

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

**March 26, 2017: Fourth 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

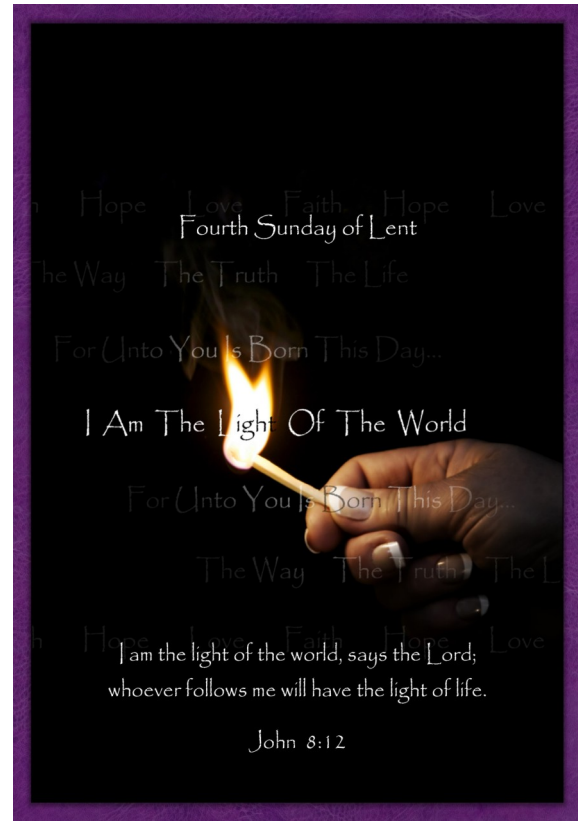
Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach

[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 26, 2017***

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### Mass Intentions

#### 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

#### Monday, March 27:

8:00 AM In memory of Nell & Flo Totilas

#### Tuesday, March 28:

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

#### Wednesday, March 29:

8:00 AM In memory of Mary Butler

6:30 PM In memory of Joseph Chilleri

#### Thursday, March 30:

8:00 AM In memory of Mitchell Dodah

#### Friday, March 31:

8:00 AM 3rd Anniversary for Ann Julie Berard Meier  
by family

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday, April 1: Vigil

4:00 PM Birthday Remembrance for Vida Hinckley  
by the Girard family

#### Sunday, April 2: Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Matt Ryan by family

9:00 AM 9th Anniversary for Fran White by the  
White family

11:00 AM Memorial for Bobby Ovian by family

Confirmation Mass

### Parish Calendar

Book Fair After all Masses

#### Saturday, March 25:

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

#### Monday, March 27:

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

5:45 PM Yoga Hall

7:00 PM Youth Music Ministry Choir Loft

#### Tuesday, March 28:

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 29:

6:30 PM Faith in Action Hall

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

#### Thursday, March 30:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

#### Friday, March 31:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

#### Saturday, April 1:

2:30 PM First Communion Retreat &  
Potluck Supper Church

8:00 PM AA Hall

#### Sunday, April 2:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

11:00 AM Confirmation Mass & Rehearsal Church

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

### Bulletin Deadlines

#### Weekend of

April 9

April 16

April 23

#### Due to parish

Wednesday, March 29

Wednesday, April 5

Wednesday, April 12

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 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.

### Scripture for the week of March 26, 2017

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
27	Mon	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
28	Tue	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
29	Wed	Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
30	Thu	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
31	Fri	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
1	Sat	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
2	SUN	Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



### Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Please: Call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospi-  
talized, homebound or ill. We can arrange to visit and bring Eucha-  
rist. 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.

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

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### Weekend of March 19, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$8,162.00

### Monthly Totals for February

Repairs: \$1,325.00

Air Conditioning Fund: \$150.00

Fuel: \$211.00

Thank you for your support!



*From Your Pastor*

As we begin this Fourth Week of Lent, let us heed the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, which reflect upon the Gospel from St. John,

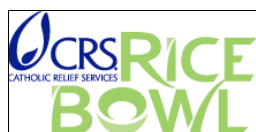
**"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)**

Our lives can be sometimes similar to that of the blind man in today's Gospel (chapter 9). Like him, we can open ourselves to the light, open ourselves to God and open ourselves to God's grace. Yet, unfortunately, we can also be like the doctors of the law who can judge others from the height of our pride. We can even do this to God! Today, we are invited to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives and eliminate unchristian behaviors that are sins.

Pope Francis constantly challenges believers and non-believers alike to love and care for one another and to love and care for creation, our earthly home. This is how we demonstrate our love for God who has given all of this to us. We are not expected to like everyone. That is humanly impossible! However, we are called to love everyone, which is possible, because God has told us that it is our responsibility to do so.

*Fr. Niccolls*

*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.*



### 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



### Pancake Breakfast

All parish friends and family are invited to the Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 9, hosted by Boy Scout Troop 182 of Holden with the assistance of St. George Men's Club.

**Breakfast will be served after each Sunday Mass. Tickets are available at the door only.**

Adults - \$5.00

Children under 12 years of age - \$3.00



### Coffee Shop

April 2, 2017

Robert Gray: 508-755-1268

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.

### *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.

### Second Collection

Next weekend, a collection will be taken up at all Masses. Please see Bishop McManus' letter on page 5 for information about this important collection.

### 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).

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 26, 2017: Fourth Sunday of Lent



### 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  
[confirmation@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:confirmation@saintgeorgesparish.org)  
(508) 735-4633

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

**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

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

**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 email [WaysideATQ@aol.com](mailto:WaysideATQ@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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### *A Letter from Bishop McManus*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." —Rev 3:20*

How have we responded to the gospel call to serve Jesus through the poor and vulnerable? It is for this reason that we join with parishes around the country in the **National Collection for Catholic Relief Services on the weekend of April 2**. This collection reminds us that through your generosity, you can help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters around the globe.

Thanks to your donation, you can

alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world through the Holy Father's Relief Fund advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy

For example, in Niger, changes in climate in western Africa are adversely affecting poor and rural farmers. No matter how hard these farmers work, droughts are shortening the rainy season, leaving harvests too small to support families and communities. Your support of CRS is helping connect businesses that provide drought-resistant seeds to these communities. These new relationships are providing hope to these communities for a sustainable future.

Please be generous in the Catholic Relief Services Collection in your parish. By participating in this collection, you are responding to Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester



### 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.



### 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.

### *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

Here is a picture of the  
Mustard Seed Food Pantry  
on March 9, 2017 .....



.....Thanks to your  
generosity, here is how it  
looked a week later!  
Let's keep up the good  
work this weekend!

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

The Lenten food drive will take  
place this 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.

Please continue to be as generous  
as you always are. If you forgot to  
bring items this weekend, we hap-  
pily accept food on Monday morn-  
ing as well.



### **St. Patrick's Day Mustard Seed Meal** **was a wonderful celebration!**

Heartfelt thanks to Kevin and Ann Cusack for more  
than 16 hours of cooking, heating and serving a deli-  
cious corned beef and cabbage meal! To Pam,  
Louis, Giuliano and many others who helped with  
green cupcakes and much more! It was amazing!

**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**

*Spiritual Rituals* - This can be a regular devotional  
time in your home with an established format such as  
a Bible reading and a prayer or family petitions. It can  
also be less formal, taking cues from the calendar  
and using liturgical seasons, or even someone's birth-  
day as a jumping off point for prayer. You might es-  
tablish a daily quiet time. For younger families you  
might establish a daily quiet time, when kids are en-  
couraged to just lie on their beds and discuss their  
problems and feelings with God. Whatever your pref-  
erence, make family prayer a habit. Rituals give chil-  
dren a sense of security and happiness.



"Hope the choir does some  
hip-hop for Easter!"



### **Thank You**

A tip of the hat and a special thank  
you to Joe & Pat Cote, as well as the  
Men's Club for all the work that made  
the "Irish Nite Spectacular" ...

**SPECTACULAR!!!**

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

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 26, 2017: Fourth 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](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 dear Jesus for the recovery of the friend's son.
2. Thanking our Lord for all his mercy to my family.



### Spiritual Growth Ministry

#### A Prayer "To See Differently"

God of Mercy, you led the man born blind from darkness to light through the gift of faith in your Son, Jesus. Open our eyes to the false values of our world that surround and blind us.

Set us firmly in your truth that we may walk in solidarity with the oppressed of the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

### 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- 5:30 PM. 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 3:00 PM.

### 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).