

*"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.stjohnsfoodforthepeople.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthepeople.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**

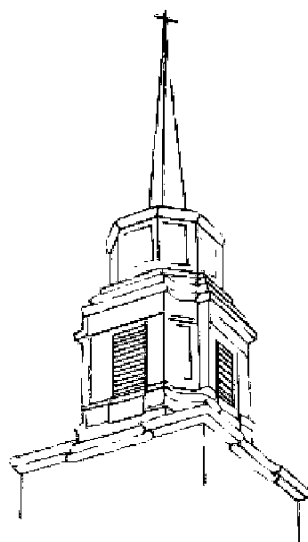
Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**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**

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

1 Cor 15:45-49

Lk 6:27-38

#1129 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 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 Marlena and Family

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

Monday, February 25, 2018

6:15 PM **Scott Gow**, req. by Family

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

6:15 PM **Lenin and Francisco Almeida**, req. by Family

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

6:15 PM **Thomas Reynolds (7th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Thursday, February 28, 2019

6:15 PM **Lt. Bill Maloney, USMC (Ret.)**, req. by Frank Carroll

Friday, March 1, 2019

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

Saturday, March 2, 2019

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.; Maureen Taylor (Month's Mind)**, req. by the Tatro Family

7:15 PM **Kay Yarmey and Shirley Nagelschmidt**, req. by Family

Sunday, March 3, 2019

8:00 AM **Betty Gleason**, req. by Family; **Matthew Covello** req. by Family

10:15 AM **Dorothy Fresolo (15th Anniv.)**, req. by Family; **Christopher Bosowski and Patricia Benoit**, req. by Family; **Duddie Massad**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Gail Gully**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Scott Lindberg**, req. by Friends

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The Sermon on the Plain continues in today's Gospel passage. It doesn't get any easier, either. *Love your enemies* is not a popular commandment. Plus, it is seemingly impractical. Still, Jesus gave it to us, along with *do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you*. How can we obey such difficult commandments?

As you know, in Greek there are three words for love. *Eros* describes passionate love. *Philos* describes our love for those nearest and dearest. Finally, what Jesus calls us to in today's Gospel passage – *Agape*. This is an active feeling of benevolence toward other people. It means that no matter what others do to us we will never allow ourselves to desire anything but their highest good. We will deliberately go out of our way to be good and kind to them.

This ethic is positive, it does not exist in not doing things but in doing them. Further, it also calls for doing the extra thing: *For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?* We are good people. I would say better than most people. If it were our neighbor whom we compare ourselves, we would make out pretty well. However, Jesus asks us to compare ourselves with God. In that we all fall short. Therefore, he tells us: *Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.*

The parish mission trip to Be Like Brit and St. Francois Church will be from July 14 – 20 this year. There is still room on the trip if you are interested in going. All of us who have made the trip in the past agree that it is an extraordinary experience. If you are interested, you can speak with me or go to the Be Like Brit website for further information and to register for the trip.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr. John Madden

**ST. JOHN'S CYC BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS-**

Our CYC basketball team will be playing in a playoff game this Saturday, February 23rd at 7:30 PM at St. Bernard's Parish in Worcester, MA. All are welcome to come and cheer on the team!!

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Domine, in tua misericordia*, Ps. 13 (12): 6  
Opening: # 645 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
Ps. 103, "The Lord is kind and merciful."  
Alleluia: 208  
Prep: # 695 Your Ways Are Not Our Own  
Eucharistic Accs.: 353, 356, 355, 311  
Communion: *Narrabo*, Ps. 9: 2, 3  
# 939 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart  
Cl.: # 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

### ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

**February 26**— Bible Study, 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.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH** and the Music at Trinity Series feature internationally-known organist Jonathan Dimmock, March 3rd at 4:00 PM. All are welcome! It will be a beautiful afternoon of music. A give-as-you-are-able offering will be taken.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**First Reconciliation/First Eucharist**— This Sunday, February 24, 9-10 AM in the Xavier Center.

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

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

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

**FAMILY CLEANING DAY** will be Saturday, March 2nd in the church, from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Please help us beautify the church for the annual Novena of Grace. Feel free to bring your own cleaning supplies, but not necessary. If there is a funeral, we will meet noon to 3 PM. All are welcome. We will meet in the main church.

**FOOD FOR THE POOR FUNDRAISER**— For the next three weekends 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 this 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.

**JOIN THE ST. JOHN'S ONLINE ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMUNITY-** For the first time ever, St. John's is offering an online faith formation community for adults in the parish. The goal of this group is to offer online spiritual formation studies that come in the form of an email or text message. Parishioners in the group can participate in the studies and share their thoughts and questions with the group as a whole. This Lent we will kick off our first study using Bishop Barron's popular "Seven Deadly Sins" series. You can join the Adult Faith Formation group by texting the word "Madden" to 84576 on your cell phone or visiting <https://stjohnsworcester.flocknote.com/everyone>

**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. Please sign the sheets on the back table of the church if you plan to perform or just attend.

**ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY,** Wednesday, March 6th 5-8 PM at Fiddlers' Green Pub, 19 Temple St. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door, desserts included. For tickets contact Beth Doyle 508-847-2969 or pick up at Fiddlers' Pub.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$7781.16. We have also received:

Monthly- \$75.00	Restoration- \$220.00
Candles- \$302.00	Parking- \$70.00
Stipends- \$310.00	Partners in Charity- \$200.00
Novena- \$1400.00	Free Press- \$970.00
After School Summer Program- \$2500.00	

**Total-** \$13,828.16 **Unrestricted-** \$10,228.16 **Restricted-** \$1620.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$100 from a friend; \$585 IMO James Hurley, Jr.; \$100 IMO Barbara Moriarty; \$100 IMO Cornelia Foley; \$100 IMO Patricia Brunelle; \$50 IMO Russell Hicks; \$50 Imo Donald Walczak; \$500 from Eat to Give; \$1966.50 from Lincoln St. Stop and Shop; \$6840.25 from Graf-ton St. Stop and Shop; \$2389.39 from W. Boylston Stop and Shop; \$25 IMO Maille Salmon; \$275 IMO Earl Joslyn; \$60 IMO Patrick and Christopher Johnson; \$250 from MSP Fleet Section; \$50 IMO John McNamara; \$30 IMO James Grady; \$25 IMO Carl Johnson

**Expenses-** \$20,155.28  
Schola (922.08) Administration (6922.33) Altar (455.40) Church Fire Panel Repair (97.50) House (145.15) Church Plowing Contract (1666.66) Ascension Plow Contract (416.66) Lithuanian Donation (530.00) Marriage Prep (27.50) February Budget Bill (7469.00) Novena (1400.00) Office (28.00)

**Food for the Poor:**  
Expenses- \$2724.98

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Patricia Kelly, Kenneth Sullivan, Peter Tork and Nick Cafardo who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Kylie Roque and Eliot Grandone who have entered the Catholic community through the waters of Baptism.

## Word of Life

**“Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil. The greatest way to do that is through love. I believe firmly that love is a transforming power that can lift a whole community to new horizons of fair play, good will and justice.”**

**-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**