

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden
January 15, 2017: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Parish Staff:

It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls Pastor Ext. 12
Rev. Charles P.O. Omolo, Associate Pastor
Ext. 24
Rev. Patrick Ssekoyole, In Residence Ext. 30

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 11

Joan Koppenal, Parish Secretary
stgeooffice@gmail.com Ext. 10
Fax 508-854-0864



Under the protection of Saint George in Christ Jesus

St. George Catholic Church

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

Baptism Information: Please contact the Parish Office at 508-853-0183 or email: stgeooffice@gmail.com

Eucharist Celebrated:
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM
Monday through Friday at 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 PM and
by appointment

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 15, 2017

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 14: Vigil
4:00 PM 2nd Anniversary for Florence Montville
by the Levis family
Sunday, January 15: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM For the Community of St. George
9:00 AM Memorial for Natalie O'Laughlin by
Priests & Staff of St. George's
11:00 AM Memorial for Lori Maloney, Erin & Katelin
By the Paulin family
Monday, January 16:
8:00 AM Memorial for Doina Farcas by family
Tuesday, January 17: St. Anthony
8:00 AM For the Community of St. George
Wednesday, January 18:
8:00 AM In memory of Fred & Carolyn Moriarty
Thursday, January 19:
8:00 AM Memorial for Natalie O'Laughlin by
John & Lorraine Neilan
Friday, January 20: St. Fabian/St. Sebastian
8:00 AM For the souls in purgatory
Saturday, January 21: Vigil
4:00 PM Memorial for Frank Pizan by family
Sunday, January 22: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM Memorial for Joan Girard by
Mr. & Mrs. John Coppola
9:00 AM In memory of Muriel & George Doyle
11:00 AM In memory of George J. & Eileen White

Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to parish</u>
January 29	Wednesday, Jan. 18
February 5	Wednesday, Jan. 25
February 12	Wednesday, Feb. 1

Items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the due date.
Email items to stgeooffice@gmail.com, or fax to the
Rectory.

Altar Ministries

We are thankful to the Altar Servers and Ministers of Holy
Communion from TEAM B who will serve at our Masses
next weekend.

Attention Parents of Young Children

The Church building is open to all. We ask that parents of
young children to please accompany them at all times.
Thank you.

*Why not dedicate the first hour of your
families' work week to God?*

Parish Calendar

Saturday, January 14:
8:00 PM AA Hall
5:15 PM Faith Formation Ministry Meeting Confr Rm
Sunday, January 15:
8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm
Monday, January 16:
7:00 PM Youth Music Ministry Choir Loft
Tuesday, January 17:
6:00 PM Weight Loss Group Center
7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm
Wednesday, January 18:
7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm
Thursday, January 19:
6:30 PM Family Prayer Church
Friday, January 20:
9:30 AM Faith Sharing Group Center
11:00 AM Grandparent Prayer Group Confr Rm
Saturday, January 21:
2:30 AM First Reconciliation Retreat Gr. 2 Hall
8:00 PM AA Hall
Sunday, January 22:
8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

Scripture for the week of January 15, 2017

15 SUN	Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
16 Mon	Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22
17 Tue	Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28
18 Wed	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6
19 Thu	Heb 7:25—8:6/Mk 3:7-12
20 Fri	Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19
21 Sat	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21
22 SUN	Is 8:23—9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



We Commend to your Prayers

Eusebia Jacoby

May the Angels lead her into Paradise

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Weekend of Jan. 8, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$5,591.45

Thank you for your support!



From Your Pastor

Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Please: Call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. We can arrange to visit and 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 told that you are a patient. We call the area hospitals each week to see if any of our parishioners are hospitalized. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Rectory Open House

Many thanks to Betty Hanlon, Joyce Purcell and Kathy Coggins for hosting the visitors to the rectory. Our parish rectory was so warm and welcoming! Additional thanks to so many of our parishioners who brought delicious food and the holiday spirit! What a great way to start the New Year!

Year-End Donation Information

Many thanks for your wonderful and continuing generosity to our parish. Please be advised that all contributions, made via Weekly Offering Envelopes, received by December 31, 2016, have been sent to the parish envelope company to be credited to calendar year 2016. We have been informed that end of year statements will be mailed from the envelope company by January 31, 2017.

All gifts received the weekend of Jan. 1 forward will be credited to calendar year 2017.

If you contribute to the parish via "On line Giving" a statement of your contributions may be printed off on line.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 508-853-0183 or stgeooffice@gmail.com. and we will be happy to assist you.

A Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

I once again share with you Bishop Robert Morneau's reflections on today's gospel. He tells us that John the Baptist boldly points out Jesus as the Lamb of God, the one who brings forgiveness. This knowledge of Jesus came to John gradually and would only be confirmed with the descent of the Holy Spirit. This was an epiphany moment for the Baptist as he adjusted his role in the mystery of salvation. Jesus was the one who would take away our sins and conquer death. To know him is to experience his love and mercy. This experience is so often communicated to us through our parents, the Christian community the Scriptures and the sacraments. In word and action God comes to us so that we might live life to its fullest potential. Let us pray.

"Lord God, John the Baptist's function was to point people toward Jesus, your Son, the Lamb of God, thus fulfilling his mission. Like John, we, too, bear witness to what you reveal to us in prayer and what we see with eyes of faith. Bless us now to recognize more clearly where you are moving in our lives. Amen."

Year 2017 Calendars are available for anyone who wants one.

Fr. Niccolls



Coffee Shop

January 22, 2017
Dave Walsh: 508-854-1332

All men are invited to join the Men's Club...be part of a Coffee Shop Team to serve every 9 weeks. Contact Jim Sanford at 508-852-0293.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

Today's responsorial psalm is the theme song of the good steward: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.

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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784
Email : sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Upcoming 2nd Grade Events

The First Reconciliation Retreat is coming up on Saturday, January 21st at 2:30pm and the First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, January 28 at 10:00 AM. More information to follow.

Emails

Information for religious education is posted here in the bulletin, on our parish website www.saintgeorgesparish.org/religious-education and through email. Please let Sarah Kelly know at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org if you are not receiving emails. Thank you!

Religious Education Grades 6-9

Kevin Browne, Coordinator 508-450-2512
E-mail : kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org

The next January class will take place on January 29th (with a pizza party).

Visit our new parish web site to see photos of the interactive lessons, music, prayer and snack time.

Help families who are on the brink of homelessness and continue to honor Matt Ryan

Stop by our church hall after Mass on Sundays and buy a Hope for Housing caring card. You receive the full face value of the card in the amount you choose. The stores - CVS, Panera Bread, Dunkin Donuts and local grocery stores - donate up to 5% of that amount to "Hope For Housing" to assist the most vulnerable; children with families in crisis. You can make a little bit of Christmas happen any day of the year!

Call Sue Genereux 508-829-5776 or email her at WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.



A Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

January 22, 2017 marks the 44th anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision which, with its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*, legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy in every state in the nation. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (n. 373), designates **Monday, January 23** (since Jan. 22 falls on a Sunday this year) as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children". All the faithful in dioceses throughout the United States of America are called to observe this day in a spirit of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Forty-four years of legalized abortion in this country has left an incomprehensible aftermath. With over 58 million lives lost, and countless women and men, mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have been deeply wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually by this tragedy, we need now more than ever to recommit ourselves to defending life. I encourage our diocesan parishes and institutions, and all the faithful, to observe reverently the **Day of Prayer and Penance on January 23rd** both personally and within your communities. Let us unite our hearts and minds through special acts of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice on this day, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

As we reflect on this unspeakable tragedy, we also recall how the Church for many years has continued to reach out to those who have been so sadly affected by the culture of death, particularly through ministries providing aid to women and families in crisis pregnancies, offering the healing love and mercy of Christ to those wounded by abortion through the ministry of Project Rachel, and by continuing to teach and preach the truth and beauty about love that brings authentic freedom and happiness. It is through these charitable works, along with our fervent prayers and sacrifices, that the culture can be transformed, and the great goods of life, marriage, and religious liberty can be protected and upheld.

Let us take this opportunity of the January 23 Day of Prayer and Penance to renew our resolve to live and proclaim the Gospel of Life. May we respond generously to the challenge Saint Pope John Paul II put forth in *Evangelium vitae*: "A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. May an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from the heart of every believer." Our active participation in the shared commitment to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person will with God's grace, truly work toward the building up of a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Some people find it agonizing to watch the various contests on television that search for the best talent, the best singer or the best inventor. So often, the contestants are equally gifted and making a choice is difficult, even painful. No one wants to leave someone good behind, but there must be a winner and so we choose.

Marriage is about choices. We choose to love our spouse. We choose to love our children. We choose to believe, to care, to do good, to live faith, even when things are not going well or when there are problems and crises to face. How would life be changed if we had made a different choice, if we choose not to love, or care, or believe? Life would be empty indeed. The choices we make are part of our calling, our vocation in life, to be witnesses to faith and following the way of Jesus to holiness. It may not be glamorous, or even exciting. But it is the way to contentment and joy as we choose and celebrate God's way for us.

*~James Gaffney, © 2007 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing
jim@stgeorgepublishing.com*

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January

During the month of January, Pope Francis has asked that all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

Illuminate Event in Charlton Parish

All are welcome to an Illuminate Event to be held at St. Joseph Parish, 10 H. Putnam Ext., Charlton on **Sunday, January 29 from 6:30-8 p.m.** It will include praise & worship music, Eucharistic Adoration and an inspirational speaker (students and members of Focus missionary team from UConn). You are also welcome to Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Parish at 5 p.m. Join us for Mass, pizza after Mass, and Illuminate. If you are able to join us for pizza, please email Deacon Bill Shea at wshea26677@aol.com so we are prepared.

We invite adults interested in receiving Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation or the Sacrament of Marriage to learn more

There is always more for all of us to learn about our Catholic faith.

Are you baptized Catholic or baptized into another religion but have never received any formal religious education?

Perhaps God is calling you to learn more about the Catholic faith to explore the possibility of becoming Catholic?

Are you married to a Catholic and attending Mass but you are now possibly considering becoming Catholic?

Are you an Adult Catholic who has not received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and/or Confirmation?

This Week..

Pray for those who suffer with depression, grief or anguish that they will turn to the Lord who will wipe away their tears.

Many Thanks to the Take Weight Off Group who meets in our parish every Tuesday night! Your generous donation to the Mustard Seed is greatly appreciated! We will use it to buy healthy low calorie snacks for this month's meal!



Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism Preparation sessions are on:

Sunday, Jan. 29 and
Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017
3:30 PM until 5:00 PM

Families usually attend both sessions

Godparents and children are always welcome

This Sacrament welcomes everyone. The next set of Baptism Preparation sessions will be held May 21 and June 4, 2017. Summer sessions are planned for July 23 and July 30. For registration and information about selection of Godparents, please contact Annie Doyle at the Rectory Office at 508-853-0183 or at annie@saintgeorgesparish.org.

Baptisms are usually held monthly following the preparation sessions and completion of paperwork.

Our Baptism Preparation Team looks forward to celebrating this wonderful Sacrament of with you and your family.

A Community of Ministries



Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183
Ext. 11
Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

Help the Homeless in Worcester

A donation of gloves, a hat, or socks would be put to good use. There is a bin in the Outreach Collection area. Many thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their prayers and donation of scarves.

Many thanks to Donna Warner as well. Donna spent endless hours knitting scarves for the homeless! Donna's kindness now adds peace and warmth to the hearts of many who live desperate, cold and lonely lives, in the chaotic world of homelessness.

Our Next Mustard Seed Meal

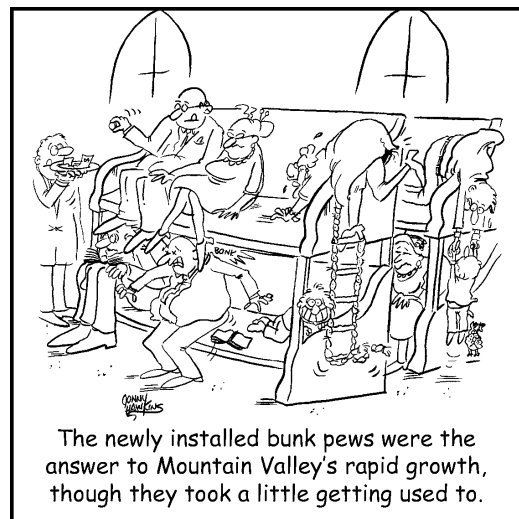
Our next Mustard Seed Meal is this Friday, January 20. As usual, the needs are posted at each church exit. We will be making a meal for 200 guests. Chicken cutlets, cole slaw, and fruit are on the menu. Folks have told us that they really enjoy the chicken cutlets with fresh tomato and lettuce. Bakeries have been donating 'out of date' pastries lately so many cakes, pies and sweets are being given out now. The guests really like fresh fruit so we are asking for clementine and ripe bananas for dessert. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

Food Pantry Needs

This time of year the poor in our city are struggling to pay their heating and increases in health care bills along with all of their usual daily expenses. Minimum wage pay checks do not stretch far enough and many families are coming to our local "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry (Zip code 01605). The Mustard Seed food pantry also tries to feed 30 families every week. These folks are from many of the poorest neighborhoods in and around downtown Worcester. I was shocked to see empty shelves in the storeroom, they had been so full so after Thanksgiving! There was no cereal and no tuna fish on the shelves - they try to give each family at least one portion of each of those items every week. Please pray for this effort and continue to be as generous as you always are.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Those of us who are Christians in this society have a special mission to stand up for the sacredness of life. The world in which our children are growing up is one which shows a contempt for life in many ways. The gross evils of abortion and euthanasia involve the actual killing of those who are deemed inconvenient. But other evils such as racism or contempt for the handicapped, the elderly or the foreigner also imply a depersonalization that violates human dignity. We need to discuss these issues with our children and steer them away from anti-life attitudes they may pick up. Above all, let's keep these concerns present in our family prayer. Children who learn to pray for others, even those who might be thought of as enemies, are not likely to learn to hate. And children who learn to love instead of hate will grow up with a strong sense of respect for life.



Grandparent Group Friday, January 20, 11:00 to 11:45 am in the Conference Room in the Church Hall. Includes prayers to Saint Ann and Saint Joachim, grandparents of Jesus and the Rosary. Join us as we pray for the safety and well-being of our grandchildren. More information contact Ruth Viens, 508-852-5658, ruthviens@charter.net.

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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.*

Join our "Community of Ministries" this year!

Help is needed to pray, listen, teach, share faith, guide, serve, host, welcome and support others.

Help is also needed to bake, cook, decorate, weed, garden, knit, sew, drive, repair, paint, file, type and much more!

Here at St. George Parish we strive to work together as a "Community of Ministries" who collaborate and cooperate with one another. It is in this spirit of humility and unity that we hope to continue to grow "as one in Christ."

Contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 or annie@saintgeorgesparish.org to explore some of the opportunities that will match your gifts and talents.



Youth ministry is a faith based group focused on achieving a personal relationship with God through service, music ministry and group activities.

Youth Ministry members have the opportunity to lead initiatives, bring new ideas into the group, and build a strong foundation in faith to carry with them in discipleship as they enter into adulthood.

We invite you to visit our parish website and / or contact Kevin Cusack at kcuse@mac.com

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration



The Adorers of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel wish to thank Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for these favors:

1. Thank you Lord for good health and safe trips.
2. Thank you for all the blessings and my sons freedom.

Consider Joining Our Community of Ministries

Call or e-mail the Parish Office today to check out the many possibilities.

We have something for everyone!



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Thoughts to Reflect On

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention...Love intentionally...extravagantly...unconditionally...The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you! "(L.R. Knost) And, Jesus says to each one of us: "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life". (John 8:12)

**Young Women's Evening Of Gathering
And Reflection**

"Womanhood...a Sacred Path"

Presenter: Kathryn O'Connell Cleary

**Thursday, January 26, 2017
6:00-9:00 PM Church Hall**

If you have not had a chance to register, please stop by the Registration Table, in the Church Hall, this Sunday, January 15th after all the Sunday Masses. It is important that you register so that we can more accurately prepare for food and dessert Give yourself an opportunity to gather with other young women to enjoy a light supper...hear a thoughtful presentation...take some time for quiet reflection...share your thoughts with other young women while having dessert and coffee. If you have any questions, please talk with Sarah Kelley, Kate Bak or Andrea Berger.

Friday Faith Sharing Group

Just a reminder: the *Friday Faith Sharing Group* now meets weekly in the Parish Center (Room 202). This is our new, permanent location. Please use the entrance closest to the Church. Take the first stairway on your right. Once on the 2nd floor, go halfway down the corridor. Room 202 is on the left. If you have questions, please call Gerrie Bak @ [508-829-5116](tel:508-829-5116) or JoAnn Nally @ [508-527-6973](tel:508-527-6973).



Let us become saints so that after having been together on earth, we may be together in Heaven.

... St. Padre Pio