

February 18, 2018

"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. James Hoey
Fr. James Mazzone

Deacons

Paul Dacri
Van Nguyen

**Coordinators of
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito
Dianne Gustowski

Director, After-School Program

Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

Music Ministry

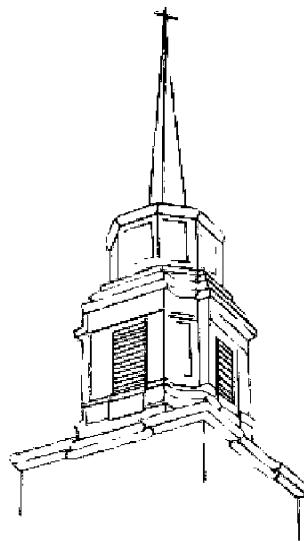
Sean Redrow, Director
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst. Dir.

Rectory Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm
Jimmy Archibald, Manager

Parish Email

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

Gn 9:8-15

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

Worship Hymnal #1098

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 Deacon Paul 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, February 17, 2018

4:15 PM **Bill, Rita, Billy, Stevie and Jimmy Duffy, Joe Olson**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Dennis Cashman**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 18, 2018:

8:00 AM **Elsie Gannon**, req. by Family; **Health and Intentions of Charlie LeBlanc**, req. by Nancy, Patty, Al and Lorraine

10:15 AM **Donald Walczak (6th Anniv.)**, req. by family; **Birthday Blessings for Lorenzo Pasquale**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Milton Joseph Pepin**, req. by Wife Helen and Family

7:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family

Monday, February 19, 2018

6:15 PM **Nuke Urban and Andrew Marble**, req. by Family

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

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

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

6:15 PM **Virginia Dillaire**, req. by a Friend

Thursday, February 22, 2018

6:15 PM **Patricia Gaudette**, req. by a Friend

Friday, February 23, 2018

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

Saturday, February 24, 2018

4:15 PM **Mary and Joseph Paskavitz, Rose and Frank Allelunas, Anthony and Adele Dailida**, req. by Family; **Skip Granger and Hannah Walsh**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Joseph Senckowski (19th Anniv.) and Christine Plouffe (11th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Sunday, February 25, 2018:

8:00 AM **Sarah Sandowski**, req. by Sue and Al Johnson
10:15 AM **Dolores Gallo**, req. by family; **Peter Liddy**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Thomas P. Reynolds**, req. by Family; **Robert J. Pellegrino**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Scott Gow**, req. by Family

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Psalm 51 is the great penitential song of the entire Psalms. In the Liturgy of the Hours it is prayed every Friday morning. It is also the first Psalm prayed on Ash Wednesday to start the Season of Lent. Here is one of its most important stanzas:

*For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.*

In the past I have found the beginning of the Season of Lent a bit perplexing. To prepare for Lent we reflect upon what we want “to give up” and so enter into the season committed to making it a rich spiritual experience. Then, from the very first prayer and readings at Mass, we are reminded that these acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are not truly what God seeks from us. Rather, God seeks our hearts – and mind, body, soul and spirits.

I confess that in the past years I have not dealt with this seeming contradiction very well. I figured that I should minimize my Lenten “giving ups” in order to focus more on what God truly desires from me. Bad move. We simply cannot move anywhere without a vehicle of some sort or other. So without prayer, fasting and almsgiving we cannot move into a deeper – heartfelt – relationship with God. As the Psalmist tells us the “sacrifices and burnt offerings” are not what God desires. Yet, limiting them – so I discovered – inhibits us from adopting the “humbled, contrite heart” that God seeks from us. And, we are assured, God “will not spurn.”

Finally, congratulations to our own Nancy Small for her recent article published in America, the Jesuit Review. In the Faith in Focus section, Nancy’s work is entitled, “Discovering my priesthood as a Catholic woman in a Protestant seminary.” It is both an insightful reflection on her personal spiritual journey and a celebration of the “common priesthood” that we all share. I am always an issue or two behind with my America subscription, but it can still be found online from the January 3, 2018 issue. Thanks, Nancy!

In Christ’s Peace,
Fr. John Madden

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Invocabit me*, Ps. 91 (90):15, 16
Op.: # 461 Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days
Ps.: # 1098, Ps. 25, "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant."
Gospel Acc: # 208 "Praise and Honor to you, O Lord, Jesus Christ"
Prep.: # 490 My Song is Love Unknown
Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, 306, 311
Comm.: *Scapulis suis obumbrabit*, Ps. 91 (90):4-5
469 Parce Domine
Cl.: # 474 Again We Keep this Solemn Fast

ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

February 20— Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.
February 24— The Filipino Choir will be at the 4:15 PM Mass.
February 26— The Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Fr. Solanus Casey" by Catherine Odell.
February 26—RCIA in the 7 PM rectory.
March 16— Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

THE 95th ANNUAL NOVENA OF GRACE IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER will begin Sunday, March 4 and run through Monday, 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. Benediction and Novena prayers will be celebrated at 2:15 PM on March 10th. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this great Lenten tradition.

HOPE FOR HOUSING GIFT CARDS- Gift cards to local stores (Shaws, Stop & Shop, Dunkin Donuts and more) are sold every month on the 1st and 3rd weekends at the Saturday 4:15, Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM Masses. Cards will continue to be sold this weekend. For a complete calendar of card sales dates see our page on the church website. Thank you!

THE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE is looking for children and families to help carry banners in the parade. If you and your family wish to do this, please contact Dianne at dhgustowski@gmail.com. Thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Grades 1-6— This Sunday, February 18 at 9 AM in the church hall.
Grades 7-9— This Sunday February 18, 11:15 AM in the church hall.
Confirmation— **This** Sunday, February 18, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM in the Xavier Center.
First Reconciliation/First Eucharist will not meet this weekend. Classes will continue next Sunday, February 25 at 9 AM in the Xavier Center.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER CARDS are available in the back of the church. Please pray for one (or more!) of our Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive this Sacrament in April. You will have a chance to meet them at the Sending Mass in March. Thank you!

CYC BASKETBALL will start the playoffs this Saturday at Mt. Carmel. We need 3 wins to capture the championship. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a wonderful season.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR 2018

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence for all who have completed their 14th 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 (February 18) through Trinity Sunday (May 27).

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 9th.

In Our Catholic Community...

A MASS FOR HEALING will be held Tuesday, February 27 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.

18TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

COLLEGE- Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, March 17. Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Father David Cavanagh, Robert Rogers, Ryan Tremblay, and Elvis Grbac. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until February 28, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are \$30.

WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE STOPS GOING TO CHURCH

We all have friends and relatives who have given up on God, the Church or both. How can we reach out to them with the love of Jesus and invite them to return? This workshop will explore new attitudes and skills needed to share our faith in the family, the neighborhood and the workplace. Includes: Why Catholics Become Inactive, Surrendering Friends and Family to God, Alone in the Faith: What Are My Choices? Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 am to 12:30 pm, St. Mary Parish Hall, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge. Speakers: John and Therese Boucher. For more information and to register (no charge) contact: Sue, Phone 508-278-2226 sleigh-ton@stmaryuxbridge.org.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$14,450.08. We have also received:

Monthly- \$92.00	Restoration- \$171.00
Parking- \$35.00	Stipends- \$92.00
Eileen George- \$300.00	Insurance- \$1540.00
School Rent- \$4659.75	Free Press- \$931.00

Total- \$22,270.83 **Unrestricted-** \$22,099.83; **Restricted-** \$171.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$460 IMO Peter Liddy; \$100 IMO Stanley and Bernice Rutkowski; \$15, \$50, \$35, \$50, \$25 from a friend; \$95 IMO Kathleen Carlo; \$20 for a favor received; \$100 IMO Mary Landry McGee; \$45 IMO Stanley Choinski; \$25 IMO Paul and Winifred Gingras; \$100 IMO Jonathan Favreau; \$100 IMO Brian Forts

Expenses- \$14,761.90

Schola (1310.20) Confirmation Retreat (337.00) Administration (5137.18) State Payroll Taxes (1196.19) House (239.80) Volunteer Group (1500.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (1900.64) Sanding (275.00) Church Electric (1192.78) Rectory Electric (863.84) Office (36.14) CCD (226.08) Altar (435.60) Church Alarm (111.45)

Food for the Poor
Expenses- \$2845.16

This weekend's second collection is for the Church in Latin America

Our Parish Community...

Offers prayers and condolences to the families of David Covello, Carol Bain, Teri Hart, Germaine Bilodeau and John Francona who have been born into eternal life.

Word of Life

“I [Francis de Sales] have just come from prayer, where I was considering the reason we are in this world. I have learned that we are here only to receive and carry the gentle Jesus: on our tongue by proclaiming him; in our arms by doing good works; on our shoulders by supporting the yoke of dryness and sterility in both the interior and exterior senses. Happy are those who carry him gently and with consistency...”

–Wendy M. Wright