

"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

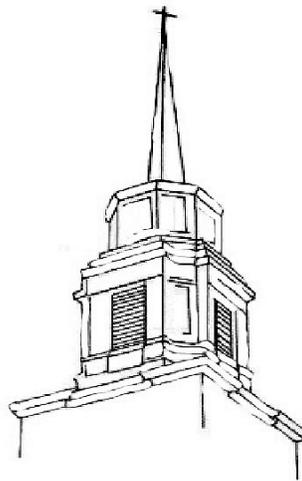
Dolores Vito

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 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.), Kathleen 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

Monday, December 29, 2025

6:15PM **Joseph Cahill** req. by Friend

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

6:15 PM **Kathryn Reagon** req. by Friend

Wednesday, December 31, 2025– New Year’s Eve

6:15 PM **Mark Leonard**, req.by Family

Thursday, January 1, 2026– New Year’s Day

12:15 PM **John F. Madden, Jr.**, req. by Wife & Family

6:15 PM **FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN’S**

Friday, January 2, 2026–

6:15 PM **Ines Calderon**, req. by Family

Saturday, January 3, 2026

4:15 PM **Billy Hinson (4th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **All Souls in Purgatory & Deceased members of F.O.S.S**

7:15 PM **Sophie Kozaczka & Boleslaw Burzynski**, req. by Family; **Walter Bailey**, req. by Family

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8 AM **Scott Lindberg** req. by Friends; **Marie & Joseph Mastrovito**, req.by Family

10:15 AM **Emma Hazel Sritrai**, req. by Family; **Frank Desrosiers & M. Ruth Shea (14th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Salvatore & Genevive (Jean) Mirante**, req. by Lucia & Tommy; **Mike Hennessy**, req. by Friend

7:15 PM **Dalia Shaughnessy (52nd Annv.)**, req. by Granddaughter Karen

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Coming together in this Octave of Christmas, we are reminded that the Christ Child grew up as a member of a human family. The Gospel does make clear that the Holy Family had their share of troubles and difficulties which caused them great worry. For surely if He is “God with us” then they would need to experience the full reality of family life. Joseph needed to show a courageous and protective spirit to shield them from the forces of evil. When he learned in a dream of Herod’s plan to kill the baby Jesus, he quickly uprooted Mary and the Child and fled to Egypt where they lived in exile. After Herod’s death, the angel guided them back to Nazareth. *The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God was upon him.*

The most basic Christian community is the family. The purpose of today’s feast is to highlight and celebrate the importance and sacredness of the family. It provides an opportunity to reflect on and deepen the quality of our home and family life and helps us to imitate the values of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Family life takes on various shapes and sizes and is a full-time job as we work to have hearts beating together in harmony and love. A job that is only completed when the message of Christ in all its richness is found within its walls.

My family members like to say that the Madden family is “no more and no less dysfunctional than any other family.” Which is to say, that sometimes it is more and sometimes it is less, but there is always some level of dysfunction! We all know that inevitably conflicts, tensions and misunderstandings arise, so patience and forgiveness are indispensable virtues. One of the great gifts of family life is that it provides a place where we can disagree and love, challenge and console each other.

St. Paul was spot on when he implored us *to bear with one another lovingly*. Pope Benedict reminds us how this is possible: *"God has done everything; he has done the impossible: he was made flesh. His all-powerful love has accomplished something which surpasses all human understanding: the Infinite has become a child, has entered the human family. And yet, this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door to him."*

In this New Year, let us together as the St. John’s family, pledge to open the door of our hearts to God and to all our sisters and brothers.

In Christ’s Peace,
Fr John Madden

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Entrance: Once in Royal David's City #440

Ps 128: Blessed Are Those

Resp: "Blessed are those who fear the LORD and walk in his ways."

Offertory- Come, Sing a Home and Family #439

Communion- What Child Is This #454

Resp: "This is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary."

Sending Forth- Go Tell It on the Mountain #428

TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1017 IN THE HYMNAL

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Mt : 2:13-15, 19-23(17)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel." (Matthew 2:20) Joseph's obedience to God protected the Holy Family. In marriage, spouses are called to protect and nurture each other in faith. Reflect on how God might be guiding you to build a family rooted in His love. Pray and ask God how you can better serve and protect your family this week. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or send an email to donato.infante@worcesterdiocese.org.

PRO-LIFE MORNING OF REFLECTION -

All are invited to attend a Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. The day will include reflections by Msgr. James Moroney, Mass, and light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, send your name, parish, and email address to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org, or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311.

PRO-LIFE MASS - All are invited to join Bishop McManus for the annual Pro-Life Mass on the eve of the March for Life on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. Please join us to pray for and with our pilgrims who will be travelling to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life on Jan. 23, and to pray for an end to abortion and the conversion of our nation. All are welcome!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GRADES 1-9 Classes will continue Sunday, January 4, 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.

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.

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!

OPEN HOUSE AT ST. MARY SCHOOL -

On Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Saint Mary School in Shrewsbury will be hosting a Catholic Schools Week Open House for prospective new families interested in enrolling their students in our school next fall. Learn more at school.stmarysparish.org/

THE NATIONAL NOVENA FOR LIFE! - Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual *9 Days for Life* novena, January 16 - 24. Sign up to receive daily emails and reflections by text or email at www.9daysforlife.com!

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE IN WEST

BOYLSTON- An Ecumenical Prayer Service to begin the Week of Prayer For Christian Unity will be held on Sunday Jan. 18 at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 111 Worcester St., West Boylston. All are Welcome. The Theme is "There is One Body . One Spirit, just as you are called to the One Hope of your calling. " Ephesians 4:4

In Our Catholic Community...

OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING will be held on Monday, January 26 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.

CLOSING MASS FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR-

Join us for Mass on the Feast on the Holy Family, December 28 at 4 pm as we conclude the Jubilee Year of Hope in our diocese. The Mass will be held at the Cathedral of St. Paul, corner of Chatham and High Streets, Worcester. A light reception will follow in the Cenacle (below the church). Ample free parking available.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference "Be Not Afraid" - The 25th Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the DCU Convention Center in Worcester. Adult Tickets are just \$60 (through March 11) and Student Tickets are always \$30. All tickets include lunch. For ticket sales or for more information regarding this years conference & speakers, please visit our website catholicmenworc.com.

DIVINE MERCY MINISTRY TO SENIORS-

Volunteers are needed to spread Jesus' message of Divine Mercy to seniors in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As a volunteer prayer group leader, you would lead a weekly 30-minute Divine Mercy prayer group using a simple prepared model of readings, prayers, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry of mercy, please contact Mary Higgins (413) 552-7231 or email Mary at: DivineMercyMinistryToSeniors@gmail.com.

Financial Report

Last Sunday we received \$9301.00. We also received:

Donations- \$37,500.00 Stipends- \$810.00

Total- \$47,611.00 Unrestricted- \$47,611.00 Restricted- \$0.00

Expenses- \$33,452.31

Administration (9464.17) Schola (1660.02) Funerals (650.00) House (419.28) Church Gas (1972.57) Rectorry Gas (2582.67) Federal Payroll Taxes (1470.28) Rectorry Plumber (1908.13) Retired Religious (3319.00) Diocesan Budget Bill (9921.19)

Food for the Poor Donations - \$1,505 IMO Joseph Cahill;

\$100 from a friend; \$30 from a friend; \$80 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend \$50.00.00 from a friend; \$25.00 IMO James Andrews; \$50.00 IMO Mary & Daniel Spillane; \$641.77 from the First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury; \$1,000.00 IMO Barney & Kay Quinlivan; \$100.00 from a Friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$5,000.00 from a friend; \$250.00 IMO George Bailey; \$100.00 IMO Lois Decatur; \$100.00 IHO Brian & Sophia Stevenson.

Food for the Poor

Income- \$33,517.77

Annual Appeal- \$28,905.00

Golf Tournament- \$3000.00

Expenses- \$6890.57

There is one collection this weekend. Next weekends second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering.

Our Parish Community...

...Welcomes Brian Thomas Stevenson, Sophia Therese Stevenson, Justin Michael Steele, Jackson Matthew Steele, Antonio Marcelo Steele and Peyton Elizabeth Benoit who have entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

WORD OF LIFE:

"You must make a sound and firm resolution to submit yourselves totally to His will and, with a lively and steadfast faith, to receive from Him what you have to do for love of Him.

And in this (whatever may happen) to persevere with constancy to the very end."

St. Angela Merici