

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

***January 10, 2021: Baptism of the Lord***

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40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606  
Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110  
[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org)

Parish Staff:

It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls, Pastor Ext. 112

Rev. Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor,  
Ext. 117

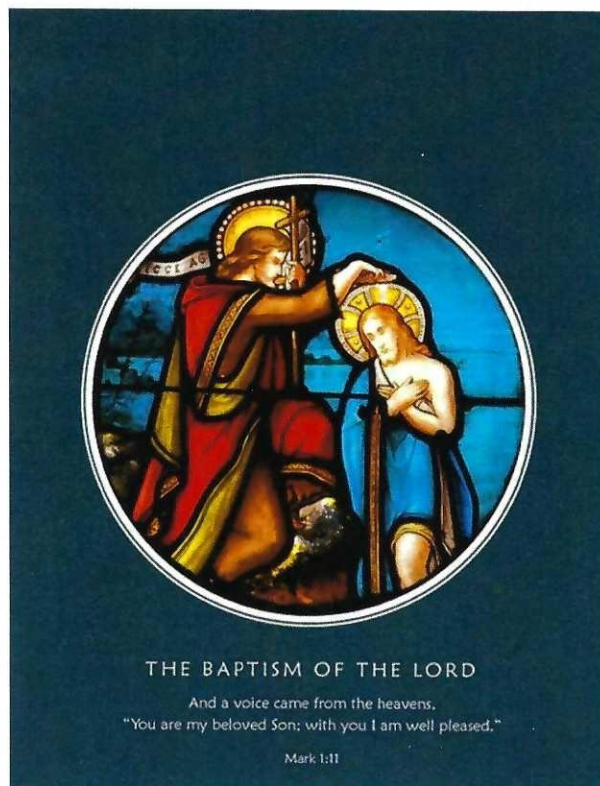
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 111

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary  
[office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 110  
Fax 508-854-0864

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:  
[mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com)

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



## ***St. George Catholic Church***

### **Baptism Information:**

Please contact  
Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or  
email: [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com)

### **Eucharist Celebrated:**

Live Weekend Masses are offered at 4:00 PM  
on Saturday as well as 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM  
on Sunday.

Please visit our parish website for details.

Live-Streamed Mass is offered on our parish  
website each Sunday at 10:00AM.

Live weekday Masses are held on Monday,  
Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Confessions are heard inside the church  
3:00 -3:30 PM on Saturdays.

### ***Parish Mission Statement***

We, the parish community of St George,  
celebrate the welcoming presence of Christ in  
our lives. Together with the universal Church,  
we are nourished and sustained through the  
Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, and we are  
inspired by the proclamation of the Word,  
guided by the Holy Spirit.

We continually seek to grow in a deeper  
understanding of our faith, to respect the sanctity  
of human life, and respond to what Jesus asks of  
us in our time by sharing our gifts and  
participating in parish activities  
and outreach to others.

***A Community of Ministries, January 10, 2021***



## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

### January 10, 2021: Baptism of the Lord



#### From Your Pastor

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord will conclude our celebration of the Christmas season. Today's Gospel recalls a significant moment in Jesus' public ministry. Because he is God made Human, he did not need to submit to a ritual cleansing such as the baptism that his cousin, John the Baptist, performed. Unlike John's other baptisms, this baptism was a manifestation of Christ's "acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's Suffering Servant." Today we should not just reflect upon Christ's baptism but our own as well. Let us recall, with great awe and wonder as we reflect upon Jesus' baptism, that we are baptized in the same cleansing water in the presence of the Trinity which is a real presence in our lives, the rejoicing in heaven in becoming God's sons and daughters and the strength of the grace that still abides with us. Most importantly, we are reminded of the great responsibility that in our baptism God claimed each one of us as his own, thereby giving each of us the grace to overcome evil in the world. As we celebrate the Eucharist today, let us remember that we are transformed by our partaking of Christ's body and blood to go forth and fulfill that baptismal mission.

Year 2021 Calendars are available for anyone who wants one.

*Fr. Nicolls*



#### Mass Intentions

Live Mass is offered  
Saturdays at 4:00 PM  
Sundays at 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM.

Live Mass is offered in the church at 8:00 AM on  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Live-streamed Mass is offered on our parish website  
Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Confessions - heard in the church Saturdays 3:30PM

**Saturday, January 9, 2021,**  
**4:00 PM** Special Intention

**Sunday, January 10, 2021,**  
**8:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George  
**10:00 AM** Special Intention

**Monday, January 11, 2021**  
**8:00 AM**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**  
**8:00 AM**

**Friday, January 15, 2021**  
**8:00 AM**

**Saturday, January 16, 2021**  
**4:00 PM**

**Sunday, January 17, 2021**  
**8:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George  
**10:00 AM** Special Intention

#### Bulletin Item Due Dates:

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
January 24, 2021	January 14, 2021
January 31, 2021	January 21, 2021
February 7, 2021	January 27, 2021

Please submit items by 10:00 a.m. on the due date.  
E-mail our Parish Secretary  
Kate Lockney at: [office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org).



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To hear about updates and notifications from St.  
George Parish,  
simply visit

**[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org)**

and click on the yellow link  
"Join Our Email List" on the homepage to add your  
email address.

#### Baptism - Sacrament of Welcome

All are welcome!  
If you or someone you know has not  
been Baptized, contact us today:

**Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or**  
**email: [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com)**



## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

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You, the parishioners of St. George's, have continued to support our parish throughout these historic months of the pandemic, and you have recognized the need for maintaining our buildings and meeting our financial requirements. The Finance Committee's report last month confirmed that our parish has been sustained financially through these long months, and we are grateful to you.

If you are interested in eliminating your envelopes with our Online Giving program, you can choose either a weekly or monthly method of making your ongoing donations. The special collections are also available through Online Giving. Access is available through our website's weekly bulletin, and Kathy Hessel can assist at [mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com).

For those who are not able to attend Mass in person, we welcome your envelopes via regular mail or by simply dropping them in the mailbox on the front porch of the rectory. If you are in need of support during this time, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134

### Total Weekly Collection December 23 - December 27, 2020:

On line giving	\$ 1,454.00
Offertory (Dec. 27)	\$ 8,089.00
Christmas Offertory	\$ 290.00
	\$ 9,833.00

**We are so grateful for your generous support especially during these pressing times.**



### *This Weekend's Stewardship Thought*

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The U.S. bishops pastoral on stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and call them "to offer up the world and all that is in it - especially themselves - to the Lord of all."

### THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Mark the dates of each family member's Baptisms on the calendar and plan to celebrate Baptism days this year!!



### PIETA

Pieta 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:  
**Monday, January 11th at 7:00 PM**  
Please join us.

For more information, please call Terry Gentile at [508-284-0796](tel:508-284-0796) or Sue Stevens at [508-852-4887](tel:508-852-4887), or email [pieta3@gmail.com](mailto:pieta3@gmail.com).



## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

January 10, 2021: Baptism of the Lord



### Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

email: [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

[Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org)

#### Zoom Classes for Grades 1-5

##### Students Registered for In Person Session Two:

Grade One- 1/28

Grade Two- 1/14

Grade Three- 1/13

Grade Four- 12/17

Grade Five- 12/16

#### First Reconciliation:

Congratulations to our 1st group of 2nd graders to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They did a great job preparing and it was so wonderful to be able to celebrate this Sacrament of Healing together. Please keep this group in your prayers as they now begin to prepare to make their 1st Communion in January.

#### Virtual Meetings for Week of December 29th:

Following the lead of area school districts, we have decided to conduct classes virtually. This will allow for a greater amount of time between class meetings after the Thanksgiving holiday. We realize that some families may be spending the holiday with extended family, and therefore might have an increased risk of being exposed to Covid-19. Emails explaining how

#### Confirmation 2021 Please Pray with Us

We ask our parish community to pray with us as we prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The next zoom classes will be:

Sunday mornings: 1/10/2021, 1/24/2021 at 11:30AM

#### Eucharistic Adoration

Your next opportunity to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will be on



**Thursday, Feb. 4 from 6 - 7 pm and Fri., Feb. 5 from the end of the 8 am Mass until 10 am**

We strongly urge you to participate in this powerful spiritual experience.



#### Baptism of the Lord

In one parish, after adults were baptized during the Easter Vigil, the pastor would announce what each of the newly Baptized would do for the parish. It might be visiting the sick, or tutoring in the school, or helping deliver meals to the elderly and shut-ins. It made very clear the Baptismal call to service and renewed the parish's commitment to practice what they believed. The life of the parish flourished because faith and spirituality were a way of life, and not just another good idea.

When Jesus is baptized, the Spirit descends on Him and the voice from heaven identifies Jesus as the Son on whom God's favor rests. His ministry is about to begin, and yet, immediately after this extraordinary scene, the Spirit will lead Jesus into the wilderness to be tested by Satan and strengthened for the work ahead.

Baptism is more than a social event. It is a commitment to a journey of faith and a special relationship to the Father. Our parents and godparents stand with us as we are joined once and for all to the Body of Christ, the Church. We will be tested and strengthened, challenged to live a life worthy of the grace and favor bestowed on us. We are God's children and God's favor rests on us.

*~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing*

#### Prayers for the Sick

Please, especially during these troubling times, call our parish office to let us know if a family member, friend or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. Since we can't always be together these days, you can help us to hold one another close in prayer.

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. Thank you for your understanding.



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From Deacon Paul Audette:

Henri Nouwen  
Speaks to us through his Letters

Henri responds to a friend who is struggling to experience God's love because he has never fully experienced human love and acceptance (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):



"... and although hunger for human acceptance is like a bottomless barrel, I agree with you that without the experience of human acceptance, the experience of God's love and acceptance become extremely difficult... During the last few months, I myself have experienced some real affectionate, caring acceptance from my friends during a difficult time in my own life. It was this human acceptance that helped me see God in a new way and allowed me to have a better experiential knowledge of what it means that God's love is deeper and stronger than any love that humans can give to one another..."

Sincerely yours,

Henri



### A Notice from the Diocesan Office of Healing and Prevention

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing.

We encourage you to come forward and speak out. The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette at (508) 929-4363.

### Baptism Reminders

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus and we are reminded that we too have been Baptized.

In the days before the pandemic we were reminded of our Baptism each time we blessed ourselves with holy water at the entrance of the church building.



What reminds me that I am baptized as a child of God lately? When I pause to pray and reflect, there are many reminders:

- Water everywhere and always. The holy water fonts at church are empty as a corona virus precaution but I thank God that the water at my kitchen sink constantly flows clear and clean. Rain, rivers, the ocean, ice cubes, memories of my children splashing in puddles... all are reminders that God's blessings still flow as abundantly and surely as His love flowed on the day of my baptism.
- Love and kindness.. the receiving and giving of it. The joy of receiving the love of God, my family, friends and church community is a reminder of the tender welcome that was first given to me on the day of my baptism. The joy of continuing to be able to go out into the world with the love I have been given is a constant reminder of the privilege and responsibility of my baptism.
- Quiet prayer time and babies remind me that I am baptized as a child of God. Regardless of what age we are when God calls us to the baptismal font, we are all there as a beloved child of God. The joy of being with my 7 month old grandson lately is that kind of reminder. At a retreat last Lent, the presenter said that God looks at us with the kind of affection, delight and love that we feel holding our child or grandchild. What a wonderful reminder this is of how God loves and called me as his own - on the day of my baptism and ever since.

Peace and Joy,  
Annie Doyle



## *A Community of Ministries*



As a faith community partner of the **Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter**, St. George Parish continues to provide safe shelter as well as counseling and job training for six families. Current needs are for:

- Gently used or new **towels and wash cloths**
- Heavy plastic shower curtains with metal grommets
- Plastic **Table cloths** with heavy felt backing for round and rectangle tables

The **Mustard Seed** Soup kitchen and food pantry continues to feed approximately 75 meals each weeknight to guests in need. Due to the pandemic, most meals are served outside and taken "to go". The dining room is now occasionally open for 10 guests at one time. A weekly food pantry and a small clothing room serves area families and mostly elderly residents of the downtown neighborhood. Current needs are for:

- Men's and women's new **socks**
- Food Pantry donations of cans of **soup and peanut butter and tuna**
- Monetary donations towards the January meal, **\$5 per meal** provides a hearty "To-Go" meal per person. Checks can be made out to St. George Parish Outreach and sent to 40 Brattle Street, Worcester MA. 01606

### **St. George Parish Outreach**

Contact Annie Doyle Ext.111  
508-450-4134  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org)



The Pastoral Council met for the last time this year. The meeting was brief, but provided an excellent opportunity to connect and share cheerful and positive updates. One of the many positive updates included Stephen Gemme being appointed Vice Chair.

The Council is looking forward to celebrating the Advent season with family and is hopeful for a great start to 2021. They will start their new year off with a council retreat that will focus around St. Francis Xavier and the blossoming of a new church year.

**Happiness is the new rich.  
Inner peace is the new success.  
Health is the new wealth.  
Kindness is the new cool.**

### **Join Our Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2021 Knit or Crochet At Home**

Thank you to all of our faithful knitters who continue to spread comfort and kindness through their generous work!

During this difficult time we knit and pray as we work from home.

New members are invited to join this important ministry of outreach to the sick, suffering and lonely.

Feel free to contact Kathy Hessel with any questions at [mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com)





**Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden**

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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.*



**Food for Folks in Need**

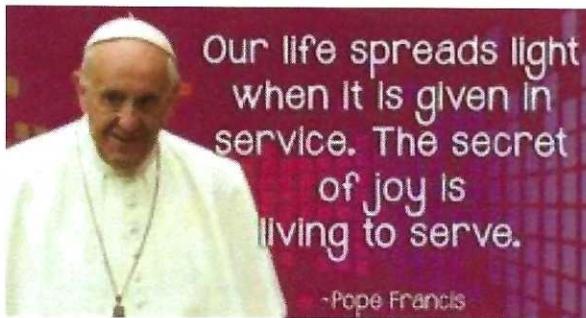
Thank you for continuing your generous food donations to the Mustard Seed Food Party and to our local "Loaves and Fishes" Food Pantry.

To receive a free weekly food bargain grid, join St. George's "Food Donation Team"

just email Dave at [DavewithFDT@gmail.com](mailto:DavewithFDT@gmail.com)

**Special needs for January are:  
Cans of soup, peanut butter and tuna**

Together we are feeding the hungry and keeping the shelves well stocked for all who come to us in need of food!



**Help to Spread the Good News!  
Join St. George Bulletin Ambassadors**

Generous St. George volunteers continue to hand deliver our weekly bulletin to their neighbors each week. How about joining this effort to deliver the bulletin to a neighborhood near you?

Our bulletin is available on our parish website. If you do not have access to the internet but would like to receive a copy of the weekly bulletin at home, Just give us a call.

Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 .

**Holiday Cheer for Isolated Older Adults**



**Holiday Season letter and  
Card Writing Campaign**

- Send a card, a handwritten note, a hand drawn picture or a simple doodle
- Start your card or letter so it can be shared with a man or woman, for example Dear Friend, Hello Neighbor, Good Day
- Add a colorful, heartfelt, non-denominational message and put the card/letter in an unsealed envelope
- Send as many cards/letters as you like by **January 31, 2021** to:
- Elder Services of Worcester, Attn: Holiday Cheer, 67 Millbrook St., Suite 100 Worcester MA 01606
- Questions? Contact Carol McCrohon at 1(508) 498-6379

**You Can Help Prevent Family  
Homelessness  
after the  
4 PM Mass Saturday  
8AM or 10 AM Mass Sunday**

We invite you to use "Hope for Housing cards" to buy your weekly groceries or prescriptions. You receive the full face value of the a card in the amount you choose. The stores donate up to 5% of that amount to "Hope for Housing" to assist children with families in crisis.

**Hope for Housing Cards make great  
Christmas gifts too!**

**See Dave and Sue Genereux** who are in the Church Hall after both Masses. Contact them at 978-833-0306 or email [WaysideATQ@aol.com](mailto:WaysideATQ@aol.com) for more information or for special arrangements.



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