

"To Preserve The Flame"
SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Msgr. Tinsley Center at Ascension Campus: 774-243-6351

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. John Madden
frjohnmadden@gmail.com

Assisting Priests

Fr. Charles Armev
Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice
Fr. James Mazzone
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

Deacon

Van Nguyen

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

**Director, After-School Program
and Ascension Clothing Center**

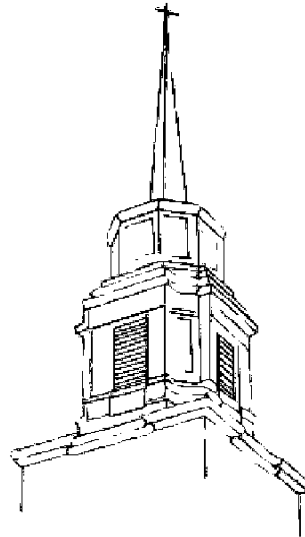
Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

Music Ministry

Sean Redrow, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst. Dir.

Rectory Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm
Jimmy Archibald, Manager
stjohnsworc@gmail.com



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

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Bar 5:1-9

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Lk 3:1-6

Worship Hymnal #1006

Parish Website

www.stjohnsworcester.org
www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mon.-Thurs.. 6:45 pm

Saturday- 3 pm

Holy Days

Vigil 6:15 p.m.

Holy Day 12:15, 6:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office at
least one year prior to planned date
of marriage

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact the rectory for
an appointment

Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact the parish office for
a priest

**Monthly Mass for Healing
Followed by the Celebration**

Of the

Sacrament of the Sick

4th Tuesday of the month
6:15 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 8, 2018

12:15 P.M. **For the People of St. John's**

4:15 PM **John Michael Cahill, Jr. (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 9, 2018

8:00 AM **Elizabeth McCabe Spurr**, req. by Family;

Mary Tagney, req. by Lorraine O'Neil

10:15 AM **Joseph Lane (9th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Guy Corso**, req. by Friends

Monday, December 10, 2018

6:15 PM **Chris Curran**, req. by Family

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

6:15 PM **Richard N. Sargent**, req. by Friends

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

6:15 PM **Dan Martel**, req. by Family; **Helena, John,**

Mary, Brede and Ita Murphy, req. by Family

Thursday, December 13, 2018

6:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Friends

Friday, December 14, 2018

6:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

Saturday, December 15, 2018

4:15 PM **Carl and Victoria Steele**, req. by Family;

George Comptois, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Msgr. Ed Tinsley**, req. by Friends

Sunday, December 16, 2018

8:00 AM **Connie and Adelle Sullivan**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Elizabeth "Betty" Capuano (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **George Senkavitch and Gregory Stockmal (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Deacon**

Paul Dacri, req. by Steve Prevoski

7:15 PM **Eunice White**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The four Gospels each cover, if you will, the same subject. The subject is, of course, the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Still, given that they were written by different people to different communities and from different faith experiences, they are each unique. Indeed, it is the rare event or person that is included in all four of the gospels. John the Baptist is one. This is a clear indication of how highly he was esteemed in the early Christian community. And how highly the Baptist continues to be esteemed to this day. This is particularly true in the Season of Advent. In the heart of Advent, this week and next, the figure of John the Baptist dominates. Indeed, it is his preaching which defines the Advent season: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*

John was extremely popular. Mark tells us that *people from the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and being baptized in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.* Scripture scholars tell us that John's appearance came at a very difficult time in the history of Israel. Michael Simone, S.J. points to the number of references to demonic forces made in the Gospels as an indication that something was very wrong. Out of the desert and into that situation comes John the Baptist with his challenging and hopeful message. God, he assures the people, is still at work. The Baptist then expands the normal Jewish ritual washing into a full cleansing and a rebirth. Only through the acts of repentance can one experience the action of God.

In our own time, when we have joined with a multitude of parishes in offering the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel for protection *against the wickedness and snares of the devil*, John's preaching is critical, still. God's love is still active in the world. Yet, we can only prepare His way into our hearts, our homes and our world when we repent and are washed clean. To that end, the heart of Advent is the call to imitate the Baptist. Something is very wrong in the world today. People need to know that, despite the work of the evil one, God maintains control of the world. There are many reasons for our collective anxiety, but the presence of God brings serenity and strength. We are called to prepare for the coming of Christ, we do so by living lives that proclaim that He is already here.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. John Madden

The Lector and Eucharistic Minister schedule for Christmas is available on the parish website and in the sacristy.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Populus Sion*, Is. 30: 19, 30

Op.: # 395 When the King Shall Come Again
Ps. 126, "The Lord has done great things for us; we
are filled with joy."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 401 Come, Lord, and Tarry Not!

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, 311

Comm.: *Jerusalem surge*, Bar 5:5; 4: 36

438 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Cl.: # 402 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

December 4 – Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.

December 21– Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

January 28– Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Dagger John: Archbishop John Hughes and the Making of Irish America" by John Loughery.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24- Vigil Mass

4:15 PM

10:15 PM Schola Cantorum

Christmas Day Masses

8:00 AM

10:15 AM

12:15 PM Parish Choir

There is no 7:15 PM Mass on Christmas

GIVING TREE GIFTS are needed back to the church or rectory by Tuesday, December 11. The gifts are being picked up on Wednesday, December 12. Thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT RETREAT– Come join us this Sunday, December 9 for our Advent Retreat in Honor of Deacon Paul Dacri. This year's theme is "Advent Journeys: Called to Lead Home and to Welcome the Stranger." The day starts with the 12:15 PM Mass in the main Church, followed by the Advent Afternoon Recollection in the Parish Hall, starting at 1:15 PM (with refreshments before that). The retreat includes Adoration and praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM and ending at 3:45 PM. The speaker will be Kevin Dowd, published author, Adjunct Professor at AMC, and PhD Candidate, Theology and Education, Boston College.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6– This Sunday, December 9, 9-10 AM in the Church Hall

Grades 7-9– This Sunday, December 9, 11:15AM - 12:15 PM in the church hall.

Confirmation (grade 10)– This Sunday, December 9, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Xavier Center.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND POT LUCK– The annual CCD Christmas Pageant and Pot-Luck will be held Sunday, December 16th following the 10:15 AM Mass. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share.

THE ST. RAFQA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

will be meeting TUESDAY DECEMBER 11 (not Wednesday Dec 12) at 9:30-11:00 am in the lower chapel. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Anyone who would like a shawl for a comforting hug for someone, please call Connie at 508-755-5172

CHRISTMAS MAGNETS– The social committee again this year will be selling Christmas Magnets (\$3.00 each) & Ornaments (\$5.00 each). These items will be on sale after Masses beginning the weekend of 11/17 and 11/18. They make great Christmas Stocking Stuffers. The profit from the sale of these items is used to defray the cost of the committee's various activities.

THANK YOU– The social committee would like to thank everyone that participated in this year's LaSalette Shrine trip to see the Christmas Display. We were fortunate to have the weather clear when we arrived. No rain and warmer than usual weather. The display was enjoyed by some by walking, while others took the trolley. To end a perfect evening we all enjoyed Fr. Pat's Concert. We made a small profit thanks to our bus driver who donated the collection we took up for him. Check your bulletin for upcoming 2019 social committee events.

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.

In Our Catholic Community...

A MASS FOR HEALING will be held this Tuesday, December 18 at 6:15 PM. After the Mass the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered. Anyone seeking the healing touch of God's love and mercy is welcome.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ONLINE LEARNING (DIOCESAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM) - Have you ever had a desire to expand your knowledge of the faith in areas such as Scripture, Liturgy and Worship, Prayer and Spirituality, Sacraments, Creed, or Church History? Check out the on-line courses available to adults through our Diocesan Partnership Program with U Dayton and the Virtual Community for Faith Formation. You can receive a substantial discount while learning in your own space during your personal hours of availability. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Ramian at 508-929-4308.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO HELP IN TV MINISTRY? - Whether you like to operate a camera, or would like to learn audio controls or even how to produce, we have a place for you in TV Ministry. We will train – all you need is a desire to learn and some free time. Call Steve at 508-791-2039 or email tvmass@charter.net for more information. Great service opportunity for high school or college students and retirees alike!

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Norman "Steve" Atterstrom and President George H.W. Bush who have been born into eternal life.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$8062.66. We have also received:
Monthly- \$2809.00 Restoration- \$419.00
Candles- \$189.00 Stipends- \$320.00
School Rent- \$4757.60 IMO Deacon Paul- \$210.00

Total- \$16,202.10 Unrestricted- \$15,783.10 Restricted-\$419.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$100 from a friend; \$500 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$1000 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$50 IMO Britney Gengel; \$400 IMO Joseph Lane; \$100 IMO Cirilo and Matilde F. Varias; \$100 IHO Fr. Madden's 60th Birthday; \$325 IMO Philip Murphy; \$150 from Wircester Men's Rugby Team; \$35 IMO Gloria Marois; \$50 IMO Patrick and Christopher Johnson; \$100 IMO Joe Battelle; \$100 in thanksgiving to St. Expedite for prayers answered; \$25 IMO Lena Barry; \$50 IMO Eunice White; \$500 from Eat to Give, Inc.; 100 IMO Wilfred Lariviere; \$100 IMO Joel P. Argento; \$150 IMO Ann Pitro; \$25 IMO Kathy Cushing

Expenses- \$8648.56
Funerals (329.20) Schola (967.60) Administration (2652.75) Altar (449.80) CCD (190.47) Haitian Apostolate (532.00) Church Repair and Maintenance (1631.99) House (106.96) Marriage Prep (27.50) Deacon Retreat (570.00) Office (67.71) Diocesan Legal Fees (48.61) Church Alarm (146.58) Copier (621.89)

Food for the Poor:
Income- \$ 9001.00 Expenses- \$3447.56

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

YEAR TO DATE- In November we had a cash operating loss of \$10,841.86. This puts our deficit for the First Quarter of FY 18/19 at \$12,849.05. Thank you for your generosity to the Mission of St. John's.

Word of Life

"It is said that you will come again, and this is true. But the word *again* is misleading. It won't really be 'another' coming, because you have never really gone away. In the human existence that you made your own for all eternity, you have never left us... O God who is to come, grant me the grace to live now, in the hour of your Advent, in such a way that I may merit to live in you forever, in the blissful hour of your eternity." –Karl Rahner