

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606
Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110
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

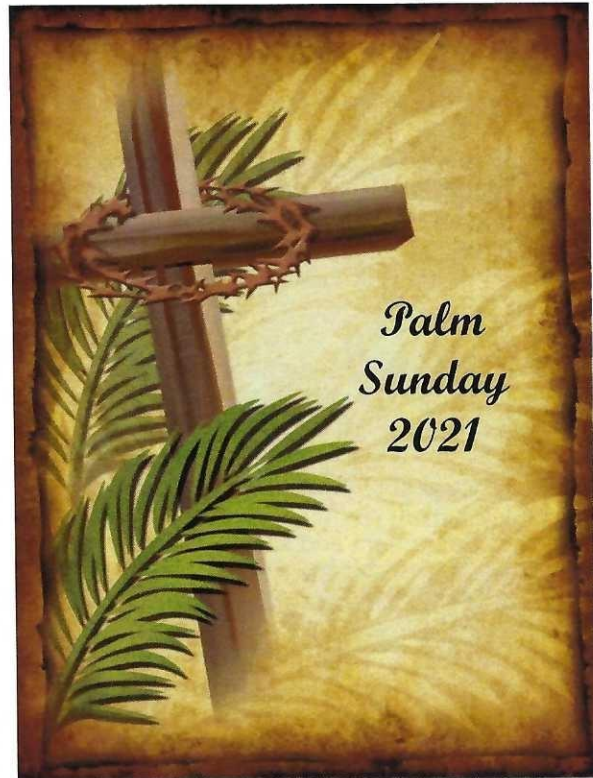
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.111

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary
office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110
Fax 508-854-0864

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:
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

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, 28, 2021

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From Your Pastor

Today we begin our solemn observance of Holy Week when we recall our savior Jesus Christ's passion and death which lead to his resurrection at Easter. This year, the coronavirus regulations allow us to celebrate the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) and Easter Sunday with a limited number of people in church (80 individual seats). Our celebration of these events begins on Thursday evening with the Easter Triduum. On Holy Thursday, the first day of the Triduum, at 7:30 P.M., we recall Jesus sharing his body and blood in bread and wine in the upper room. At the end of this Mass, all altar coverings and sanctuary decorations and appointments are removed, symbolizing the fact that Christ was stripped of his garments upon his arrest. After the Mass, you are invited to stay in church for a while in adoration to the Blessed Sacrament and silently reflect upon these holy mysteries.

On Good Friday, also at 7:30 P.M., we will participate in the reading of the Passion according to St. John, venerate the cross (following Covid-19 restrictions), pray for the Church and the whole world and receive Holy Communion.

At the Easter Vigil at 7:30 P.M., we will hear selected readings following the story of God's creation of the world, the deliverance of God's people from Egypt, readings from the prophets, an epistle from St. Paul to the Romans and the Gospel accounts of Jesus rising from the grave to redeem all people. The Easter Vigil continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the reception of Holy Communion.

Because of the limited capacity in the church for the liturgies of the Easter Triduum, this year's liturgies for Holy Thursday and Good Friday will also be live-streamed on Thursday, April 1st, and Friday, April 2nd, at 7:30 P.M.

I remind you that there will be NO 4:00 P.M. Mass on Saturday, April 3rd, since the first liturgy of Easter is the Vigil Liturgy. Masses on Easter Sunday, April 4th, will be at 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. There will also be a liturgy for Easter Sunday which will be live-streamed on that day at 10:00 A.M.

Confessions during Holy Week will be on Tuesday, March 30th, at 6:30 P.M.

Fr. Niccoll

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of:

April 11, 2021

April 18, 2021

April 25, 2021

Due by:

April 1, 2021

April 8, 2021

April 15, 2021

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

E-mail our Parish Secretary, Kate Lockney at
office@saintgeorgesparish.org



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 27, 2021

4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Mary Lovett

Requested by her daughter

Sunday, March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

8:00 AM Memorial Mass for Christine Neske

Requested by family

10:00AM Memorial Mass for Robert (Bobby) Ovan

Requested by family

Monday, March 29, 2021

8:00 AM

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

6:30 PM Evening of Recollection & Confessions

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

8:00 AM Memorial Mass for Robert (Bobby) Ovan

Requested by family

Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM live streamed Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM live streamed Friday of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Easter Vigil in the Holy Night in person

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

8:00 AM Mass in person

10:00 AM in person AND live streamed



Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion. According to the Gospels, Jesus rode a donkey, seen as an animal of peace, into Jerusalem thus fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah (9:9-10). People there laid down their cloaks in front of him, and also laid down small branches of palm trees.



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Sunday

The summit of the Church's Liturgical Year is the **Easter Triduum** - The triduum includes the major feasts of the days at the heart of the Easter celebration: the evening feast of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. The Easter Triduum memorializes the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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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.



Family Prayer Night at St. George Church

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

Everyone is invited to join us!

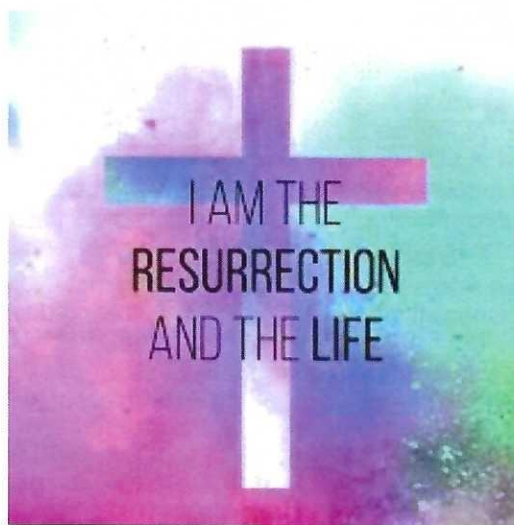
The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed during this time. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to pray the Rosary.

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

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.



Pray • Fast • Give

The Ancient Traditions of Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving continue during this Holy Week

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.

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. You are invited to join us at Morning Prayer, Mass and at the Triduum services this week.

Fasting on Good Friday, (taking only one full meal) reminds us of our dependence on God. We "do not live on bread alone."

On Good Friday we unite ourselves with that sacrifice through fast and abstinence. These are acts of self-discipline and self-control which can help to keep us mindful of God's loving presence.

Almsgiving: 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 for ideas about giving Alms.



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March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday



Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

email: sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

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

Grade Five remote group will meet on Mondays at 5:00 pm

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 received their First Reconciliation on

Saturday, March 20! We rejoice with them!

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ—emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.



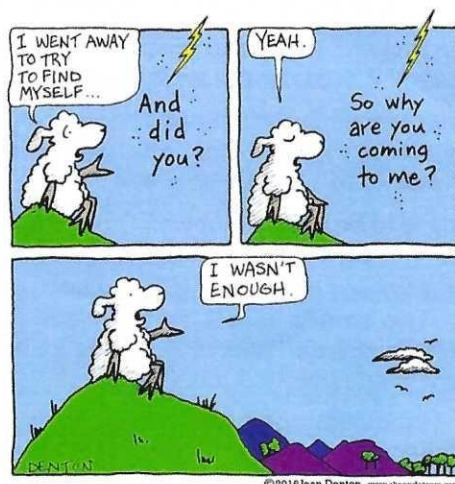
Online Giving

Special collections and donations 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

The Family Connection:

Our kids today are seeing their fair share of violent stories on TV, at the movies, on their computers and in the news. Make sure this Lent they also get exposed to a different way, the way of Jesus on His path to Calvary. Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' suffering and death with them. Show them there is another way, a way to risen life.



Holy Week is the week just before Easter. It is also the last week of Lent, in the West, Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are all included. Easter Day, begins the Season of Easter

Share the Good News In Our Parish Weekly Bulletin!

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 .

Blessed is the king
who comes in the
name of the Lord!"
"Peace in heaven
and glory in the
highest.!"



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FROM DEACON PAUL AUDETTE:

Henri writes to a close friend who is struggling with the changing relationship she has with her family as she gets older.

(taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

Dear Cindy,

"... I have thought that you are struggling with the integration of two calls: 'Love your father and mother' and 'leave your father and mother.' Both are divine 'commands,' and the struggle is to make them both true. Somehow loving asks for leaving, precisely since love is not simply emotional and filial attachment, but spiritual love that leads your parents and sisters closer to God, the source of all love. I think the struggle to make this true is a life-long struggle, often with feelings of shame, guilt and even anger. But we have to live through it all. It is God's way to purify us and to make us re-claim God as our Father, Mother, Brother and Sister..."

Love,
Henri



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Personal and community events can change us in ways that can be difficult to explain. Our attitude shifts and we see the world differently, sometimes for the better, sometimes not. A child is born, a president is elected, a relative dies, a national tragedy occurs, the market rises or falls, or an old friend visits and we are changed. Life is different. We adapt, but things are never the same again.

When Jesus suffers and dies, life is changed. The Apostles hide in fear. His followers are confused and uncertain. The message of love seems overcome by the power of hate. And no one knows what to expect next. There is little to say or do as the friends and followers of Jesus struggle to make sense of their dashed hopes and shattered lives.

For us, the experience of the Passion of Christ is different. We already know the ending. The darkness of confusion and fear will give way to the dawn of Easter light. All the more reason, then, for us to reflect in silent awe of God's love for us. Jesus willingly suffered for our sake, offering His life for our sins. The only thing we can give in return is a contrite heart, ready and willing to take up our cross and follow Him. The suffering and death of Jesus will bring us life, peace, forgiveness and joy. Life is changed, and we are not the same.

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jim@pilotbulletinbuilder.net

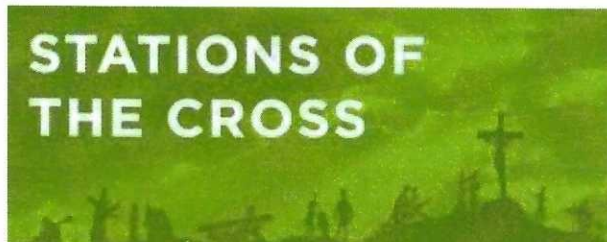


Prayers for the Sick

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.



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. 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



A Community of Ministries



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



**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.

Dear Parish Family,

As we begin this Holy Week together I am reminded of the love of Christ that you have added to the lives of so many of our neighbors who struggle with illness, hunger, grief, homelessness, the loss of a job and so much more.

- Your Prayer Shawls surround many of them
- The food you brought and delivered has helped to lessen hunger and the worry that mom's have wondering how will feed their children each day
- The blankets, hats, scarves, and gloves that you've made and shared have kept folks warm through this winter
- Your phone call, emails, cards, Mass recordings and prayers have lessened many lonely hours
- The time that you've spent on our parish website, at Ministry meetings and teaching our youngest parishioners the Catholic faith has helped to keep us connected to one another
- The journey that you walk with parents and families who have lost loved ones continues to add moments of grace to their days

In so many ways, the love of God has entered the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community because of you. It is an honor to serve with you.

Annie Doyle

The Parish Pastoral Council Thanks our Religious Education Ministers

Dear Religious Education Teachers and Volunteers,

We at St. George's Parish are very fortunate to have so many of you volunteer your time to our Religious Education Program. This has been an especially challenging year in so many ways, but due to your efforts, our young people are continuing to learn more about their faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Thank you and know you are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patti Walsh

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council



Easter Joy

The word "Easter" comes from the Old English, meaning simply the "East."

The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for Christ, who

is the true Light of the world. This Easter, may the light, warmth and hope of Christ rise within us and shine Christ's light brightly into our struggling the world.



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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.*

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

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



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. All are welcome!

Contact Andrea via email andrea@svagdys.com

Andrea will email you the Zoom Link ,Readings/ Reflection. You will need to have access to a computer with Video and a Microphone.



Sign up for ENews

To hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish, simply visit www.saintgeorgesparish.org and click on the yellow link "Join Our Email List" on the homepage to add your email address.

Lenten Evening of Recollection and Reconciliation

Tuesday, March 30, 6:30PM in the Church

We will have a quiet evening of prayer and reflection where you will also have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This opportunity invites us, in the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives and to eliminate unchristian behaviors that are sins. He tells us that we must repent of these sins and eliminate these types of behaviors in order to journey along the way of holiness. Pope Francis tells us through the following plea,

"Don't be afraid; go to him; he is waiting for you; he will take care of everything. We hear many offers from the world around us, but let us take up God's offer instead: his is a caress of love."

Let us take up our Holy Father's invitation to turn back to God and the way of life that God originally called us to follow, confident in his love for us and fully intending to show our love for him in return.

Faith Sharing on Thursdays

Our Faith Sharing group brings parishioners together in a weekly session to read and discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Group members take turns reading the Old and New Testament readings, the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel. There is then discussion on any phrases or sections of the Readings that "speak to them". Questions posed from the Insight Book are discussed. Members are free to share any thought or feelings they have and the group discusses what the meaning of all the reading has for changing their lives. At the end of the hour, special prayer intentions are expressed followed by 3-5 minutes of silence to reflect. The session ends with a closing prayer and appropriate song. This group is always an awaited weekly get together, especially with all the isolation that the virus caused this past year.

Jere Bradley

Thursday Group Leader

Eucharistic Adoration

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

**Thursday, April 8 from 6-7 pm and
Friday, April 9 from the end of the 8 am
Mass until 10 am.**



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

If you are unable to join us in person, please visit our parish website to view the "Eucharistic Adoration" Video on the home page.

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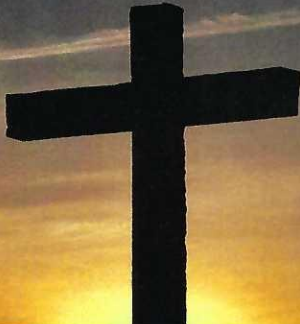
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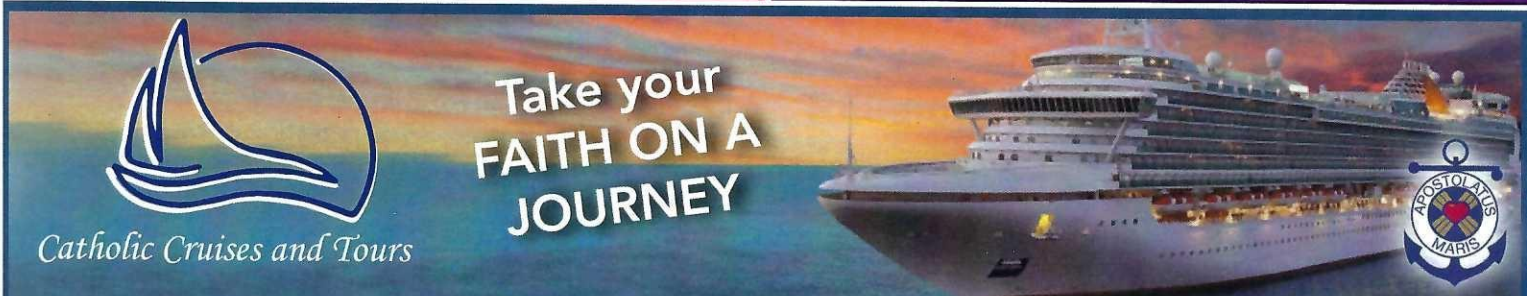
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FAITH ON A
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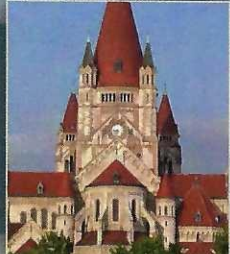



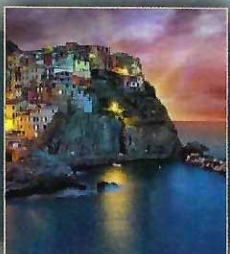
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