

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

**February 23, 2020: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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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 3:00PM

Thursday 9AM to 12 noon, Closed on Fridays

### **Parish Staff:**

*It is our privilege to serve you.*

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls, Pastor Ext. 12

Rev. Joseph M. Nally, Senior Priest Ext. 24

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 13

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach

[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 11

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary

[office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 10

Fax 508-854-0864

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:

[mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



The LORD said to Moses,  
"Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

Leviticus 19:1,2

# **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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM

Wednesday: 6:30 PM

### **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, February 23, 2020***

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### *Mass Intentions*



**Saturday, February 22, Vigil**  
 4:00 PM Community of Saint George

**Sunday, February 23, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 7:30 AM Memorial Mass for Raymond Barton  
 req. by his daughter  
 9:00 AM In Memory of Armand & Jeanette  
 Audette req. by family  
 11:00 AM Memorial Mass for Robert Williams req.  
 by his family

**Monday, February 24:**  
 8:00 AM In Memory of Maureen Migdelaney  
 req. by her sisters

**Tuesday, February 25:**  
 8:00 AM Memorial for Martin Forham req. by  
 his wife

**Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday**  
 8:00 AM For the elderly of the Parish  
 12:10 PM For those considering a return to  
 the Catholic Church  
 6:30 PM For the Community of Saint George

**Thursday, February 27:**  
 8:00 AM In Memory of Robert (Bobby) Ovan

**Friday, February 28:**  
 8:00 AM Special Intentions

**Saturday, February 29: Vigil**  
 4:00 PM Memorial for Carole Parker, req. by her  
 nephew

**Sunday, March 1: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 7:30 AM Special Intention  
 9:00 AM 4th Anniversary for James Purcell, req.  
 by his wife, Joyce  
 11:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

### **Total Weekly Ordinary Collection**

#### **Weekend February 16, 2020:**

On line giving: \$ 2,105.00  
 Ordinary Collection: \$ 5,015.00

Your generosity helps us to continue to be a vibrant parish community worshipping our Risen Lord and reaching out to our neighbors

Thank  
You



### **Family Prayer**

This group meets every Thursday, from 6:00—7:00 pm. (new time). They pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### *Parish Calendar*



**Saturday, February 22:**  
 8:00 PM AA Hall

**Sunday, February 23:**  
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall  
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room  
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room  
 6:00 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 6-9 Center

**Monday, February 24:**  
 4:15 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5 Center  
 5:45 PM Yoga Church Hall  
 7:00 PM Spiritual Growth Comm. Mtg. Parish Ctr.  
 7:00 PM Book Discussion Conf. Room

**Tuesday, February 25:**  
 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Hall  
 4:15 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5 Center  
 5:45 PM Day of Spirituality Mtg Parish Ctr.  
 6:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 64885 Conf. Room  
 7:00 PM Parish Mission Planning Mtg. Parish Ctr.

**Wednesday, February 26:**  
 7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Conf. Room

**Thursday, February 27:**  
 6:00 - 7:00 PM (NEW TIME) Family Prayer Church

**Friday, February 28:**

**Saturday, February 29:**  
 10:00 AM Diocesan Leadership Group Hall  
 8:00 PM AA Hall

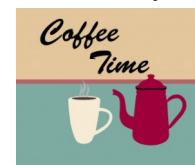
**Sunday, March 1:**  
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall  
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room  
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room  
 9:00 AM Confirmation Mass & Mtg., Church & Center

### **Men's and Women's Club**

(Formerly the Men's Club)

Join us downstairs in the Church Hall after Sunday Mass for coffee, and donuts as well as to enjoy being part of the parish community.

Coffee Shop Team Captain  
 March 1  
 Robert Gray  
 508-856-0823



**At least 10 – 15 new members are needed to help complete the teams who make up this wonderful ministry!**

All men and women, 16 years of age and older, are invited to join one of the St. George Coffee Shop Teams to **serve once every 9 weeks.**

Please contact John Beahn 508-852-3115 for more information or to sign up today.

**All are welcome!**

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*Fall Social, Dinner & Silent Auction  
Fundraiser November 14, 2020 for the  
St. George Parish.*

*Please call/text Andrea  
508-330-0267 with questions.*

### Stewardship by the Book

In today's first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbors as themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus spells out how we are to do that—to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.



#### Parish e-news

Want to hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish? Simply visit [www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org) and click on the link on "Join Our Email List" on the homepage to add your email address.

### Attention Parents of Young Children

The Church building is open to the public. We ask parents of young children to please accompany their children at all times. Thank you.



**Lenten Prayer Program Marie Anna Center**  
Saint Bernard Church, 220 Lincoln Street,  
Worcester, MA (508) 736-6986  
Tuesday Mornings, 10:00-11:30 AM

- March 3, 2020 Fr. Dennis J. O'Brien, Diocesan Minister to Priests *"Touched by Mercy, Moved by Love"*
- March 10, 2020 Sr. Dorothy Scesney, PBVM IPA (International Presentation Association for Justice & Peace) *"You have but one Father...the One in Heaven"*
- March 17, 2020 Mary Jane Person (Former DRE/Co-Director of PBVM Associates) *"Hope: Our Gift and our Challenge"*
- March 24, 2020 Theresa Fugardi Pastoral Associate/ St. Rose of Lima *"Rise Up: Healed and Sent, a Lenten Journey"*
- March 31, 2020 Sr. Janet Provost, SSJ, Pastoral Ministry *"The Last week... The Final Words"*



### From Your Pastor

In just three days we will be entering the season of Lent. This Lenten season, we ask that any of you who would like to do an extra "penance" to consider an invitation from the U.S. Catholic bishops who, in a 1983 Pastoral Letter, called upon the Christian community to fast during Lent for the cause of peace. They said, *"We call upon our people voluntarily to do penance on Friday by eating less food and by abstaining from meat. This return to a traditional practice of penance, once observed in the U.S. church, should be accompanied by works of charity and service toward our neighbors. Each Friday should be a day significantly devoted to prayer, penance and almsgiving for peace."* Our Lenten brochure will include all other Lenten information as well as the liturgies and services for Holy Week and Easter. If you did not have one, there are copies of it available at the doorways of the church. It also is available on our parish website: [www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org). Lent will begin this Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, (Ash Wednesday) with the blessing and distribution of ashes at the 8:00 A.M., 12:10 and 6:30 P.M. Masses.

On Monday evening, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will hold another session of our Bible Study, entitled Sip, Snack and Scripture. This Bible Study will take place in the church hall from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. On that night we will focus on selected passages on the death of Jesus as told in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. All are welcome to attend.

*Fr. Niccolls*



### Altar Ministries

We are thankful to the Altar Servers and Ministers of Holy Communion from Team C who will serve at our Masses next weekend.

### Men's and Women's Club Meeting

(formerly The Men's Club)

The monthly Men's and Women's Club meeting will be held Sunday, March 8th, in the Conference Room after the 9:00 AM Mass. Men's and Women's Club members and parish staff are welcome to attend. The coffee is on us!!!





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### Religious Education "Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

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#### NO CLASS during February vacation

We have classes this week and next. We will then have NO CLASSES the week of February Vacation 2/17-2/21.

**Confession for 4th & 5th Graders** Students in 4th and 5th Grade will have the opportunity to go to confession during class time in March. Each group has an assigned day. We are grateful to Fr. Nicolls and Fr. Nally for making it possible for the students to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during class time once a year. We typically have the 3rd graders have the opportunity during Advent and our 4th and 5th graders can go to confession during Lent.

#### Family & Student Afternoon

Students received registration forms for the Family & Student Afternoon of our Lenten Parish Mission last week in class. We hope that many families will join us for the activities for students pre K- grade 5 and the parent conversation with the visiting priest for the Mission weekend, Fr. John Predmore, SJ. There will also be a pizza party! This event takes place on Sunday, March 8, 2020 3:00-5:00pm. The last day to register is February 23. If you have any questions about the event, or if you need another registration form, please do not hesitate to email Sarah Kelly at [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)



**Important dates for 1st Communion Retreat & Potluck Dinner-** Saturday, March 28, 2020, 2:30-6:00 P.M. More information about the potluck dinner will be sent home with families as we get closer to the event.

**Rehearsals-** April 28 & 29, 2020 4:15-5:15 P.M.

**Mass-** Saturday, May 2, 2020 **9:30 A.M.**  
(There has been a slight change on the time)

### Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For more than a half century, the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** has been a sign of the solidarity of the Church in the United States with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. The distance in rural areas and deteriorated roads make it difficult for some communities to have Mass regularly. Language barriers and lack of resources make catechetical materials difficult to produce.

Social justice issues are a constant challenge to living a life in faithful witness to our faith. For example, human captivity remains a real challenge throughout Latin America. Human trafficking in Brazil, for example, is a serious problem that takes numerous forms: forced rural labor that amounts to modern-day slavery, trafficking to support prostitution, and forced marriages. The Church in Brazil is addressing this challenge by training leaders to publicize and denounce trafficking practices and to work with all levels of government to combat human trafficking. By supporting the Collection for the Church in Latin America, you are helping Brazilians fulfill their Gospel call to protect the vulnerable, defend human life and dignity, and address the causes of human trafficking throughout the country.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America empowers the faithful of Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen their faith and share it with each other and the world. A significant portion of this collection is also used to assist in the ongoing efforts of our own **Diocesan Hispanic Ministry**, which serves the large number of Hispanic and Latino Catholics who are now in the Diocese of Worcester. It is gratifying to see the life of faith flourishing in these parish communities as their faith life enriches us all.

I encourage you to respond to the theme to "Share your Faith" by supporting the special Collection for the Church in Latin America when your parish takes up the collection. Please be assured of my appreciation for your generous response.

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

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

**Next** weekend, a special collection will be taken up at all Masses for the **Church in Latin America.**

Thank You!



### **Lenten Regulations**

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations form 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.

Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

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### **Lent Begins this Week**

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday. The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. The ashes remind us of our own sinfulness. They are a sign of our humility.

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### **Legacy of Hope Campaign Update**

We are just over 65% of our goal for the Legacy of Hope Campaign. Thank you to everyone who has given to date! We will be collecting pledges through the month of January, so if you have yet to participate, please take one of the pledge envelopes in the pews home with you today. You can mail your pledge in that envelope or put the envelope in the collection basket at Mass next weekend.



Remember St. George will receive 40% of the Funds we raise for the Campaign. Thank you!

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

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

Prayer is one of the 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.

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.



### **Scripture for the week of February 23, 2020**

23	SUN	Lv 19:1-2,17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
24	Mon	Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29
25	Tue	Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37
26	Wed	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
27	Thu	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
28	Fri	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
29	Sat	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
1	SUN	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/ Mt 4:1-11

## *A Community of Ministries*



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

Ann Doyle 508-853-0183  
Ext. 11  
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

**Thank You for  
"Having a Heart"  
for our neighbors in need !**



The current needs of our neighbors at the Mustard Seed and the Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter are posted at each exit of the church. If you are able, please choose a ticket to help fill a need.

### **Directions to the Outreach Collection Area**



Several folks have been asking where the parish "Outreach Collection Area" is. When you enter the church building, from the parking lot, by the side door, go down the stairs toward the church hall and you will see it to your left. Your donations of food clothing and other items can be left there. The church building is open 6:30 AM till 9:00 PM. Thank You!

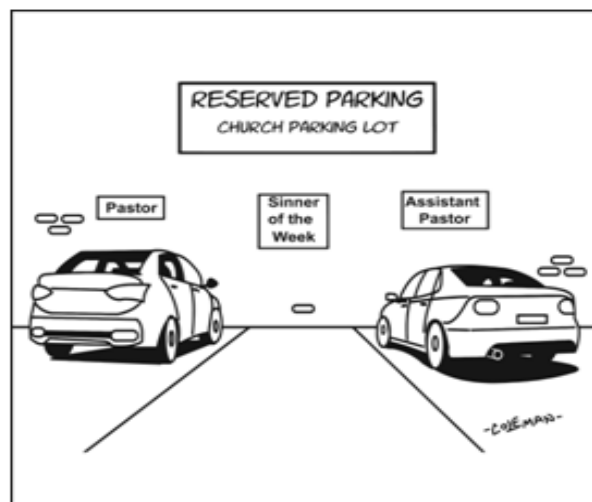
### **Homebound Parishioners Enjoy Bookmarks**



After the 9:00AM Mass, several of our young parishioners gathered together and used their creative art skills to make bookmarks. These were given to folks who receive Holy Communion at home and at a local rest home. The bright decorations and inspiring quotes were received with great delight! What a wonderful way to reach out to others with God's love and compassion! Thank You!

### **THE FAMILY CONNECTION**

Ash Wednesday is this week on February 26. 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?



### **A Story**

*"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you? Mathew 25: 37-38*

They had called ahead for assurance that the Mustard Seed was still open. We waited a bit and before long the door bell rang. The young couple came in together, holding onto one another. She was coughing and wearing a hospital bracelet. "I have bronchitis," she said, "I've lost my inhaler and we haven't eaten all day! We gave them plates of food and offered warm clothing. They were grateful for all of it. They left arm in arm, bundled up against the cold winter night. They were going to walk about half a mile up the hill to spend the night in the city shelter. Chances are they would be too late for a bed. They would likely spend the night in the overflow area, sitting up in a chair.

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

February 23, 2020: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Our Parish Vision: To **welcome** all, build **connections** to Christ and one another, and **live our faith** as true disciples of Jesus.*



### Try out Hope for Housing (HFH) Cards after Mass Today

You Can Help to Prevent Homelessness after Mass today! Try using "Hope for Housing cards" to buy your weekly groceries. 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. See Dave and Sue Genereux who are in the Church Hall after every Mass. Contact them at 508-829-5776 or email Way-sideATQ@aol.com for more information.

### A Story of How Hope for Housing Cards Help?

Thomas and Jean have 3 children and are living in Worcester. They work full time and are able to pay their monthly bills and provide for their children. This was until there was an accident. Thomas had a terrible accident which left him severely injured. Jean continued to work full time and care for her family. With the loss of Tom's income the family fell behind in their rent and were faced with a possible eviction if payment was not made. Tom and Jean came to CMHA/ Housing Counseling and were able to work together to pay the rent arrears of \$677.00. The assistance of HFH funds helped to stop the eviction.

### St. George's "Food Donation Team"

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

Special Needs for February are:

**Cereal, canned tuna and peanut butter**

### Calling All Men

Conversation with  
Fr. Nally During Lent  
Starting Saturday,  
February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.—  
9:00 a.m. Church Hall



Give Yourself a Spiritual Gift this Lent  
*Learn More About Your Faith*  
Ask Questions Share Ideas

*You don't have to be present every week.*  
We understand that everyone has a busy schedule.  
*Coffee will be served.*



### Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Contact: JoAnn Nally  
508-527-6973

### Lenten Faith Sharing Groups:

New groups start: Week of February 24<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday: 7:15 – 8:00 PM Conference Room  
Thursday: 10:00-11:15 AM Home Group  
Friday: 10:00 – 11:15 AM Parish Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
\*\*Saturday: 8:00 – 9:00 AM – Church Hall  
\*\*( Men's Group with Fr. Nally)

Please stop by the Registration Table  
in the Church Hall  
to register or get additional information or  
to purchase a new Insight Reflection Book (\$12)

If you have questions, please talk with  
one of the Priests or call  
Joyce ( 508-852-3304) or JoAnn ( 508-527-6973 )



### St. George Church

**Lenten Parish Mission  
March 7-9, 2020**

Presenter:

Rev. John Predmore, S.J.

Topic: "GOD, WE ARE ALL EARS!"

Developing Greater Awareness of God's Presence  
in our Daily Lives

Day and Evening Events  
Encompassing All Age Groups

Information table, detailed brochures and registration,  
Weekends: January 11-12, and 18-19, 2020

Everyone is invited!

Please Call Joanne ( 508-527-6973)  
or Andrea ( 508-330-0267) for additional information.