

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 17, 2019: Second Sunday of Lent

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606

Parish Office: 508-853-0183

www.saintgeorgesparish.org

Office Hours:

Monday till Thursday 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Closed on Fridays

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

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 13

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach

annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 11

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 508-856-9960 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, 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 17, 2019

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 16: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for John F. Nuzzolilo
Requested by family

Sunday, March 17: Second Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Memorial for Jack DeCillis
Requested by his wife

9:00 AM Memorial for Ron Wentzel
by his sister Joyce Purcell

11:00 AM 11th Anniversary Memorial Mass for
Philip Neilan by family

Monday, March 18:

8:00 AM Memorial for James Damelio by family

Tuesday, March 19: St. Joseph

8:00 AM Memorial for Ralph and Eleanor Porzio
by family

Wednesday, March 20:

6:30 PM For the Community of St. George

Thursday, March 21:

8:00 AM Memorial for Albert Pirani by the
St. George Prayer Shawl Ministry

Friday, March 22:

8:00 AM Birthday remembrance for Matt Ryan
by family

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 23: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Sylvia Payne by family

Sunday, March 24: Third Sunday of Lent

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

9:00 AM: Memorial for Paul Francis Mullins
by Kevin Mullins

11:00 AM: Memorial for Maurice Ryan by family

Join us for Coffee!

Join us downstairs in the
Church Hall after Sunday Mass for
coffee, a donut, and time to enjoy one
another's company.



Coffee Shop Captain Next Week

For March 24, 2019
David Allen 508-853-2862

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.

Bulletin Item Due Dates

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to parish</u>
March 31, 2019	Wednesday, March 20
March April 7, 2019	Wednesday, March 27

Please submit items by 3:00 PM on the due date.
Email to annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

Parish Calendar

Saturday, March 16:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, March 17:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

9:00 AM Confirmation Make-up if needed Center

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conference Room

Monday, March 18:

4:15 PM Rel. Ed Grades 1-5 Center

5:45 PM Yoga Hall

7:00 PM Finance Ministry Rectory

Tuesday, March 19:

4:15 PM Rel. Ed Grades 1-5 Center

Wednesday, March 20:

7:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Conference Room

7:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Center

Thursday, March 21:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Night

Friday, March 22:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Parish Center

Saturday, March 23: Lenten Food Drive

9:00 AM Women's Day of Spirituality Hall

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, March 24: Lenten Food Drive

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall


9:00 AM Confirmation Make-up if needed Center

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

9:00 AM RCIA Hall

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

Scripture for the week of March 17, 2019

17	SUN	Gn15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17-4:1/ Lk 9:28b-36	
18	Mon	Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38	
19	Tue	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	
20	Wed	Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28	
21	Thur	Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31	
22	Fri	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	
23	Sat	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	
24	Sun	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9	

Altar Ministries

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



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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lent comes late this year. Late though it may be, most of us are not immediately eager for the austerities of Lent. Though perhaps not ready for it, we all nonetheless need Lent. We need Lent because we are sinners called to repentance. We need it because we are Christ's disciples called to holiness and we need Lent because the demands, distractions and allures of modern life can imperceptibly skew our priorities and dampen the spiritual joys that rightly belong to those whose faith is fervent.

For forty days Lent calls us to re-prioritize our lives that they may be centered on Jesus Christ and His Gospel. We do this through deepened prayer, more frequent penances and more generous almsgiving. We undertake these practices not to revert to old ways six weeks later. We undertake them that, through conversion of life, we may know Christ better and share more deeply in the joy of His Easter triumph throughout the whole of our lives.

The Lenten season is austere in its observances, reserved in its liturgies and sacrificial in its call for generosity. But because its practices draw us closer to Christ, Lent is also renewing, inspiring and exciting. So often we let things come between us and the radical call to take up the Cross and follow Christ with a selfless love of God and neighbor. Lent gives us the incentive, framework and communal support to acknowledge the primacy of God in our lives and to seek our consolations by putting God first. When we do that, we realize that the security, happiness and peace for which we daily strive come not from the acquisition of things, the esteem of others or the experience of pleasures. Rather, they are found in drawing close to God, experiencing His love and being confident in His promises. That continuing discovery can make our lives simpler, happier and more meaningful. What we "give up" is more than compensated by what we gain.

We all have so much to gain this Lent. I urge you to reflect on Christ's love and mercy. Examine your life, confess your sins and draw close to God through your prayer and acts of penance, regular celebration of the sacraments and sacrifice for those in need.

Lent may start late this year but it is also just in time. May we embrace its opportunities that we may reap its rewards --- Christian joy, not only at Easter, but throughout our lives on earth and forever in Heaven.

With every prayerful best wish,
I remain Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



From Your Pastor

Last weekend, the Rite of Sending for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults took place here in our parish during the 7:30 A.M. Mass.

We have two candidates, Liza Scardato & James Cunningham, who participated in these rites in our parish church before being sent to our Cathedral of St. Paul on Sunday afternoon of March 10th to participate in the Rite of Election.

Over the next several weeks in this Lenten season, Liza and James will be participating in rites that will help them prepare for their full reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, April 20th.

Let us keep them in prayer as they continue to journey in their preparation to receive the Easter Sacraments, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist for Liza and Confirmation for James.

We are coming into the time of year when our annual collection for the diocesan Partners in Charity appeal will be taken up as an in-pew collection this weekend. Many of you will have already received letters from both Bishop McManus and me about this appeal. Information about this appeal has already been mentioned in previous weeks' bulletins. More will be mentioned about the appeal elsewhere in this week's bulletin as well as in the weeks to come.

Fr. Niccolls

Weekend of March 3, 2019



**Total Weekly Ordinary:
\$8,408.67**

Monthly Totals for February

Repairs: \$ 1,134.00

Air Conditioning Fund: \$175.00

Fuel: \$200.00

Thank you for your generous support!

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.

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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

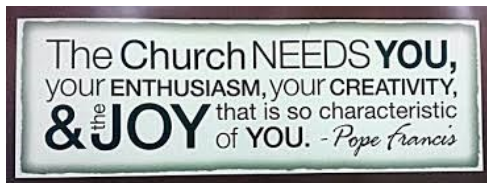
Grades 6-9 : The class dates for this second semester are:
March 24 and April 7 & 28.

Making Summer Plans? Save this Date!

St. George Summer Bible Camp

Monday, July 29th - Friday, August 2nd.

The camp is for children entering grades 1-6.
Registration Information will be coming soon.



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 under-

Join Us this Lent! Pick up a **Ministry Booklet** on the Resource Table at the back of the Church Hall today. Choose a ministry that you might be interested in and call the Ministry Leader to find out more.

19th 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, April 6.

Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 25, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.



St. George Parish Respect Life Committee Visitation House Fundraiser

Visitation House, on Vernon Hill in Worcester, is a Catholic home for homeless women with crisis pregnancies. These women are supported in a safe environment. During this time and after the birth of their child, trained staff work with the mothers teaching life skills and how to take better care of themselves and their baby. Mothers are assisted in finding housing, exploring education and pursuing job opportunities.

Please support Visitation House by taking a baby bottle home for three weeks and filling it with your spare change. Baby bottles were distributed at the end of each Mass beginning March 2nd and 3rd.

Baby bottles will be collected the weekend of March 23/24. Wicker baskets, with the baby bottles, will be found near each entrance of the church. May God bless you for your generosity in supporting this life giving ministry. Susan Pacek 508-856-9960

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

As Lent begins, we are invited to give Alms by continuing to support St. George parish, Visitation House, Hope for Housing and the Mustard Seed.

Men's Retreat Opportunity

Consider a Men's Retreat this Lent at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, Ct. The Retreat theme is: No Ordinary Path: Holiness in Everyday Life. Fellow parishioner, John Pacek is scheduled to go on the retreat on the weekend of March 22. For more information contact John at Home: (508) 856-9960 Cell: (774) 232 1459 Email: jspacek9960@yahoo.com

For alternative dates, more information or to register please call the retreat center 860.760.9705 or check their website at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.



Special Request for Prayers

Please continue your prayers for a young child with a very serious illness. Please include her and her family in your Lenten prayers.

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Lent



Lenten Regulations

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.

Why the Ancient Traditions of Prayer, Fasting and 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.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for March:

Recognition of the rights of Christian Communities. That Christian Communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.



Daily Prayer during Lent



Thank you to all who participated in the daily Lent prayer recordings and please take a moment to join us in daily prayer this Lenten Season. 225 parishioners participated in the recordings. These 2-3 minute prayers and recordings are accessible from St. George's website throughout Lent.

This week, Grades 6 and 8 Religious Ed students will lead us in the 4th, 5th and 6th Stations of the Cross. Our second Rosary decade is offered by the Young Parishioners Monthly Rosary group.

Groups leading the prayers this week are:

Monday 3/18, Wednesday Evening Faith Sharing Group 1, Prayer

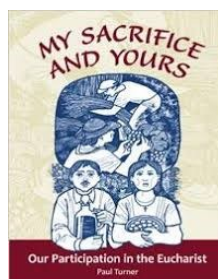
Tuesday 3/19, Young Parishioners Monthly Rosary group, Rosary

Wednesday 3/20, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer

Thursday 3/21, Religious Ed Grade 6, Station 4

Friday 3/22, Religious Ed Grade 6, Station 5

Saturday 3/23, Religious Ed Grade 8, Station 6



Learn More about the Mass

At each exit of the church you will find this interesting booklet that helps us step more deeply into the celebration of Mass. Learn more! Take a booklet home with you today!

Fr. Niccolls to be Honored at St. John's High School

Father Edward Niccolls will be honored by his alma mater, St. John's High School, at its 17th annual Gala on Saturday, April 6. Parishioners who wish to celebrate with Father Niccolls on that night may contact the school for information at 508-842-5353 or register on the web site at www.stjohnshigh.org/gala.



A Community of Ministries



PARISH OUTREACH

Annie Doyle 508-853-0183

Office hours:

Mon -Tue -Wed 9-3PM

annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

Lenten Food Drive March 23 and 24, 2019

The holidays are long over. The winter drags on and heating bills pile up for many families living pay check to pay check. This is one of those times of year when food pantries empty out quickly and fill up slowly.



Non-perishable food items and paper goods will be collected at all Masses NEXT weekend. Donations may be placed around the Sanctuary and will be given to the Mustard Seed Food Pantry. Food is happily accepted until Monday.



No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.

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 of humility and unity, that we hope to continue to grow "as one" in Christ.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Mosaic Cross - Cut out a large cardboard cross and many squares of colored paper. During Lent whenever a family member does a good deed or makes a sacrifice, he or she glues a square to the cross. Your aim should be to cover the cross before Easter.

From *Catholic Family Catholic Home*
by Mary Kathleen Glavich SND;
Twenty Third Publications,
Mystic CT.



All are Welcome to the Sacrament of Baptism

where, by the grace of God,
we **share the in heart of Jesus** with parents,
godparents and the faith community.

For registration, preparation session dates and more information please contact:

Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or

Email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com



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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.



You Can Help to Prevent Family Homelessness!

This Lent use "Hope for Housing Cards" to buy your weekly groceries Or prescriptions at CVS.

You receive the full face value of a 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 & Dave Genereux who are selling these cards in the Church Hall after every Mass. Contact them at 508-829-5776 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.

St. George's "Food Donation Team"

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

Special food needs for March:

Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter and Cereal

All Non-perishable food items are always welcome. Bags can be left in the Outreach Collection Area at the foot of the steps inside the Parking Lot side entrance to the church.



Many Thanks to Scott!

As part of a Baseball Team Leadership Project Scott Jr. collected dozens of bags of groceries for families in need.

Scott also collected boxes filled with socks for the homeless. He sorted, delivered the food to the Mustard Seed and then stocked the Food Pantry shelves. What a great example of leadership for all of us to follow!



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Contact: JoAnn Nally
508-527-6973

Finding God in the Present Moment

"God is not in the past nor the future. God is right now, totally present, totally available. Our best response is to be totally available to that presence".

Rev. Thomas Keating, *The Better Part*

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Fridays at 6:30 PM (except Good Friday at 3:00PM)
Begin an important Lenten tradition, come to the Stations of the Cross as a family.

Confessions During Lent

Tuesday evenings - 6:30- 7:00 PM

Save the Date

Lenten Evening of Prayer and Reflection

Tuesday April 9, 2019 6:30-8:00 PM

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sweatpants for the Homeless Needed

This Service Project is sponsored by our Faith Sharing Groups to help meet a pressing need for adult sweatpants. The cold, wet winter has emptied out the used clothing rooms. Mostly men's (fewer women requests), dark colors-larger sizes with drawstrings for adjustability would be super helpful. Discount stores have them for less than \$6.00 a pair. Gently used sweat pants are also welcome.

A turquoise collection bin is in the church hall.



"God's Healing Grace in Times of Transition"

Sr. Kathryn J. Hermes F.S.P., M.T.S.

Saturday, March 23, 2019 9AM till 1:15PM

Registration due by March 11 - \$20 per person

Questions? Contact Andrea at:
andrea@svagdys.com