

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

**March 1, 2020: First Sunday of Lent**

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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:**

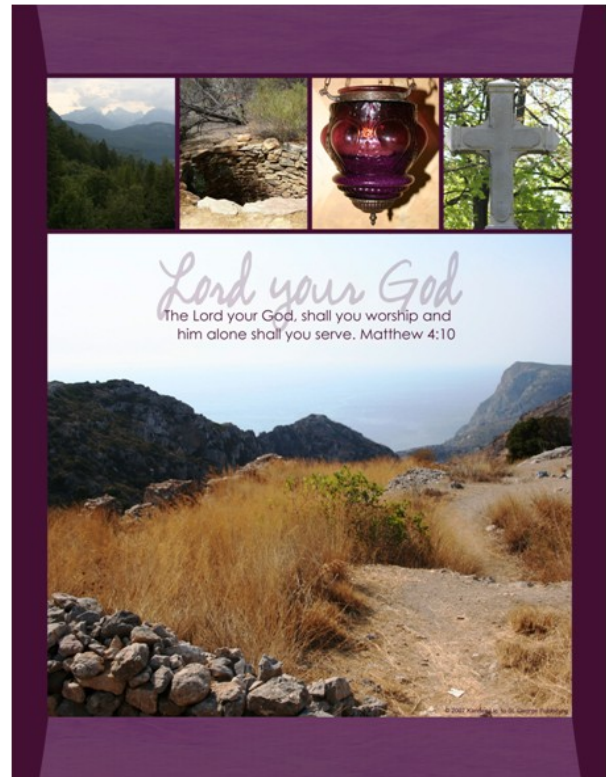
*It is our privilege to serve you.*

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)



# **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, March 1, 2020***

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March 1, 2020: First Sunday of Lent

### Mass Intentions



**Saturday, February 29, Vigil**  
4:00 PM In Memory of Carole Parker, req. by her nephew

**Sunday, March 1, First Sunday of Lent**  
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

**Monday, March 2:**  
8:00 AM In Memory of John Dickman req. by his wife

**Tuesday, March 3: Saint Katherine Drexel**  
8:00 AM In Memory of Hoyt Woods req. by Liz Woods

**Wednesday, March 4: Saint Casimir**  
6:30 PM In Memory of Dennis & Terry Reen

**Thursday, March 5:**  
8:00 AM In Memory of Cecelia & Anthony Laconte req. by children and grandchildren

**Friday, March 6:**  
8:00 AM For the Souls in Purgatory req. by the Family Prayer Group

**Saturday, March 7: Vigil**  
4:00 PM First Year Anniversary Mass for Daniel Toomey req. by family

**Sunday, March 8 : Second Sunday of Lent**  
7:30 AM 1st Anniversary for Fr. Henry Donoghue  
9:00 AM In Memory of Carmela Luca req. by Murphy Family  
11:00 AM In Memory of Barbara Gaudet req. by Leigh & Sue Voitek

### Parish Calendar



**Saturday, February 29:**  
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

**Monday, March 2:**  
4:15 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5 Center  
5:45 PM Yoga Church Hall  
7:00 PM Bible Study Church Hall

**Tuesday, March 3:**  
4:15 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5 Center  
7:00 PM Religious Ed. Board Parish Ctr/Rectorry

**Wednesday, March 4:**  
4:30-6:15 PM Liturgy Committee Mtg: Parish Ctr.  
7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Conf. Room  
7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group ( Lent ) Parish Ctr.

**Thursday, March 5:**  
6:00 - 7:00 PM (NEW TIME) Family Prayer Church

**Friday, March 6:**  
11:30 AM-9:00 PM Set up for Day of Spirituality Hall

**Saturday, March 7:**  
9:00 AM-1:00 PM Day of Spirituality for Women & Men  
8:00 PM AA Hall

**Sunday, March 8:**  
8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall  
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room  
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room  
10:00 AM Men's and Women's Club Mtg. Hall  
3:00-5:00 PM Parish Mission for Families Church Hall /Parish Center  
6:00-7:30 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 6-9 Center

### Total Weekly Ordinary Collection

#### Weekend February 23, 2020:

On line giving: \$1,542.00  
Ordinary Collection: \$5,998.75

*Thank You*

Your generosity helps us to continue to be a vibrant parish community worshipping our Risen Lord and reaching out to our neighbors in need.  
**Thank you for your support!**

### Family Prayer



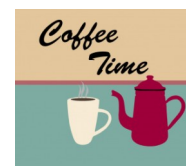
This group meets every Thursday, from 6:00-7:00 pm. (new time). They pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Everyone is invited to join in.

### 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 8  
Jim Moughan  
774-262-0309



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!**

## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 1, 2020: First Sunday of Lent

*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

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

**Saint John's High School** will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. To register: [www.stjohnshigh.org/admissions/open-house](http://www.stjohnshigh.org/admissions/open-house)

### Amazing and Awesome Recovery

Father Niccolls blessed and prayed over my granddaughter in preparation for extensive, planned surgery. Father invited the parish to stay after Mass to participate. Under Father's guidance, they came to the altar rail and placed the sign of the cross on her forehead.

It was a blessed experience for Callie. And our family. She has recovered remarkably with your prayers. Thank you and bless you. Ann Walsh



**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, 202 Sr. Janet Provost, SSJ, Pastoral Ministry "*The Last week... The Final Words*"

Free donut chip for your youngest parishioners next Sunday, March 8th!



### From Your Pastor

As was mentioned last weekend, we will be moving our parish offices to the parish center in the next few months with the plan of having them completely relocated there by the end of the summer. More information about the timing of this move will be made available later on through the parish bulletin.

This 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.

Bishop McManus is extending an invitation to any young man who is in high school or older to an annual discernment retreat to be held on April 3/4, from 6:00 P.M Friday to 6:00 P.M. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. There is no cost for this retreat, and transportation can be provided if necessary to the retreat center which is only 30 minutes away from Worcester.

Visit [director@worcestervocations.com](mailto:director@worcestervocations.com) or contact our Vocations Director, Fr. Donato Infante at (508)630-4473 to sign up for this retreat. You can also speak to either myself or Fr. Nally for more information.

### Fr. Niccolls



### Altar Ministries

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

### 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!!!





## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

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### Religious Education "Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

**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.

### Lenten Parish Mission

#### 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

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

Thank You!

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March 1, 2020: First Sunday of Lent



### 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.

### Lent Begins this Week

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

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

### 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.



### 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!



### Scripture for the week of March 1, 2020

- |   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| 1 | SUN | Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11 |
| 2 | Mon | Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46                         |
| 3 | Tue | Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15                                |
| 4 | Wed | Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32                               |
| 5 | Thu | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12                     |
| 6 | Fri | Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26                               |
| 7 | Sat | Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48                               |
| 8 | SUN | Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9                    |

## A Community of Ministries



### St. George Parish Outreach

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

### A "Prayer Place"

Consider setting up a "Prayer Place" in your home this Lent. It might be a special chair, a grouping of objects on your kitchen table or on the window sill above your kitchen sink. Each day you might "raise your mind and heart to God" as you read a portion from the bible, simply sit quietly, say a blessing before meals or while you do the dishes. Young children might add a drawing or something that has a special meaning to them. A bowl to hold the names of family and friends can be a reminder of those you want to remember as you pray.

### Join us to serve those in need this Lent:

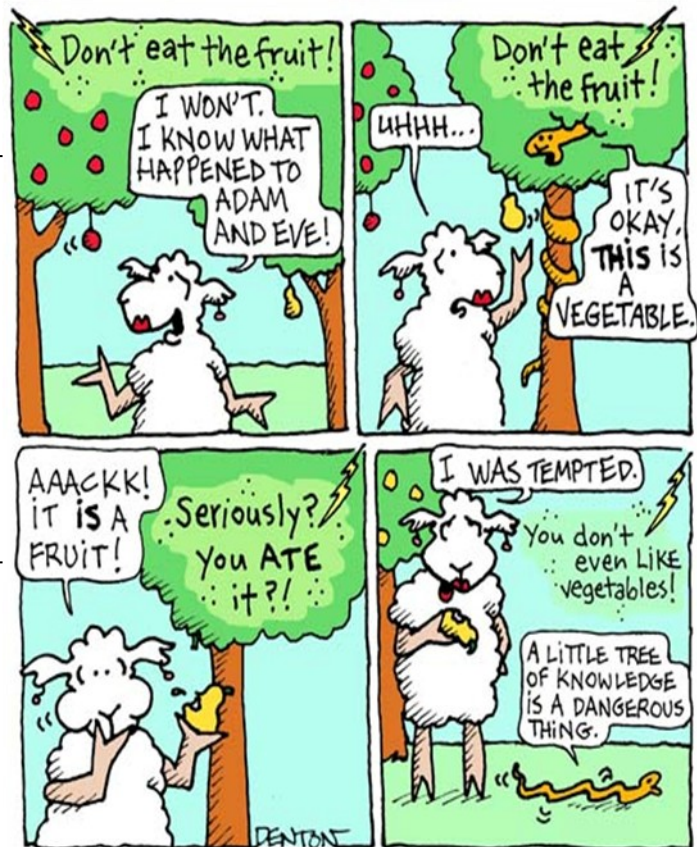
- Our next **Mustard Seed Meal for 175 homeless guests** is Friday March 20, needs are posted at each exit of the church. Please contact Annie if you are interested in volunteering.
- **Men's Warm Jackets and Sweatpants** are in short supply at the Mustard Seed. It's been a long cold and wet winter. Donations welcome!
- **Prayers Needed** for the guests at the Mustard Seed who are suffering from homelessness, poverty, addictions and other physical and mental illnesses.
- **Our Lenten Food Drive** is scheduled for the weekend of March 28/29. Please place bags of non-perishable food items at any church entrance or around the outer rail of the sanctuary.
- **Volunteers** are needed to label and fill little bottles with water. These will become our Easter Holy Water Bottles. Please send me an email (see above) if you can help out.

### Join 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 March are:  
**Mac & cheese, Cereal and Peanut Butter**

### The Family Connection



### 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

March 1, 2020: First 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.*



### 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.

### 20th Anniversary Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference scheduled for *Assumption College* on Saturday, March 28th. Visit the conference website at [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) for information and to purchase ticket online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Dr. Scott Hahn ( two presentations), Luis Soto ( in English and Spanish) and with Bishop Robert Reed of Boston speaking on the need for confession. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 11th, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

### 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 ChurchLenten 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.

**From Father Nally:** Take Action! Say No To Roe!!

A public hearing for the "Roe" bills ( to Remove Obstacles and Expand abortion access) took place 6/17/2019 in the MA State House. The proposed legislation ( Senate Bill 1209/House Bill 3320) is designed to dramatically expand abortion at the state level with virtually no limits – just like New York. If "ROE" becomes law:

Abortion will be allowed through all nine months of pregnancy

A girl of any age will be able to get an abortion without her parents' knowledge

Babies who survive late term abortion attempts can be left to die after birth

Late term abortions will no longer have to be performed in hospitals

To sign up to pray in Emmanuel Radio's "ROE"-sary:

1) Call 508-767-1230 leave your name, town/state, time you can pray

2) Email [cindy.dorsey@1230radio.com](mailto:cindy.dorsey@1230radio.com) with your info

3) Reply on Facebook/1230AM Emmanuel Radio

