

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 5, 2017: First Sunday of Lent

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 Ssekyole, In Residence Ext. 30

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach

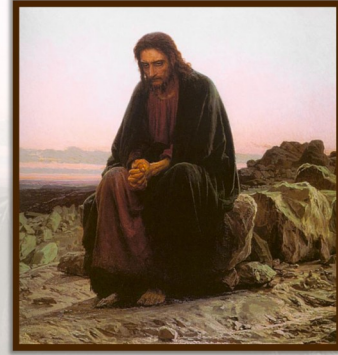
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 11

Joan Koppenal, Parish Secretary

stgeooffice@gmail.com Ext. 10

Fax 508-854-0864

First Sunday of Lent



Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."
Jesus said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*"

Matthew 4:2-4

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, March 5, 2017

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, March 6:

8:00 AM For August & Ann Brick by family

Tuesday, March 7: Sts. Perpetus & Felicity

8:00 AM Memorial for Maureen Migdelany by
Susan & Bob Ovia

Wednesday, March 8: St. John of God

8:00 AM In memory of Lillian Pringle Zachowski

6:30 PM In memory of Anita & Robert Surrette

Thursday, March 9: St. Francis of Rome

8:00 AM In memory of Theophile Martin

Friday, March 10:

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Saturday, March 11: Vigil

4:00 PM 25th Anniversary Richard Merrill Englehart
by the Englehart family

Sunday, March 12: Second Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Anniversary Mass for Lena Barton
by her daughter

9:00 AM Memorial for Elaine Zona by the
Koppental family

11:00 AM 20th Anniversary for Joseph Carlo
by the Carlo family

Parish Calendar

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

Monday, March 6:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center

5:45 PM Yoga Hall

7:00 PM Youth Music Ministry Choir Loft

Tuesday, March 7:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center

6:00 PM Weight Loss Group Center

7:00 PM Religious Ed Board Meeting Confr Rm

Wednesday, March 8:

7:00PM Faith Sharing Group #1&2 Confr Rm/ Center

Thursday, March 9:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, March 10:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

Saturday, March 11:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, March 12:

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

10:00 AM Men's Club Confr Rm

6:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 6-9 Hall/Center

Catholic Worker Bake Sale after all Masses

Spring Forward!!

Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend of

March 19

March 26

April 2

Due to parish

Wednesday, March 8

Wednesday, March 15

Wednesday, March 22

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 D 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.

Scripture for the week of March 5, 2017

- | | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 5 | SUN | Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11 |
| 6 | Mon | Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46 |
| 7 | Tue | Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15 |
| 8 | Wed | Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32 |
| 9 | Thu | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12 |
| 10 | Fri | Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26 |
| 11 | Sat | Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48 |
| 12 | SUN | Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9 |



We Commend to your Prayers

Jane Zinkus

May the Angels lead her into Paradise

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March 5, 2017: First Sunday of Lent

Weekend of February 26, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$7,071.67

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



From Your Pastor

This Sunday we will be sending two catechumens for Christian Initiation (to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) and a candidate for full communion in the Church (to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation) to St. Paul's Cathedral for the Rite of Election on Sunday afternoon. During this Lenten season, please pray for our catechumens, Austin Buchanan and George Gumbrell and our candidate for Confirmation, Susane Vargas Ramos, their sponsors and their catechists as they prepare for the celebration of these Easter Sacraments.

You may have noticed that our parish mission statement and vision statement that you see every week in our parish bulletin are now hanging up on the back wall of the main part of our church to remind us of who we are as a parish and what we believe are important points as to what we stand for as a parish family in representing the Church here in the Diocese of Worcester.

As we enter this season of Lent, our annual Lenten brochure should have arrived at your home. All Lenten information as well as the liturgies and services for Holy Week and Easter are included in this brochure. Once again you will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation not only on Saturday afternoons (3:00-3:30) during Lent, but also 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. If you did not receive a Lenten brochure, there are extra copies of it available at the doorways of the church.

Fr. Niccolls

Second Collection

This weekend, the collection for the Church in Latin America will be taken up at all Masses. Thank you for your generosity.

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.



Coffee Shop

March 12, 2017
Mark Viens: 774-262-0309

All men and women are invited to join the St. George Coffee Shop Teams to serve once every 9 weeks. Contact Jim Sanford at 508-852-0293.

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

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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!

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.

Men's Club Meeting

The monthly Men's Club meeting will be held *next* Sunday, March 12, in the Conference Room after the 9:00 AM Mass. Men's Club members and parish staff are welcome to attend. The coffee is on us!!!

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

Pietà

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 March 13 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Please join us.

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.

This Week...

Pray for all those who care for the sick and the suffering that they may have hearts like Jesus who willingly made himself the servant of all.

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March 5, 2017: First Sunday of Lent

A Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,
Pope Francis has recently reminded us that "Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ..." From his first encyclical to the present day, by word and deed, the Holy Father has shown us that the hearts of those who truly encounter Jesus Christ are filled with the joy of the Gospel. Our lives, our Church, nation and world need that joy. We all need that renewed encounter.

Pope Francis has also warned us that sin can cool, distance and even break our relationship with Christ leaving us not with joy but with an interior emptiness, a weariness about life and a blindness to our true needs and the needs of those around us.

In urging us on to conversion, the Holy Father challenges us not to settle for mediocrity but to use the Lenten practices of prayer, penance and almsgiving to draw closer to Christ, detach ourselves from the false idols of this world and to accompany more closely those in our midst who are suffering, needy and vulnerable. Pope Francis invites us this Lent to hear and ponder more deeply the word of God. He particularly directs us to the parable of the rich man who dressed extravagantly and dined sumptuously each day while the poor man Lazarus lay unnoticed at the rich man's gate.

While we may not consider our clothing extravagant or our daily fare sumptuous, the Gospel challenges us to look through the eyes of the poor in our midst and beyond. Can I live more simply? Do I really need all I have or plan to acquire? Am I putting more emphasis on my wants rather than my needs and the needs of others?

A recent news article reported that psychologists have found that people derive more satisfaction and pleasure from providing things for others in need rather than acquiring something unnecessary for themselves. In Gospel terms, "whatever you do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you do it for me." Our charity and almsgiving become an encounter with Christ that brings us joy. Prayer and penance help us to take our eyes off ourselves and to see others in our midst. They liberate us to respond and, in doing so, to find joy. This is the journey of Lent--- taking up the Cross, dying to self that we may better love God and others. It is a journey that leads to the joy of Easter.

I pray that you may take this journey seriously and that, through the grace of God, it will lead you to a renewed encounter with Christ and a deepened awareness of the joy of the Gospel.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Women's Day of Spirituality

Please join us in our church hall for spiritual reflection and community on Saturday, March 25.

Jaymie Stuart Wolfe, author, columnist, speaker and musician will be our presenter. Her topic will be "Crib, Cross and Crown: Moments With Jesus and Mary". Sign-in begins at 9:00 AM with coffee and pastry being offered. Jaymie's presentation will begin at 10:00 AM. Our gathering will conclude by 1:00 PM. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at the conclusion of the day. Luncheon is included with the \$15 offering. To register please call Joan Talbot @508 853-0654 before Monday, March 20.

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.

Free Donut Tickets for Children's Liturgy

The Men's Club will be offering "Free Donut Tickets" to all participants to the "Children's Liturgy" during the 9:00 AM Mass *next* Sunday. The children will be given the tickets while at the Liturgy to be redeemed after Mass. Best Wishes to our young Catholics.

Saints Francis & Therese Catholic Worker Bake Sale March 11 & 12



Members of Saints Francis & Therese Catholic Worker will be here on the weekend of March 11 and 12, 2017 with our homemade baked goods.

The sale of our wholesome bread and muffins, made with organic ingredients, is the main source of income which supports our ministries.

We shelter homeless men and women, and we work for justice and peace. There is no set price for the bread as we prefer to depend on your generosity to carry on the works of mercy.

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

Mosaic Cross - Cut out a large cardboard cross and many squares of colored paper. During Lent whenever 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.



"If we're all dust, why take a bath before the service?"

LENTEN PRAYER CUBE instructions are available on the Welcome Table in the church hall for anyone unable to access them through the link in the March e newsletter. Boxes for the prayer cube are also located there while supplies last. For more information contact Ruth Viens, Family Ministry Coordinator, [508-852-5658](tel:508-852-5658), ruthviens@charter.net.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for March

During the month of March Pope Francis has asked that persecuted Christians may be supported by prayers and material help of the whole world.

Looking for ways to participate in outreach? Hungry for an idea of how to do more service work? Visit the parish website. Click on Community, and then Ongoing Outreach Opportunities.

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March 5, 2017: First Sunday of Lent

*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.



Spiritual Growth Ministry

A Prayer For Lent

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will care you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Lenten Evening Of Prayer And Reflection
Tuesday, April 4, 7:00- 8:30 PM in the Church

During this time, you will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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

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 Lauren's cure of Hep C-3.
2. Thank you peace of mind.

World Wide Marriage Encounter

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are March 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI and April 22-23, 2017 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call Stephen and Michelle O'Leary at [800-710-9963](tel:800-710-9963) or visit us at WWMEMA.org.