### Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

### December 25, 2022 - The Nativity of the Lord

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606 Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110 www.saintgeorgesparish.org

Parish Staff: It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls, Pastor Ext. 112 Rev. Miguel A. Pagan, Assoc. Pastor Ext 117 Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.111

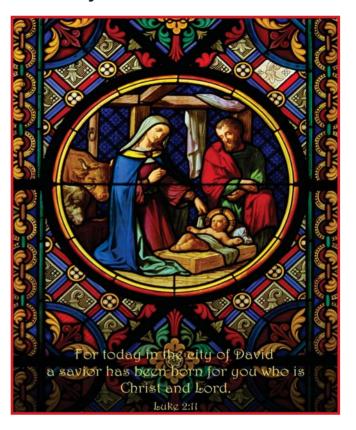
Patty LaBonte, Parish Admin Assistant office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110 Fax 508-854-0864

**Current Office Hours:** 

Monday—Thursday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at: mkhessel@aol.com

For information regarding Pastoral Care of the Sick, Marriage Preparation, Confirmation, and Ministry Involvement, we invite you to call the Parish Office.



# St. George Catholic Church

### **Baptism Information:**

Please contact

Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com

Christmas Masses: No confessions on 24th Saturday, December 24th 4:00 PM & 5:30 PM Sunday, December 25th 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

**Eucharist Celebrated:** 

Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Live-Streamed Mass is offered on our parish website each Sunday at 10:00 AM.

### Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM Tuesday 12:10 PM, and Thursday 5:30 PM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

No Confessions on Saturday, December 24th. Confessions are heard inside the church 2:30 PM—3:15 PM on Saturdays.

### **Tarish Mission Statement**

We, the parish community of St George, celebrate the welcoming presence of Christ in our lives. Together with the universal Church, we are nourished and sustained through the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, and we are inspired by the proclamation of the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit.

We continually seek to grow in a deeper understanding of our faith, to respect the sanctity of human life, and respond to what Jesus asks of us in our time by sharing our gifts and participating in parish activities and outreach to others.





### We extend to you and your loved ones our prayerful best wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

When Jesus was born, there were no telephones, email or social media to communicate the event of his birth. The good news of his birth was communicated by angels to shepherds. The shepherds, in turn, probably made the good news of this message known to their families, other shepherds and people in the marketplace.

Although Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, born and laid in a stable manger in Bethlehem, is not physically present as he was 2,000 years ago, he is still with us and even more so because he has lived, died and risen again so that we can have life and have it more fully. How fortunate we are to experience Christmas. For us it is the ultimate good news that God is with us, no matter what else may be happening in life in the world around us. Christmas calls us to be, like the shepherds, bearers of good news!

This year our holiday open house at the rectory will take place after the 8:00 and 10:00 A.M. Masses on Sunday, January 1st. You are most welcome to come.

Fr. Niccolls



### Christmas and Feast of the Holy Family

Sometimes it seems odd to listen to politicians talk about family values as though no one has ever heard of them. People live family values every day, often heroically, helping one another achieve greatness and success. The family value is love. It carries us through, and helps bring us together as one. It supports and affirms, it heals and nourishes, and it forgives and accepts.

With the focus on Jesus, the role of the Holy Family can sometimes be forgotten. Joseph, as husband and father, protects and guides. Mary, as wife and mother, nourishes and supports. Jesus, as a son, obeys and grows in holiness and wisdom. Despite their unique roles in salvation history, the members of this family are pretty much like the rest of us: living together in faith, hope and love.

The Christmas Season gives us many opportunities to express our love and appreciation for our family. Time spent together is so precious and we should try to include everyone, even those who over time and events have grown a bit distant. Pray for the grace of the Holy Family and let others know how much they are loved.

~James Gaffney @ Pilot Bulletins

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24, 2022 - Christmas Mass 4:00 PM For the Community of Saint George 5:30 PM For the Community of Saint George Sunday, December 25, 2022 - Christmas Mass

**8:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George **10:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George.

Monday, December 26, 2022

8:00 AM In Memory of Charles Brazile

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

**12:10 PM** In Memory of Lynn Russell Requested by Yvonne Murray

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

8:00 AM In Memory of Mary Lebejko-Roughan

Thursday, December 29, 2022

5:30 PM In Memory of Theresa Blair

Friday, December 30, 2022

8:00 AM In Memory of Richard Austekewicz, Jr.

Saturday, December 31, 2022

4:00 PM For the Community of Saint George

Sunday, January 1, 2023

**8:00 AM** In the Memory of Gerald Duclas Requested by his Family

**10:00 AM** In Memory of Lorraine Vayo, 3rd Anniversay Requested by her Family

### Stewardship Thought of the Week

For unto us is born this day a Savior!
In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to You.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS 2022

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/
NATIVITY OF Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
THE LORD Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/

Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/

Lk 2:15-20
Dec 25

Day: Is 52:7-10/ Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

MONDAY Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6ab+8a, 16bc+17/

Dec 26 Mt 10:17-22

TUESDAY Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
Dec 27 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Dec 27 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 1
1-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

WEDNESDAY The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Dec 28 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Dec 28 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-14

THURSDAY Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Dec 29 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

FRIDAY Dec 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SATURDAY Saint Sylvester I, Pope
Dec 31 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
SUNDAY Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

SUNDAY Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Jan 1, 2023 Num 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6+8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



## Parish Calendar

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Sunday, December 25, 2022 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Lituray

Church Hall

Church Hall

Church

hristmas

Monday, December 26, 2022

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

Thursday, December 29, 2022

11:00 AM Faith Sharing

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night

Friday, December 30, 2022

Saturday, December 31, 2022

Sunday, January 1, 2023

After 8:00 and 10:00 AM Open House 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's

Rectory Church Hall

### Do you like to draw or enjoy making art?

Come join this open studio event once a month!

Saturday, January 21st, 2023 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Church Hall.

Bring your own materials and drop in to doodle, finish a project or work in your sketchbook.

For teens to adults (ages 13+).

For more information contact: Veronica Fish at:

veronica@undercoverfish.com

### **Bulletin Item Due Dates:**

Weekend of:
January 15, 2023
January 22, 2023

<u>Due by:</u> January 5, 2023 January 12, 2023

Please submit items by 10:00 AM on or before the due date. E-mail our Parish Admin Assistant Patty LaBonte at office@saintgeorgesparish.org The best way to book or reserve a Mass is to call our office: 508-853-0183.

### **Coffee Shop Club**

Coffee and Donuts following the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses on Sunday Mornings.



\$1.00 Eac

Coffee Shop Club Schedules posted on Kitchen bulletin board.

December 25 - NO COFFEE SHOP
January 1 - NO COFFEE SHOP

January 8 - Dave Carlson and Team

January 15 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn and Team.

January 22 - Steve Toole and Team

Next Coffee Shop Club meeting Jan. 8th: 9:30 AM Signups for coffee shop are available! Join today! Talk to one of the captains or contact Andy Fish at: andy@andyTfish.com or call 508-901-7813

### **Pastoral Council**

Alex Roman was our only qualified candidate for the open council seat, so a motion was passed to forgo this years election and renew Alex's 3 year term. Alex has proven himself a valuable member of The Council and we are excited to continue working with him.

Email: andy@andyTfish.com with further questions.

### The "O" Antiphons

The Advent/Christmas season is rich in symbolism and tradition. In monastic life, during the octave before Christmas Eve, a time that is called the "Golden Nights", the seven "O Antiphons" are sung during Evening Prayer. Each antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title that comes from the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah. Centuries ago the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose in mind. On December 24 the monk would start with the last title and take the first letter of each one and read the Latin words "Ero Cras", meaning, "Tomorrow I will come. Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for during Advent, and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now assures us he will soon be here. These "O Antiphons" no only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, they also bring it to a joyful conclusion. ("O Antiphons" by Fr. Vincent de Paul Crosby OSB).

### **Baptismal Announcements**

The community of St. George's Parish welcomes 3 recently baptized children.

Charlotte Rose Sarkisian Luca Daniel Douglas Caroline Rose O'Brien

May God Bless you, your families and godparents as you journey in faith with all of us at St. George's.

### **Prayer Before Mass**

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who



lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Help Prevent Family Homelessness**

Please buy "**Hope for Housing Cards**" after the 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, and after the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday.

See Dave and Sue Genereux in the Church Hall after EVERY Mass.

If needed, contact Dave and Sue at 978-833-0306.

# Notice from the Diocesan Office of Healing and Prevention

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing.

We encourage you to come forward and speak out. The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette at (508) 929-4363.

## Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Especially during these difficult times, please call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, home bound or ill. Call Ann Doyle at 508-450-4134

We want to be with you in prayer and support. We can perhaps arrange a visit and possibly bring Eucharist. Remember that due to HIPAA regulations, unless you allow the hospital or health care institution to release information and list St. George's as your religious affiliation, we are not informed that you are a patient. Thank you for your understanding.

# Family Prayer Night Every Thursday at 6:00 In the Church

In the Church, there is a gathering of people who pray for all families. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary are

prayed. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to pray the Rosary. Eucharistic Adoration is also a part of this wonderful time of prayer on the Thursday before the first Friday of each month.

### Deacon Paul Audette

James Martin Speaks to us through his "Essential Writings"

The theme of humor in the spiritual/religious life has been a frequent topic of Martin's lectures and media appearances. In these excerpts from an April 2, 2007 America Magazine essay (Part IX), he treats both the long history of laughter's role in religious practice as well as the reasons why it can be such a healthy element of the spiritual life: "Humor speaks truth to power. Wit is a time-honored way to challenge the pompous, the puffed-up or the powerful. Jesus used humor in this fashion, exposing and defusing the arrogance of religious authorities. Humor can serve as a weapon in the battle against the arrogance and pride that sometimes infects the church...A friend's mother was once in the hospital at the same time as a local bishop. After his operation the bishop went from room to room visiting the patients. When he met my friend's mother, who was recovering from a difficult surgery, he patted her on the head and said, 'Dear, I know exactly how you feel.' And she said, 'Really? When was your hysterectomy?'"

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

The Thursday evening and Friday morning Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration will be: Thursday, January 5th, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM

Friday, January 6th, 2023 after 8:00 Mass-10:00 AM

We hope you can come join us in prayer and to spend time in the presence of Jesus Christ.



### Saint George Saturday Rosary Group

You are invited to attend our once a month Saturday morning Rosary Group.

First Saturday of every month.
Currently, we are meeting in the
Church at 8:00 AM January 8, 2022

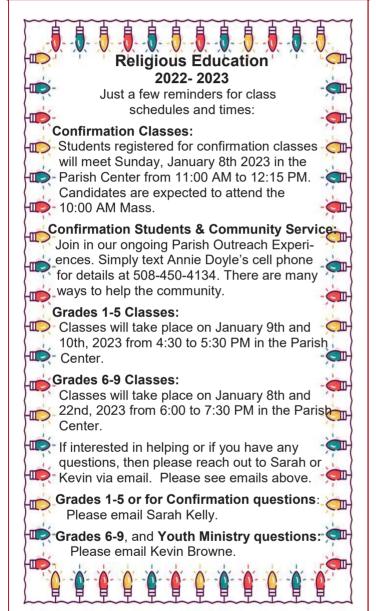


If interested, please contact Jim Hachey at 508-579-9623

### Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith" Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784

Sarah Kelly's email: <a href="mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org">sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org</a> Kevin Browne's email: <a href="mailto:kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org">kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org</a>





### **Baptisms in the Church Family**

If you, a family member, or friend is Interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, we invite you to contact us today: Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com

### THE FAMILY CONNECTION

A Christmas Pledge

I commit myself to: Remember those people who truly need my gifts. To express my love in more direct ways than gifts. To examine my holiday activities in light of my deepest values. To be a peacemaker within my circle of family and friends. Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth.



### **GRANDPARENTS:**

All interested grandparents are asked to pray for the safety and well-being of their grandchildren. Prayers are available by sending a long self addressed stamped envelope to Ruth Viens, 20 Mary Scano Drive, Apt. 223, Worcester MA 01605. As meetings resume in the parish it is hoped that the eight year monthly Grandparent Group will again be available.

Contact Ruth at: <a href="mailto:ruthviens@charter.net">ruthviens@charter.net</a> or 508-852-5658 for more information.

Grandparents make memories that the heart holds forever.



# A Community of Ministries





### St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134 annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

### **Christmas Outreach Blessings Shared**

- At Our Lady of Providence Parish: Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. George Parishioners, this Christmas the young children of Our Lady of Providence Parish on Lincoln Street received special gifts to help celebrate the birthday of Jesus, Prince of Peace.
- At The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker: Our St. George parish family shared the loving spirit of Christmas with dozens of neighbors at the Mustard Seed in downtown Worcester. Families were given holiday food items and special gifts for their children. Elderly and homeless guests received a new sweatshirt or a new pair of sweatpants. For many folks, this was the only gift they received this Christmas. The room was filled with joy and many words of appreciation.
- At Winter Hill Rest Home, Blaire House, St. Mary's Health Care, and St. Francis Nursing Home many elderly folks rejoice with us this Christmas! The Giving Tree gifts from St. George Parish were received with gratitude!
- At IHN Family Shelter and in the homes of our refugee families from Afghanistan Christmas was a very special day due to the ongoing support of the parishioners of St. George Parish.

Community Service
Opportunities For Confirmation Candidates

Join in our ongoing Parish Outreach Experiences!
Simply Text Annie Doyle's Cell for details:
508-450-4134 or visit our parish Website.

- Add non-perishable food items to our ongoing needs at our 3 food pantries. Donations can be left in the Outreach Collection Area. See special need here >
  - A donation of \$5 sent to "St. George Parish Outreach", 40 Brattle Street, Worcester 01606 will provide a meal for a person in need. Our next meal at the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker is:
     January 21, 2023.
- Want to volunteer at the Mustard Seed on a Thursday evening at 4:30 PM? Call Annie Doyle for more information.

December 25, 2022. Christmas Season

Be Strong and Courageous!

Do not be dismayed...
for the Lord your God is with you ..

Joshua 1:9

Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners,

I reflect on these words from the Hebrew Scriptures that have been a special favorite of mine for many years. As my family in faith, I share them with you this Christmas Season.

- Be strong and courageous: What a fortifying call this is!
   I think back to that first Christmas; of the Virgin Mary and Joseph so bravely traveling to Bethlehem. Recently the strength and courage of so many who brave their way through the pandemic, shifting economies, and political upheaval is a daily call to be strong and persist in prayer.
- Do not be dismayed: Yikes! This is quite a warning to reflect on and appreciate. Again, recalling the birth of Jesus; no room in the inn, worshiping shepherds and kings would certainly seem to be cause for dismay. And for us, who would have thought that life could be so crazy! Insurrection, floods, fires, and war.
- For the Lord Your God is with you: as with the Holy Family on that first Christmas; God was with them! And for us now, The Lord our God is with us!

Let us Rejoice, Annie Doyle



Can you please continue to help feed the hungry?

Special needs for December are: Peanut Butter & Jelly

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring food donations to keep our 3 food pantries going! Items can be left in the Outreach Collection Area inside the parking lot door at the basement level of the church just outside of the church hall.

Our Parish Vision: To **welcome** all, build **connect**ions to Christ and one another, and **live our faith** as true disciples of Jesus.



## Emmaus Ministry



The Emmaus Ministry was launched in September, 2022.

Even in this short period of time much has been accomplished. Thank you to all of our Parishioners who have embraced this ministry with enthusiasm and generosity. Also, a very special thank you to Fr. Niccolls, Fr. Pagan, and the Emmaus Committee for their tireless commitment and involvement to build this ministry.

In 2023, we look forward to new opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and one another and to strengthen the St. George community. May Emmanuel, God with us, Bless you and your many kindnesses, encouragement and involvement as we grow in spirit and are guided by the Holy Spirit.

The donors to our basket raffle and the winners of the baskets will be announced in early January, 2023.

For Information about Emmaus Ministry contact:

JoAnn Nally or Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell
email emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com or call 508-853-0183.

### **Faith Sharing Group**

Monday Faith Sharing Group will meet: January 9th at 7:00 PM in Parish Center, Room 107 Handicapped Accessible



Please call JoAnn Nally 508-527-6973 to sign up.

### **NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!**

We are honored and delighted to welcome you to our parish family.

Contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 for an Introduction to our ministries, our needs, and your interests. We would enjoy talking with you.





### **Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner**

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritual growth@gmail.com

There has been a spirit of waiting during the weeks of Advent-a spirit of anticipation created within us by the Scripture readings, the hymns and our own quiet prayerful thoughts.

Joyce Rupp tells us in her book: May I Have This Dance; that the Advent atmosphere is rooted in the experience of exile described in the Hebrew scriptures. The people cried for a savior to deliver them from a great darkness. The Messiah would light their way home.

In our humanity, we are at times in exile-a spiritual or psychological separation that may keep us from being at home with our true selves. We may fail to meet the ideals we have set for our lives leading to discouragement.

The day has come to rejoice! The 'Light' has come again to lead us out of our personal exiles. We again follow the star to the 'Light of Jesus'. We welcome God's son into our world with renewed hope that the values He modeled, the words He spoke and the healing actions He took as He lived on earth will take stronger root in our lives as we approach a new year.

We are the hands and heart of Christ in this world so filled with need. Let us show the love and mercy of Jesus as we leave our personal exiles behind to follow the 'Light of the World'.

Spiritual Growth Committee members: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Joan Talbot; Patti Walsh; Helen Hurley, and Kyle Lewandowski. Fr. Niccolls, Fr. Pagan and Deacon Paul as ex officio members.

### **2022 Parish Contribution Statements**

After January 1, 2023: Contribution Statements will be available for parishioners who wish to have a record of their 2022 contributions by contacting our Parish Office at 508-853-0183, extension 110 to request one.







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