

## **Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden**

**March 19, 2017: Third Sunday of Lent**

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40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606  
Parish Office: 508-853-0183  
[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://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](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 11

Joan Koppenal, Parish Secretary  
[stgeooffice@gmail.com](mailto:stgeooffice@gmail.com) Ext.10  
Fax 508-854-0864



## **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](mailto: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 19, 2017***

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### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, March 18: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Nelson Boucher by his wife & Al LeFrancois by family

#### Sunday, March 19: Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Helen Duclos by family

9:00 AM 9th Anniversary for Philip Neilan by family

11:00 AM 2nd Anniversary for Roger Hessel by family

1:00 PM Sacrament of Baptism

6:00 PM Confirmation Class Penance Service

#### Monday, March 20: St. Joseph Spouse of Mary

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

#### Tuesday, March 21:

8:00 AM For the Souls in Purgatory by the Family Prayer Group

#### Wednesday, March 22:

8:00 AM Birthday Remembrance for Matt Ryan by family

6:30 PM For our parishioners in need of prayer

#### Thursday, March 23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

8:00 AM Memorial for Bobby Ovan by the Ovan family

#### Friday, March 24: Blessed Oscar Romero

8:00 AM Memorial for Anthony Laconte by his children & grandchildren

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday, March 25: Vigil

4:00 PM 46th Anniversary for Alberico LoStracco by family

#### Sunday, March 26: Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Eleanor Groden by the Duclos family

9:00 AM Memorial for Frances White by family

11:00 AM Memorial for Jo Sisti by family

### Bulletin Deadlines

#### Weekend of

April 2

April 9

April 16

#### Due to parish

Wednesday, March 22

Wednesday, March 29

Wednesday, April 5

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

### Altar Ministries

We are thankful to the Altar Servers and Ministers of Holy Communion from TEAM A 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.

### Parish Calendar

#### Saturday, March 18:

6:00 PM Irish Celebration Spectacular Hall

#### Sunday, March 19:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

6:00 AM Confirmation Penance Service Church

#### Monday, March 20:

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

5:45 PM Yoga Hall

7:00 PM Youth Music Ministry Choir Loft

#### Tuesday, March 21:

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

6:00 PM Weight Loss Group Center

#### Wednesday, March 22:

6:30 PM Daughters of Isabella Hall

7:15 PM Faith Sharing Group #1&2 Confr Rm/ Center

#### Thursday, March 23:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

#### Friday, March 24:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

#### Saturday, March 25:

9:00 AM Women's Day of Spirituality Church/Hall

6:00 PM AA Anniversary Dinner Hall

#### Sunday, March 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 Church/Hall/Center

### Scripture for the week of March 19, 2017

19 SUN Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

20 Mon 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

21 Tue Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35

22 Wed Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19

23 Thu Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23

24 Fri Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34

25 Sat Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

26 SUN 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



### 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.

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### Weekend of March 12, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$5,514.00

Thank you for your support!



### CRS Rice Bowls

Rice Bowl banks are available at all exits. Please take one home to fill this Lent. Kindly return to the same basket before Palm Sunday. Your donations support local and international poverty alleviation efforts.

### Spend a Day at NDA!

Notre Dame Academy is inviting all current seventh grade and transfer students to spend an academic day at NDA through May 1st. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Admissions at 508-757-6200, Ext. 229 or email us at [admissions@nda-worc.org](mailto:admissions@nda-worc.org). NDA is the only Catholic, college preparatory school for young women in Central Massachusetts. Please visit our website at [www.nda-worc.org](http://www.nda-worc.org) to learn more about the NDA experience!

### *This Week...*

Pray for families caring for a child with a disability that God's peace will reign in their hearts and replace their fears with faith and hope.



### *Coffee Shop*

March 26, 2017  
Dave Allen: 508-853-2862

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.

### **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?



### *From Your Pastor*

This weekend's liturgy and readings focus on what salvation really means. Salvation is the sharing in the eternal life of God. It is a pure gift from God which means that God gives it to us; we do not earn it. The Church has always taught that we can never achieve salvation on our own. So then, what is our place or role in salvation. St. Paul tells us that because we have been justified through this free gift from God, God's mercy has been poured into our hearts and makes us capable of doing more than blindly obeying or doing the very minimum. God's mercy and forgiveness pour into one's heart like living water that cleanses, purifies and renews the heart that seeks him. Like Jesus' invitation to the woman of Samaria, we are invited this Lent to accept the invitation to partake of the *living water* that is given to us today, so as to drink freely of this life-giving and refreshing gift.

*Fr. Niccolls*

### Faith In Action

The Faith In Action Committee will be meeting March 29 at 6:30 PM in the Church Hall. We will be discussing the upcoming Flower Sale. We are looking for new members... are welcome!! If you should have any questions please call Joyce Purcell at 508-852-3304.

### Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Cursillo or "short course in Christianity" is an uplifting and educational experience. The weekend is facilitated by a team of laypeople and clergy who deliver organized talks and discussions. Our 2017 dates are: **Men - June 22-25; Women - May 18-21 & October 12-15**. All weekends will be held at the Immaculate Conception Spiritual Renewal Center in Putnam, CT. For additional information, please contact Sue Leighton at 508-278-3155 or email at [sleighton1958@gmail.com](mailto:sleighton1958@gmail.com).

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



## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

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### Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784  
Email : [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### Emails

Information for religious education is posted here in the bulletin, on our parish website [www.saintgeorgesparish.org/religious-education](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org/religious-education) and through email. Please let Sarah Kelly know at [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org)

Religious Ed for Grades 6-9 will have two classes this month:

Sunday, March 26th from 6:00-7:30 (with a Pizza Social from 5:30-6:00)

### Confirmation

Coordinators: Michael and Linda Ohl  
[stgconfirm13@gmail.com](mailto: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 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

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

**This Lent – Take your grandchild or a friend to lunch at Panera and help families who are on the brink of homelessness. This Lenten practice will also continue to honor Matt Ryan.**



Matt Ryan passed away in November 2016. He was a parishioner of St. George who led our "Faith Into Action" Ministry for many years. Matt taught us to care for those living in poverty, victims of violence and to care for God's creation. Matt worked diligently to form the "Hope for Housing" network of local churches who sell grocery cards to continue this effort.

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.

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 [emailWaysideATQ@aol.com](mailto:emailWaysideATQ@aol.com) for more information.

**If you or someone you know** – has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you need a place to talk about your feeling of betrayal or hurt by the Church, call the Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363. A 24 hour confidential voicemail is available.

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

What do turning off the television, doing the dishes, washing the car and folding laundry have in common? All of them are ordinary events that can become extraordinary when we do them out of love. Showing how much we care speaks volumes and puts into action what words may fail to say. Helping with chores, giving someone our full attention, or making life easier become extraordinary moments of love that mean so much to us. These are the times we remember.

Taking those we love for granted is so easy to do. We can allow others to become almost invisible as we go about our own lives, sharing common space rather than our hopes and fears. We assume we will always have another opportunity, another tomorrow. That may not be the case. Focus on those you love. Turn off the TV, eliminate other distractions and help one another enjoy your time together. Share who you are and what's important to you. Opportunity comes but once and then it's gone for good. Transform your world and theirs in the moments you have now.

~James Gaffney, © 2007 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing  
[jim@stgeorgepublishing.com](mailto:jim@stgeorgepublishing.com)

### 17th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference at Assumption College

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for **Assumption College** on Saturday, April 1st. Visit the conference website at [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: **Father Chase Hilgenbrinck, Shawn Carney, Chris Stewart, Tony Brandt, Joe Dittmar, and Jeff Cavins**. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Julie Schroeder at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 15th, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

Welcome to all family & friends who are worshipping here with us today.

### 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](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com).

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

*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.*

### Lenten Regulations

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows.



*Abstinence* from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) and older on Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.

*Fasting* is to be observed by all Catholics 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age on Good Friday.

Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's need, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

### 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.

## *A Community of Ministries*



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



The picture shown above was taken last week at the Mustard Seed. As you can see, the shelves of the food pantry are mostly empty.

We are thankful to those of you who contributed to stocking the shelves for this week's distribution on Wednesday, especially Joe Cote and the Friday Faith Sharing Group. Several of you left items in the Outreach collection area as well.

### **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE** **MARCH 25 & 26**

The Lenten food drive will take place the weekend of March 25 and 26 at all Masses. Bags of non-perishable food items can be placed around the outer rail of the sanctuary.

These bitter cold days of winter are especially difficult for the poor and homeless. Please be as generous as you always are. If you forgot to bring items this weekend, we happily accept food on Monday morning as well.



**If you or someone you know** – has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you need a place to talk about your feeling of betrayal or hurt by the Church, call the Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363. A 24 hour confidential voicemail is available.

### **THE FAMILY CONNECTION**

**Prayer for Family Peace** - Lord, give us strength and compassion to understand each other, wisdom and love to help each other, and the trust and patience we need to live peacefully together. Grant that through the intercession of Your mother Mary, and St. Joseph, that our family too, might become a holy family, a family who works together, who embraces peace and love, whose members are dedicated to each other and to God. Amen.



### **Discernment Retreat with Bishop McManus**

Have you thought of a vocation to the priesthood? Come and learn more. The Diocese of Worcester's annual discernment retreat, directed by Bishop McManus, will be held on **April 7 & 8**. This retreat begins 6pm Friday and ends 6pm Saturday. It is for men high school age, college age, and older. The retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, Connecticut. There is no cost, and transportation is provided if needed. Visit [worcestervocations.com](http://worcestervocations.com) for more information. Contact Fr. Jim Mazzone at [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net) or by phone at 508-340-5788 to sign up.

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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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> (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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the Parish Center (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 giving me a new day.
2. Thank you to Jesus for His pardon & grace for granting my husband & myself strength to live in accordance to His will.



### Spiritual Growth Ministry

#### A Traditional Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

### Confessions During Lent

Did you know that the schedule for Confessions during Lent has some changes? Confessions on Saturday will be held from 3:00- 3:30 PM AND AGAIN from 5:00- 5:30PM. On Tuesday evening, Confessions will be heard from 7:00- 7:30 PM. Lent is a grace- filled time to "Come Home to God's Mercy".

### Stations Of The Cross During Lent

Did you know that Stations of the Cross, during Lent take place every Friday evening at 6:30 PM in the Church? On Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:00PM.

### SAVE THE DATE

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated during this quiet evening. Step back from your hectic schedule ... "come away and rest awhile" with Our Lord. More detailed information to follow.

### 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 Weekend is April 22-23, 2017 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call Stephen and Michelle O'Leary at 800 - 710 - 9963 or visit us at [WWMEMA.org](http://WWMEMA.org).