

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

***February 18, 2018: First Sunday in Lent***

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

Norbert H. Archibald, Deacon

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 508-853-0183 or  
email: [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto: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 Thursday 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.

***Searching for Jesus?***

We have hidden a little  
Drawing of Jesus in this bulletin.  
Can you find Him?

***A Community of Ministries, February 18, 2018***

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#### Mass Intentions

**Saturday, February 17: Vigil**

4:00 PM Memorial for Julia Morris by  
Bob & Marie Morris

**Sunday, February 18: 1st Sunday of Lent**

7:30 AM Memorial for Susan Charbonneau Beane  
by family

9:00AM Memorial for Jeffrey Tagman by Carol Grigas

11:00 AM Memorial for Therese Gaudette by  
Pauline Gallagher

**Monday, February 19:**

8:00 AM In memory of Richard & Lorraine Duggan

**Tuesday, February 20:**

8:00 AM Anniversary Remembrance for  
Jeanette & Robert Boylan

**Wednesday, February 21: St. Peter Damian**

8:00 AM In memory of Diana & George Listowich

12:10 PM For those considering a return to the  
Catholic Faith

6:30 PM 21st Anniversary for George Niccolls by  
his son

**Thursday, February 22: The Chair of St. Peter**

8:00 AM In memory of Gladys & John Reardon

**Friday, February 23:**

8:00 AM In memory of John Balcom

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, February 24: Vigil**

4:00 PM Memorial for Milton Peppin by Punkin &  
family

**Sunday, February 25: 2nd Sunday of Lent**

7:30 AM Birthday Remembrance for Marty Forhan  
by family

9:00AM In memory of Leo & Mary Jones

11:00 AM Memorial for Loraine Dufault by  
Pauline Gallagher

#### Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend ofDue to parish

March 4

Wednesday, Feb. 21

March 11

Wednesday, Feb. 28

March 18

Wednesday, March 7

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.

#### Parish Calendar

**Saturday, February 17:**

8:00 PM AA Hall

**Sunday, February 18:**

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

**Monday February 19:**

*Presidents' Day*

**Tuesday, February 20:****Wednesday, February 21**

6:30 PM Daughters of Isabella Hall

7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm & Center

**Thursday, February 22:**

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

**Friday, February 23:**

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

**Saturday, February 24:**

8:00 PM AA Hall

**Sunday, February 25:**

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 Hall/Center

#### Scripture for the week of February 18, 2018

18 SUN Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

19 Mon Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46

20 Tue Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15

21 Wed Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

22 Thu Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

23 Fri Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

24 Sat Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

25 SUN Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-  
34/Mk 9:2-10



#### *This Weekend's Stewardship Thought*

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new cove-  
nant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on  
stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental  
obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism...  
that people place their gifts, their resources-their  
selves-at God's service in and through the Church."

#### Second Collection

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

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

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### **Weekend of February 11, 2018**

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$8003.26

Thank you for your support!



*From Your Pastor*

### ***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.

**Have you ever considered the idea of becoming Catholic or receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Confirmation and/or Marriage ? Do you have a friend, neighbor, or relative who might be curious about the Catholic faith?**

Our priests are happy to speak with anyone who is interested in exploring this thought or feel free to contact  
Annie Doyle at 508-853-0183 x11 or  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) with any questions.

### **St. George Book Discussion Group**

The next meeting of the St. George Book Discussion Group will be held on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will discuss the book, "Following the Path" by Joan Chittister. If you would like to join the group or for more information, please contact Joyce Purcell at 508-852-



### ***Coffee Shop Captain***

February 25, 2018  
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. 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.

Bishop McManus has asked me and all the other priests of the Diocese of Worcester to extend an invitation to the young men of our parishes who are in high school or older to consider a vocation to the priesthood. As a priest for almost 44 years, I know that I would not have considered this calling if it were not for the example of priesthood that I saw lived out faithfully and prayerfully by the priests in my home parish. I certainly witnessed in these priests an excellent example of what was meant by giving of oneself totally to God. Their giftedness and self-sacrifice were certainly a great inspiration for me. For any young man who has ever considered the priesthood, please feel free to speak with me or Fr. Charles. I might also mention that our diocese annually sponsors a retreat, led by Bishop McManus, for young men to discern or prayerfully consider if the priesthood is for them. This year's retreat is scheduled for March 23/24, from 6:00 P.M Friday to 6:00 P.M. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. (This retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester.) It is open to men who are of high school age and older. The cost is free, and transportation is also provided to and from the retreat center. For more information about this retreat and to sign up for it, please see me or contact our Vocations Director, Fr. James Mazzone at 508-340-5788, by email at [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net).

**Catholic Free Press:** February is Catholic Free Press month. We hope that many of you will either begin or renew a subscription to our diocesan newspaper. Won't you help us by subscribing today? You can use the envelope in your church envelope packet or pick up an envelope at the church doorways and place the remittance into the collection basket.

*Fr. Niccolls*

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

This is a very exciting year for students in grade two. 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.

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

### 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 Ash Wednesday and 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.

**Start a New Practice this Lent!**  
**You are Invited to Hear**  
**"One Thing" at Mass**

**Mass**  
**Notes**

Our lives can be filled with so much! Yet God is present and speaks to us always, especially at Mass. We hear it sometimes, but the clutter of life can cause us to miss it or forget. As a parish community we are invited to try something new at Mass.

Listen to the music, readings, preaching, prayers and to the silence in your own heart.

Ask God to help you hear just one word or idea, one challenge or invitation, that will help you to grow spiritually during the coming week.

Use the little booklet, which you will find at all church entrances, as a place to jot down and remember the **one thing** to hold in your heart and mind all week. If you forget the booklet at home please feel free to take another one. Use the one word or thought during the week as the Holy Spirit moves you.

### Why the Ancient Traditions of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving during Lent?

*"Even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with your whole heart .."*



In preparation for the great celebration of Easter, we are called to pray, fast and give alms to the poor as some of the ways that will help us draw closer to God during Lent.

**Prayer** is one of the main ways to connect with God, in silence, in words, and in worship. Jesus prayed constantly and taught us to pray to Our Father in heaven. Jesus emphasized that our prayer need not be long, complicated or showy, but rather, short, to the point, and heartfelt. You might want to consider joining us for weekday Mass in the church during Lent.

**Fasting** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, (taking only one full meal) reminds us of our dependence on God ..we "do not live on bread alone." On the Fridays of Lent we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence from meat. These are acts of self-discipline and self-control which can help to keep us mindful of God's loving presence.

**Almsgiving:** Lent invites us to see the face of Christ in the hungry and homeless, sick and suffering. Jesus depends on us to listen with compassion to the joys and sorrows of our friends and family members and to reach out in kindness and compassion to all. See our parish website and the outreach section of this bulletin for ideas about giving Alms.

### Enrich Your Lent By Volunteering

Would you consider spending one or two hours with hospice patients? Notre Dame Hospice is looking for kind, compassionate people. Contact, Debbie Karalus, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at ND Hospice 508-852-5505 [emaildklus@notredamehealthcare.org](mailto:emaildklus@notredamehealthcare.org).

### Eucharistic Adoration 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





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### *A Letter from Bishop McManus*

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***"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"***

--John 10:10

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have begun the forty day Lenten season of prayer, penance and almsgiving that precedes the re-birth of Easter. You and I need Lent because we are sinners called to repentance. However, Lent's journey is not just aimed at repentance and, through God's grace, overcoming sin. Lent and Easter lead us to accept Jesus Christ more fully that we may have the abundance of life He came to bring. Too often, we settle for less.

Saint Augustine captured well the human condition on earth when in his *Confessions* he said, "You have made us for thee, O Lord, and restless are our hearts until they rest in thee." Our restless hearts long for peace, joy and fulfillment. Too often in that pursuit, we waver in our commitment to the Lord, as compromise, weakness and rationalization lead us to pursue our peace, joy and fulfillment apart from Jesus Christ and His Gospel. In his Lenten Message, Pope Francis asks, "how many of God's children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!"

Lenten prayer as well as the desert starkness of its penance, fasting and sacrifice for others, give us the opportunity to see through the allure of sin, dispel the trance of materialism and free ourselves from the things that can attract but not satisfy our hearts. Those disciplines then incline our hearts to be more receptive to God's grace, Easter's joy and the sublime wonder of our baptismal adoption as God's children called to share in His divine life.

Reflecting on the Easter Vigil, Pope Francis speaks about the "fire of Easter" and the prayer that "the light of Christ rising in glory may dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds." It is my prayer that through a fervent Lent, we may deepen the holiness of our lives by repenting and rooting out sin from our hearts. Then, with a clarity of vision that can only come from purified hearts, may we in Holy Week, grasp anew the fire of God's love for each one of us. In the light of that deepened realization may our restless hearts discover the abundance of life for which we long.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

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### 18th 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, March 17**. 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: Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Father David Cavanagh, Robert Rogers, Ryan Tremblay, and Elvis Grbac. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 1st, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.



#### Make a Prayer Cloth In the Church Hall

Everyone is invited downstairs to the hall after Sunday Masses, to make a simple Prayer Cloth to take home. It's so easy and fun to decorate. It can be done by anyone of any age! You might want to use the Prayer Cloth in your home or give it to someone as a gift.

There are several other ideas available which explain ways that you might want to use the Prayer Cloth. There are also several other items you might want to take to add with the cloth to form a "Prayer Place" at home.



**Come down to the  
Church Hall to make a  
"Prayer Cloth" after  
Mass this Sunday!**

## *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](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### **Almsgiving- Donations Needed**

- Donate new **Underwear** for homeless men and women - all sizes and types. These are items that are so necessary but rarely, if ever given. Please bag them individually in zip lock bags marked with type and size.
- Dollar Store men's brown fleece "**Work Gloves**" are inexpensive and really needed lately in this freezing cold weather.
- **Men's Warm Jackets (used)** are in short supply at the Mustard seed lately. Donations welcome!
- Individual packets of **Peanut Butter** can be found at the Dollar Store-three for one dollar. This is a portable and relatively healthy snack when combined with the day-old bread this is always available at the Mustard Seed.

All donations can be left in the Outreach Donation Area at the bottom of the steps as you enter the church from the parking lot.



### **Almsgiving with "Hope for Housing" Helps to prevent family homelessness every weekend in our Church Hall**

We invite you to begin today to join this effort. Use "Hope for Housing Cards" to buy your weekly groceries or prescriptions at CVS. Give a Dunkin Donut or Panera Bread Gift Card as a birthday gift to a friend.

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.

See Sue or Dave Genereux after every Mass in the Church Hall or contact them at 508-829-5776 or email [WaysideATQ@aol.com](mailto:WaysideATQ@aol.com) for more information. They are happy to explain more about how "Hope for Housing Cards" help families on the brink of homelessness.



### **THE FAMILY CONNECTION**

*For these forty days...* In addition to the "giving up" that we traditionally do during Lent, how about "taking on" some things for Lent this year such as extra prayers, namely family prayer. If your family has not already established some form of family prayer, Lent is a good time to begin. Plan together what form this will take—an *Our Father* in the morning before everyone rushes out the door? The *Prayer of St. Francis* at the end of dinner? Or a short scripture reading before saying goodnight



### **FAMILY LENTEN CALENDAR**

Copies of the Family Lenten Calendar are available on the Welcome Table in the church hall. From Loyola Press, compliments of St. George Family Ministry.

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

For more information and/or to join the team, just email Dave at [DavewithFDT@gmail.com](mailto:DavewithFDT@gmail.com)

Special needs for February 2018 are for Toilet paper, soup and peanut butter.

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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 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 27-28<sup>th</sup>**. Baby bottles will be collected the weekend of **February 24-25<sup>th</sup>**. 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.



### Spiritual Growth Ministry

#### Faith Sharing Groups

Lenten Faith Sharing Groups begin the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>. Groups meet for 75 minutes each week to read, discuss and pray with the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Participants, if they wish, have the opportunity to share their own faith experience. Faith Sharing Groups foster spiritual growth, give you the gift of learning more about Jesus and His life and provide members with the opportunity to be with other Parishioners. St. George's Faith Sharing Groups are part of the Parish Initiative of building up our Faith Community. Pray about being a participant...

*This is a wonderful Lenten opportunity!*

Groups Meet:

Wednesday: 7:15-8:30 PM or Friday :10:00-11:15 AM

Register this Sunday in the Church Hall



### Women's Day of Spirituality Celebrating Our Giftedness

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

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

*\* What are the personal gifts that are an important part of my life?*

*\*How did I express my gifts earlier in my life?*

*\*How am I being called to share my gifts with others today?*

*\*What do the women of the Gospel teach us about being open to God who calls forth our gifts at times and in ways that we never expected?*

St. George Church's Hall  
9am - Registration & Coffee

10am - Program Begins

1pm - Day Concludes

Lunch Included

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at the conclusion of the day  
\$15 per person

Registration will take place after all masses in January

Last Day To Register February 15th

For more information or questions please call/text, Andrea Svagdys -Gumbrell at 508-330-0267

### Lenten Opportunities To Grow Closer To God

Confessions: Saturday, 3:00-3:30 PM or  
5:00-5:30 PM

Tuesday, 6:30-7:00 PM

Stations Of The Cross: Friday @ 6:30 PM

Mass: 8:00 AM – Monday, Friday And  
Wednesday 6:30 PM

Lenten Evening of Prayer/ Reflection: March 20

\*\*\*opportunity to receive the  
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Faith Sharing Groups: Wednesday, 7:15 PM or  
Friday, 10:00 AM



### 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 March 4, and May 20, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Conference Room.