

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden
December 10, 2017: Second Sunday of Advent

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606
Parish Office: 508-853-0183
www.saintgeorgesparish.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 508-856-9960 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 through Friday 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.

A Community of Ministries, December 10, 2017

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 9: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Charles Keith by family

Sunday, December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM In memory of Tina Shackett

9:00 AM Memorial for Earle & Esther Garrepy &
Sister Mary Sylvia by family

Rosary after 9:00 AM Mass

11:00 AM Memorial for Bernice Larose by
Cathy & Bob Richardson

12:30 PM Sacrament of Baptism

Monday, December 11: St. John Damasus I

8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Tuesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 AM For the intentions of Dante Brodeur

Wednesday, December 13: St. Lucy

8:00 AM For the souls in purgatory

Thursday, December 14: St. John of the Cross

8:00 AM Memorial for Edward Weber by the
Purcell family

Friday, December 15:

8:00 AM In memory of Elizabeth & Mary Grady

Saturday, December 16: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Bertha LeFrancois by family

Sunday, December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Memorial for Sr. Clare O'Brien by the
Manning family

9:00 AM In memory of Peg Plante

11:00 AM 4th Anniversary for Neil A. Olen by family

Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to parish</u>
December 31	Wednesday, Dec. 13
January 7	Tuesday, Dec. 19
January 14	Wednesday, Jan. 4

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 D who will serve at our Masses
next weekend.



We Commend to your Prayers

Adele Cote

May the Angels lead her into Paradise

Parish Calendar

Giving Tree Gift Returns

Saturday, December 9:

5:15 PM Spiritual Growth Meeting Confr Rm
8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 10:

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 Mass & Meeting Church/Center
10:00 AM Men's Club Meeting Confr Rm

Monday, December 11:

4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center
4:30 PM Christmas Carols Church
5:45 PM Yoga Hall
7:00 PM Pieta Confr Rm

Tuesday, December 12:

10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Meeting Hall
4:15 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 1-6 Center
4:30 PM Christmas Carols Church
6:00 PM Girl Scouts Confr Rm

Wednesday, December 13:

6:30 PM Daughters of Isabella Hall
7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm

Thursday, December 14:

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, December 15:

10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group Center
5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal Church

Saturday, December 16:

1:30 PM Wedding Church
8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 17:

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 December 10, 2017

10 SUN Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

11 Mon Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

12 Tue Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk
1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

13 Wed Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

14 Thu Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

15 Fri Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

16 Sat Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

17 SUN Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Second Collection

This weekend, a collection will be taken up at all
Masses for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.
Thank you for your generosity.

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Weekend of December 3, 2017

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$8,292.67

Monthly Totals for November

Repairs: \$1,071.00
Air Conditioning Fund: \$150.00
Fuel: \$1,532.00

Thank you for your support!

This Week...

Pray for all children, that God may protect them from forms of harm, and that we too may learn from the example of children and receive Christ with humility, trust and without fear.

Coffee Shop Captain



December 17, 2017
Mark Viens: 774-262-0309

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.

Men's Club Meeting

The monthly Men's Club meeting will be held *this* Sunday, December 10, 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!!!

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.

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.



From Your Pastor

[Winter] Weekday Storm Schedule

Soon, we will be entering the winter season, and we all will be confronting travel with snow, sleet and freezing rain. So that you will know what will be done about weekday morning Mass when we have such weather, please note that whenever there is a "Cancellation" or "Delay in Opening" announcement for the Worcester schools and/or Wachusett school district, the 8:00 AM Weekday Mass is automatically cancelled. Please save this announcement for future reference.

This year, like last year, 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 Mr. Christopher Cummings, the President of St. Peter-Marian, and the rest of the high school staff 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:

Sunday, December 24th:

4:00 P.M. - Church

4:30 P.M. - St. Peter-Marian High School

Monday, December 25th:

8:00 A.M. - Church

10:00 A.M. - Church

Calendars for the year 2018 are available here in church.

Fr. Nicolls

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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

Important Dates for Grade Two

This is a very exciting year for our religious education students in grade two. They will have the opportunity to receive TWO sacraments. First Reconciliation will take place in January and 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.

1st Reconciliation

First Reconciliation Retreat- Saturday, January 20, 2018 2:30-4:00pm

(Families will have the opportunity to choose 1 of the 2 First Communion dates at this retreat)

First Reconciliation Ceremony- Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:00am

1st Communion

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

"Father Riley Holy Land Tour in April, 2018"

Fr. Walter Riley, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, will be hosting a trip to Israel from April 11-19, 2018 called "A Journey for the Believer." The tour will include sites such as Caesarea and Galilee in the north of Israel, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada in the south, visiting many holy sites connected to our Christian faith and ancient Israel. Come on this unforgettable and very affordable trip to the places where Jesus carried out his ministry and message of salvation. The cost for the trip is \$2479.00, which includes airfare on British Airlines, first class hotels, land tour, 7 breakfasts, 7 dinners, and 1 lunch. THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNUP IS JANUARY 1, 2018. Booking reservations can be made on the website <http://gate1travel.com/customgroups/IL1357361>. This website contains all information for the trip needed. Any questions, feel free to call Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419. This trip is limited to 30 people, with 22 signed up at this time.

Online Giving Raffle – Join Us!

Have you considered online giving as a way of making your contributions systematically and without envelopes? For anyone who joins Online Giving during the period of November 15-January 31, your name will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Target Gift Card. Online Giving is a simple and secure method of fulfilling your stewardship even when you cannot attend Mass. Your contribution is debited automatically from your checking, savings, or credit card account on a monthly basis. You determine the day of the month. Giving electronically helps the church save money on printing and processing of envelopes. It saves you from writing checks or having cash available for envelopes. It's easy – log into www.saintgeorgesparish.org and get started. Directions are also printed and available in the church at the entrances.

Eucharistic Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your Body and Blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship:

"Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live-the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

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 December 11 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room.

Please join us.

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Giving Tree Gift Returns this weekend



2nd Sunday of Advent

When the hurricanes developed and headed toward the Gulf Coast, especially Gustav, people were tuned in to radio, television and the internet, waiting for any announcement about the storm's track or power or damaging effects. Knowing that any minute might bring some news, people all over the country stayed tuned to hear the latest developments. Big announcements always attract lots of attention.

John the Baptist generates quite a bit of interest. His unusual style of dress and his pointed message of reform get everyone's attention. People heeded his words, coming to him in large numbers and accepting his baptism of repentance. But there was more to come. The Baptist's preaching announces the coming of Christ and His message of love, hope and redemption.

As a people of faith who await the Coming of the Lord, our words and deeds of anticipation should serve as a witness to faith and an example of love and service. All believers announce the message of salvation by the way they live their lives. An announcement this big is reflected in how we treat others, how faithful we are to our values and beliefs and how dedicated we are to sharing the Gospel with others. Make sure we are sending the right message. The world is watching and waiting.

~James Gaffney, © 2008 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing
jim@stgeorgepublishing.com

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

During the month of December, Pope Francis has asked that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

A Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.



Please wrap your Giving Tree Gift loosely in a GIFT BAG and reattach the tag. Kindly return it to the church no later than December 10th at the 11:00 AM Mass. If you have forgotten, please call Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 to arrange immediate drop off. All are invited to stay after Mass to help with sorting in the Parish Center. No

special skill needed, just a willingness to help for a few minutes.

Thanks to your generosity, more than 200 gifts will be given this year through:

- * Crescent Manor Nursing Home
- * St. Francis Home
- * The Mustard Seed
- * Winter Hill Rest Home
- * Miranda House
- * The Bridge of Central Mass
- * Aides Project Worcester
- * St. Mary's Nursing Home



Your donations were Gratefully Received

Several weeks ago I mentioned here in the bulletin that I had met a young woman at the Mustard Seed who was trying to wash up in the restroom and we had no supplies to help her out. Since then, many of you donated an amazing amount of hotel samples, towels and kits with everything anyone would need to clean up in a public place.

This past Friday night it was cold out when another young girl came to the door late in the evening. With her head down, she shyly asked for something to eat. She seemed happy to accept the bananas and bread that were leftover after the meal.

She wore only a sweatshirt and a pair of light jeans. We offered what we now had in the supply room; a lovely warm coat, a clean shirt and jeans, new socks, a warm hat and gloves as well as a hand knit scarf. She was delighted by each item. When asked if she could use a small hand towel, soap, shampoo and tooth brush she responded with an enthusiastic, "Sure, thanks!".

After a short while in the restroom she came out with her new outfit on, brighter eyes and her head held a little higher. "Thanks so much!" she said, and asked if she could give me a hug. I accepted it humbly on your behalf. Without your donations that filled the supply room, there would have been nothing to give. Many thanks to you all.

Annie Doyle

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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

Dear Friends of Outreach Ministry at St. George,

In just the last few weeks you have given the sick, homebound, homeless, and children in need, so many gifts:

- * Car loads of groceries
- * Countless hand knit scarves, shawls and hats
- * Crates full of Turkeys
- * Hours and hours of your time; buying, carrying, loading, lifting, and delivering
- * Trays of Cole slaw
- * Boxes of bananas and clementine
- * Armfuls of coats and jackets
- * A case of gloves and a case of winter hats
- * 400 hot dogs in fresh buns
- * Bags full of hotel hygiene samples
- * Colorful hand sown fleece hats and scarves
- * Bicycles!
- * A carton of new shirts
- * At least a hundred pairs of socks
- * The gift of listening to the hopes, fears, worries and joys of all you serve
- * 173 "Reindeer Bags" of treats and goodies
- * Piles of blankets and sleeping bags
- * Sheets, towels and pillowcases
- * Incredibly generous monetary gifts and grocery cards
- * The Great Gift of the Eucharist to our homebound
- * Rooms full of Christmas gifts and so much more!

This list does not do justice to the kindness, effort, creativity, time, and sacrifice that accompanied the gifts that were given. I have included this list here so that you will know that you are part of a great community effort that brings Christ to life in the lives of thousands of people in need. May you and those you love be filled with Christmas joy,

Annie Doyle

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Advent is about more than new ideas; it really is a time to take new actions. **Light a Candle:** This traditional Advent wreath is a marvelous action to teach holy expectation, but any light in the darkness will do. **Check Your Calendar:** Buy an Advent calendar and take turns opening the little doors each day. **Sit Still:** Find times during the day to sit and be still. The greatest complaint of the season is that it's too hectic. **Confront Evil:** Pick one way you and your family will try to right a wrong this Christmas season. Gather food for hungry neighbors. Buy presents for a family who's down and out. Sing carols at a nursing home. Work to change an unjust policy or practice at work or your neighborhood. You are the light of the world. Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. The world needs all the light it can gather!



"I'm going to be a chorus member in the Christmas pageant. I was going to be a shepherd 'til I found out I'd have to wear my bathrobe and count sheep."

Mustard Seed Family Christmas Party December 17th, Finger Sandwiches Welcome

We would like to serve healthy food along with the wonderful sweets and treats of Christmas. If you would like to contribute, simply leave the sandwiches in the Church Hall kitchen or fridge before 11AM on Sunday September 17th. Thank you in advance for your generosity, especially during this busy time of year!

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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.*

Faith Into Action Ministry

Faith Into Action Ministry continues to work to prevent family homelessness every weekend!



Please visit the home page of our parish website to see the inspiring story of our parishioner Matt Ryan who began the "Hope for Housing" project! 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 the most vulnerable; children with families in crisis.



See Sue or Dave Genereux after Mass or contact them at 508-829-5776 or email Way-sideATQ@aol.com for more information. They are happy to explain more about how "Hope for Housing Cards" help families on the brink of homelessness.

Toddler & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Toddlers and young children are invited to hear the Readings and Gospel in an age appropriate way during the 9:00 AM Mass. Please join us!

"Reindeer Bags"

Many thanks to Donna Alarie who led our Grade 6-9 Religious Education Students in a delightful outreach project. They made 173 "Reindeer Bags"! Each bag was filled with candy, pudding, juice, crackers and more! The bags will be donated to families and guests who come to the Mustard Seed. Many Thanks!



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Advent Evening of Reflection And Prayer
Tuesday Evening , December 19, 2017
7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Church

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

This evening is to give each of us some time to "come away to a quiet place and rest awhile"... away from the hectic pace of this busy time of year.

Start A New Tradition As Your Prepare For Christmas...Come As A Family

Young At Heart Women's Evening Of Gathering And Reflection

Thursday : January 25, 2018 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Speaker: Jamie Stuart Wolfe

Topic: Work-Life Balance

For more information: please speak with Sarah Kelly at the Religious Education Office OR talk with Andrea Berger, Kate Connor .

Register on the Parish website or after the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday: December 10, or 17

Deadline for Registration: December 17, 2017



All Are Welcome – Call Today

If you, or someone you know, are interested in finding out more about being baptized into the Catholic faith, please call the Parish Office today.

Perhaps you would like to learn more about receiving Holy Communion or Confirmation? Couples married by a Justice of the Peace may want to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Preparation sessions for this strengthening Sacrament are also available and far simpler than you would imagine.

For more information please call Annie Doyle at 508-853-0183 x 11.