

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

April 11, 2021 Second Sunday of Easter

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606
Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110
www.saintgeorgesparish.org

Parish Staff:

It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls, Pastor Ext. 112

Rev. Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor,
Ext. 117

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 111

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary
office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 110
Fax 508-854-0864

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:
mkhessel@aol.com

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Peace
be with you.

St. George Catholic Church

Baptism Information:

Please contact

Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or
email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com

Eucharist Celebrated:

Live Weekend Masses are offered at 4:00 PM on Saturday, as well as 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on Sunday.

Please visit our parish website for details.

Live-Streamed Mass is offered on our parish website each Sunday at 10:00AM.

Live weekday Masses are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church
3:00 -3:30 PM on Saturdays.

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, April 11, 2021

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From Your Pastor

First of all, I want to thank those who by way of liturgical ministering, preparing the environment and live-streaming made our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies possible for all to view. The assistance on the part of all of you helped to make these liturgies spiritually and prayerfully uplifting ceremonies for those who attended these liturgies and those who watched through live-streaming. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our parish through your offertory envelopes whether by submitting them in person at Mass, by either mail or by dropping them off at the rectory. Thank you as well for your cards, gifts and treats during this Easter season. Your generosity this year has been gratefully appreciated.

In the opening pages of a book entitled *Finding Christ in the Crisis, What the Pandemic Can Teach Us* by Fr. Harrison Ayre and Mr. Michael Heinlein, we are reminded that we are God's people whose spiritual ancestry goes back to ancient Israel. Our spiritual ancestors had their trials, tribulations and sufferings in the hardship, sadness, abandonment and desolation they experienced from the time they left Egypt until the time of Jesus. Over the centuries they directly experienced God's favor in giving them a land of their own as well as the times when they experienced God's displeasure with them and that land was taken from them. They found that when their identity as God's people was shaken and everything they had from God – the Law, the Temple and the Land – was gone, they still had their memory of what they once had. This memory gave them hope in the midst of despair. While there is so much more to the story, we need to see that the Church, as the new Israel, can learn from the lessons of its spiritual ancestor.

Covid-19 has imposed limitations on our worship, but we can find how God is acting in the Church today and look for meaning in our present moment. First, we suddenly saw the things that identify us as Christians taken away. We have seen limited access to the sacraments, reduced attendance at Mass and limitations placed on ministry. Second, this sadness and dejection can bring about another interpretive key from ancient Israel's message for the Church: purification. When the people of Israel were exiled from their homeland, God used this occasion to draw them back to the covenant he made with them, to once again make them see that God called them to be a light to the nations. This same religious experience of deep purification can occur for us.

Continued in second column above

Fr. Nicolls column continued:

While we lament the loss of the sacramental life, perhaps we can see that God is taking this opportunity to renew our lives and identity in a call for conversion. This purification of the Church today can call us to repentance and a return to the heart of the Christian life, namely a purification and recommitment to the covenant and mission which God established in his Church.

While much seems to have been taken from us, God is still with us, just as he was with the people of ancient Israel. As with them, so too can we can this time as an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God, "for whom all things are possible" (Mt. 19:26). Let us ask ourselves –

What can the temporary loss of the sacraments do to reinvigorate our relationship with God and the Church?

What must we do to reevaluate our relationship with Christ, his Church and his sacraments?

Are we truly living the mission for which God has commissioned us?

Over the next few weeks some thoughts from this work will continue to be presented and shared for your thought and reflection about just what the book's title says – "What can the pandemic teach us?"

Fr Nicolls

Mass Intentions



Saturday, April 10, 2021

4:00 PM First Anniversary Mass for Ed and Rita Cote Requested by her Family

Sunday, April 11, 2021

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM 19th Anniversary Mass for Helen Hensley Requested by the Gentile family

Monday, April 12, 2021

8:00 AM

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

8:00 AM

Friday, April 16, 2021

8:00 AM

Saturday, April 17, 2021

4:00 PM Anniversary Mass for Barbara Callan Requested by family

Sunday, April 18, 2021

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM 6th Anniversary Mass for Allan Marzilli Requested by family

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Total Weekly Collection

March 15 - March 21, 2021:

Ordinary Collection	\$ 2,833.00
On line giving	\$ 2,652.00
Total	\$ 5,485.00

March 22, - March 28, 2021

Ordinary Collection	\$ 4,194.00
On line giving	\$ 1,710.00
Total	\$ 5,904.00

March 29 - April 4, 2021

Ordinary Collection	\$ 7,743.00
On line giving	\$ 1,747.00
Total	\$ 9,490.00

Monthly totals:

A/C	\$ 290.00
Fuel	345.00
Repairs	1,073.00
Total	\$ 1,708.00



***Thank you for your generosity.
We are so grateful for your support
especially during these times.***

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
April 25, 2021	April 15, 2021
May 2, 2021	April 22, 2021
May 9, 2021	April 29, 2021

Please submit items by 10:00 AM on the due date.
E-mail our Parish Secretary, Kate Lockney at
office@saintgeorgesparish.org

Family Prayer Night at St. George Church



Every Thursday at 6:00 PM there is a gathering of people who pray for all families.

Everyone is invited to join us!

The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed during this time. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to pray the Rosary.

Eucharistic Adoration is also a part of this wonderful time of prayer on the first Thursday of each month.

PIETA

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:

Monday, April 12th at 7:00 PM
in the Conference Room.
Please join us.

For more information, please call
Terry Gentile at [508-284-0796](tel:508-284-0796) or
Sue Stevens at [508-852-4887](tel:508-852-4887), or
email pieta3@gmail.com.

All are invited to visit our Mary Garden
to pray beside this stone bench
which is dedicated to our beloved children
and donated by our Pieta Support Group.



"May love be what you remember the most"

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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

Session Two Grades 1-5

Those students who attended class remotely in Session One will meet weekly on the following days and times.

Grade 1 will meet in person on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade 2 in person group and remote group will both meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade 3 in person group and remote group will both meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade 4 remote group will meet on Mondays at 4:00pm and the in person group will meet on Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Grade Five remote group will meet on Mondays at 5:00 pm

Zoom Meetings for Session Two:

Those students in grades 1-5 who attended classes in person classes in Session One will now meet on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent the week of the meeting. The schedule is as follows:

Grade One- Thursdays at 4/15

Grade Three- Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 4/14

Grade Five- Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 4/7



This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced *total* stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.



Online Giving

Special collections and donations are available through Online Giving. Access is available through our website— click on the icon pictured here.

Kathy Hessel is always happy to assist you at mkhessel@aol.com

The Family Connection:

Prayer for Family Peace – Lord give us the strength and compassion to understand each other, wisdom and love to help each other and the trust and patience we need to live peacefully together. Grant that through the intercession of Your mother Mary and St. Joseph that our family too might become a holy family, a family who works together, who embraces peace and love, whose members are dedicated to each other and to God. Amen,



Many Thanks to:

Bob Chekarian

Dave Walsh

John Neilan and

Andy Labreque

For working many hours to spread mulch throughout our entire parish grounds and to Pat Hayes for always keeping our parish yard and buildings so clean, orderly. It is all so welcoming!



A Notice from the Diocesan Office of Healing and Prevention

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 assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette at (508) 929-4363.

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An Easter Message from our seminarian, Julio Bonilla

In Exodus 13:3 Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of a house of slavery. For it was with a strong hand the Lord brought you out from there."

Every year Christians commemorate God's saving action in history, beginning with the Hebrew people and ending in our personal and community history through Jesus Christ.

This annual commemoration is not a simple repetition. Rather, it is like a spiral because each year we meditate more and more deeply on God's action in our lives and the transformation that he is making in our way of communicating with others: the personal step from the egocentric "I" to the communal "We".

We must remember that ethics and morals are essential to all areas of the human life, and we cannot exclude them from the saving event that we celebrate in Holy Week, in Sunday Mass, in each daily Eucharist.

The Gospel of Saint John tells us that when Jesus rose again, he stood in the midst of them [the disciples] (Jn 2:19, 26). These biblical passages show us the actions of God. Note that after the fall of our first parents the Ego became the center of our existence. With the resurrection of Jesus, God once again claims his place in human history and in interpersonal relationships, thus making Jesus the center of our life.

All this leads me to think of the resurrection not only as a historical event but also as the transformative act of humanity. It is the claim of God for his place in the center of human life, and at the same time the creative act of God.

With all this in mind, I want to wish you a happy Easter and I invite you to open your hearts to the grace of the Lord and allow yourself to be guided by him from the land of the egocentric "I" to the promised land of community.

Please remember to pray for me.

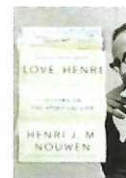
Julio



FROM DEACON PAUL AUDETTE:

*Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his
Letters*

Henri writes to a grieving widow. This is Part II of his response. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):



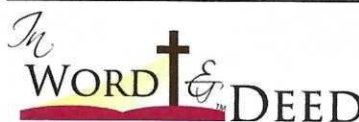
Dear Mrs. Walsh,

"... I still experience my mother's guidance in my life even though she died four years ago. She continues to be a source of hope and courage to me. Although I miss her very much, I also know that it was good for her to go so that she could be with us in a new way. I am sure that this will be true for you and your husband. Just as Jesus' leaving was good for his disciples, so the leaving of those who are close to us can also be good for us. This might be hard for us to accept, but it is a truth that can give us a lot of consolation and comfort..."

With many kind wishes,

Yours,

Henri Nouwen



Second
Sunday of Easter

At a recent community meeting, many residents were expressing their fears—fears of crime, terrorism, the economy, health care, etc. It seems as though we are controlled by fear. People base their decisions and actions on the negative things that might happen, rather than the positive things that could happen. Such negative thinking only engenders more fear and apprehension, drowning out the possibility of a better, more creative society.

The Apostles lived in fear. They hid in the upper room, wondering what was happening and if they would be the next victims of Roman wrath. They did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead, or that they were about to embark on a mission of teaching the Good News. They could only wonder about what was next. Into this room comes Jesus. He offers them proof of His identity, showing His hands and His side. More so, He reassures them and confers on them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Whatever we need to overcome our fear, Jesus will provide. The strength we draw from our faith will enable us to accomplish our mission and all that God intends for us to do. We do not have to live in fear. We can become, as St. Francis prayed, instruments of peace, bringing love, joy, light and peace to a world that lives in fear. Be confident and courageous. Act on the truth of the Lord's Resurrection and His promise to be with us always. The peace of the Lord will comfort and guide you.

~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing
jim@pilotbulletinbuilder.net

A Community of Ministries



**St. George
Parish Outreach**
Ann Doyle 508-853-0183
Ext. 11
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

Dear St. George Parishioners,

I am so happy to celebrate this Easter Season with you! Of course, this is now the second Easter that we celebrate in the middle of this strange worldwide pandemic, so our celebrations still look and feel different from years past.

As for me, I celebrate with you from my home. I continue to observe an abundance of caution in order to help to care for my 9 month old grandson safely. I miss being with all of you in person as much as I also miss being with all the members of my large extended family.

I miss being a part of gathering together to celebrate yet for me, the essence of Easter remains:

**Christ is risen and lives among us!
Love is stronger than death!
New life and hope grows everywhere!**

So I joyfully celebrate and I look forward to the days when we can all be safely closer together again. In the meantime, I rejoice that I am able to continue to work at reaching out to others and coordinating the generous gifts, food, clothing and service that all of you so abundantly give to folks in need. Your kindness is undeniable evidence that Christ is truly risen and lives among us.

Throughout this past year, your prayers, support and compassion for those who grieve the loss of loved ones has been a constant reminder and reassurance that love is indeed stronger than death.

As I watch the snow melting, the green grass returning, and flowers blooming I feel the hope that new life gives. Little children, beautiful music, and new ways of gathering together adds to many reasons for rejoicing.

Wishing you Easter Peace and Joy,

Annie Doyle

Outreach Opportunities:

Our next **Mustard Seed Meal** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18th. If you would like to volunteer to help prepare the meal from St. George Parish hall at 1:00PM, please call Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134.



Our parish Service Week at the **Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter** is scheduled for June 20 –26. If you are interested in volunteering to do gardening or to donate a grocery card to help provide a meal, please contact Annie at the phone number above.

You Can Help Prevent Family Homelessness after the 4 PM Mass Saturday and after the 8AM or 10 AM Mass Sunday

We invite you to use "Hope for Housing cards" to buy your weekly groceries or prescriptions. 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 Mass on Saturday and following both Masses on Sunday. Contact them at

978-833-0306 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information or for special arrangements.



Easter Joy

The word "Easter" comes from the Old English, meaning simply the "East."

The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for Christ, who

is the true Light of the world. This Easter, may the light, warmth and hope of Christ rise within us and shine Christ's light brightly into our struggling world.

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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.*

**Donating Food for
Folks in Need**

To receive a free weekly food bargain grid, join
St. George's "Food Donation Team"
just email Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com

**Special needs for April are:
Peanut Butter and
Boxes of Mac and Cheese**

**Divine Mercy Sunday
April 11, 2021**

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated each year on the Second Sunday of Easter. It focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified."

We invite you to visit our parish website to view and pray "The Divine Mercy Chaplet" offered by the St. George Music Ministry Team. We are reassured of the love and care of God as we pray, "Jesus, I trust in you".



**SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY
VIRTUAL FRIDAY FAITH SHARING**

With Joyce Purcell and
Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell

We hope you will join us for this time of enriching prayer and reflection. All are welcome!

Contact Andrea via email andrea@svagdys.com

Andrea will email you the Zoom Link ,Readings/
Reflection. You will need to have access
to a computer with Video and a Microphone.



Sign up
for E-news

Sign up to receive e-news!

To hear about updates and
notifications from
St. George Parish,

simply visit www.saintgeorgesparish.org
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"Join Our Email List" on the homepage to add your
email address.

**Share the Good News
In Our Parish Weekly Bulletin!**

Our bulletin is available on our parish website. If you do not have access to the internet but would like to receive a copy of the weekly bulletin at home, Just give us a call.

Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 .

Eucharistic Adoration

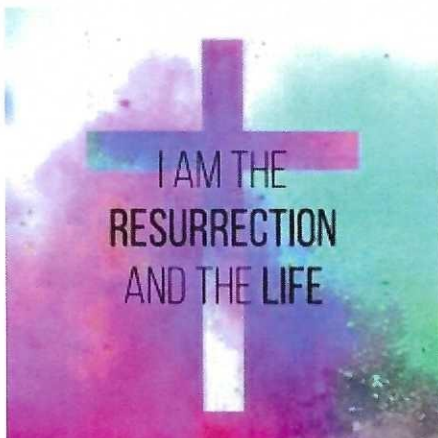
Your next opportunity to visit Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament will be on

**Thursday, May 6th from 6-7 pm and
Friday, May 7th from the end of the 8 am
Mass until 10 am.**



We strongly urge you to participate in this powerful
spiritual experience.

If you are unable to join us in person, please visit our
parish website to view the "Eucharistic Adoration"
Video on the home page.



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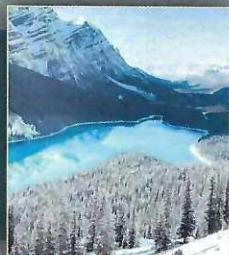

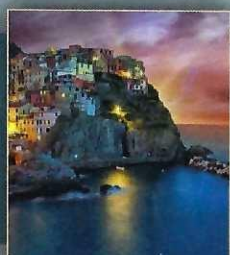

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