

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

December 01, 2019: First Sunday of Advent

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



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, December 01, 2019

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Mass Intentions



Saturday, November 30, Vigil
 4:00 PM Birthday Remembrance for Clare Menezes by Ajbani Family

Sunday, December 1: First Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM For the Community of St. George
 9:00 AM Memorial for Edward Weber req. by Purcell family
 11:00 AM Memorial for Melba Sanford req. by Pike family

Monday, December 2:
 8:00 AM In Memory of Gertrude Geran
 7:00 PM Pieta Bereavement Mass

Tuesday, December 3: St Francis Xavier
 8:00 AM In Memory of Mary Howard

Wednesday, December 4: Saint John Damascene
 6:30 PM In Memory of Joseph Saldanha req. by family

Thursday, December 5:
 8:00 AM In Memory of Mike Woods req. by Liz Woods

Friday, December 6: Saint Nicholas
 8:00 AM 9th Anniversary for June LaMalvo req. by her family

Saturday, December 7: Vigil
 4:00 PM 3rd Anniversary Memorial for Robert Reidy Sr. req. by family

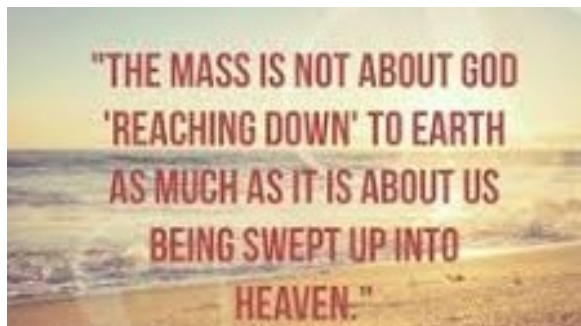
Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM For the Community of St. George
 9:00 AM Memorial for Alice and Joseph Sousa req. by family
 11:00 AM First Anniversary for Oliva Garceau by Mike Garceau and family

Coffee Shop/Men's Club Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be held *NEXT* Sunday, December 8 in the Conference Room after the 9:00 AM Mass. Coffee Shop members and parish staff are welcome to attend. The coffee is on us!!!



Free donut chip for your youngest parishioners next Sunday, December 8th!



Parish Calendar



Saturday, November 30:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 1:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room
 6:00 PM Religious Ed., Gr 6-9 Parish Center

Monday, December 2:
 4:15 PM Religious Ed., Gr. 1-5 Center
 Reception following Bereavement Mass

Tuesday, December 3:
 4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-5 Center

Wednesday, December 4:
 5:30 PM Liturgy Committee Mtg., Parish Center
 7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Conf. Room

Thursday, December 5:
 6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, December 6:
Saturday, December 7:
 8:00 AM Get Together with Fr. Nally Church Hall
 9:30 AM Breakfast with St. Nicholas Church Hall
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 8:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room
 10:00 AM Coffee Shop/Men's Club Conf. Room

Bulletin Item Due Dates

December 08, 2019 Monday, November 25
 December 15, 2019 Monday, December 2
 December 22, 2019 Monday, December 9
 Please submit items by 10:00 AM on the due date.
 email to our parish Secretary at :
office@saintgeorgesparish.org

Please Join Us!

Join us downstairs in the Church Hall after Sunday Mass for coffee, and donuts as well as to enjoy being part of the parish community.

Coffee Shop Captain December 8
 Mike Doherty/John Beahn
 508-856-0823



All men and women 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. All are welcome!

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Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of **December 8th**, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. In 2019 this national collection assisted 30,151 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are members of 360 religious institutes throughout the country.

As Christians, we are called to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Ps 100:2). Our elderly religious offer a shining example of what it means to answer this call. During their days of active ministry, they worked tirelessly to build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice, and embrace the neediest among us. In retirement, many continue in volunteer ministry, and all pray for the needs of our Church and world. Inspired by love, their service, past and present, is marked by joy and a deep desire to do the will of God.

As you may know, many religious communities find it increasingly difficult to provide for aging members. Most older religious worked for little or no pay. Today, their communities do not have enough retirement savings. At the same time, health-care costs continue to rise, and fewer members are able to serve in compensated ministry.

Just as our annual *Celebrate Priesthood* event helps our diocese to care for its retired diocesan priests, this national collection assists many religious communities which struggle to provide for aging members. Most elder religious served for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you consider giving to those who have given a lifetime. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's blessing on our nation's elderly religious women and men.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



From Your Pastor

This year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be observed on Monday, December 9th, since the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the holyday. In this situation there is no Mass obligation for the Immaculate Conception on Monday.

Mass will be held as usual at 8:00 A.M.

Next weekend will be the last weekend that our seminarian, Julio Bonilla, will be with us. He will be traveling home to his native Colombia for the Christmas holidays, and when he returns in January, he will be going to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland to begin his first semester of theological studies there in preparation for the priesthood. We wish Julio well and pray that this coming semester will be a very spiritually, pastorally and academically fulfilling one for him.

Once again, to help us prepare to enter into the spirit of celebrating the Advent Season, we have made available a special Advent/Christmas flyer which will be found at the entrances of the church. This flyer brings us through the four Sundays of Advent as well as what else will be offered during this season. It also contains the Mass schedule for Christmas and the other major feasts and solemnities that are celebrated in the Christmas season. Please be sure to take a copy of this flyer home with you.

This year, like in the past few years, in order to avoid excessive overcrowding in the church building as well as to avoid a serious parking problem in the church parking lot and the surrounding streets (especially Rochelle Street) on December 24th in the afternoon, we are offering a second Mass that afternoon at 4:30 P.M. at St. Peter-Marian High School. We are very grateful to the staff of St. Peter-Marian for letting us use this facility and its parking area which accommodates approximately 250 vehicles. Therefore, in anticipation of Christmas, I want to mention that the Mass schedule for this holyday is as follows:

Tuesday, December 24th:

4:00 PM Church

4:30 PM St. Peter-Marian High School

Wednesday, December 25th

8:00 AM Church

10:00 AM Church

Calendars for the year 2020 are available here in church.

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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

Religious Education Happenings

The students have been doing a great job in their Religious Education Classes. Parents are receiving a wonderful resource called "Take Home". This is information from the weekly lesson books. It reviews what students are learning in class and gives a heads up for what will be discussed the following week. This can help families to support at home what is being learned in Religious Education class.

Monthly Children's Rosary

Once a month the children will be invited to join together immediately after the 9AM Mass to pray the rosary. Children are reminded of the time at Children's Liturgy of the Word. The students have been learning the individual prayers in class. We will gradually learn to pray the whole rosary together. There is still plenty of time to enjoy donuts and playing together in the church



Scripture for the week of December 1, 2019

1	SUN	Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
2	Mon	Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
3	Tue	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
4	Wed	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
5	Thu	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
6	Fri	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
7	Sat	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
8	SUN	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Important Dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion

1st Reconciliation Retreat -
January 11, 2020, 2:30-4:00 P.M.
Ceremony- January 25, 2020, 10:00 A.M.



1st Holy Communion Retreat & Potluck Dinner-
Saturday, March 28, 2020, 2:30-6:00 P.M.
Rehearsals- April 28 & 29, 2020 4:15-5:15 P.M.
Mass- Sunday, May 2, 2020 10:00 A.M.

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.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed his warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

Annual Mass to Honor and Remember our Children

Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM at
St George Church 40 Brattle St. Worcester, Ma.
Sponsored by Pieta Support Group
for Bereaved Parents



You are invited to attend the Pieta annual mass to honor and remember all of our children. This is a special time to come together with family and friends in remembrance of our children.

Refreshments will be served following the Mass.
Please invite any families who have lost a child.

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.

We Commend to your Prayer

Jennie Stewart

My the angels lead her into Paradise

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Good and Gracious God:

May I live this day
Compassionate of heart
Clear in word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
Generous in love.

("Benedictus/ To Pray The Space Between Us"- John O'Donohue)



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For times when you are especially busy during the holidays, online giving is a good solution to keep your weekly donation systematic.

For more information contact Kathy Hessel at:
mkhessel@aol.com



Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Please: Call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, home bound 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.

From Father Nally:

What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion

Read the full version at respectlifeprogram.org/l-o-v-e.

When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby. First, prioritize listening over speaking. Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and wants. When her story is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, in a loving and caring way. Encourage her. Help her set goals that extend beyond her due date to help her see life beyond her pregnancy. Reassure her that she is not alone, and provide practical support. Pray with her, offering Christ's love at a crucial life-saving and life defining moment.

This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. Circa 2019 USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Dear Parishioners,

The Marines of Detachment 911 are one again asking for your help with our Toys Drive.. We have a donation box located at the Brattle Stop Market, 1 Brattle Street, Worcester, MA. Please help us make Christmas brighter for Children who otherwise would not have a Merry Christmas.

Bob and Linda Mulhearn

Giving Tree Tags Available

The Giving Tree is set up at the side of the Sanctuary decorated with tags that are labeled with the Christmas hopes of a needy person or family.



There are many specific and special requests this year. It is especially important that you fill this need so that the wish is granted and the person or child in need is not left without a gift on Christmas morning.

This year the Giving Tree gifts will be donated to Aids Project Worcester, Winter Hill Rest Home, Blaire House, Crescent Manor Rest Home, St. Mary's Health Care, The Bridge (Now called Open Sky), St Francis Nursing Home, Diocesan Seminarians, and the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker.

The elderly in nursing homes are truly the forgotten folks in our community. Your gifts help to make their Christmas joyful.

There are several requests for larger size sweatshirts and sweatpants. We know that these can sometimes be challenging needs to fill, so please know that we appreciate your extra effort to find these gifts. It is really a special treat for our neighbors, who must usually wear second hand, ill fitting clothing, to receive something new and warm!

Please - As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace - No toy guns or violent toys. Also, no battery operated items - these are too expensive for the poor to replace. Please, no cash and no food.

Please wrap your Giving Tree Gift loosely in a GIFT BAG or RECYCLABLE BAG and reattach the tag. Kindly return it to the church no later than December 8th at the 11:00 AM Mass.

We are most grateful to Anne Lauring who coordinates and communicates with the agencies that we serve through our Christmas Giving Tree effort.

If you are interested in helping with gift deliveries on December 8th, please contact:

Andy Labreque at 508-873-2728

A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

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

Holiday Outreach 2019

November 24 - Dec. 1- Giving Tree Tags are available on the Giving Tree located in the church.



December 7/8 - Giving Tree Gift returns and deliveries. Please call if you would like to take part in delivering gifts to the agencies.



December 14/15 - Christmas Food Drive



December 15th - Mustard Seed Family Christmas Party. Please call Annie Doyle if you would like to bake cookies or volunteer.

You Helped Make Thanksgiving Possible for our Neighbors!

We are most grateful to everyone who donated towards our turkey and grocery collections for folks in need.



This year we will provide 30 turkeys and food for families at Our Lady of Providence Catholic Parish on Lincoln Street in Worcester. We also shared our food drive collection with our local "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry and 10 turkeys with holiday food was donated to the Mustard Seed.



All are Welcome to the Sacrament of Baptism

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

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



THE FAMILY CONNECTION

The first Sunday in Advent is our wake-up call. The Lord awakens us, not with shouts and clamor, but more than not with a quiet whispering in our hearts. Perhaps we do not recognize it because the call is drowned out by the noise of Christmas commercialization: shopping trips, parties, decorating and must-see specials on TV. We need to take time to be quiet and still, even a few minutes a day can help us as we prepare for Christmas. This Advent, heed the Lord's wake-up call and spend time with him.

ADVENT RESOURCES

Look for Advent Resources on the Welcome Table in the Church Hall throughout Advent. Some of these same resources are also available on the Family Ministry page on the parish website <https://saintgeorgesparish.org/family-ministry> and ongoing on the parish's Facebook page at St. George Church Worcester MA.



You Can Help to Prevent Homelessness after Mass today

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 every Mass. Contact them at 508-829-5776 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.

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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.*

**Parish Pastoral
Council Elections**



We are thrilled to announce that the following parishioners have been selected to serve on the Pastoral Council for a three year team beginning January 2020.

Bonnie Moran

Stephen Gemme

Many thanks to all who took part in this process. Please continue to keep our Pastoral Council in your prayers.



Heartfelt thanks to the all our parishioners and friends who have been knitting scarves and hats for the homeless all summer long. They are now keeping hundreds of people warm!

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 November are:

Pasta, Cans of Soup and Cans of Tuna
(If possible, flip top cans are helpful)



All non-perishable food items are always welcome and can be left in the Outreach area at the foot of the stairs inside the church entrance near the parking lot.

Toilet Paper and all types of soap can not be bought with food stamps so they are always appreciated.

Attention of Parent of Young Children

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



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Contact: JoAnn Nally
508-527-6973

CALLING ALL MEN!



Get Together with Fr. Nally
Saturday Mornings 8:00-9:00AM

Church Hall, during Advent

November 30th

December 7th, 14th and 21st

Talk about the: Upcoming Sunday Gospel,
Ask Questions, Share Ideas

All Men (Teens to Older Adults) Are Welcome!

ADVENT FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Would you like to try out a Faith Sharing Group? Advent is a good time to come and join with others as we prepare for Christmas.

Groups meet on Wednesday: 7:10- 8:15PM or Friday: 10:00-11:15 AM starting the week of December 2nd If you have any questions, please speak with one of the Priests, Joyce Purcell or JoAnn Nally.

**SAVE THE DATE
ADVENT EVENING
of PRAYER
and
REFLECTION**



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

6:30- 8:00 pm In the Church.

There will also be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.