

*"To Preserve The Flame"*  
**SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH**

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Parish Websites [www.stjohnsworcester.org](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org) and [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. Juan Sebastian Sanchez

**Assisting Priests**

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

**Deacon**

Van Nguyen  
Michael Chase

**Coordinators of  
Religious Education**

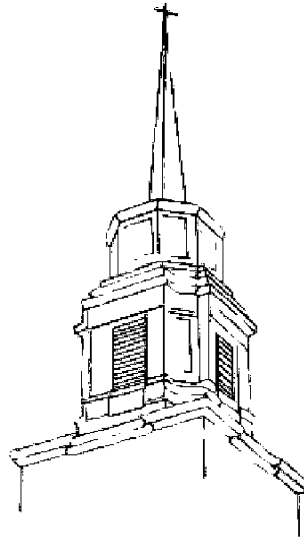
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

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

Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

**Music Ministry**

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



**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**

Jer 17:5-8

1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

Lk 6:17, 20-26

#1126 in Worship Hymnal

**Rectory Office Hours:**

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm  
Jimmy Archibald, Manager  
[stjohnsworc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsworc@gmail.com)

**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

**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, February 16, 2019

4:15 PM **Eleanor Prevoski**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family; **Edward Diman (1st Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 17, 2019

8:00 AM **Elsie Gannon**, req. by Family; **Jack Little**, req. by Phil and Hyla Hunt

10:15 AM **Donald Walczak (7th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **John Osodo (18th Anniv.) and Birthday**

**Blesings for Joyce Osodo**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Carmela Luca**, req. by Family; **Birthday Blessings for Lorenzo Pasquale**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Dan Best**, req. by Friends

Monday, February 18, 2018

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

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

6:15 PM **Ruben and Ricardo Almeida**, req. by Family

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

6:15 PM **Madeline Bachand**, req. by Friends

Thursday, February 21, 2019

6:15 PM **Eleanor and Ed Gregory**, req. by Frank Carroll

Friday, February 22, 2019

6:15 PM **Joe Comeau**, req. by Family

Saturday, February 23, 2019

4:15 PM **Joseph and Julia Senckowski, Christine Plouffe**, req. by Family; **Skip Granger and Hannah Walsh**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Frank Wright**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 24, 2019

8:00 AM **Sarah Sadowski**, req. by Family; **David, Samuel, Barbara and Matthew Covello** req. by Family

10:15 AM **Zigmas Dabrila**, req. by Family;

**Barbara Durkin**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Milton Joseph Pepin, Sr.**, req. by Wife Helen and Family; **Robert J. Pellegrino**, req. by Daughter Marlana and Family

7:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Friends

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Each week at Bible Study, Mahri asks us to listen to the readings “as if it was the first time you are hearing them.” Obviously, this is a difficult task, but – to the degree that we are able – a helpful one. We recognize that the Scriptures are “the living Word of God.” To that end, each time we hear the Scriptures it can be as if it was the first time. The opposite tendency is to allow our familiarity to become complacency. We hear a phrase, or a sentence and we are familiar with the passage, so we do not fully listen. This douses the fire of the word, dims its light and we are not really challenged or consoled by it.

This is especially true of the Beatitudes. We have heard them so often that they have lost some of their power. This is unfortunate. One theologian said of them:

*They are spoken in an electric atmosphere.*

*They are not quiet stars, but flashes of lightning followed by a thunder of surprise and amazement.*

In Luke’s Sermon on the Plain, the Beatitudes are followed by the Woes. In Luke’s account, then, both the consolation and the challenge of following Jesus is made clear. For he is essentially asking if we want to be happy in the world’s way or in God’s way. As I hear this passage today, it seems to me that experiencing the consolation of the Beatitudes is more difficult than the facing the challenge of the Woes.

As seductive as wealth and leisure can be, we can clearly see that they do not bestow a full blessing or true happiness. In our materialistic society it will always be a challenge not to give in to their seduction. Rather, we must always acknowledge that God is the source of all gifts and they are given to be shared with others, especially those in need.

Far more difficult is to see the blessing in our poverty, our hunger and our weeping. Intellectually we know that these sufferings are, in fact, opportunities for gaining wisdom, straightening priorities and receiving grace. We have seen examples of how this has occurred in the lives of others. Still, in the midst of poverty and hunger and tears, the trust that this is true can be elusive. Therein is the power of Jesus’ words. For the Eternal Word of God reminds us that it is not our task as Christians to conform Christ to our needs and expectations. Our task is to conform our lives to Him.

In Christ’s Peace,  
Fr. John Madden

## ***THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

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

Introit: *Esto mihi in Deum*, Ps. 31 (30): 3, 4  
Op.: # 780 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service  
Ps.: 1, "Blessed are they who hope in the Lord"  
Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 748 What Does the Lord Require  
Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311  
Comm.: Manducaverunt, Ps. 78 (77): 29, 30  
# 926 I Come with Joy  
Cl.: # 627 O God beyond all Praising

### **ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S**

**February 19**– Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.

**February 19**–Parish Campaign Committee, 7 PM in the rectory.

**March 15**– Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

**March 25**– Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Catholics in America" by Russell Shaw.

**THE 96th ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER** will begin Monday, March 4 and run through Tuesday, March 12. Mass and Novena prayers will be held on the weekdays at 9:15 AM, 12:15 and 6:15 PM and on the regular weekend schedule. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this great Lenten tradition.

**ANNUAL PARTNERS IN CHARITY APPEAL** will begin this weekend, February 9th and 10th with the In-Pew Collection. The theme for this year's appeal is "Generate Joy". The goal for this year is \$76,600 which is the same as it has been for the past couple of years. The reason for the early start to this year's appeal is that we are in the first flight of the upcoming Diocesan Capital Campaign. The theme for the campaign is Legacy of Hope. There will be more information coming in the weeks ahead.

**BACH-A-THON**– The Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present Bach-A-Thon on Saturday, March 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester benefitting St. John's Food for the Poor and Abby House. The day begins at 9 AM and ends at 8 PM. All are welcome to attend.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**First Reconciliation/First Eucharist**– This Sunday, February 10, 9-10 AM in the Xavier Center.

**Grades 1-6**– Sunday, February 24, 9-10 AM in the Church Hall.

**Grades 7-9**– Sunday, February 24, 11:15AM -12:15 PM in the church hall.

**Confirmation (grade 10)**– Sunday, February 24, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Xavier Center.

**FOOD FOR THE POOR FUNDRAISER**– For the three weekends from February 23/24 to March 9/10 a representative from BJ's (and a St. John's parishioner) will be offering new and renewed memberships at a discounted rate. For every membership BJ's will donate \$5 to our Food for the Poor Program.

### **LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2018**

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence for all who have completed their 14<sup>th</sup> year. On Week Days of Lent there is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended. Voluntary Self-Denial may include, in addition to fasting, participation in daily Mass, spiritual studies, Lenten Devotions, Stations of the Cross, saying the Rosary, deeds of mercy and kindness. Easter Duty Obligation must be made from the first Sunday in Lent (March 10) through Trinity Sunday (June 16).

### **DEEDS OF MERCY AND KINDNESS:**

**Brown Bag It**– paper bags will be available in the church with a list of the food items most needed in our food pantry. You are invited to take a bag and when filled return it to the statue of St. Therese.

**Baby Bottles and Rice Bowls** will also be available. You are invited to place the money you would have spent on what you "give up" for Lent into the bottle and/or bowl. The bottles support the great pro-life work of Visitation House here in Worcester. The bowls support the great work done by Catholic Relief Services all across the globe.

### **ST. JOHN'S LENTEN DEVOTIONS**

**The Stations of the Cross** are celebrated every Friday in Lent after the 6:15 PM Mass, except on the Friday of the Novena, March 8th.

## In Our Catholic Community...

**A MASS FOR HEALING** will be held Tuesday, February 26 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.

**TALENT SHOW-** The Social Activities Committee will sponsor a talent show on Saturday, March 16th after the 4:15 Mass in the St. Francis Xavier Center. The cost for show and dinner (sandwiches, chips, pickles, soda, coffee, water and dessert) will be \$5.00 per person. If you perform in the show, there will be no cost to you. The Committee is looking for talented individuals to put on a show. There will be prizes awarded. On the table in the back of the church is a sign up sheet, please sign up if you will be performing or sign up if you are just planning on attending the show.

### **ST. JOHN'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Saturday, May 11th- Dinner Show
- Sunday, July 14th- Parish Picnic
- Saturday, September 21- Dinner Show
- Saturday, October 16- Costume/Halloween Party
- December- LaSalette Shrine Bus Trip (date to be announced)

**DIVORCED/SEPARATED CATHOLIC SUPPORT GROUP-** A Divorced/Separated Catholic Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 7 – 9 PM at St Joseph Church, Knights of Columbus Room, 10 H Putnam Rd., Charlton. For more information please contact Karen Lennox at (508) 373-2067 or Sue Gustafson at (508) 934-6153.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$8920.66. We have also received:

Monthly- \$1568.00	Restoration- \$85.00
Stipends- \$710.00	Candles- \$278.00
Parking- \$285.00	Free Press- \$108.00
Home Missions- \$439.00	

**Total-** \$12,393.66 **Unrestricted-** \$11,869.66 **Restricted-** \$524.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$1000 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$39.57 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$80 IMO Jim Duffy; \$100 IMO Cornelia Foley; \$250 IMO Earl Joslyn; \$100 IMO Jim McDonald; \$50 IMO Sisters of St. Anne; \$50 IMO Maureen Janulewicz; \$50 IMO Alice Kane; \$50 IMO Linda Stranieri; \$100 IMO Duddie Massad; \$25 IMO Maille Salmon; \$25 IMO Philip Shea, Sr.; \$50 IMO Michael Rahaim; \$25 Imo Mike Falvey; \$75 IMO James Hurley, Jr.; \$100 IMO Patsy Holland and Anna Baroni

**Expenses-** \$11,681.07

Funerals (505.60) Schola (922.08) Administration (4945.01) After School (151.62) Clergy Benefit Plan (1007.00) Envelopes (207.61) Church Electric (23.25) Rectory Electric (1229.02) Ascension Electric (1479.96) Marriage Prep (27.50) Partners in Charity (200.00) Home Missions (439.00) Altar (68.00) Church Alarm (112.83)

**Food for the Poor:**  
Income- \$6270.00  
Expenses- \$6537.02

## **Our Parish Community...**

...Offers prayers and condolences to the family of Andy Laska who has been born into eternal life.

## **Word of Life**

**“Blessed, fortunate, happy are you who are full now, who are sleek and well-fed, because you are strong enough to feed the hungry, to touch empty stomachs with compassion. But blessed only if you have the mind of the hungry, the mind of Christ. Only if you do not take your food for granted. Only if you are uncomfortable as long as one sister or brother cries in vain for bread or justice or love. Only if you experience your own emptiness—how desperately you need the hungry, how far you still are from God. Blessed are the full, if you are always hungry.” –Fr. Walter Burghardt**