

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

January 7, 2018: The Epiphany Of The Lord

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

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:

First Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM - Chapel

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, January 7, 2018

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6: Vigil

4:00 PM In memory of George Butler

Sunday, January 7: Epiphany Of The Lord

7:30 AM Memorial for Sarah Marie Paldino by family

9:00 AM Memorial for Richard Wilson by the Parker family

11:00 AM For those who are homeless

Monday, January 8: Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM For the Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, January 9:

8:00 AM In memory of Josephine & John Dolan

Wednesday, January 10:

8:00 AM Memorial for Clare Menezes by the Ajbani family

Thursday, January 11:

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Friday, January 12:

8:00 AM For our parishioners in need of prayer

Saturday, January 13: Vigil

4:00 PM 3rd Anniversary for Florence Montville by the Levis family

Sunday, January 14: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM In memory of Anita & Harry Litchfield

9:00 AM In memory of Mario & Rosie Pucci
Rosary after 9:00 AM Mass

11:00 AM In memory of Gertrude T. Geran

Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend of

January 21

January 28

February 4

Due to parish

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Wednesday, Jan. 24

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.

Second Collection

This weekend, the collection for the Catholic University of America will be taken up at all Masses. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Calendar

Saturday, January 6:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, January 7:

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/Center

Monday, January 8:

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

7:00 PM Pieta Confr Rm

Tuesday, January 9:

10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Hall

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

6:00 PM Girl Scouts Confr Rm

Wednesday, January 10:

5:30 PM Liturgy Meeting Rectory

7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm

Thursday, January 11:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, January 12:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

Saturday, January 13:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, January 14:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

10:00 AM Men's Club Confr Rm

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.

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 January 8 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room.

Please join us.

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

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Men's Club Meeting

The monthly Men's Club meeting will be held *next* Sunday, January 14, 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!!!

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.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January

During the month of January, Pope Francis has asked that Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

This Week..

Pray for abused and neglected children, that their circumstances will be known, their safety assured, and their sense of self-worth restored.

We Commend to your Prayers

Kathleen Foley

Eva Marzilli

May the Angels lead them into Paradise

Year-End Donation Information

We have been informed that end of year statements will be mailed from the envelope company by January 31, 2018.

If you contribute to the parish via "Online Giving" a statement of your contributions may be printed off online. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hessel at MKHessel@aol.com

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 service coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette. A report can be made by phone to (508) 929-4363.



From Your Pastor

WELCOME: This weekend we welcome to our parish Alex Garcia who is in formation in the Permanent Diaconate Program. Alex was recently installed as a Lector and Acolyte and has been assigned to our parish as part of the formation process for men who are preparing to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. He expects to be ordained a deacon in the spring of 2019. Alex and his family are natives of Brazil and have lived in this country for seventeen years. Alex and his wife, Rubia, have three daughters - Bruna, Natalia and Louisa. We pray that Alex's ministry here will be a great pastoral and spiritual experience for him and for us as he ministers among us.

Once again, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your many cards, gifts and treats. Your overwhelming generosity at this time of the year is gratefully appreciated. Thank you!!!

Year 2018 Calendars are available for anyone who wants one.

Fr. Niccolls

Coffee Shop Captain

January 14, 2018

Jim Moughan: 508-856-7443



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

Note: Team Listings and Schedule of Teams can be found on our parish website.



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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

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

Religious Education

Merry Christmas to all of our religious education families! Classes will resume on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Important Dates for Grade Two

This is a very exciting year for our religious education students in grade two. They will have the opportunity to receive TWO sacraments. First Reconciliation will take place in January and First Communion will take place in April. There will be a retreat for the students and their parents to help prepare for each of these sacraments.

1st Reconciliation

First Reconciliation Retreat- Saturday, January 20, 2018
2:30-4:00pm

(Families will have the opportunity to choose 1 of the 2 First Communion dates at this retreat)

First Reconciliation Ceremony- Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:00am

1st Communion

First Communion Retreat and Potluck dinner- Saturday, April 7, 2018 2:30-6:00pm

First Communion #1 Sunday, April 22, 2018 1:00pm

First Communion #2 Saturday, April 28, 2018 10:00am

Online Giving Raffle – Join Us! Win A \$50 Gift Card

Have you considered online giving as a way of making your contributions systematically and without envelopes? For anyone who joins Online Giving during the period of November 15-January 31, your name will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Target Gift Card. Online Giving is a simple and secure method of fulfilling your stewardship even when you cannot attend Mass. Your contribution is debited automatically from your checking, savings, or credit card account on a monthly basis. You determine the day of the month. Giving electronically helps the church save money on printing and processing of envelopes. It saves you from writing checks or having cash available for envelopes. It's easy – log into www.saintgeorgesparish.org and get started. Directions are also printed and available in the church at the entrances.

Weekend of December 31, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$7,569.00

Thank you for your support!

St. George Confirmation

Confirmation classes are well under way! The candidates have had three classes, covering social justice, prayer and the global church. All 25 candidates have attended a retreat at Assumption College led by college students. The first weekend in January the student's Confirmation sponsors will join us for class to find out more about their important role in the lives of the candidates.

Eucharistic Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your Body and Blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Chapel Hours



Open 4:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Closed - Sunday from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Closed - Monday & Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.



Epiphany

People can come into our lives, sometimes for a very short time, and make a big impression. The power of the encounter can change our life, renew our hope, or strengthen our resolve. It can even set us on a new course, leading us to places, causes and people we never imagined meeting.

The Magi, or astrologers as Matthew calls them, arrive to pay homage to the newborn Jesus. A star had guided them on their quest and when they left, they avoided Herod and went on their way. Their gifts represented the kingship of Christ (gold), His divinity (incense) and his redemptive suffering (myrrh). The story of the Magi reminds us that the whole world has come to recognize and worship a Savior, and the impact of this short visit would reverberate through the ages.

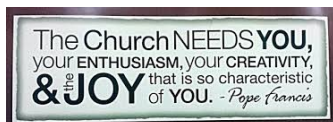
Like the Magi, our life is a journey of faith. We encounter Christ in hundreds of ways. Each momentary encounter has the potential of changing lives, healing wounds, easing suffering and restoring faith. Those we meet along the way are fellow pilgrims who also search for grace and life. Follow the star of faith and offer your gifts of love. Christ will surely lead you.

~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing
jim@stgeorgepublishing.com

Thank You From St. Francis Home

Thank You to the Parishioners of St. George's for your generosity in donating Christmas Gifts to our Residents here at St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. It means so much to our residents to be remembered at this time of year, and your thoughtful gifts will bring them joy throughout the coming months. We at St. Francis have certainly experienced God's love through you. Blessings to you in the New Year.

Tanya Rybarczyk
Director of Pastoral Care
St. Francis Nursing and Rehab Center



Thank You to all who provided relief items for a family who lost their home in a fire just before Christmas....

Sr. Laura brought their need to our parish community and recently sent this thank you note.

Dear Parishioners of St. George,

Thank you for your great and generous heart and for the items such as sheets, blankets and towels that you provided for this family in need. Due to the house fire, they are now 9 people living in a small two bedroom house in a poor neighborhood. It seems like a refugee camp to me but the grandmother is able to keep the family together until the springtime when a new house can be built. For Christmas your gifts surrounded them and filled the house with love. When I brought the gifts to them they started crying saying, "All of this touches our heart. We couldn't have imagined receiving such a huge help as this!"

I hope you know what a difference your charity makes in the life of others. All of you will always be present in our prayers.

My best wishes for a Happy New Year full of peace and good health. Thank You!

Sr. Laura



**Come ,
Let us Adore
Him**

Epiphany House Blessing

We invite you to practice the custom of blessing your home on this Feast of the Epiphany or during the week following.

Family and/or friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 18. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2018 is the year.

A Community of Ministries



Love. Grow. Serve.

PARISH OUTREACH

Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183
Ext. 11

Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

**You are invited to join the new
St. George Parish "Food Donation Team"**

**Together we hope to increase our non-
perishable food donations for the hungry
through St. George Parish**

**If you are open to receiving a weekly email
with information from Dave Jarry on local sales
of items that are needed in our local food pan-
tries then consider yourself part of the team!**

**For more detailed information or to share your
own thoughts and to join the team, just email
Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com**

**Special needs for January 2018 are for cans of
tuna, chicken, and soup.**

All non-perishable food items are also welcome!

Welcome - The Door is Always Open

- If you've been away from church for a while consider reconnecting. Join us again for worship, Spiritual Growth Programs, community service, or a simple chat?
- If you are an unmarried couple or were married by a Justice of the Peace, have you considered receiving the Sacrament of Marriage (commonly referred to as having your marriage blessed)?
- Do you have an older child or a grandchild who was never Baptized? If you want to learn more about receiving this Sacrament of welcome, we invite you to give us a call.
- If you or an adult friend or a family member, who never received Confirmation but would like to learn more about this Sacrament, consider contacting us for more information.

For any of the above, please see one of our priests, call 508-853-0183, or email: Annie Doyle at the email listed above

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

A Blessing Prayer for Our Home - Lord God, bless our home and all those who enter here. May this family and all who visit us this year be healthy and holy. May we worship Jesus within these walls. As the star made Christ visible to the wise men, help us make the light of Christ visible in our home today. Amen.



"When I requested you to design the building for seniors, I was expecting wheelchair access, hearing assistance and large-print signs. I wasn't expecting Florida decor in the sanctuary."

2018 ALTAR LINEN SCHEDULES are available from Annie Doyle and on our parish website. Many thanks to the teams of ladies on a rotating schedule who, behind the scenes in their own homes, reverently launder and care for the purificators and corporals used on the altar at Mass.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

New members are invited to join this important ministry of outreach to the sick and suffering. You might want to knit or crochet – here at our bimonthly meetings or at home. Please call Annie Doyle at the Rectory for more information 508-853-0183.

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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.*

Visitation House Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Faith In Action & Respect Life Committees:

Visitation House, on Vernon Hill in Worcester, is a Catholic home for homeless women with crisis pregnancies. These women are supported in a safe environment. During this time and after the birth of their child, trained staff work with the mothers teaching life skills and how to take better care of themselves and their baby. Mothers are assisted in finding housing, exploring education and pursuing job opportunities. Please support Visitation House by taking a baby bottle, keeping it for four weeks and filling it with your spare change. Baby bottles will be distributed at the end of each Mass on the weekend of **January 27-28th**. Baby bottles will be collected the weekend of **February 24-25th**. Wicker baskets, with the baby bottles, will be found near each entrance of the church. May God bless you for your generosity in supporting this life giving ministry. Thank you.

Women's Day of Spirituality Important Upcoming Dates

Registration for Women's Day of Spirituality After All Masses

January 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 27 & 28
\$15 per person includes Lunch
(limited seating available)

Women's Day of Spirituality

Speaker: Judith A. Talvacchia M.Div., BCC

Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 9am-1pm
St. George Parish Hall ~ 40 Brattle Street, Worcester
More details to follow. For questions please call/text,
Andrea Svagdys -Gumbrell at [508-330-0267](tel:508-330-0267).

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.



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Blessing For The Year

Bless us, Lord in this Christmas Season
With quietness of mind.
Teach us to be patient
And always to be kind.
Show us that in quietness
That we can feel Your presence near,
Fill us with joy and peace

Young At Heart Women's Evening Of Gathering And Reflection

Thursday : January 25, 2018 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Dinner Will Be Served @ 6:15PM

If you forgot to register, please do so a.s.a.p. by
contacting Sarah Kelly at the Rel. Ed. Office or
JoAnn Nally @ 508-527-6973.

Thank You To Our Parishioners

Thank you to all our Parishioners who came to the Advent Evening of Reflection and Prayer. It was wonderful to see so many people that evening. Thank you to Fr. Niccolls, Fr. Charles, and our two visiting priests Fr. Alfano and Fr. Caldarella who were available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Also, a special thank you to Joyce Purcell for her help in creating the beautiful atmosphere within our Church.



Baptism Preparation

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. Dates for upcoming classes are February 4 (snow date make up class March 4), and May 20, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Conference Room.