

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden
February 26, 2017: Eighth 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 Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or email: st.geobaptism@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, February 26, 2017

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 25: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Bob Reidy by
the Murphy family

Sunday, February 26: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM 1st Anniversary for Sue Charbonneau Beane
by family

9:00 AM Memorial for Armand & Jeanette Audette
by family

11:00 AM Memorial for Gale Murphy by the
Staff of St. George's

Monday, February 27:

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 AM In memory of Eugene & Bob Giroux

Wednesday, March 1: Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM For the elderly of the parish

12:10 PM For those considering a return to the
Catholic faith

6:30 PM In memory of Barbara Ward

Thursday, March 2:

8:00 AM For the souls in purgatory

Friday, March 3: St. Katharine Drexel

8:00 AM For the deceased members of the parish

Saturday, March 4: Vigil

4:00 PM 5th Anniversary for Maurice Quinlan
by family

Sunday, March 5: First Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Hoyt Woods

9:00 AM Memorial for Dan & Shirley Clifford
by family

11:00 AM Anniversary Mass for Arthur Marin by the
Marin family

1:00 PM Sacrament of Baptism

Parish Calendar

Saturday, February 25:

5:15 PM Spiritual Growth Ministry Meeting Confr Rm
8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, February 26:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm
6:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 6-9 Hall/Center

Monday, February 27:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center
5:45 PM Yoga Hall
6:00 PM Weight Loss Group Center
7:00 PM St. George Book Discussion Group Confr Rm
7:00 PM Youth Music Ministry Choir Loft

Tuesday, February 28:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center
6:00 PM Weight Loss Group Center

Wednesday, March 1:

7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm

Thursday, March 2:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, March 3:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

Saturday, March 4:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, March 5:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm
9:00 AM Confirmation Mass & Meeting Church/Center
6:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 6-9 Hall/Center

Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend of

March 12

March 19

March 26

Due to parish

Wednesday, March 1

Wednesday, March 8

Wednesday, March 15

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 C who will serve at our Masses
next weekend.

Scripture for the week of February 26, 2017

26 SUN Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

27 Mon Sir 17:20-24/Mk 10:17-27

28 Tue Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31

1 Wed Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

2 Thu Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

3 Fri Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

4 Sat Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

5 SUN Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11



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.



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Weekend of February 19, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$8,708.60

Thank you for your support!



CRS Rice Bowls

More than 10,000 parishes across the United States participate each Lent through the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Catholic Relief Services fund poverty alleviation efforts internationally and locally. Rice Bowl banks are available at all exits.



**St. George Men's Club
is hosting an...**

**"Irish Celebration Spectacular"
Saturday, March 18, 2017 6-9 PM**

All proceeds will be used to offset the many activities involving our youth and Church.

Live entertainment will be provided by:

Mike Ladd of the "Blackstone Cúil"

And

The Famous "McInerney Step Dancers"....

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
Dinner will be served for your eating pleasure!

Tickets are \$15.00
and will be sold after all Masses
until March 12. Seats are limited...

Questions: Call Joe Cote at 508-852-7718



Second Collection

Next weekend, the collection for the Church in Latin America will be taken up at all Masses. Please see Bishop McManus' letter on page for information about this important collection.

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.



From Your Pastor

By now our annual Lenten brochure should have arrived at your home. If you did not receive one, there are extra copies of it available at the doorways of the church. Lent will begin this Wednesday, March 1st, (Ash Wednesday) with the blessing and distribution of ashes at the 8:00 A.M., 12:10 and 6:30 P.M. Masses.

In my 43 years of priesthood, I have witnessed the personal prayer life of many good and faithful parishioners demonstrated in personal devotions prayed either before or after Mass, especially during the week. These devotions have usually been of 15-20 minutes in duration to allow people some personal quiet time in prayer as well. This is a good practice to keep in mind as we enter the Lenten season, so beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, there will be one devotion, either the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, that will be prayed between the time of 7:25-7:45 A.M. before Weekday Mass. I believe that this devotional practice will allow everyone to be properly prepared and disposed to celebrate and participate in the sacred mysteries of the Mass.

This Lenten season, as has been true in recent years, Bishop McManus is strongly encouraging every Catholic in our diocese to take the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation even if a person has not received this sacrament (or gone to confession) for a long time. I would wholeheartedly urge you to take this opportunity to receive this sacrament during this time. In addition to the scheduled times for receiving the sacrament on Saturday afternoons (3:00-3:30) during Lent, the opportunity to receive this sacrament will be offered on Tuesday evenings during Lent from 7:00-7:30 P.M. as well as on Saturday evenings from 5:00-5:30 P.M.

Fr. Niccolls



Coffee Shop

March 5, 2017

Steve Warner 508-852-5276

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.

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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

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

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

Religious Ed for Grades 6-9 will be Sunday, February 26th from 6:00-7:30 (with a Pizza Social from 5:30-6:00)

CONFIRMATION

Coordinators: Michael and Linda Ohl
stgconfirm13@gmail.com
(508) 735-4633

Candidates have completed three quarters of their classes in the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Upcoming events include:

March 5- 9 am mass & class 10-11:30
March 12- 9 am mass & class 10-11:30
March 19- Penance Service at 6 pm
April 2- 11 am mass & rehearsal
May 7- Confirmation mass at 3 pm at
St. Paul's Cathedral

Vacation Bible Camp

Save the Date: July 10-14 9:00 AM-12:00

Get ready for a fun-filled week of faith! St. George's is hosting its second year of Vacation Bible Camp for students entering grades 1-6. Build faith and friendship through lessons, music, crafts, and games. This year's theme is "Tracking Mary: Mysteries and Messages" and focuses on our Blessed Mother's apparitions in Lourdes, Fatima, Mexico, Knock and England. Please join us! Check the bulletin in March for more details and information about registration.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

Stewards of the mysteries of God - that's what St. Paul says we are in today's second reading. And the first requirement, he says, is that we be trustworthy. Entrusted with the gift of faith, do I share it as gratefully and as generously as I do my time, my talent, and my treasure?

Catholic Free Press

February is Catholic Free Press month. We hope that many of you will either begin or renew a subscription to our diocesan newspaper. Won't you help us by subscribing today? You can use the envelope in your church envelope packet or pick up an envelope at the church doorways and place the remittance into the collection basket.

This Lent – help families who are on the brink of homelessness and continue to honor Matt Ryan

Stop by our church hall after Mass 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.



Since Matt passed away in November of 2016 we have sold \$17,410 worth of "caring cards" here at St. George. That means that in less than three months \$870.50 has been donated to Hope for Housing to help prevent homelessness. At this rate, our parish is on track to donate more than \$2,500 this year!

If several more St. George families begin to use "caring cards" to buy their weekly groceries, we might be able to help even more families to move from a shelter to a new home.

At the IHN shelter we have seen the faces of the children in these families and we know the stress that life in a shelter puts on parents and the little ones. Please pray for them and continue to be as generous as you always are.

See Sue or Dave Genereux after Mass or contact them at 508-829-5776 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.

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A Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For over 50 years, the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** has been a sign of the solidarity of the Church in the United States with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. For people living in these regions, barriers to practicing the faith include lack of resources, shortages of pastoral ministers, and poor infrastructures that make relatively simple things like participating in weekly Mass difficult. Your support of the collection helps to share the faith with those who long to experience God's mercy within strong faith communities.

For example, in northern Peru, great distances and deteriorated roads mean that clergy must often travel by foot or mule to rural communities. As a result, some communities are visited by priests and ministers only once per month, many just twice per year. The Collection for the Church in Latin America was able to help fund training for 65 pastoral ministers for the communities in this region. Because of your support, these new leaders continue to reach out and serve the rural communities, ensuring that all feel included in our family of faith.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, through projects like these, empowers the faithful of Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen their faith and share it with each other and the world. A significant portion of this collection is also used to assist in the ongoing efforts of our own **Diocesan Hispanic Ministry**, which serves the large number of Hispanic and Latino Catholics who are now in the Diocese of Worcester. It is gratifying to see the life of faith flourishing in these parish communities as their faith life enriches us all.

I encourage you to respond to the theme to "Share your Faith" by supporting the special Collection for the Church in Latin America in our parishes on the weekend of March 5. Please be assured of my appreciation for your generous response to this collection. With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

This Week...

Pray that we may learn to see each other as persons with whom we will one day share God's joy in heaven.

Lent Begins this Week

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday. The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. The ashes remind us of our own sinfulness, they are a sign of our humility. As Lent begins, you might consider setting off in a new direction to enrich your spiritual life by going to daily Mass when we can, praying more often, visiting the Adoration Chapel or receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation more often.



Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism Preparation sessions are:
May 21 and June 4, 2017
and

July 23 and July 30., 2017

Families attend both sessions

Godparents and children are always welcome

This Sacrament welcomes everyone. For registration and information about selection of Godparents, please contact Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or Email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com.

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

**Bereavement Support Group
at Our Lady of Good Counsel**

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish will hold a six-session bereavement support group beginning, Monday, February 27th, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the parish hall, 111 Worcester Street, West Boylston. The faith based program offers insights about grieving in a healthy way to work toward healing.

For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the meetings) call Renate Isbell at (508) 835-3286.

St. George's Book Discussion Group

The next meeting of the St. George Book Discussion Group will be held on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. After sharing a meal of soups and stews we will discuss, "Stars at Night" by Paula D'Arcy. Please contact Joyce Purcell at [508-852-3304](tel:508-852-3304) if you would like to join the group or for more information.

Women's Day of Spirituality - Save The Date

Please plan to join us on Saturday, March 25, for our Women's Day of Spirituality. We look forward to welcoming you to this gathering of women for an enriching presentation by Jaymie Stuart Wolfe. More information to follow in March bulletins.

A Community of Ministries



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

Many Thanks for Warm Clothing and food

Many thanks to all of you who have made lovely warm scarves and hats for our neighbors in need! I am so proud to be part of a parish community that reaches out to the poor and homeless so generously!

Your food donations have helped to fill the shelves of the food pantry at the Mustard Seed. Each week the supplies thin out and our parish helps to give enough food to give out to the 30 families who come in great need. Our local "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry also share in the bounty of your generosity and kindness.

Next Mustard Seed Meal for 200 Guests

is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2017. To donate or volunteer see the Outreach Boards in the church hall and at all church exits at the beginning of March.

Lenten Food Drive

On March 25/26 non-perishable food items and paper goods will be collected at all weekend Masses. Food Pantries everywhere are struggling to fill the needs of families this time of year. Please be as generous as you always are.

Thanks to Children's Liturgy Lectors

Thanks to Lectors for our Children's Liturgy of the Word. Your faithful witness and dedication to our parish children is a gift of love. and faith.



Love. Grow. Serve.

New Intention Book

On Ash Wednesday, we will be using a new intention book. The book will be permanently located in the Mary Chapel. Please write your intentions in this book so we, as a Parish Community, may pray for you and your special intentions each day.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Prayer on Moving to Senior Housing. Lord, the day has come. In many ways I dreaded leaving my home, my security. And now I have to give up some of my privacy and live with other old people. Help me to accept these people as I find them – boring at times, stimulating or excessively talkative. Help me to remember that they are all loved by you. Deliver me from being snappy at meals with people who are cranky – they may be in pain. If someone wants to confide a problem help me listen. As I leave my home give me a sense of call, even as you called old Abraham and Sarah when they left their home on a new journey of faith. If I can love my neighbor there, then I have a mission. Amen.



On The Welcome Table

Prayers used at the Grandparent Group are available on the Welcome Table in the church hall for anyone unable to attend the monthly group at the church. Please take and share with others who may be homebound to pray for their grandchildren. Directions and graphics to color for the Lenten Prayer Cube are also available there. Links for this and other Lenten information will be available in the March parish newsletter located on the parish website at this link: <https://saintgeorgesparish.org/newsletters>

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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 Lent

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.

Pastoral Council Update

As a result of the Pastoral Council's recent day long planning retreat, we will be initiating some new initiatives for the upcoming year in order to facilitate communication between parishioners and the Council. On the first Sunday of each month, members of the Pastoral Council will be available in the coffee shop after each mass to discuss current happenings and thoughts for our Parish. For those attending the Saturday mass, we plan to hold a similar event starting on March 4th (other Saturday event dates to be determined). We look forward to meeting you! Separately, feel free to reach out to any Pastoral Council member at any time (members listed on the parish website) with questions or ideas. Our monthly meetings are open to all parishioners and are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the Parish Center (2nd Floor). Be sure to check the parish website for posting of our monthly meeting minutes.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration



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

1. Thank you God for helping me put my life in order.
2. Thank you Jesus for my brother's test being negative.



Spiritual Growth Ministry

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKS

Lenten Reflection Books are available at all of the Church entrances. Using one of these books will enhance your prayer time as you journey throughout the Holy Season of Lent.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE DURING LENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 - TUESDAY, APRIL 11

SATURDAY: 3:00-3:30 PM or 5:00-5:30 PM

TUESDAY: 7:00-7:30 PM

Or

By calling one of the Priests to schedule an appointment.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

FRIDAY @ 6:30PM

FRIDAY SCHEDULE DURING LENT

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and April 7

FAITH SHARING GROUPS for LENT

This weekend will be the last weekend to sign up for a Lenten Faith Sharing Group. There will be an information/ registration table in the Church Hall after all the Sunday Masses as well as after the Saturday 4:00 PM Mass. There are Faith Sharing Groups on: WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:15-8:30PM (after the Wednesday evening 6:30PM MASS) ... FRIDAY MORNING 10:00- 11:15AM or SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2:00-3:15PM. Groups meet once a week for 1 hour, 15 minutes. In the group, we read, discuss, reflect and pray with the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Being part of a Faith Sharing Group is a meaningful way to draw closer to God and spiritually enhance your Lenten journey. This is also an opportunity to be with other parishioners as we strive to grow in our faith and build up the faith life of our Parish Community.

If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. Niccolls, Fr. Charles or call JoAnn Nally @508-527-6973 or Gerrie Bak @ 508-829-5116.