

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 11, 2018: Fourth 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 11, 2018

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Mass Intentions

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

9:00 AM Memorial for Bruce & Gerrie Bak by children

Rosary after 9:00 AM Mass

Girl Scout Sunday

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

Monday, March 12:

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Tuesday, March 13:

8:00 AM In memory of Katherine & Marion Gallagher

Wednesday, March 14:

8:00 AM In memory Walter Browning

6:30 PM Memorial for Shirley R. Carter by sister & brother-in-law Joan & Dave Allen

Thursday, March 15:

8:00 AM In memory of Arthur Sullivan

Friday, March 16:

8:00 AM In memory of Gordan Newcomb

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 17: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Nelson Boucher by his wife & Al LeFrancois by family

Sunday, March 18: 5th Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Anniversary for Lena Barton by family

9:00 AM 15th Anniversary for Ann Ferdella by the Moughan family

11:00 AM Memorial for Roger Hessel by family

6:00 PM Confirmation Penance Service

Bulletin Deadlines

Weekend of

March 25

April 1

April 8

Due to parish

Wednesday, March 12

Thursday, March 13

Wednesday, March 21

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

Altar Ministries

We are thankful to the Altar Servers and Ministers of Holy Communion from TEAM A 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

Daylight Saving Time Begins ...Spring Forward!

Saturday, March 10:

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

9:00 AM Confirmation Snow Date Church/Center

10:00 AM Men's Club Confr Rm

6:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 6-9 Hall/Center

Monday March 12:

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

5:45 PM Yoga Hall

7:00 PM Pieta Confr Rm

Tuesday, March 13:

10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Hall

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

6:00 PM Girl Scouts Confr Rm

7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting Center

Wednesday, March 14 :

5:30 PM Liturgy Meeting Rectory

6:30 PM Daughters of Isabella Hall

7:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm & Center

Thursday, March 15:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, March 16:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center

11:00 AM Grandparent Prayer Group Confr Rm

Saturday, March 17:

8:00 PM AA Hall

March 18:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

Scripture for the week of March 11, 2018

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

12 Mon Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

13 Tue Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

14 Wed Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

15 Thu Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47

16 Fri Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

17 Sat Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

18 SUN Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33



We Commend to your Prayers

Shirley R. Carter

Paul H. Pratt Jr.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise



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Weekend of March 4, 2018

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$8,789.67

Monthly Totals for February

Repairs: \$1,261.00

Air Conditioning Fund: \$110.00

Fuel: \$245.00

Thank you for your support!



From Your Pastor

This Week..

Pray that all who are struggling to overcome addictions, whether to alcohol, drugs, pornography or gambling, may find healing, forgiveness and the strength to break free.

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 *this* Sunday. The children will be given the tickets while at the Liturgy to be redeemed after Mass. Best Wishes to our young Catholics.

Pietà

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.

Coffee Shop Captain



March 18, 2018
Don Viens : 508-852-5658

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.

Second Collection

Next weekend, a collection will be taken up at all Masses for the Catholic Relief Services. Please see Bishop McManus' letter on page 5 for information about this important collection.

Once again, I am extending an invitation to the young men of our parishes who are in high school or older to consider a vocation to the priesthood. As a priest for almost 44 years, I know that I would not have considered this calling if it were not for the example of priesthood that I saw lived out faithfully and prayerfully by the priests in my home parish. I certainly witnessed in these priests an excellent example of what was meant by giving of oneself totally to God. Their giftedness and self-sacrifice were certainly a great inspiration for me. For any young man who has ever considered the priesthood, please feel free to speak with me or Fr. Charles. I might also mention that our diocese annually sponsors a retreat, led by Bishop McManus, for young men to discern or prayerfully consider if the priesthood is for them. This year's retreat is scheduled for the weekend of March 23/24, from 6:00 P.M. Friday to 6:00 P.M. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. (This retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester.) It is open to men who are of high school age and older. The cost is free, and transportation is also provided to and from the retreat center. For more information about this retreat and to sign up for it, please see me or contact our Vocations Director, Fr. James Mazzone at 508-340-5788, by email at jmazzone@charter.net.

Fr. Niccolls

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.

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

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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

New program for Ages 3-5

We are very excited to be introducing a new program for children ages 3-5 in the fall. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an wonderful program for the youngest of our parishioners. We are in the process on working out the schedule and timing for that program. If you have children in that age range, could you please share with Sarah Kelly at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org if a weekday afternoon or weekday morning would work better for your family.



Confessions

The 4th, 5th and 6th grade students have had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during their class times this Lent. We are thankful to Fr. Niccolls and Fr. Charles for making this possible for our students.

Learning about Different Vocations

Our 3rd grade students had been learning about different vocations in their classes. They recently had the opportunity to compile a list of questions for our priests about their vocation. Both Fr. Niccolls and Fr. Charles met with the 3rd grade students to answer their questions. The students loved having our priests visit their classes.

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

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 Christ to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."



Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Open 4:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Closed - Sunday from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Closed - Monday & Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Men's Club Meeting

The monthly Men's Club meeting will be held *this* 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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A Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

—Rev 3:20

Do we recognize Jesus when we see the poor and vulnerable? When we respond to those in need, we "help Jesus in disguise" as we are reminded by the national Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) on the weekend of March 18. Through your generosity, you can help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters in some of the most marginalized communities around the globe.

Thanks to your financial support, you can

- alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers
- provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world through the Holy Father's Relief Fund
- advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace
- actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy

For example, in Central America, there are more than 1 million young people, aged fifteen to twenty-five years old, who are out of school and unemployed. Thanks to your support of the CRSC, thousands of young people can participate in YouthBuild, a program that provides them necessary life skills and opportunities. YouthBuild provides job skills and entrepreneurship training, school re-entry, job placement, and social services. More than 5,000 young people have participated in YouthBuild, and 80 percent of its participants have found work, gone back to school, or both.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support it this year. If you want to learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. Are you ready to answer the knock of Jesus in disguise?

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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

Join us in Serving those in need of the basics:

- Our next **Mustard Seed Meal for 175 homeless guests** 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. Many thanks to those who have so carefully wrapped and labeled these essential donations!
- **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. Thanks to those who have donated these items already.
- **Boxes of Pasta** are needed at the Mustard Seed. We are now helping to feed 20 families and 20 individuals with a box of supplemental groceries every week. Special thanks to Trudy who always assures that we are able to provide emergency food for those who come to us.
- **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
- **Prayers Desperately Needed** for the guests at the Mustard Seed who are suffering terribly from homelessness, poverty, addictions and other physical and mental illnesses. Please pray through the intercession of Dorothy Day, Servant of God, who began the first Catholic Worker House of Hospitality.

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 and Pasta— any type

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

God, there was a time when I imagined designing my own cross, choosing the time and place I would lift it to my shoulder, and carrying it about for all to see. There was a time when I had an exaggerated sense of control over myself and my life. I thought You were demanding nothing less than extraordinary heroics from me. I eventually realized that I didn't have that kind of control and that I don't have to go looking for crosses. I simply have to recognize them and face them as they come barging uninvited into my world each day. And so God, help me not to miss the importance of the cross in my life. Help me to truly understand that taking up my daily crosses in faithfulness to You marks me as a disciple of Your Son



"If you don't stop asking for things,
God's going to change channels."

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 service coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette. A report can be made by phone to (508) 929-4363.

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

Start a New Practice this Lent!
An Invitation To Hear
"One Thing" at Mass

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.

Mass
Notes



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 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!

Here's what happened when I tried it:

I sat at Mass a few minutes and then glanced down at the directions on the back of the "Mass Notes". "...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."

The busy buzz of the day was in my head so it took a minute for me to settle into Mass. After a while I listened and heard the words "transfigure us". They stood out and stuck in my mind. I thought, "maybe this is what God wants me to hear?". I jotted it down in my "Mass Notes". Later on at Mass I heard "Christ in me arise". I already had my "one thing" so I ignored this second phrase for a while. Yet it kept repeating in my mind so I finally jotted it down too. I forgot it all for a few days until I found the "Mass Notes" in my Sunday coat.

I sat quietly a while and paid attention to the phrases I had written there. Maybe they meant the same thing? I looked up the word "transfigure" online to see how it might fit into my current life situation. I waited and prayed a bit. I noticed that the words I had written were actually "transfigure us"! It dawned on me that this tapped into my deep desire to be part of the transformation- the dramatic change - for all of us together - to be transfigured as a parish community. For the last 16 years I have been a part of promoting and traveling the journey of our development as a parish. It has been a privilege, a challenge and a great joy for me. At this point I am growing older, passing the typical age of retirement! I find I am asking myself, "what is most important to me now?". I have no answer yet but I look forward to reflecting on it further. Lastly I still found myself humming "Christ in me arise". I notice I feel honored to think that Christ is in me! I am glad I didn't ignore those words. It's turned into a repeating prayer in my head all week; "Christ in me arise". So goes my reflection on these "Mass Notes" so far. I look forward to where God will lead me next. This beginning has been surprising, intriguing and uplifting. Looking forward to Mass next Sunday.

Ann Doyle

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)

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU

We had an amazing day Reflecting on Our Giftedness at the Women's Day of Spirituality.

Thank you to all who attending and made the day even more uplifting.

**WOMEN'S DAY OF SPIRITUALITY
DISCUSSION & WRAP UP MEETING**

Beverages and Light Fare will be Served

Thursday, March 22, 2018

6:30pm

Church Conference Room

Everyone is invited to present and discuss feedback from this year's Women's Day.