

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

March 22, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Office Hours:

Monday- Wednesday 9:00AM to 3:00PM
Thursday 9AM to 12 noon, Closed on Fridays

Parish Staff:

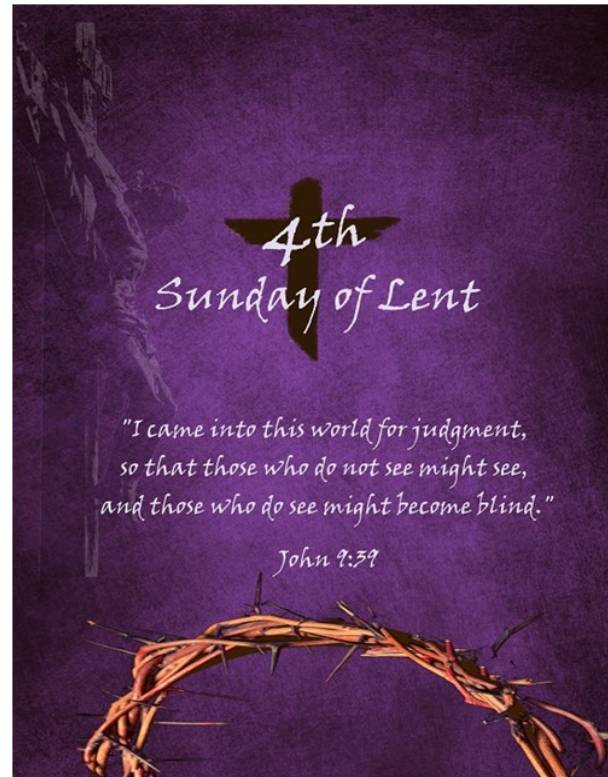
It is our privilege to serve you.

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 Ext. 11

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary
office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 10
Fax 508-854-0864

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:
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

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 22, 2020

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Mass Intentions



As you know, during this time of the Corona Virus we are not celebrating public Masses in church. We, your priests, are encouraged by Bishop McManus to celebrate private Masses each day. In light of this we list the following Mass intentions and the days that we will offer these Masses:

Saturday, March 21, Vigil

In Memory of Nelson Boucher req. by his wife and Al Lefrancois req. by his family

Sunday March 22:

Fourth Sunday of Lent
For the Community of Saint George
In Memory of Gerald Duclos req. by Jim Sanford
Birthday and 5th Anniversary Mass for Roger Hessel req. by his family

Saturday, March 28: Vigil

In Memory of Michael Clancy req. by Donna Saucier

Sunday, March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent

For the Community of Saint George
In Memory of Ruth E. Foster
For our Confirmation Candidates

Total Weekly Ordinary Collection

Weekend March 22, 2020:

On line giving: \$ 3,586.00

Weekly
1,000.00

collection: \$



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!

Parish Calendar



Hall

Saturday, March 21:

8:00 PM AA

Sunday, March 22:

8:00 AM No Coffee Shop

9:00 AM No Children's Liturgy

9:00 AM No Toddler Liturgy

6:00 PM No Religious Ed., Gr. 6-9

Monday, March 23:

4:15 PM No Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5

5:45 PM No Yoga

7:00-8:30 PM No Bible Study

Tuesday, March 24:

10:30 AM No Prayer Shawl Ministry

4:15 PM No Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5

6:00 PM No Girl Scouts Troop 64885

6:30-7:30 PM No Confessions

Wednesday, March 25:

7:15 PM No Faith Sharing Group

Thursday, March 26:

6:30 PM No Family Prayer

Friday, March 27:

11:00 AM No Grandparent Prayer

6:30 PM No Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 28:

8:00 -9:00 AM No Conversations w/Fr. Nally

3:00-3:30 PM No Confessions

8:00 PM AA

Sunday, March 29:

8:00 AM No Coffee Shop

9:00 AM No Children's Liturgy

9:00 AM No Toddler Liturgy



Altar Ministries

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

NO Men's and Women's Club this Sunday

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.

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Weekly Stewardship Thought

The blind man in today's Gospel was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees.

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 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"



Respect Life Committee Visitation House Fundraiser

Baby Bottle Update:

Please continue to fill your baby bottles over next week. The need for funds for the Visitation House is still present. There will be boxes at the parking lot entrance to the church on the dates listed below. Someone will be there to monitor and collect the bottles.

Collection for the bottles will be as follows:

- On Saturday, March 28th from 4 to 5 pm
- On Sunday, March 29th from 9 to 11am

If these times are not convenient,
please call Susan Pacek at 508-736-5359.

Online giving (visitationhouse.org) is also an option and we can collect the baby bottles at a later date for reuse by Visitation House.



From Your Pastor

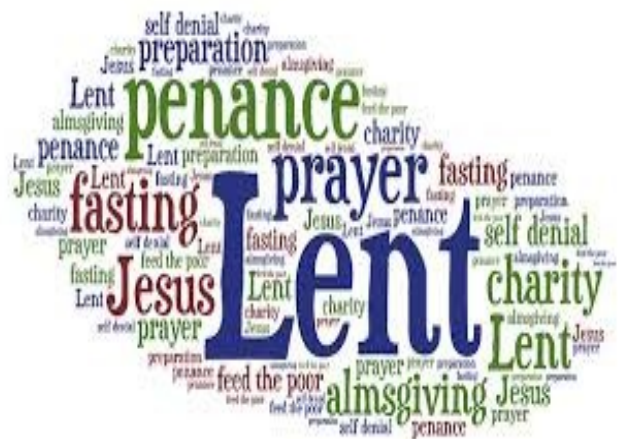
As we begin this Fourth Week of Lent, let us heed the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, which reflect upon the Gospel from St. John,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Our lives can be sometimes similar to that of the blind man in today's Gospel (chapter 9). Like him, we can open ourselves to the light, open ourselves to God and open ourselves to God's grace. Yet, unfortunately, we can also be like the doctors of the law who can judge others from the height of our pride. We can even do this to God! Today, we are invited to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives and eliminate unchristian behaviors that are sins.

Pope Francis constantly challenges believers and non-believers alike to love and care for one another and to love and care for creation, our earthly home. This is how we demonstrate our love for God who has given all of this to us. We are not expected to like everyone. That is humanly impossible! However, we are called to love everyone, which is possible, because God has told us that it is our responsibility to do so.

Fr. Niccolls



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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

email: sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org



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.



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)

A special invitation to Families with Toddlers & Young Children Join us at 9AM Mass on Sunday Mornings

The community of St. George warmly welcomes children

- Toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners, accompanied by a parent, can move around a bit downstairs - sing and listen to the Gospel story in a simple way.
- Children in Grades 1-3 are invited to attend the "Children's Liturgy of the Word" downstairs where they will hear the Readings and Gospel in an age appropriate way.
- After Mass come to coffee shop in the church hall. Children play together while parents can relax with a cup of coffee. Donuts are free for children the second Sunday of each month.

Offertory Alternatives

During this time, as we await the day when our parish may open its doors again, we continue to pray for those affected by the virus, the healthcare workers, and all whose livelihood is disrupted. Our parish will be ready to welcome it's vibrant community 'home' as soon as it's feasible and safe.

Our buildings must be maintained and no one could predict this extraordinary event. As you are able, our offertory donations can be delivered in several ways. Online giving is an easy and safe method – simply go to our parish website at www.saintgeorgesparish.org and follow the icons for Online Giving. You may now make your donations weekly or monthly. If you need assistance with online giving, please contact Kathy Hessel at mkhessel@aol.com

Alternatively, should you wish to drop your envelopes at the rectory, the mail box on the front porch is available and checked regularly. Finally, some parishioners send their donations through the regular mail.

Please know that we are sensitive to the households already impacted by this temporary loss of employment. Thank you for your support of our parish.

If you or anyone in your family is in need of assistance, please contact our Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, Annie Doyle, at 508-450-4134.

Love and kindness
are never wasted.
They always make
a difference.

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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 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.



Parish e-news

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

Legacy of Hope Campaign Update

Last month our **parish goal was revised to \$400,000** which we and the Diocese believe is attainable.

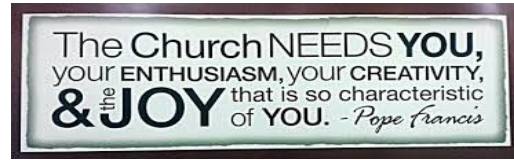


With just one week remaining in our Legacy of Hope effort, **we are now at \$380,000 or 95% of our goal!** We appreciate the generous support provided to date by 180 families in our parish.

If you have yet to participate in the Campaign, please help us attain our goal by making a gift or multi-year pledge on-line using the Diocese's secure website:

legacyofhope.worcesterdiocese.org

Remember, St. George will receive 40% of the funds we raise for the Campaign. **Thank you!**



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.



Scripture for the week of March 22, 2020

22	SUN	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
23	Mon	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
24	Tue	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
25	Wed	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
26	Thu	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
27	Fri	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
28	Sat	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
29	SUN	Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

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

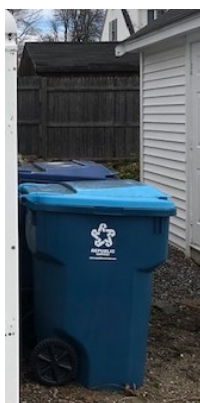
Lenten Outreach

- **Men's Warm Jackets, Sweatpants and T-shirts** are in short supply at the Mustard Seed. It's been a long cold and wet winter. Donations welcome!
- **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.
- Members of our "Community of Ministries" can help **Care for Creation** by recycling during parish meetings and events. A recycle bin is available in the parish hall kitchen.

See photo here



Please empty this bin into one of the recycle containers beside the lower garage- shown here



The Family Connection



Mass Notes

"Just One Thing"

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 at times the clutter of life can cause us to miss it or forget.

When you join us for Mass - listen and pray for JUST ONE THING. Ask God to help you hear JUST ONE THING: one word or idea, one challenge or invitation. Jot it down - Pencils and "Mass Notes" paper are at each church entrance.

Hold this ONE THING in your mind and heart during the next week. Pray and trust. God's love for you will grow this "ONE THING" within you into what it is meant to be.



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, Cereal and Peanut Butter

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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.*



Hope for Housing (HFH) Cards are sold after Mass Today

You Can Help to Prevent Homelessness by using "Hope for Housing cards" to buy your weekly groceries.

You receive the full 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 WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Contact: JoAnn Nally
508-527-6973

Thoughts to Ponder During Holy Week

"Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out upon the world. Ours are the feet with which He goes about doing good, ours are the hands with which He blesses His people." (St. Theresa of Avila)



From Father Nally:

40 Days for Life is a prayer campaign that runs twice a year, once during Lent and once in the Fall, in hundreds of cities around the country and around the world.

40 DFL consists of 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil outside abortion facilities, and community outreach, calling on God's help to end the scourge of abortion. Since 40 DFL started nationally in 2008, 16,742 babies have been saved, 106 abortion facilities have closed, and 196 abortion workers have left the industry. Our goal for our local campaign is to have people standing vigil and praying from 7am-7pm in front of the Planned Parenthood (470 Pleasant St.) in Worcester where 45 babies each week—babies up to 21 weeks gestation! - are losing their lives. Since we have started praying at that location in 2010, **22,330** babies have been killed on Pleasant Street. (And that number doesn't include the 2019 abortions; that data won't be released until May.)

You can learn more about 40 Days for Life on the national website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/> or our local campaign's website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/worcester>

AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT FOR LENT

"Do not be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. Have patience with all things, but, first of all with yourself." (St. Francis de Sales)

Adoration Chapel Notice

Due to the concerns regarding the Corona Virus, the Adoration Chapel will **be closed** until at least Easter Sunday, April 12th. In the meantime, you are most welcome to visit our Lord in the church which is accessible by using the lower side door that faces toward the rectory.

We thank you for your understanding.

Men's Group

"Conversation With Fr. Nally"

Saturday, 8:00—9:00 AM

In compliance with Diocesan and State Government Mandates, this group cancelled until further notice. Please call me at the Rectory, 508-853-0183, if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you.

Thank you and God Bless You... Fr. Nally