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.

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOPPE** is this Sunday, December 14 from 11:15 AM-1 PM, at the St. Francis 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 per child. We will have snacks available. Feel free to drop your child off and spend the time however you wish! Ages 5 and up.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND POT LUCK** will be held on Sunday, December 21 following the 10:15 AM Mass. Please join us as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives and hearts. All are welcome!

**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 [therussells125@gmail.com](mailto:therussells125@gmail.com) \$10 registration includes a devotional book. Walk-ins welcome!

**SENIOR FRAUD HOTLINE**- RSVP's Senior Fraud HelpLine is a toll-free resource for seniors and their families to call when they are concerned that they are being targeted by scammers. If they are in doubt, they should check it out by calling 1-800-297-9760. Confidential. Knowledgeable. Local. Supportive.

## 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](http://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](mailto:emailcareers@urbanmissionaries.com).

## Financial Report

This Sunday we received \$8973.00. We also received:

Monthly- \$1829.00                      Restoration- \$235.00  
Donation- \$126.00                      Stipends- \$430.00  
Immac. Conception- \$581.00

Total- \$12,174.00    Unrestricted- \$11,939.00    Restricted-\$235.00

Expenses- \$8341.30  
Altar (977.74) Administration (4105.30) Schola (1676.58) CCD (396.80) House (984.88) Funerals (200.00)

**Food for the Poor Donations** –\$200.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$20.00 from a friend; \$500.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$20.00 from a friend; \$1,400.00 from the Amos E. and Ann Laura Wasgatt Fund; \$500 From the Gerald and Patricia Gate Fund; \$100 IMO George Columbus Fenari; \$300 IMO Mary T Sullivan; \$20.00 IMO Brian O'Connell; \$75.00 IMO Frank Carroll \$300.00 IHO The Supple Family; \$200 IMO Mary Ryan; \$50.00 IMO C. Paul Lavin; \$200.00 IHO Fr Madden's Birthday; \$175.00 IMO Rasa Chiras

### **Food for the Poor**

Income- \$22,900.00  
Annual Appeal- \$10,390.00  
Hill-O-Ween- \$250.00  
Expenses- \$59976.22

This weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences for the families of Joseph Cahill, Charlene Hagar and Rosemary Leary who have been born into eternal life.

## **WORD OF LIFE:**

**“It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.”**

**St. Francis Xavier**