

## ***Our 5<sup>th</sup> Station Church- our home church***

St. John the Evangelist

Established 1946

833 Main St., Agawam 01001



- Most of the English speaking Catholics living in Agawam for many years were members of the Immaculate Conception Parish of West Springfield.
- September 11, 1938 mass was celebrated for the first time in Agawam in the Old Town Hall at the corner of School and Main Streets by Reverend John A. O'Connell for 135 persons.
- When the Old Town Hall was torn down in 1939, the Congregational Church invited the parishioners of St. John's to share their church with them and for two years Mass was celebrated on Sunday at 9:00am, followed by catechism.
- The Management of Riverside Park offered the use of a section of its bowling alley as a chapel. Meanwhile the Catholic Women's Club became active in raising money to purchase a site for a new church.
- In May 1943 a plot of land on Main Street was acquired. The Catholic Men's club was organized in January 1944 and also became very active on behalf of the new church effort.

- On Sunday, October 7, 1945, Father O'Connell broke ground for the new building and the new St. John the Evangelist Church was first used on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946. Sunday, September 29, 1946 Bishop Thomas O'Leary dedicated the first Catholic Church in Agawam Center.

[A Brief History – Saint John the Evangelist Church \(stjohnagawam.com\)](http://stjohnagawam.com)

- As St. John the Evangelist Parish grew the church was architecturally changed into a Latin Cross plan in the 1980s.
- The beautiful stained glass windows behind the tabernacle are from the former Precious Blood Church in Holyoke.
- The cruciform church allows for a candle shrine dedicated to the Blessed Mother.
- There is a beautiful stained glass window of Christ's crucifixion facing the parking lot in the left transept and the bell tower calls out an invitation to prayer.



- November 23, 2020, Bishop Elect William Byrne dedicated the new *In the Beginning* Preschool with the Pastor, Reverend Michael Pierz. *"The children are not the future, they are the now,"* said Bishop-elect Byrne. *"It's a way of engaging everyone and the children are that beautiful place where the Lord says 'let them come to me' because then I'm going to bring Mom and Dad, Grandma and Granddad into this beautiful vital experience of Catholic education"*.

Some Info taken from <https://iobserve.org/2020/11/23/springfield-bishop-elect-william-byrne-blesses-new-catholic-pre-school-in-agawam/>

Consider making an extra visit to our 5<sup>th</sup> Station Church, St. John the Evangelist for quiet prayer and meditation.

God our Father, You have revealed the mysteries of Your Word through John the apostle and evangelist. By prayer and reflection may we come to understand the wisdom he taught. Saint John the Evangelist, you were the only apostle to not forsake our Savior in the hour of His Passion. Pray for us that we will not run from the Cross. Let us embrace your words, *For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting.* John 3:16



**May the spirit of the holy pilgrims inspire your prayers and reflections. Peace be with you!**

