

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 4, 2018: Third Sunday in Lent

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606
Parish Office: 508-853-0183
www.saintgeoparish.org

Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Parish Staff:

It is our privilege to serve you

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls Pastor Ext. 12
Rev. Charles P.O. Omolo, Associate Pastor
Ext. 24

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 11

Joan Koppenal, Parish Secretary
stgeooffice@gmail.com Ext. 10
Fax 508-854-0864



St. George Catholic Church

For information regarding Pastoral Care of the Sick, Marriage Preparation, Confirmation, and Ministry Involvement, we invite you to call the Parish Office.

Baptism Information: Please contact Susan Pacek at 508-853-0183 or email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com

Eucharist Celebrated:

First Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM - Chapel

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM

Monday through Thursday at 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 PM and by appointment

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish community of St George, celebrate the welcoming presence of Christ in our lives. Together with the universal Church, we are nourished and sustained through the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, and we are inspired by the proclamation of the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit. We continually seek to grow in a deeper understanding of our faith, to respect the sanctity of human life, and respond to what Jesus asks of us in our time by sharing our gifts and participating in parish activities and outreach to others.

Searching for Jesus?

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

A Community of Ministries, March 4, 2018

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 3: Vigil

4:00 PM 25th Anniversary H. Janice LaVallee by family

Sunday, March 4: 3rd Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Hoyt Woods

9:00AM Memorial for Daniel & Shirley Clifford by family

11:00 AM 1st Anniversary for Sarah E. Young by family

Monday, March 5:

8:00 AM For the good health of Trudy Sand

Tuesday, March 6:

8:00 AM In memory of August & Ann Brick

Wednesday, March 7:

8:00 AM In memory of Bob Giroux

6:30 PM For the Community of St. George

Thursday, March 8: St. John of God

8:00 AM In memory of Phyllis & Larry McAuliffe

Friday, March 9: St. Frances of Rome

8:00 AM In memory of Colleen Donahue

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 10: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Arthur Marin by family

Sunday, March 11: 4th Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Eleanor Groden by the Duclos family

9:00AM Memorial for Bruce & Gerri Bak by Children

Rosary after 9:00 AM Mass

11:00 AM 10th Anniversary for Philip Neilan by family

Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend of

March 18

March 25

April 1

Due to parish

Wednesday, March 7

Wednesday, March 12

Thursday, March 13

Items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the due date. Email items to stgeoffice@gmail.com, or fax to the Rectory.

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.

Attention Parents of Young Children

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

Parish Calendar

Visitation House Baby Bottle Return

Catholic Worker Bread Sale after all Masses

Saturday, March 3:

5:15 PM Spiritual Growth Ministry Confr Rm

8:00 PM AA Hall

March 4:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

9:00 AM Confirmation Mass & Meeting Church/Center

3:00 PM Baptism Preparation Meeting Confr Rm

Monday March 5:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center

5:45 PM Yoga Hall

Tuesday, March 6:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center

7:00 PM Religious Ed Board Meeting Rectory

Wednesday, March 7 :

7:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm & Center

Thursday, March 8:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, March 9:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

Saturday, March 10:

9:00 AM Women's Day of Spirituality Church/Hall

5:15 PM Spiritual Growth Ministry Confr Rm

8:00 PM AA Anniversary Celebration Hall

March 11:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

10:00 AM Men's Club Confr Rm

Daylight Saving Time Begins ...Spring Forward!

Scripture for the week of March 4, 2018

4 SUN Ex 20:1-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25

5 Mon 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30

6 Tue Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35

7 Wed Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19

8 Thu Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23

9 Fri Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34

10 Sat Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14

11 SUN 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21



We Commend to your Prayers

Richard V. Augustine

May the Angels lead him into Paradise

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Weekend of February 25, 2018

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$7,957.36

Thank you for your support!



From Your Pastor

Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Please: Call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. We can arrange to visit and bring Eucharist. Remember that due to HIPAA regulations, unless you allow the hospital or health care institution to release information and list St. George's as your religious affiliation, we are not told that you are a patient. We call the area hospitals each week to see if any of our parishioners are hospitalized. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Youth Ministry



Please keep our young adults in your prayers as they visit potential colleges that they may find what they are looking for and can make a clear decision on the best fit for their college plans.

The next youth ministry event is a middle school rally on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at St. Peter-Marian. This event is open to any youth in 6-8th grade. Cost is \$15. If the weather holds, we are also looking to sneak in snow tubing...more details to come in the parish center after mass the weekend of March 10th.

Coffee Shop Captain



March 11, 2018
Jim Moughan : 508-856-7443

All men and women are invited to join the St. George Coffee Shop Teams to serve once every 9 weeks. Please contact Jim Sanford at 508-852-0293 for more information.

Note: Team Listings and Schedule of Teams can be found on our parish website.

Pieta

Is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on March 12 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room.

Please join us.

This weekend we will be conducting our annual in-pew collection for the diocesan Partners in Charity appeal. We are joining with the other parishes in our diocese in making this appeal during the Lenten season. In past years you have been very generous to this appeal, having exceeded our parish's goal. Our goal for this year is the same as it has been for the past three years - \$100,000.00. I am sure that we can have another successful year in meeting this year's appeal. As in the past, we would like to reach our goal by June 1st. Please be as generous as you can in helping to meet the needs of our Diocese of Worcester.

I ask that you pay close attention to the following notice that has come to us at the request of Bishop McManus:

"Christ the King Parish will offer confessions and Eucharistic Adoration from 7:45 A.M. on Friday, March 9th through 7:45 A.M. on Saturday, March 10th. Please come and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time. Adorers are also needed throughout this period and the doors of the church will be open day and night."

In light of this request by Bishop McManus, the Adoration Chapel here at St. George's will be closed at this time from 8:00 A.M. on Friday, March 9th until 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 10th. By doing so, we will join in the Bishop's hope that it will allow the faithful of the Diocese of Worcester who live in the City of Worcester and its neighboring towns to take advantage of this initiative and prepare themselves for the celebration of the great feast of Easter and the awesome hope offered to all in the Resurrection.

Fr. Niccolls

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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784
Email : sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org
Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org

This is a very exciting year for students in grade two. First Communion will take place in April. There will be a retreat for the students and their parents to help prepare for each of these sacraments.

First Communion Retreat and Potluck dinner- Saturday, April 7, 2018 2:30-6:00pm

First Communion #1 Sunday, April 22, 2018 1:00pm

First Communion #2 Saturday, April 28, 2018 10:00am

Lenten Regulations

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows.



Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) and older on Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age on Good Friday.

Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's need, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

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

Mass
Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer-oriented society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that *all* is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

Men's Club Meeting

The monthly Men's Club meeting will be held *next* Sunday, March 11, in the Conference Room after the 9:00 AM Mass. Men's Club members and parish staff are welcome to attend. The coffee is on us!!!

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**Holy Family Passionist
Retreat Center
303 Tunix Road,
West Hartford CT 01607**



Consider making a retreat in West Hartford. The theme this year is: Grace Enough. Enjoy a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God's grace in our lives. Discover anew just how God's grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Together we'll reflect on how living in God's grace guides us to make wise choices, leading to true happiness and peace. The retreat includes: home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time, and workshops. The retreats begin with dinner at 6:00 to 7:30 pm on Friday evening and concluded with a Sunday brunch at noon. Register at www.holyfamilyretreat.org or call Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT. at 860-521-0440 for more information. Information can also be obtained via the internet. Many of the Homilies can be seen on YouTube as well. The next few men's retreats are on March 9-11, 2018, March 16-18 and March 23-25 and the next few women's retreats will be on March 2-4 and April 20-22 and June 1-3.

This Week...

Pray for all children, that God may protect them from forms of harm, and that we too may learn from the example of children and receive Christ with humility, trust and without fear.

Notre Dame Academy Open House

Notre Dame Academy's Open House for prospective students will be held on Sunday, March 25th from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. Students currently in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade are encouraged to attend. Please visit their website www.nda-worc.org to pre-register. NDA is the only Catholic private and independent college preparatory school for young girls.

Free Donut Tickets for Children's Liturgy

The Men's Club will be offering "Free Donut Tickets" to all participants to the "Children's Liturgy" during the 9:00 AM Mass *next* Sunday. The children will be given the tickets while at the Liturgy to be redeemed after Mass. Best Wishes to our young Catholics.

18th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference at Assumption College

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on **Saturday, March 17**. Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Father David Cavanagh, Robert Rogers, Ryan Tremblay, and Elvis Grbac. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 1st, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.



Make a Prayer Cloth in the Church Hall

Everyone is invited downstairs to the hall after Sunday Mass to make a simple Prayer Cloth to take home.

It's so easy and fun to decorate. It can be done by anyone of any age! You might want to use the Prayer Cloth in your home or give it to someone as a gift.

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

To Our Religious Education Teachers: You are invited to bring your class to the Church Hall to make a "Prayer Cloth". We invite the family to send us a picture so we can see what it looked like when you set it up at home.

Help to prevent family homelessness every weekend in our Church Hall



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

You receive the full face value of the card in the amount you choose. The stores - CVS, Panera Bread, Dunkin' Donuts and local grocery stores - donate up to 5% of that amount to "Hope For Housing" to assist children with families in crisis.

See Sue or Dave Genereux after every Mass in the Church Hall or contact them at 508-829-5776 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.



A Community of Ministries



Love. Grow. Serve.

PARISH OUTREACH

Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183
Ext. 11

Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

Alms for the Poor

- Our next **Mustard Seed Meal** is Friday March 16, needs are posted at each exit of the church
- Donate new **Underwear** for homeless men and women - all sizes and types. These are items that are so necessary but rarely, if ever given.
- **Men's Warm Jackets (used)** are in short supply at the Mustard seed lately. Donations welcome!
- Individual packets of **Peanut Butter** can be found at the Dollar Store-three for one dollar.

A Story of Thanksgiving

The guests at the Mustard are hungry. Dinner is usually eaten quickly. More than 175 plates of food are served and the dining room is mostly empty within 15 or 20 minutes. There often seems to be a latecomer who arrives at the door and is surprised that the meal is over. "Is there anything left to eat?" the disappointed guest asks. Someone says, "There is left over bread- we can make you a peanut butter sandwich and how about a cup of milk?". "Thanks, that would be great!" The latecomer sits and waits quietly. "What's your name" someone asks and introductions begin. "Where will you sleep tonight?" A latecomer recently answered, "On an open porch- the owner said I could stay there." The conversation continues in short cautious sentences, neither of us wanting to make the other uncomfortable. "It's pretty cold out tonight, could you use a blanket?" "Sure, that would be great." the stranger answers. We find a blanket, hat, scarf and gloves. "Wow! Thanks! God bless you" says the guest as he finishes his sandwich. "I really appreciate all of this" he adds as he leaves.

I am so thankful that there are moments like this one- when the rush of the crowd and big meal is over and there is this quiet, gentle time with a latecomer who has left a little less hungry and cold. I am so grateful to all of you who make these moments happen through your generosity of food, clothing and prayers.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Spiritual Rituals - This can be a regular devotional time in your home with an established format such as a Bible reading and a prayer or family petitions. It can also be less formal, taking cues from the calendar and using liturgical seasons, or even someone's birthday as a jumping off point for prayer. You might establish a daily quiet time. For younger families you might establish a daily quiet time, when kids are encouraged to just lie on their beds and discuss their problems and feelings with God. Whatever your preference, make family prayer a habit. Rituals give children a sense of security and happiness.



"Yeah, I guess the church jet does mean we've expanded our ministry!"

FAMILY LENTEN CALENDAR

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

Join St. George's "Food Donation Team"

For information on bargains and/or to join the team, just email Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com

Special needs for March are:
Mac & cheese, canned tomatoes, and vegetable oil

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

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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.



Worcester Catholic Worker Bake Sale After All Masses This Weekend

Members of Saints Francis & Therese Catholic Worker will be here this weekend, March 3 and 4, with homemade baked goods.

The sale of their wholesome bread and muffins, made with organic ingredients, is the main source of income which supports their ministries. They shelter homeless men and women, and work for justice and peace.

There is no set price for the bread as they depend on our generosity to carry on the works of mercy from their home here in Worcester.



Women's Day of Spirituality Saturday, March 10, 2018

CELEBRATING OUR GIFTEDNESS

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

Registration is currently full and we are taking names for the waiting list. If you are currently registered but find you will not be able to attend please contact Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell as soon as possible.

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

A Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

Why a "Community of Ministries"?

Here at St. George Parish we strive to work together as a "Community of Ministries" who collaborate and cooperate with one another. It is in this spirit humility and unity, that we hope to continue to grow "as one" in Christ.



Spiritual Growth Ministry

What Is Prayer?

Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us.
It is choosing gratitude until we are grateful.
It is praising God until we ourselves are
A constant act of praise to God
(Fr. Richard Rohr)

Stations Of The Cross

FRIDAY at 6:30 PM in the CHURCH on March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. On **GOOD FRIDAY (MARCH 30th)** Stations of the Cross will take place at 3:00 PM in the Church. Attending the Stations of the Cross is a most fitting way to be attentive to Jesus as He suffers and faces His death on the Cross. Start a new tradition: come as a family!

SAVE THE DATE

Lenten Evening Of Prayer And Reflection

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 from 6:30- 8:00 PM

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with 3 priests available. Set aside this special time to be with Our Lord in the quiet and stillness of our Church.

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?"
(Mt. 26:40)



Baptism Preparation

This Sacrament welcomes everyone.
For registration and information about selection of Godparents, please contact Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or
Email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com.

Baptisms are usually held monthly following the preparation sessions and completion of paperwork. Dates for upcoming classes are March 4, and May 20, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Conference Room.

