

"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**

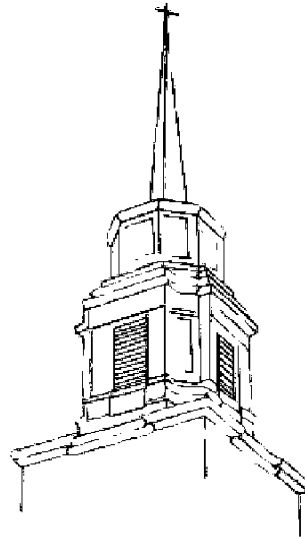
Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

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

Jer 33:14-16

1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Worship Hymnal #1212

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 1, 2018

4:15 PM **All Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.**, req. by Family; **John and Rose Gerdauskas, Patricia Casavant**, req. by Marie and Arthur Bilzerian

7:15 PM **Donald Donovan and Susan Brigham**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 2, 2018

8:00 AM **Elizabeth and Tom Spurr**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Rev. John Bakanas, George and Julia Bakanas, Joan Nichols**, req. by Family; **Walter Pogorek (7th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Birthday Blessings for Jonelle Garofoli**, req. by Family

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

Monday, December 3, 2018

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

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

6:15 PM **Stephanie LeBlanc**, req. by Family; **Patrick Michael Dowling (14th Anniv.)**, req. by Family

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

6:15 PM **Paul and Mary Skowronski**, req. by Family

Thursday, December 6, 2018

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

Friday, December 7, 2018—Immaculate Conception

6:15 PM **Conrad O'Donnell and Rolland Ricard**, req. by Friends

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

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

Dear Friends in the Lord,

This week we begin the Season of Advent and a new Liturgical Year. Given the hustle and bustle—the clinical mania? - of the Christmas shopping season, Advent is a gift from God! It calls us to hope in God; hope that the divine promise of salvation will be fulfilled. On our voicemail message we have longed wished those who call the rectory “many graces and blessings.” Not long ago, we added “and much hope.” Hope is so much needed today. The Season of Advent reminds us that, more than a mere feeling, hope is a virtue. One of the three theological virtues, hope is a combination of the desire for something and the expectation of receiving it.

Those of us who had the grace and blessing of attending the John McDermott concert last month have had a head start on the beauty of the Advent season. As I mentioned back then the concert was a religious experience. So many of the songs, indeed all of them lifted our minds and hearts up in the hope of God's promises being fulfilled.

For me this hope came through most powerfully during John's rendition of Ron Sexsmith's “Maybe This Christmas:”

*Maybe this Christmas will mean something more
Maybe this year love will appear
Deeper than ever before
And maybe this Christmas will ask us to call
Someone w love
Someone we've lost
For reasons we can't quite recall
Maybe this Christmas*

*Maybe there'll be an open door
Maybe the star that shined once before
Will shine once more*

*And maybe this Christmas will find us at last
In heaven, at peace
Prayed for at least
For the love we have been shown in the past
Maybe this Christmas
Maybe this Christmas*

Therein lies our hope. Happy Advent.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. John Madden

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS

Introit: *Ad te levavi*, Ps. 25 (24): 1-3

Op.: # 386 Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Ps. 25 "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul."

Prep: # 403 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, 311

Communio: *Dominus dabit*, Ps. 85 (84): 13

Hymn: # 405 Creator of the Stars of Night

Cl.: # 409 Sleepers, Wake!

ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

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 .

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

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

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

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

is next Saturday, December 8. The Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 7 at 6:15 p.m. and the Holy Day Mass on Saturday at 12:15 p.m. The Saturday 4:15 and 7:15 p.m. Masses are for the Second Sunday of Advent.

ADVENT RETREAT— Come join us on 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 2, 9-10 AM in the Church Hall

Grades 7-9— This Sunday, December 2, 11:15AM - 12:15 PM in the church hall.

Confirmation (grade 10)— This Sunday, December 2, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Xavier Center.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOPPE will be held this Sunday, December 2nd at 11:15 AM in the church hall. The cost is \$2 per child, with a max of \$5 per family. Kids can come and make and wrap Christmas presents for family members. Simply supply a list of names, and we will do the rest! Pickup is at 1:15 PM. You may stay with us, or simply drop off/pick up. Open to all children.

THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

will be meeting TUESDAY DEC 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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP will be held at Saint John's in the Church Hall on Tuesday, December 4 at 9:30AM (new time!) Being a caregiver can be an exhausting and lonely experience. We often put ourselves aside to be strong for those we love. Hearing how other people have walked through the journey of caring for a loved one can be helpful. There is no obligation to share, you are welcome to come and just listen! The group is facilitated by the Alzheimer Program Director at St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Jeanne Pellegrino. Jeanne is a certified Dementia Practitioner and has over 20 years of experience working with seniors and people with Alzheimer's and related Dementia. The group will meet the 1st Tuesday of each month. Have questions? Feel free to contact Jeanne Pellegrino, at 508-755-8605. This group is open to caregivers of any kind, not just those who care for people with dementia.

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.

CAR DONATION PROGRAM- Did you know you can donate your car, truck, motorcycle or boat to Catholic Charities and help us help your Worcester County neighbors? It's quick and easy to do. Just visit our website to donate your vehicle online at www.ccworc.org or call 1-888-CAR-7308 1-888-CAR-7308 to arrange a convenient pickup time and confirmation of your donation from Catholic Charities Donation Angel Program. The car in your driveway can help us to continue to offer many services to children, families and elders in our community so that they may regain home for a brighter future. Thank you!

FREE ADVENT CONCERT AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WORCESTER-
Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St. Worcester, will hold a free Advent concert on Sunday, December 2 at 2 PM in the Church. "Tidings of Great Joy" will be an afternoon of special music featuring sopranos Joan Shivick and Bridget Klofft, accompanied by pianist Olga Rogach. This concert is seasonal, sacred, classical, and Advent-themed. Consider attending this concert with three outstanding, professional musicians who will provide us with music to be remembered. It is open to the public, so be sure to invite family, friends, and anyone who enjoys listening to some of the most wonderful music they will hear this Advent season.

Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$9346.66. We have also received:
Candles- \$248.00 Parking- \$35.00
Stipends- \$450.00 IMO Deacon Paul- \$790.00

Total- \$10,869.66 Unrestricted- \$10,869.66 Restricted-\$0.00

FOOD FOR THE POOR: \$25 IMO Lena Barry, \$1,000 IMO Leo and Theresa Miscione, John and Jennie Giasi, \$100 from a friend, \$500 from a friend, \$100 from a friend, \$250 from a friend, \$25 from a friend, \$100 from a friend, \$225 IMO John Trumpaitis, \$100 IMO Our Parents, \$100 IMO Mary Ann Auger, \$520 from the Filipino Community, \$100 from the Beato Angelo D'Acri Women's Club, \$10 IMO Stephanie Behuniak, \$50 IMO Stephanie Le Blanc, \$30 IMO Frs. Paul O'Malley and Robert Spellman.

Expenses- \$16,892.40
Schola (996.00) Elevator Repair (500.00) Administration (4170.64) Ascension Phone (142.71) Church Gas (607.69) Rectory Gas (809.51) Ascension Gas (1047.45) Church Electrical Repair (1761.00) Ascension Electrical Repair (130.00) Stipends (1332.00) Altar (758.70) House (574.50) Advertising (200.00) Lock Repair (25.00) Rectory Plow Contract (1666.66) Ascension Plow Contract (416.66) Funerals (152.80) Rosary Supplies (21.25) CCD (214.83) Preserve the Flame (605.00) Parish School Assessment (400.00) Ascension Alarm (360.00)

Food for the Poor:
Expenses- \$4375.80

Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Mary McGovern, Rose Eagan, Stephen Hillenburg, Stanley Meliesius who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Sylvie Lucille Frisette who entered the Catholic community through the waters of Baptism.

Word of Life

"The Advent we keep is not a poetic make-believe, or a nostalgic historical pageant, or even an exercise in remembering our roots, although this might have value... The season of Advent celebrates in symbolic form a reality of our own lives and of all humanity's destiny with God, because he who came in weakness at Bethlehem is he who will come again."

--Sr. Maria Boulding, *The Coming of God*