

"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

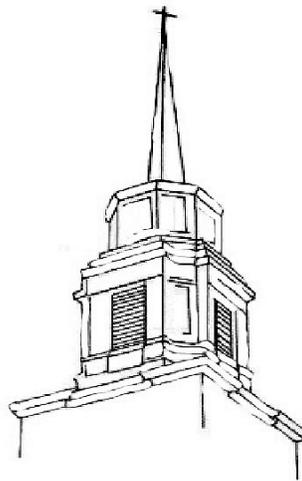
Dolores Vito

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 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

Monday, December 22, 2025

6:15PM **Victor Rivera** req. by Family

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

6:15 PM **Lolita Catalan**, req. by Family; **Terasa,**

Michael & Alfred Lewis, req. By Family; **Rose &**

Joseph Pezzela, req. by Family

Wednesday, December 24, 2025– Christmas Eve

4:15 PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S

10:15 PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S

Thursday, December 25, 2025– Christmas Day

8:00 AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S

10:15 AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S

12:15 PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S

Friday, December 26, 2025

6:15 PM **Angel Perez**, req. by Family

Saturday, December 27, 2025

4:15 PM **George & William Comptois**, req. by Family

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

Sunday, December 28, 2025

8 AM **Frank Carroll** req. by Family; **Deceased Members of Quinlivan**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **John & Rose Gerdauskas & Patricia**

Casavant, req. by Marie Bilzerian; **Adele**

Zemaitis req. by Granddaughter Danute John

12:15 PM **Jack Donahue (3rd Anniv.)**, **Kathlen**

Donahue Jones (7th Anniv.), **Michael Donahue**

(6 Month Anniv.), req. by Family; **Paul Barry**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Belle & Tim Cooney** req. by Family

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

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1: 20-21

Christmas 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This brief biblical text from the Gospel of St. Matthew summarizes the mystery and wonder of Christmas – out of divine love for us, Jesus took on human flesh in the virginal womb of Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit, to save all people of all times and places from their sins. The birth of the Christ Child in the manger of Bethlehem was unlike any other event in human history because this birth has transformed the ultimate destiny of humanity, giving men and women the hope of spending an eternity of peace and joy in the presence of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our Catholic faith teaches us that the birth of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, true God and true man, is the theological basis for our unshakeable hope for the gift of eternal life in heaven, a gift that makes each baptized person a pilgrim of hope, a theme that has been a focal point of our Jubilee Year, 2025 that is quickly drawing to an end.

I have often preached at Confirmation liturgies that our goal as disciples of Jesus Christ is “to get to heaven” and “to bring with us as many people that we possibly can,” beginning with those people we love most in life. The true peace and joy of Christmas is to embrace the hope of eternal life that the Infant Jesus, with outstretched arms, offers to each of us once again this Christmas Day, 2025, especially through our worthy reception of Holy Communion.

During this Christmas Season, I invite you to welcome Jesus, our Lord and Savior, as if for the first time, into your life and the lives of your loved ones. Strive to share your gift of hope in eternal life in heaven with others by keeping your hearts and minds fixed on the one thing that really matters, life on high in the eternal presence of the God who is Love itself.

I extend to all of you my prayers for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and I invite you to join your prayers to the prayers of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, as he prays for peace, a peace our war-wearied world needs so desperately these days.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #386
Ps 24: The LORD'S ARE the Earth
Resp: "Let the Lord enter, He is the king of glory"
Offertory- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming #438
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- Savior of the Nations, Come #388

TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1010 IN THE HYMNAL

Is 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7
Mt : 1:18-24(10)

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF AND RESIDENTS OF ST. JOHN'S

Mass Schedule:

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve
4:15 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day
8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 31 –
Vigil of the Solemnity
6:15 p.m.

Thursday, January 1 – Solemnity of
Mary, Holy Mother of God
12:15 p.m. 6:15 pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23) Mary's trust in God's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or donato.infante@worcesterdioocese.org.

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. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet on Tuesday, January 6, 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.

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.

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 ray-m577@gmail.com. If you are playing Varsity basketball at your school, you are not eligible for the CYC team.

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!

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING

will be held on this Monday, December 22 at 6:15 PM. Anyone in need of the Sacrament of the Sick is welcome.

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 email-careers@urbanmissionaries.com.

THE CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT SOLUTIONS AND WORCESTER CATHOLIC

WORKERS will mark the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday December 28 with a vigil marking the Massacre of the Holy Innocents at 4 PM in the Worcester Peace Park at the corner of Pleasant and Russell Street. We will process to a gathering and presentation at The Mustard Seed, 93 Piedmont Street. Call Charlie Washburn at 508-868-1267 for more information.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SEXUAL

MISCONDUCT- If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Worcester. The report can be made by phone, contact Judy Audette, Victims Assistance Coordinator, (508) 929-4363 or in writing, and sent to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences for the families of Ann Salmon, Glenn Foster, Jonathan Martin who have been born into eternal life.

Financial Report

This Sunday we received \$6402.00. We also received:
Stipends- \$1640.00 Immaculate Conception- \$857.00
Donations- \$1240.00 Retired Religious- \$3319.00
Flowers- \$100.00

Expenses- \$34,5228.69
Elevator Inspection (225.00) Schola (2207.46) Administration (9083.69) Altar (4916.00) House (117.83) First Communion (900.00) State Payroll Taxes (1665.36) Funerals (200.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (1427.12) Plowing Contract (3200.00) Lithuanian Donation (530.00) Church Electric (1579.70) Rectory Electric (1876.53) CYC Basketball (1500.00) Church Sound System (4800.00)

Food for the Poor Donations - \$100.00 IMO Stan & Bernice Rutkowski; \$50.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$125.00 from a friend; \$25.00 from a friend \$2,000.00 from a friend; \$200.00 from a friend; \$1,500.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$1,000.00 from a Friend; \$100 From a Friend; \$1,225 IMO Joe Cahill; \$75 IMO Sam Olen & Joe Trombi; \$100.00 IMO Rasa Chiras; \$1,000.00 Brian Buckley \$300.00 IMO Joseph Cahill; \$500 IMO Ruth McGinn; \$5,000.00 IMO James J. Jovenich; \$5,000.00 For the Highland Street Foundation; \$50.00 IMO Marybeth Fecteau; \$100.00 IMO Micheal Winders; \$25.00 IMO Bobby Sullivan; 2,500.00 From Holden Turkey Trot; \$100.00 IHO Gary Davis; \$500.00 IMO Amy & Jackie; \$3,406 From a Friend; \$1,000 From a Friend

Food for the Poor

Income- \$16,671
Annual Appeal- \$6,048
Expenses- \$23,086.89

There is one collection this weekend.

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