January 30, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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. Alan J. Martineau, Assoc.Pastor Ext.117

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

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

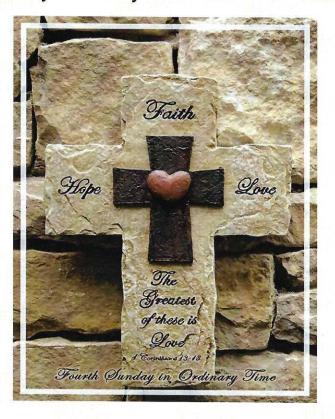
Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110 Fax 508-854-0864

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 and10:00 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, January 30, 2022

January 30, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



From Your Pastor

This weekend we welcome Fr. Alan Martineau here to our parish as he begins his ministry as our associate pastor. Fr. Martineau will be spending his time in getting to know you and in

working with all of us in continuing to nurture the spiritual, educational and social life of our parish.

As we come to the end of the first month of this new year, I am going to take a week's break from talking about the Synod and look at where we are (or maybe where we are not) as this year begins. We all long for true peace, but our Holy Father, Pope Francis said very early in his pontificate that there can be no peace without truth. He further said that there cannot be true peace if everyone wants to be their own criterion and wants to claim exclusively their own rights, without at the same time caring for the good of others on the basis of the nature that is meant to unite every human being on this earth. Fr. Henri Nouwen has said that much of our energy, time and resources go into maintaining distance from one another. Most of the world's resources go into defending ourselves against one another, to maintain or increase our power and to safeguard our own privileged position. Can we imagine all that energy being put into the service of peace and reconciliation? What if there were no longer fears, rivalry, hostility, bitterness or revenge among us? We may have difficulty imagining this type of world, bur God does not. God imagines a world not only created in his image but living in it. Fr. Wilfrid Stinissen, a Swedish Carmelite friar, put it this way when he said that everything that God bestows on us is a grace and has everlasting value. If we believe that we are God's beloved children, then we must hold on to this truth as a precious treasure because God is faithful to us without fail. When we sin, we can seek reconciliation with God in placing our sins at his mercy. God erases our sins so they are no more. God does this thoroughly. Jesus, the Lamb of God, carries the burden of our sinfulness to the Father, who receives it with joy. It is the joy of the Father to show us his mercy. This is the truth of the peace that God bestows.

Fr. Niccolls



Sign up to receive enews! To hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish simply visit:

www.saintgeorgesparish.org and click on the yellow link 'Join Our Email List"



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 29, 2022 4:00 PM Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George 10:00 AM

Monday, January 31, 2022 8:00 AM In Memory of Nellie Jordan

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 8:00 AM Memorial Mass for Cecelia Laconte Requested by her family

Friday, February 4, 2022 8:00 AM In Memory of Helen Ryan

Saturday, February 5, 2022 4:00 PM In Memory of Theophile Martin

Sunday, February 6, 2022 8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George 10:00 AM

Parish Calendar

Sunday, January 30, 2022 6:00 PM Religious Ed. Grades 6-9 Parish Center

Monday January 31, 2022 4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5 Center

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5 Center 6:30-7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 7:00-8:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Conf. Room

Thursday, February 3, 2022 6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Upper Church 6:00-7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration Church

Friday, February 4, 2022 10:00 AM Faith Sharing Church Hall After 8:00 AM Mass Eucharistic Adoration Church

Saturday, February 5 2022 8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, February 6, 2022

January 30, 2022 — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekly Collection January 17, 2022-January 23, 2022

Regular Offertory \$4,874.00

Thank you for your generosity. We are so grateful!



Year End Donation Information:

End of year statements will be mailed from the envelope company by January 31, 2022. All gifts received after January 1, 2022 will be credited to calendar year 2022.

For online givers, the recent upgrade in the software has caused a delay in populating your record with weekly or monthly donation history. The data transfer will be complete in January and we will notify you when that has taken place. For any questions, contact mkhessel@aol.com.

ON LINE GIVING:

There have been some changes to the Online Giving Software. When you log on through the link on our parish website, you will see a new screen that requests your email rather than a USERID. Use your email address that is on record with the parish and the password you have used most recently for Online Giving (which you used with your former USERID), and you should now be able to access screens for giving and for your recent giving history. The changes by the vendor are continuing. We will keep you updated. Due to the vendor's software changes still underway, you may now see your deductions being made to RCB (Roman Catholic Bishop) of Worcester' rather than St. George Parish. It's still being directed to your account at St. George.

Online Giving Update:

Online givers may now access their giving history for 2021. The calendar year donation report can be downloaded and used for tax filing purposes.



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:

- Jan. 2 Steve Toole, Tim Bouchard & John Pacek
- Jan. 9 Postponed for Covid precaution -Jim Moughan and Team
- Jan. 16 Postponed for Covid precaution -Kathy Hessel, Jim Dupre, Julie Currier and Stephen Willand
- Jan. 23 Postponed for Covid precaution Mark Cormier & Tom Pirani
- Jan. 30 Dave Walsh and Team

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.

January 30, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 EVERY Mass. If needed contact them at
978-833-0306 for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Thursday evening Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration for will be held on Thursday, February 3 from 6:00 until 7:00 PM and Friday, February 4 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.

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of: February 13, 2022 February 20, 2022 <u>Due by:</u> February 3, 2022 February 10, 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.



We are honored and delighted to

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

to our parish family!

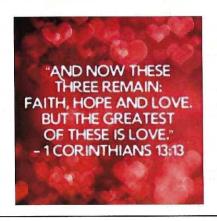
Contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 for an introduction, depending on your interests, to our parish spaces and ministries.

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 a letter of consolation to a young man
who has lost his best friend to suicide. This is Part I of
his response.(taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the
Spiritual Life"):

Dear Ashok,

...I know you are asking yourself why did Nevin die, why did I lose my best friend, why is my life so coldly interrupted, why could we not prevent this from happening? I really do not have any answers for these questions. I don't know why, and I know that makes it hard for you to live through this period of grief. Even though I do not have any answers to the many why's, I still want to write to you and tell you that I am convinced that your friendship with Nevin was certainly not in vain and the good things that existed between the two of you will not get lost because real love and real friendship is stronger than death. Whenever two people love each other well, that love is eternal..."

Yours, Henri Nouwen



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

January 30, 2022 — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"
Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784
sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Kein.brown@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 February 6 and March 6, 2022. Dates for the Retreat, the final class and the

Confirmation Service Experiences

This year's Confirmation Service Experiences are an "Introduction to Ministry at St. George Parish". Candidates have each chosen a Sunday morning date to serve (7:30-12N) with our parish ministers of Music, Hospitality, Videography, Greeters, Collectors, Coffee Shop Ministers and others.

Dates for service are February 13 and March 13, 2022. Thank you to those who have served already.

Website

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

Tuition Fees

We still have some families who need to submit fees for religious education. If you would like to check your payment status, just email Sarah Kelly at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org



Hello families,

Classes back in Session

All grade levels are back in classes after an extended Christmas Break. Be sure to always check with the website for any changes or updates to the schedule.

First Reconciliation

Please keep our 2nd grade students in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend.

Confirmation

Classes resume on Sunday, February 6 immediately following the 10:00am Mass. Sponsor forms will be due at this class meeting.

Be sure to always check with the website for any changes or updates to the schedule.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon and pray that everyone stays healthy!

Sarah Kelly :-) (508) 852-1784

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 Reconciliation Preparation and Dates Retreat: January 22, 2022 1:30-2:30pm in Church* The students attend with one or both parents. Ceremony: January 29, 2022, 10:00am in the Church

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*

January 30, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Community of Ministries





St. George Parish Outreach

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

Update on Afghanistan Refugee Family

A second family has now joined the first. A younger brother is now here with his family of 6 children! They will all move into two separate apartments of a triple decker soon. Their current need is for Grocery Gift Cards from Big Y. Monetary donations sent to Parish Outreach are also being used to help with essential

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

A Prayer for Spiritual Health. Simply see every day events or markers of family life as cause for celebration of God's presence: a child's soccer game... learning to ride a bike...getting that assignment done...a good report at the doctor's office.





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 January are: Peanut Butter and Jelly

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A parent sits up with a sick child all night; a woman makes an eight hour drive to be with her grieving friend; the whole family comes to the first grade play to see one of their children in a small part. All of these scenarios have one thing in common. Each person who acts does so out of love. Love motivates, inspires and demands the very best in each of us.

The second reading today is probably one of St. Paul's best-known passages. It succinctly describes the nature and meaning of love, attributing to it the rank of the greatest virtue, one that will last forever. Love is expressed not only in words, but also in action that avoids the pettiness of life and reaches towards the perfection of heaven. It is a small taste of paradise. No wonder Scripture says that God is love.

Loving others can be difficult and demanding. It may mean sacrifice, patience and forbearance. It's tough to love the unlovable and the unloving, to love our enemies and those who do harm to others. But we need to see past the sin to love the sinner. The love we share is the love of God that heals, forgives, binds up and saves. Be as generous with it as you can.

James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to Pilot Bulletins

YOU CAN HELP BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE!

Please join us for any of the events taking place this January to pray and advocate for a renewed reverence for the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death. Join the National Novena for Life - January 19-27, 9 Days for Life is a focused period of prayer, penance, and pilgrimage set aside to mark the tragic anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 which legalized abortion during all nine months of pregnancy. Join together with thousands of Catholics across the country in prayer for the nationwide novena taking place from January 19 through 27, 2022. Visit www.9daysforlife.com to learn more and to download a free app for your smartphone or to sign up for daily emails or text messages with each day's prayer intention. Your prayers matter! Your sacrifices make a difference! For more information: Respect Life Office Diocese of Worcester aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org www.worcesterdiocese.org/ respect-life

January 30, 2022 — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Virtual by ZOOM DAY OF SPIRITUALITY

March 5, 2022 9am-11:30am \$15 per person Registration Packet and ZOOM Access Code

Father John Predmore presenting PATH TO A BETTER FUTURE

What has unstoppable meant to us as we all were stopped in our tracks in March 2020?

Registration beginning January 8th

Registration available after all weekend masses or download from Website

For More Information Contact Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell andrea@svagdys.com or 508-330-0267

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

Join Our Prayer Shawl Ministry Knit or Crochet At Home

New members are invited to join this important ministry of outreach to the sick, suffering and lonely. We have now given out all the shawls that we have.

Please join us in prayer, knitting and crocheting from home. Hats and warm scarves for the homeless are also greatly appreciated.

Call Annie Doyle for more info: 508-450-4134



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

This is the fourth Sunday in ordinary time. Today's readings all speak to the calling that God has for all of us.

In the first reading, God tells Jeremiah that before he was born, He knew him. He laid out the plan He had for Jeremiah.

The second reading from 1 Corinthians is one familiar to most of us. It is often read at wedding ceremonies. Paul talks of the way to live as a member of the body of Christ. While we desire the gifts of the spirit, love of others is the greatest of all things to be desired. Love is not a gift but a course of conduct, a way of life. Love is something all of us can and should seek.

The Gospel reading from Luke has Jesus speaking in Nazareth, his hometown. The people there see Jesus as the son of Joseph, the carpenter, not God's son. In general, the crowd is judgmental, feeling more deserving of special treatment. They find it hard to believe that grace and favors and miracles are not just for them but for everyone. They do not see God's calling for them. So, they reject Him.

All of us can heed God's calling. Love of God and love of one another bring us closer to God. He has a plan for each of us who trusts and has faith in him. Love never fails!

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 the email listed above.



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