

*"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**

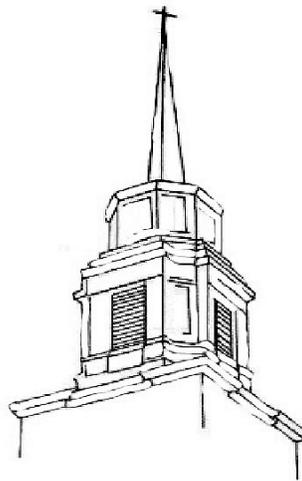
Dolores Vito

**Director of St. FX Center**

Raphael 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](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, 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

### Monday, January 5, 2026–

6:15PM **Leslie Bonano** req. by Family

### Tuesday, January 6, 2026–

6:15 PM **Robert Hegan, Sr.** req. by Family

### Wednesday, January 7, 2026– New Year's Eve

6:15 PM **Fr. Jim Hoey**, req. by Friend

### Thursday, January 8, 2026– New Year's Day

6:15 PM **Gloria Hegan**, req. by Family

### Friday, January 9, 2026–

6:15 PM **Luis Rivera**, req. by Family

### Saturday, January 10, 2026

4:15 PM **Henny Skozlowski**, req. by Childrens

7:15 PM **Sophie Kozaczka, Joshua Kazaczka & Jadwiga Burzynski**

### Sunday, January 11, 2026

8 AM **Andrew Madonna (B-Day Rem)** req. by  
Family

10:15 AM **James V. Powers (31st Anniv.)** req. by  
Family

12:15 PM **Thomas W. & Sally V. Bennett**, req. by  
Lucia & Tommy

7:15 PM **Robert Richer** req. by Friend

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Happy New Year. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holidays. It is great to be a Catholic. One of the biggest reasons is that our holiday seasons last so long. The celebration continues all this week. I have never figured out whether the Christmas Season ends, or Ordinary Time begins on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which we celebrate next Sunday. I think it is both. This is another reason Catholicism is a gift, every end marks a beginning.

This year's celebration has revealed not only how great it is to be a Catholic, but how important, indeed indispensable it is. The birth of the Christ Child deepens the truth first expressed in Genesis that the human person is born in the image and likeness of God. The Incarnation shows that God resides in human flesh. The tragedy of our time is that this foundational truth is too often ignored, denied or rejected. All to the diminishment of our individual and communal, national and international lives. The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the first place that we experience that truth and learn how to live with others who experience it themselves.

In 1987, the Lutheran Minister, Richard John Neuhaus published the book, *The Catholic Moment: The Paradox of the Church in the Postmodern World*. We did not really capture the moment then, though Neuhaus did become a Catholic himself. To capture the moment is to be able to disagree without being disagreeable, to hate the sin, but truly love the sinner, to be generous and humble, kind and forgiving and, as St Paul states so powerfully, to bear with one another lovingly. Indeed, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to recognize that the Christian journey is the progressive relinquishment of worldly concerns which allows for the surrender and trust that this moment requires. It seems likely that the moment will never be fully captured here on earth. Nonetheless, as we gather today for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We realize that it is necessary for the Wise to Still Seek Him.

We can be grateful to God that Dolores continues to heal. She has been attending Mass on a regular basis and was recently spotted in the sanctuary! I want to thank everyone for their prayers, they are working. Thanks, too, for all the help that has been pitched in to help during this time. In fact, it is clear that a crew of assistant sacristans/adult servers would be a great help to Dolores and to the parish. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact me by email or phone. It is perfect way to fulfill the New Year's resolution to become more involved in the church.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr John Madden

## ***THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD***

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

Entrance: We Three Kings #452

Ps 72: O God, Endow the King

Resp: "Every nation on earth will adore you, Lord."

Offertory- What Child Is This #454

Communion- The First Nowell #449

Resp: "Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel."

Sending Forth- Joy to the World #424

### **TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1021 IN THE HYMNAL**

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3.5-6

Mt : 2:1-12(20)

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** - "They prostrated themselves and did him homage." (Matthew 2:11) The Magi offered their gifts to Christ, just as we are called to offer our own. What gifts has God given you, and how is He calling you to use them in service to Him? 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).

### **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](mailto: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!

### **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

### **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](mailto: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!

**THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will be meeting on Wednesday January 14, from 10:00am to 11:30am in the downstairs chapel! All knitters and crocheters are welcome to come! We meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Any questions please call Connie at 774-262-2512

**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/](http://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!](http://www.9daysforlife.com!)

**LET'S WELCOME PAUL FITZPATRICK, OUR NEW DEACON INTERN.** Paul will be joining us on next Sunday January 11, 2026 and will serve at St. John's for the year 2026. He was born in Taunton, MA and grew up in the Fall River Diocese. Paul and his wife, Pamela graduated from St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing in 1986 and married in October of 1987. Paul currently works as a nurse anesthetist at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge. They are the parents of Emily, Benjamin, Joseph and Joey and Grandparents to Sophia, Jaxson and, soon, Eleanor who is due to arrive at the end of January. His home parish is St. Roch's in Oxford and he participates in various ministries there. Paul enjoys cooking, reading and especially family time. We are happy to welcome Paul to our parish family.

### 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.

**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

**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 year's conference & speakers, please visit our website [catholicmenworc.com](http://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](mailto:DivineMercyMinistryToSeniors@gmail.com).

**YEAR TO DATE** - in December, we had an operating cash gain of \$33,308.42. This drops our operating cash loss for FY 25/26 to \$10,037.05. Additionally, the Food for the Poor Program maintains a healthy cash surplus. Thank you for your generosity to St. John's and our mission.

### Financial Report

**Income**—Last weekend we received \$6331.00. We also received:

Stipends- \$70.00      Donations- \$2200.00  
Free Press- \$39.00      Christmas- \$13,885.00  
Payroll Transfers- \$13,267.85

Total- \$35,792.85      Unrestricted-  
\$22,525.00      Restricted- \$13,267.85

**Expenses**- \$19,257.75  
Administration (11,977.29) Schola (2194.61) Rectory  
Cable/Phone/Internet (651.94) Stipends (785.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (2338.66) Maintenance Supplies (340.25) Preserve the Flame (495.00) Copier (475.00)

**Food for the Poor Donations** - \$100.00 from a friend; \$150.00 from a friend; \$10.00 from a friend; \$75.00 from a friend; \$2,000.00 from a friend \$50.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$1,350.00 IMO Joseph Cahill; \$30.00 IMO Bob Sullivan, Kathy Sullivan, Paul Maguire; \$6,000.00 from Luring Charitable Foundation; \$125.00 IHO Teagan Elizabeth Doherty's Baptism; \$300.00 IHO Kristine, Erica and Brad; \$250.00 IHO Bill & Mary Supple.

### **Food for the Poor**

Donations- \$10,315.00  
Showers Reimb.- \$17,414.19  
Annual Appeal- 16,035.00  
Expenses- \$21,738.30

This weekend's second collection is the Monthly Special Needs Offering

### Our Parish Community...

... Welcomes Teagan Elizabeth Doherty who have entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

### **WORD OF LIFE:**

*"This new world of God's, says Jesus, will not succeed by cowardice, with people who are immovable, who constantly want to make themselves secure, who would rather delay than act. This new society of God's will only succeed with people who are ready to risk, who will wager everything on the turn of a card, who go all out and who, with utter determination, will be 'doers.'"*

*Gerhard Lohfink*