

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

**March 14, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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

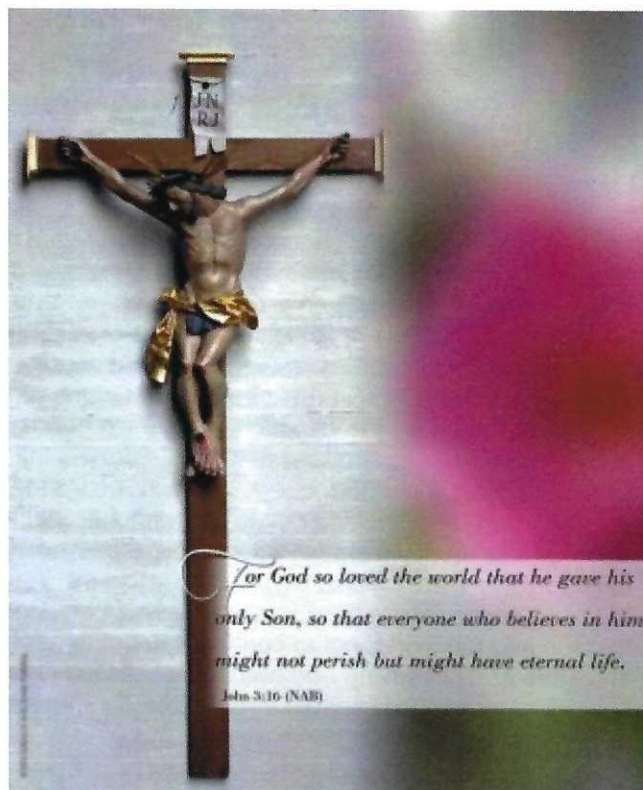
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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, March 14, 2021***

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent



### From Your Pastor

As we approach the halfway point in our Lenten season, we are reminded this weekend that we humans have a tendency to choose what is easier but may not necessarily be the better option. What is easier too often takes us away from God and toward the darkness of sin. God sent his Son into the world to be a light for us. That light illumines the path for us to be his disciples, thereby allowing us to let go of preferences and actions that keep us in the dark. We can then embark on a path which leads us to goodness and truth. In the first reading God's people fail to listen to the prophets and repent which results in their ruin and exile to Babylon. In the second reading St. Paul tells the Ephesians that they have been saved by the grace of God (a gift) through faith. In the Gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that God has sent his Son into the world, not to condemn it, but to heal and save it. This saving and healing act of God is the light which continually shines through the darkness of the world around us.

**LENTEN QUIET EVENING:** On Tuesday evening, March 23rd, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. we will have a Lenten evening of prayer & reflection in church. This will be an opportunity to go to confession and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We encourage you to take this opportunity to do so.

**Virtual Faith-Sharing for Men:** Over a year ago, Fr. Nally, when he was our senior priest, began a faith-sharing group for men during Advent (2019) and Lent (2020) before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. This year during Lent, it is my plan to have this faith-sharing group during Lent but virtually on Saturdays from 8:00-9:00 A.M. Any man who would like to participate in this faith-sharing group is asked to contact me (508-853-0183) for more information.

*Fr. Niccolls*

### Total Weekly Collection

March 8, 2021-

Ordinary Collection \$ 5,195.  
On line giving \$ 2,947.  
Total \$ 8,142



Thank you for giving to support our parish  
as part of your Lenten practice.



### Mass Intentions

Live Mass is offered Saturdays at 4:00pm  
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, March 13, 2021

**4:00 PM** In memory of Daniel Toomey  
Requested by his Children

### Sunday, March 14, 2021

**8:00 AM** 4th Anniversary for Casimir Sarafinas  
Requested by his wife Ruth

**10:00AM** First Year Anniversary Mass for Robert  
Shays Requested by his family

### Monday, March 15, 2021

**8:00 AM**

### Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**8:00 AM**

### Friday, March 19, 2021

**8:00 AM**

### Saturday, March 20, 2021

**4:00 PM** For the Community of Saint George

### Sunday, March 21, 2021

**8:00 AM** 6th Year Anniversary Mass for  
Roger Hessel requested by his family

**10:00AM** 10th Year Anniversary Mass for  
Harry Litchfield requested by his Family

### Bulletin Item Due Dates:

#### Weekend of:

March 28, 2021

April 4, 2021

April 11, 2021

#### Due by:

March 18, 2021

March 24, 2021

April 1, 2021

Please submit items by 10:00 a.m. on the due date.

E-mail our Parish Secretary

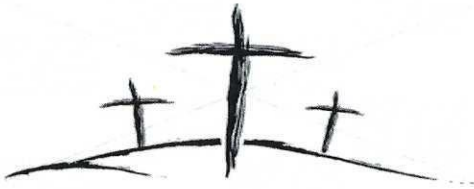
Kate Lockney at: [office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org).



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.



### *Fast and Abstinence Guidelines*

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations from 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.

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### **Family Prayer Night at St. George Church**

Every Thursday at 6:00 PM there is a gathering of people who pray for all families.

### **Why not join us for Lent this year?**

The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed during this time. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to pray the Rosary.

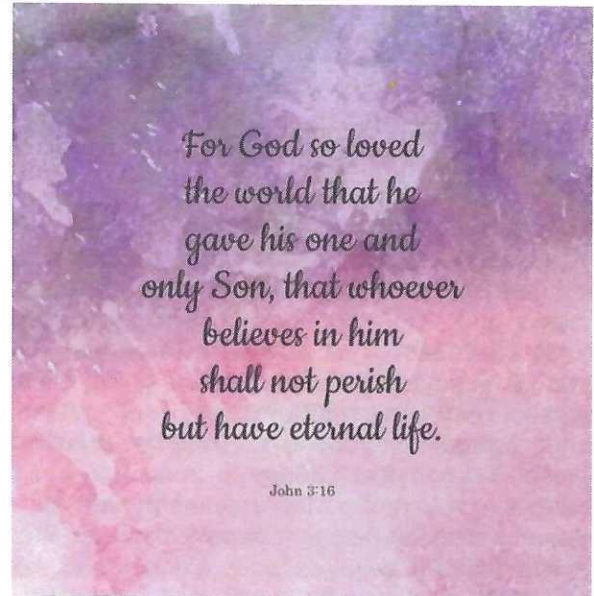
Eucharistic Adoration is also a part of this wonderful time of prayer on the first Thursday of each month.

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### **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.



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*Pray • Fast • Give*

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### **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 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.

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 14, 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)

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

### Session Two Grades 1-5

Those students who attended class remotely in Session One will meet weekly on the following days and times.

Grade 1 will meet in person on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade 2 in person group and remote group will both meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade 3 in person group and remote group will both meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade 4 remote group will meet on Mondays at 4:00pm and the in person group will meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

### Zoom Meetings for Session Two:

Those students in grades 1-5 who attended classes in person classes in Session One will now meet on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent the week of the meeting. The schedule is as follows:

**Grade One-** Thursdays at 4:30pm on 3/18 and 4/15

**Grade Two-** Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 3/10 & 3/31

**Grade Three-** Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 3/24 & 4/14

**Grade Four-** Thursdays at 4:30pm on 3/11 and 3/25

**Grade Five-** Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 3/17 and 4/7

### First Reconciliation

Our students in Grade 2 are preparing to receive their First Reconciliation on

**Saturday, March 20 at 10:00am.**

Please keep these students in your prayers.



### The Family Connection:

God is faithful even when we are unfaithful! He loves us unconditionally and freely. God never gives up on a single one of us. He never withholds His love from the undeserving. He never thinks anyone is too far gone or beyond His power to heal and save.



### This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Jesus Christ to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

### Online Giving

Special collections and dona-

tions are available through

Online Giving. Access is

available through our website— click on the icon pictured here. Kathy Hessel is always happy to assist you at [mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com)



### Irish Blessing

May you live a long life  
Full of gladness and health,  
With a pocket full of gold  
As the least of you wealth.  
May the dreams you hold dearest,  
Be those which come true,  
The kindness you spread,  
Keep returning to you.

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From Deacon Paul Audette:

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us  
through his Letters



Henri writes to a good friend who has lost his partner to heart disease. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

*Beloved Piet,*

*"... Love is stronger than death. You know it and I know it. But I pray for you that this knowledge will descend deeper and deeper into your heart and bear fruit there. I feel your sorrow, your moments of deep loneliness...I also feel that strange love of God that envelops you, a joy that is hidden in sorrow. Jesus spoke those mysterious words: 'It is best for you that I leave you now...so that my Spirit, the consoler, can come.' I will continue to pray for you that Frederik's life, but also his death, might bring you closer to God, the consoler ..."*

*Many affectionate greetings,  
Henri*



### 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.



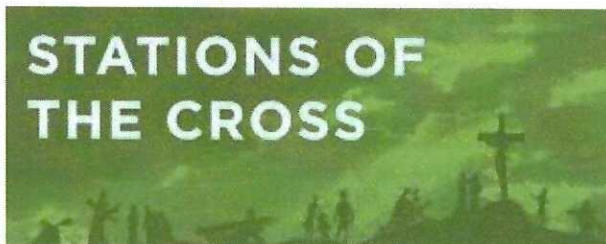
## In WORD & DEED 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

The language of faith is love. Some speak it so well that their example inspires others to lives of generous service. Mother Teresa spoke it well, as did Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. Others speak it too, but are perhaps not as well known, people like our parents and families, pastors, teachers, fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors. God speaks it too. And when God spoke, the Word became Flesh.

Wherever the Gospel is preached, the message is the same. To rulers and peasants, to refugees of war and to promoters of peace, to the high and mighty and the poor and lowly, to the living and to the dead, the message never changes. God is rich in mercy; God loves people; God so loved the world that He sent His only Son. The good news is for everyone, of all time and all places.

It can be easy to doubt God's love, especially when we are aware of our sinfulness and failings. But God's love is unconditional. We do not have to earn it, or work for it, or be someone to receive it. God's love is a gift offered to everyone. It is offered to saints and sinners, to the holy and the not so holy. The cross is the sign of God's love for us. On it, He gives you His life: through it, He gives you His love; by it, He gives you eternal life. The language of love is easy to learn and understand. Just open your heart and mind to hear the good news.

*~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George  
Publishing  
[jim@pilotbulletinbuilder.net](mailto:jim@pilotbulletinbuilder.net)*



We invite you to visit our Parish Website to view a video.

Join Deacon Paul Audette and Bonnie Moran as they lead us on the Way of the Cross

### 40 Days For Life Campaign

The Spring Lenten Campaign for Life began on Ash Wednesday. Please consider praying in front of Planned Parenthood 470 Pleasant St., Worcester for 1 hour each week of Lent. Sign up information can be found at [40daysforlife.com/worcester](http://40daysforlife.com/worcester). You can also join with those at the vigil spiritually, and set an hour aside to pray from home. Every prayer counts.

We are saddened and concerned about the 500,000 deaths due to COVID-19. There have been over 63 million deaths from abortion since 1973.

Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." (Mt 25:44)

## *A Community of Ministries*



**St. George  
Parish Outreach**  
Ann Doyle 508-853-0183  
Ext. 11  
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

**Live  
Lent**  
*with Love*

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Brief History and an Update from Michael Ohl**

As many of you know, St. George Parish is a Charter Member of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester. Our parish community, along with 28 other local congregations and synagogues, supports the work of providing shelter for homeless families in crisis. Our involvement with IHN began more than 15 years ago through the ecumenical work of our then pastor, Fr. Henry Donoghue. In 2012 a permanent home to provide shelter for homeless families was purchased on June Street here in Worcester. Our parishioners continue to help keep the shelter going by providing year round financial and volunteer support. Each spring our parish provides a week of staffing, donating meals, gardening, painting and more. As you might guess, the work of caring for the property and buildings is essential and ongoing. Our parishioner Michael Ohl who has been volunteering on the "House Committee" at INH for the past several months. Here is what Mike has to say about his service:

"There is always something new to do (and someone new to meet) at IHN. After successfully addressing code issues (basement reorganization, attic cleanout, replace rotted basement steps, improved front entrance lighting) and "routine" home repairs (broken window, broken horsehair plaster wall, removal of old/unused boiler, etc.), attention is now shifting to longer term plans. Future projects include window replacement and repair/repainting of the many guest rooms. Stay tuned for opportunities to help in terms of time, talent or treasure."

We are so grateful to Mike for his good work! We look forward to pandemic restrictions lifting so that many of us can join him more fully at IHN.



### **You Can Help Prevent Family Homelessness after the 4 PM Mass Saturday and after the 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.

**See Dave and Sue Genereux** who are in the Church Hall after Mass on Saturday and following both Masses on Sunday. Contact them at 978-833-0306 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information or for special arrangements.



### **Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Council met this past week and had a special guest, Mike Savino, to walk us through the impact of media in the parish. The council was happy to hear that there are so many parishioners who attend the live streams weekly Masses. The Parish as a whole is looking forward to welcoming more and more fellow community members back to a live mass when they feel comfortable to do so. The Council discussed the upcoming Easter schedule- please watch the bulletin and the parish website for information on in person and live streaming Mass opportunities! As always, the Council wishes everyone a safe and happy spring. The warm weather is right around the corner! Elyse Gemme,  
Pastoral Council Secretary

**Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden**

**March 14, 2021 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.*



**Donating Food for  
Folks in Need**

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 March are:  
Cans of chicken, and  
Boxes of Mac and Cheese**

Your food donations are shared with:

- "Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry"
- The Mustard Seed Food Pantry
- The Urban Missionaries Food Pantry

Cheryl and Andy Labrecque on "Loaves and Fishes":

St. George's supports the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry at the Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCW) on Holden Street with a portion of its generous food donations every month. The pantry provides food to approximately 65 needy families in the area. UUCW is very thankful that St. George's provides for this cause. UUCW also receives food from their parishioners, other organizations and purchases several items in bulk from the Worcester County Food Bank. On the third Friday evening of each month, St. George food donations are delivered to UUCW. About 10 volunteers from the UUCW, St. George's and other organizations bag groceries consisting of juices, milk, pasta and sauce, soup, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, tuna and canned chicken, dry fruit, nuts, applesauce, rice, cereals and miscellaneous snacks. Fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, bread and Table Talk pies are also provided. Distribution to needy families occurs the following morning and is managed by the Loaves and Fishes administration. Since March of 2020, the volunteer count has been limited to no more than 10 people. Thank you to the Messier and Lubiwicki families for their monthly commitment (pre Covid) and we are looking forward to a return to a normal operation in the coming months, allowing for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this once per month activity, please contact Andy or Cheryl Labrecque at 508-856-0515 or at [alabrecque2016@outlook.com](mailto:alabrecque2016@outlook.com)



**SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY  
VIRTUAL FRIDAY FAITH SHARING**

With Joyce Purcell and  
Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell

We hope you will join us for this time of enriching  
prayer and reflection. Try something new for Lent.  
All are welcome!

Contact Andrea via email [andrea@svagdys.com](mailto:andrea@svagdys.com)

Andrea will email you the Zoom Link and  
Readings/Reflection

You will need to have access to a computer with  
Video and a Microphone.



*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*

Growing Together in  
God's Love  
Lent 2021

Hope You'll Join Us!

- Virtual Bible Study with Fr. Niccolls, Mondays of March, 7-8:30 PM, contact Fr. Niccolls at 508-450-4134 Ext. 112
- Virtual Faith Sharing for Men, Saturdays 8AM  
Contact Fr. Niccolls
- Lenten Evening of Recollection and Reconciliation in the parish church- Tuesday, March 30, 6:30PM

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

The Spiritual Growth 2021 Church survey has ended. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their time in responding. Your answers and comments are greatly appreciated and will be used in planning future events, communications and supporting our parishioners.

In the upcoming weeks you will see communications in the bulletin and website that are in response to the questions and comments made in the survey. If you have questions/comments in the future, please feel free to call the parish at 508-853-0183 Ext 110 or email [office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org).

Thank You & Blessings,  
Andrea Svagdys- Gumbrell & Bonnie Moran

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