

Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

March 6, 2022 - First Sunday of Lent

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

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary
office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 110
Fax 508-854-0864

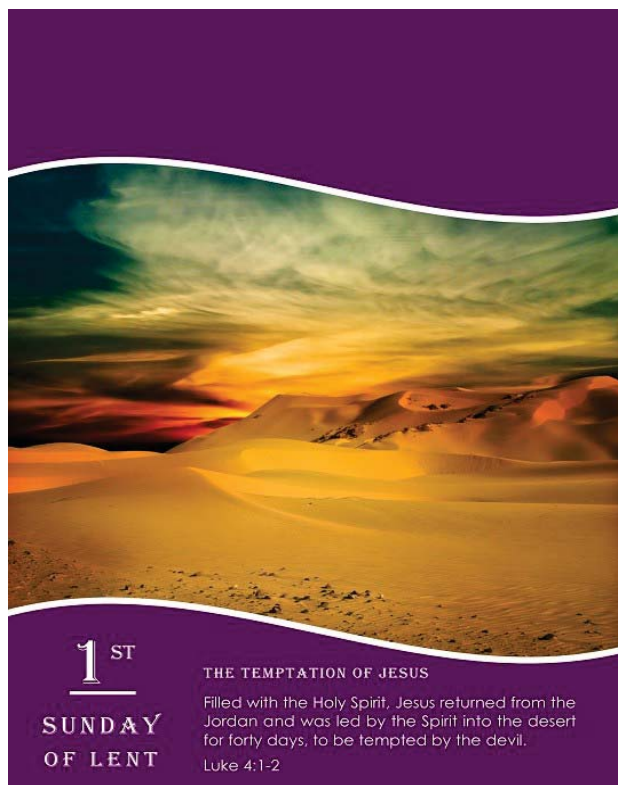
Current Office Hours:

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Thursday 9:00 AM - 12:00 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

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 10:00AM.

Weekday Masses

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church
2:30 - 3:15 PM on Saturdays.

Parish 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.

A Community of Ministries, March 6, 2022

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From Your Pastor

This week I will share with you some of the biblical/historical background of the concept of synodality. The concept of synodality is not a modern one. Its origins go back to the days of the Apostles as recorded in the Book of Acts in the Scriptures itself. The Act of the Apostles records the first great crisis in the early Church as to how non-Jews, the Gentiles, were to be incorporated into the Body of Christ. This essentially revolved around the question of whether gentiles would have to observe all the elements of the Torah in order to become followers of Jesus Christ. Paul and Barnabas saw their mission as outreach to the gentiles and did not believe that in order to bring them in they would have to adhere to the Jewish law which particularly would require them to be circumcised and observe the dietary laws. In Acts 15:1-29 the leaders of the Church, centered in Jerusalem at that time, convened a council to address this question. Since the question had become controversial, debates went back and forth. Paul and Barnabas described how the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the gentiles and Peter and James who were leaders of the Church in Jerusalem spoke to the matter as well. After much discussion, an agreement was reached and gentiles did not have to adhere to the practice of circumcision and observance most of the Jewish dietary laws. They were to follow certain stipulations of the Torah and avoid unlawful marriages. In short, a precedent had been set and a model for moving the Faith forward by means of dialogue, consultation and collegial consensus building had been established.

PASCHAL TRIDUUM, 2022: The Paschal Triduum is the heart of the Church's liturgical year. This year, to better help appreciate the rituals that take place on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday, a **3-week program on Wednesdays, March 16, 23 & 30, from 7:00 – 8:15 P.M. will be presented live & virtually.** This program will provide a spiritual journey into the rituals of the life, death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ. To register for this program and/or for more information, you can contact Fr. Nicolls (508-853-0183).

Fr. Nicolls



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 5, 2022

4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Francis, Alice and Robert Audette - Requested by Deacon Paul and Marilyn Audette

Sunday, March 6, 2022

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM In Memory of Kathy Cusack
Requested by The Cusack Family

Monday, March 7, 2022

8:00 AM In Memory of Msgr. Francis Manning

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

8:00 AM In Memory of Msgr. Richard Carelli

Friday, March 11, 2022

8:00 AM In Memory of Elizabeth and Mary Grady

Saturday, March 12, 2022

4:00 PM In Memory of Paul Wong and Paul LaFayette
Requested by Seraphina Wong

Sunday, March 13, 2022

8:00AM Memorial Mass for Lena and Raymond Barton
Requested by their daughter

10:00 AM For the Community of Saint George



LENT

Lent is upon us! In just a few days, we will embark on a 40-day journey of conversion to the cross. Have you made your Lenten resolutions yet? Check out the USCCB website for reflection materials, a calendar, and all the facts you need to know about Lent. www.usccb.org/lent

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**Thank
You**

Weekly Collection: February 21-27, 2022

On line giving: \$ 1,699.00
Regular Offertory 7,457.00
Total \$ 9,156.00

**Thank you for your generosity.
We are so grateful.**

Stewardship Thought for the Week

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of:	Due by:
March 20, 2022	March 10, 2022
March 27, 2022	March 17, 2022

Please submit items by 10:00 AM on or before the due date. E-mail our Parish Secretary, Kate Lockney at office@saintgeorgesparish.org
Also, the best way to book/reserve a Mass is to call our office and speak to Kate directly. 508-853-0183

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 that you are a patient. Thank you for your understanding.

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.



We Hope You'll Join Us for Coffee and Donuts

The Coffee Shop ministry of hospitality has begun as "Coffee Shop Express".

This is a modified gathering following the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses on Sunday Mornings.

Thank You To Our Ministers of Coffee Shop Hospitality:

March 6 - First Sunday of the month
Steve Toole, Tim Bouchard & John Pacek
March 13 - Second Sunday of the Month
Jim Moughan and Team
March 20 - Third Sunday of the Month
Kathy Hessel, Jim Dupre, and Stephen Willand
March 27 - Fourth Sunday of the month
Mark Cormier & Tom Pirani
May 29 - Fifth Sunday of the month
Dave Walsh and Team

Can you help on a Sunday morning?

Call Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 to join a team.

Parish Calendar

Saturday, March 5, 2022

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM VIRTUAL Day of Spirituality

With Father John Predmore

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Coffee Shop Express following 8AM & 10AM Mass
Church Hall

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy of the Word

11:00AM-12:15PM Confirmation Class (Candidates
and Sponsors Parish Center

6:00 PM Religious Ed. Grades 6-9 Parish Center

Monday March 7, 2022

4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5 Center

7:00-8:30 PM Faith Sharing Group Parish Center

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5 Center

1:00 PM Book Club Church Hall

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

7:00-8:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Parish Center

Thursday, March 10, 2022

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Church Hall

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Upper Church

6:00PM-9:00PM Diocesan Youth
Discipleship Team Meeting

Friday, March 11, 2022

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Church Hall

Saturday, March 2, 2022

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

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Help Prevent Family Homelessness

Buy "Hope for Housing Cards"
after the 4 PM Mass Saturday,
and after the 8AM or 10 AM Mass Sunday.
See Dave and Sue Genereux who are in the Church
Hall after EVERY Mass. If needed contact them at
978-833-0306.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Thursday evening Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration for will be held on Thursday, **March 31** from 6:00 until 7:00 PM and Friday, **April 1** from the end of the 8:00 AM Mass until 10:00 AM.



If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to visit our parish website to view the "Eucharistic Adoration" video on the homepage.



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

We are honored and delighted to
WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS
to our parish family!

Contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 for an introduction, depending on your interests, to our parish spaces and ministries.

Family Prayer Night at St. George Church

Every Thursday at 6:00 PM
In the Upper Church
There is a gathering of people who pray for all families.
Everyone is invited to join us!
The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed during this time. 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.



From Deacon Paul Audette

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his Letters

Henri writes to a friend who is going through a painful separation from his wife and is struggling with self-rejection and feelings of worthlessness. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

Dear Walt,

...The great temptation that you struggle with is self-rejection and feeling so low about yourself that you can hardly remember how much you have to offer. You are a beautiful person and a very gifted man, and it is important that you do not let Jet make you believe otherwise. In the separation between you and Jet it is really important that you are not loading all the guilt and blame on yourself, and certainly do not allow Jet's rejection to make you feel worthless. So please try to hold on to your own goodness..."

Much love,

Yours, Henri

21st Annual Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important in-person conference, scheduled for Assumption University Plourde Center on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

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: Kevin O'Brien, Tim Francis, Dan Egan, Father Anthony Hamaty, Dr. Pat Castle. at angelo0527@gmail.com or call Elaine Ford at 774-253-2996. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 21, 2022; afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.



March 2, 2022 - April 10, 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign

Volunteers are needed and welcome to participate in prayerful, peaceful vigil for an end to abortion during the 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign which begins on March 2. Your prayers make a difference and save lives! For more information visit

www.40daysforlife.com/worcester

For questions please contact

Susan Pacek at st.geobaptism@gmail.com

You are welcome to join us to pray on Thursdays from 10-11am across the street from Planned Parenthood on Pleasant St. Worcester, MA

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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Religious Education 2021-2022

Please keep our students and their teachers in your prayers.

Confirmation Preparation classes will meet following the 10:00am Mass on March 6, 2022. Dates for the Retreat, the final class and the Rehearsal TBD. Confirmation will take place May 15, 2022 at St. Paul Cathedral.

Confirmation Service Experiences

The last date for Candidate service is March 13, 2022.

Thank you to those who have served.

Website Information

Be sure to check the parish website regularly for updated information.

www.saintgeorgesparish.org

IMPORTANT First Communion Date Changes:

Due to postponing of classes we will need to make a change to the 1st Reconciliation Retreat. We will also need to make a change to the 1st Communion date due to scheduling conflicts. Changes are indicated with * below:

First Communion Preparation

Retreat & Family Dinner

March 26, 2022 2:30-6:00pm in Church Hall

The students attend the retreat portion with one or both parents.

Everyone then participates in the 4:00pm Mass.

Families, including siblings, then all join together in the Church Hall for a shared meal.

First Communion Dates

Rehearsals: April 19 & 20, 2022 4:30-5:30pm

Mass: Sunday, April 24, 2022 2:00pm*



Sign up to receive e-news! To hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish simply visit www.saintgeorgesparish.org

2022 Pastoral Council Elections

The election for the three open positions on the St. George Pastoral Council began at Mass last weekend and voting runs through March 7. The ballots are in the pews and there is an online voting form on our parish website. Please complete only one ballot per parishioner.

We are fortunate to have four wonderful Candidates:



Jere
Bradley



Julie
Currier



Alex
Roman III



Jeffrey
Hughes

All of these talented professionals are candidates who have been dedicated parishioners for many years. Each one has generously shared his/her time and many talents in our "Community of Ministries".

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Mosaic Cross...Cut out a large cardboard cross and many squares of colored paper. During Lent every time a family member does a good deed or makes a sacrifice he or she glues a square to the cross. Your aim should be to cover the cross before Easter.



A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

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

Afghan Refugee Family News:

The families are both really looking forward to moving to their next address where there will be more room for the parents and 12 children. Please pray this happens for them soon.

Their current need is for Grocery Gift Cards from Big Y or Walmart. Monetary donations sent to "Parish Outreach" are also being used to help with essential and the most pressing needs.

Mustard Seed News:

- Our next Mustard Seed Meal to feed 100 guests is on **March 18th**. A donation of \$5.00 will cover the cost of each meal. Volunteers are welcome to help prepare the meal in our church hall. Call Annie Doyle for details.

IHN (In the Hour of Need) Family Shelter News:

- Thank you to all who buy weekly "Hope for Housing" grocery cards. They are an essential help towards paying the security deposit when an apartment is found for a family in need.
- Donations of toilet paper and paper towels are needed.

Love and kindness
are never wasted.
They always make
a difference.

Food Donation Team

To receive a free weekly food bargain grid, join St. George's "Food Donation Team"
just email Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com

Special needs for March are: Peanut Butter and Jelly

In plastic containers if possible - most of our neighbors walk to our food pantries so plastic is best.

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring food donations to keep our 3 food pantries going!



Why the Ancient Traditions of Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving during Lent?

In preparation for the great celebration of Easter, we are called to pray, fast and give alms as some of the ways to help us draw closer to God during Lent.

Prayer is one of the ways to connect with God, in silence, in words, and in worship. Jesus prayed constantly and taught us to pray to Our Father in heaven. Jesus emphasized that our prayer need not be long, complicated or showy, but rather, short, to the point, and heartfelt.

Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, (taking only one full meal) reminds us of our dependence on God. We "do not live on bread alone."

On the Fridays of Lent we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence from meat. These are acts of self-discipline and self-control which can help to keep us mindful of God's loving presence.

Almsgiving: Lent invites us to see the face of Christ in the hungry and homeless, sick and suffering. Jesus depends on us to listen with compassion to the joys and sorrows of our friends and family members and to reach out in kindness and compassion to all. See our parish website and the outreach section of this bulletin for ideas about giving Alms.

Thank you to all of our parishioners

- * who pray for those in need
- * who bring food for the hungry
- * who donate items for vulnerable neighbors
- * who provide hospitality to all or comfort for those who are sad, lonely or grieving
- * who visit the sick
- * who fill our church with song
- * who buy Hope for Housing Cards
- * And who rejoice with us as we celebrate God's love and presence among us !

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

PIETA

Pieta is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend.



The next meeting will be on:
Monday, March 14 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Please join us.

For more information, please call Terry Gentile at 508-284-0796 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, or email pieta3@gmail.com.



Saint George Rosary Group

You're invited to attend our once a month Saturday morning Rosary Group. First Saturday of every month.

Currently we are meeting at 7:30 a.m.

If interested you may contact Jim Hachey at 508-579-9623

Please Pray For Peace In Our World

As followers of Jesus, who taught us the power of nonviolence, let us continue to join together in fervent prayers for peace in Ukraine and in all war torn areas throughout the world.

THANK YOU!

From the Staff at St. Mary's HealthCare
To all the people at St. George's Church, thank you so much for all of the generous gifts we received in December of last year at Christmas. The residents loved everything and were very happy. God Bless you all and thank you again.



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

A reflection from our Spiritual Growth Ministry:

The month of March presents us with rich opportunities for spiritual growth, nurturing several aspects of our spiritual lives. March, of course, is a Lenten month. Our "purpled" church, our toned-down liturgies and scriptural passages set the tone for a time of penitence and self-examination. On the other hand, on March 25 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The white vestments worn on that day remind us that even during this penitential month, the Annunciation is a day to pause in awe at the manner in which our salvation was achieved through a humble Virgin, Our Blessed Mother. A couple of ethnic feasts this month also call us to joyfully celebrate our roots in Christ – the feasts of St. Patrick (Ireland and Nigeria) on March 17 and St. Joseph (Canada, Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, Mexico, Peru and South Vietnam) on March 19. And the feast of St. Oscar Romero on March 24 elicits gratitude for the price of martyrdom paid by men and women who confront injustice. Penitence, awesome wonder, pride in our ethnicity and gratitude – a wide range of spiritual emotions nurtured in the month of March. How fortunate we are to be Catholics!

Spiritual Growth Committee members are: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell; Joan Talbot; Patty Walsh; Kyle Lewandowski and Helen Hurley. Fr. Niccolls and Deacon Paul serve as *ex officio* members.

The Spiritual growth committee continually works to offer events, services, and ideas to parishioners for the purpose of nurturing and growing the spirit within. Your comments, thoughts and ideas are always welcome, reach us by email saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com.

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