

**Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden**  
**December 23, 2018: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606  
Parish Office: 508-853-0183  
[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://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](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 11

Parish Secretary  
[stgeooffice@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, December 23, 2018*

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*Mass Intentions*

**Saturday, December 22: Vigil**

4:00 PM Memorial for Robert J. Reidy Sr.  
by family

**Sunday, December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
7:30 AM George E. Niccols req. by his son  
9:00 AM Memorial for Brone Pridotkas by family  
11:00 AM Memorial for Marcel & Rosemary Mathias  
by family

**Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve**

No 8:00 AM Mass

**4:00 PM** Seasons Blessing to our parishioners

**4:30 PM** For the Community of St. George  
at St. Peter Marian High School

**Tuesday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 AM Seasons Blessings to all our parishioners

10:00 AM Seasons Blessings to all our parishioners

**Wednesday, December 26: St. Stephen**

6:30 PM For the intentions of our parishioners

**Thursday, December 27: St. John the Evangelist**

8:00 AM In memory of George Butler

**Friday, December 28: The Holy Innocents**

8:00 AM In memory of Michael Barber

**Saturday, December 29:**

4:00 PM 50th Anniversary of the Indian Hill Fire  
Tragedy-reception to follow in hall

**Sunday, December 30: Feast of The Holy Family**

7:30 AM Memorial for Dorothy Groden by the  
Duclos family

9:00 AM Memorial for Francis X. Naughton Jr.  
By family

11:00 AM Memorial for Sebastiana Gomes  
by Judy and Jim Pickett

**Everyone is Invited!**

Join us downstairs in the Church Hall after Sunday Mass on December 23 for coffee, a donut, and time to enjoy one another's company. Please note that there is no coffee shop on December 30th.

**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.

**Bulletin Deadlines**

Weekend of

Due to parish

January 13, 2019

Wednesday, December 26

January 20, 2019

Wednesday, January 9

January 27, 2019

Wednesday, January 16

Items must be submitted by 3:00 PM on the due date.

Email items to stgeooffice@gmail.com, or fax to the rectory.

*Parish Calendar*

**Saturday, December 22:**

8:00 PM AA Hall

**Sunday, December 23:**

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall

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

9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf Rm

**Monday, December 24:** No Yoga

**Tuesday, December 25:**

**Wednesday, December 26:**

**Thursday, December 27:**

6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

**Friday, December 28:**

**Saturday, December 29:**

8:00 PM AA Hall

**Sunday, December 30:** Rectory Open House

**St. George Rectory Open House**

All are invited to the parish rectory on

**Sunday, December 30, 2018**

After all Sunday Masses

7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Refreshments will be provided

**Scripture for the week of December 23, 2018**

- 23 SUN Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
24 Mon Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79  
25 Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
26 Wed Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
27 Thu 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
28 Fri 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
29 Sat 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
30 SUN Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52



*We Commend to your Prayer*

Oliva Garceau

*May the Angels lead him into Paradise*

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**Weekend of  
December 9, 2018**

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$8143.50

Thank you for your support! Your generosity helps us to continue to be a caring and vibrant community!

**Holy Father's Prayer  
Intentions for December**

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith, that people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

*This Weekend's Stewardship Thought*

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

*This Week...*

Let us pray together for all pregnant women throughout the world, that they may safely deliver a healthy child into the waiting arms of a loving family.



*"From Your Pastor" Continues ...*

On Saturday, December 29th, at the 4:00 P.M. Mass we will observe the 50th anniversary of a tragedy that had badly shaken the St. George Parish community in the winter of 1968. Five young men, Warren Briggs, Timothy Donahue, Michael Foley, John Quinlivan, and Ronald Vysniauskas lost their lives in a fire in a clubhouse in the woods on Indian Hill. Deacon Roy Briggs, Warren's brother, will assist as deacon of the Mass and be the homilist. All are welcome to attend this Mass in remembrance of these young men and to support their families and friends. A reception will follow in the church hall.

Calendars for the year 2019 are available here in church.



*From Your Pastor*

In two days we will celebrate the awesome mystery of Christmas. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us that "Christmas is an event which is renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. Like Mary, the Church shows everyone the 'sign of God' the child whom she bore in her womb and to whom she gave birth, yet who is the son of the Most High, since he 'is of the Holy Spirit' (Mt. 1:20). He is truly the Savior, for he is the Lamb of God who takes upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn. 1:29). With the shepherds, let us bow down before the Lamb, let us worship God's goodness made flesh, and let us allow tears of repentance to fill our eyes and cleanse our hearts...He alone can save us. Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war."

*We extend to you & your loved ones our prayerful best wishes for a Blessed & Merry Christmas!*

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:

Monday, December 24th:

4:00 P.M. - Church

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

Tuesday, December 25th:

8:00 A.M. Church

10:00 A.M. - Church

This year our holiday open house at the rectory will take place after the 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 A.M. Masses on Sunday, December 30th. You are most welcome to attend.

("From Your Pastor" continues in the adjacent column)

*Fr. Niccolls*



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### *Religious Education*

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784  
Email : [sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)  
[Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org)

#### **Religious Education Giving Tree**

Thank you so much for helping to decorate our Giving Tree. We received many generous donations of socks and gloves that we will donate to those in need.

#### **Christmas Break**

Grades 1-5 : We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. Classes will resume in the new year on Monday, January 7th and Tuesday, January 8th. We are looking forward to seeing all the wonderful students in our religious education program again in 2019!

Grades 6-9: See you in 2019 on January 6 & 27!

#### **Thank You for Reindeer Bags!**

The Mustard Seed guests are grateful to the students in Grades 6 –9 and their families for the wonderful Reindeer Snack Bags! More than 200 bags of healthy snacks added extra special Christmas treats to help celebrate the season!



Thank You to Donna Alaire for the great idea and for your example of years of faithful service!

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

#### **Wondering about becoming Catholic?**

Have you ever considered the idea of becoming Catholic or receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Confirmation and/or Marriage ? Do you have a friend, neighbor, or relative who might be curious about the Catholic faith?

Our priests are happy to speak with anyone who is interested in exploring this thought or feel free to contact

Annie Doyle at 508-853-0183 x11 or [annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) with any questions.



Join Us! 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.

#### **Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours**

Open 4:30 AM to 8:00 PM Daily

Please consider visiting the Chapel  
All are welcome!



Note: The chapel is closed during the hours when students are in the building as of September 16th and continuing until the end of April..

Times are posted on the door.

#### **Year-End Donation Information**

Many thanks for your wonderful and continuing generosity to our parish. Please be advised that all contributions, made via Weekly Offering Envelopes, received by December 31, 2018, will be sent to the parish envelope company to be credited to calendar year 2018. End of year statements will be mailed from the envelope company by January 31, 2018.

All gifts received the weekend of Jan. 1 forward will be credited to calendar year 2019.

If you contribute to the parish via "On line Giving" a statement of your contributions may be printed off on line.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 508-853-0183 or [stgeooffice@gmail.com](mailto:stgeooffice@gmail.com). and we will be happy to assist you.

#### **St. George's "Food Donation Team"**

For information on bargains and/or to join the team, just email Dave at [DavewithFDT@gmail.com](mailto:DavewithFDT@gmail.com)

Special food pantry needs for December are:

Cans of Tuna Fish (flip top if possible)  
100% Juice Boxes and Granola Bars



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**Room for Christ**

"It is no use saying that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Christ... Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. But now it is with

the .. heart of anyone in need that He longs for shelter. And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ."

Dorothy Day 1897-1980

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**Diocesan Daily Mass on TV**

Daily Mass is LIVE each weekday morning on Charter TV3 (Ch193), delay Broadcast on Shrewsbury TV28 at 4:30 pm and Clinton Cable TV8 at 4:30 pm.

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***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 understanding in this matter.

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***Coffee Shop Captain***

December 23, 2018  
Don Viens  
508-852-5658



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.

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**Marriage Enrichment Weekends**

Consider attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to enrich your Sacrament of Marriage.

The next Weekend is Jan 18-20, 2019 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwwmema.org/>.

***Letter from Bishop McManus***

December 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem stands as an ancient witness to the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally constructed in 327 A.D. over a cave venerated as the birthplace of Jesus, most of the original church was destroyed in a sixth century Samaritan revolt. Rebuilt in 565, the second church still stands today.

Through the centuries, the Church of the Nativity has been battered by time and weather. It has suffered fires, earthquakes, desecrations and even gun battles. The interior, too, suffers neglect as squabbles among Armenian, Greek and Catholic caretakers have delayed needed renovations to the roof, walls and paintings.

For some on the outside, the Church of the Nativity, battered, fortress-like and unattractive to the eye, is disappointing. Even to some on the inside, the neglect is disheartening.

But then, descending a staircase to the cave below, one sees on the floor a silver star and the words, "Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary." Those words and that realization give one profound pause. Here, on this very spot, salvation came, hope was born. Here, Mary laid God's Son in a manger. To this very place, angels directed shepherds who hastened and worshiped. In this very place, like Mary and Joseph, pilgrims for centuries knelt in awe and wonder. From this spot, they have returned home, closer to God, renewed in faith, convinced anew of the great love of God who created us and draws us on. Realizing all that, pilgrims are glad that they did not let the visible defects deter them from entering the Church and staying in it to reach the sacred spot.

In some ways, the Church of the Nativity might be a metaphor for today's Church. Scandals, desecration, and the neglect of some priests and bishops in past years have caused tremendous suffering and sullied the image of the Church. Looking around from outside, some don't want to enter. Being discouraged on the inside, others have left. This, too, is tragic because it is only in the heart of the Church in the liturgy, sacraments, communion of the saints, the Scriptures and Tradition authentically handed on that one can regularly encounter the ordinary means of God's saving graces. Our world, our society and culture need those graces. We must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect our children but we must also never forget the treasures that have been entrusted to the Church and offered to us in the sacraments. The same Jesus, born at Bethlehem, and laid in the manger by Mary comes to us to nourish our souls, to bring us His love, healing and peace. Like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, may that encounter give you and your loved ones joy and peace on Christmas and each week at Mass. With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester

## *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

### **Many Thanks for Giving Tree Generosity**

Once again the joy of the season came to life through the generosity of gift giving and service. Hundreds of gifts were donated, sorted, bagged, and delivered to:

Crescent Manor Nursing Home  
St. Francis Home  
The Mustard Seed  
Winter Hill Rest Home  
The Bridge/Open Sky  
Aids Project Worcester  
St. Mary's Nursing Home  
Blair House  
Our Lady of Providence Parish  
And several special families



### **Many Thanks for:**

- \* Hours and hours of your time; buying, carrying, loading, lifting, and delivering
- \* Armfuls of coats and jackets for the poor and homeless
- \* Gloves, hand knitted winter hats and scarves
- \* Bags full of hotel hygiene samples
- \* New clothes for people who rarely have anything new
- \* Amazing toys, games and clothing for children to unwrap on Christmas morning and the gift of joy to their parents who take delight in their children's happiness
- \* The gift of listening to the hopes, fears, worries and joy of all you serve
- \* Incredibly generous monetary gifts and grocery cards that help prevent homelessness
- \* The Great Gift of the Eucharist which you bring to our sick and homebound community members

As I have said previously, lists do not do justice to the kindness, effort, creativity, time, and sacrifice that accompanies the gifts that you give.

This list is included 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.

Annie Doyle, Parish Outreach

### **THE FAMILY CONNECTION**



Christmas Eve... If you are not in the habit of praying together as a family, Christmas Eve offers a wonderful opportunity to begin. After the children are ready for bed and the stockings have been hung, gather everyone in the family or living room. Lower the lights and read the story of the first Christmas from Luke 2:1-20. If you have a manger scene, your children can have the honor of putting the infant in the crib at this time.



### **Help prevent family homelessness !**

Use "Hope for Housing Cards"  
to buy your weekly groceries  
or prescriptions at CVS.



**They make great holiday gifts as well!**

**\$10 dollar cards to Dunkin Donuts, CVS, and Panera make great Stocking Stuffers!**

Give a Dunkin Donut or Panera Bread Gift Card as a birthday gift to a friend.

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.

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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.*

### Daily Advent Prayers



Many thanks to hundreds of our Parishioners, of all ages, who led us in prayer and joined together on our web site for Daily Advent Prayers. It has been so wonderful to prepare together for the birth of Jesus!

Now we rejoice together!  
God is with Us!

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### Parish e-news

Want to hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish? Simply visit **[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org)** and click on the link on the homepage to easily add your email address.

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### 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.



### Spiritual Growth Ministry

**3rd Annual:  
Young Women's Evening  
of Faith and Fellowship**

Thursday, January 31, 2019  
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Contact Sarah Kelly 508-852-1784 or  
Kate Connor 508-829-4250 for details



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### Collecting Continues

As winter continues so does the collecting of warm hats, mittens, and gloves sponsored by the Spiritual Growth Ministry.



A collection box is located in the church hall. Thank you for your generosity.

*The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention...A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.*

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### 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.

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Toddler & Children's Liturgy of the Word will not take place during Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

See you December 30th!

