

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

December 29, 2019 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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, December 29, 2019

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Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 28, Vigil
4:00 PM Memorial for Bertha Lefrancois by family
Sunday, December 29 Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM Special Intention
9:00 AM Special Intention
11:00 AM For the Community of St. George
Monday, December 30:
8:00 AM For the Community of St. George
Tuesday, December 31:
Wednesday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
Thursday, January 2: Saints Basil and Gregory
8:00 AM
Friday, January 3:
8:00 AM
Saturday, January 4: Vigil
4:00 PM
Sunday, January 5: Epiphany of the Lord
7:30 AM Special Intention
9:00 AM Special Intention
11:00 AM For the Community of St. George

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, 2019.

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. and we will be happy to assist you.

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.



Parish Calendar



Saturday, December 28:
8:00 PM AA Hall
Sunday, December 29:
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room
Monday, December 30:
No Yoga
Tuesday, December 31:
Wednesday, January 1:
Thursday, December 26:
6:30 PM Family Prayer Church
Friday, January 2:
11:00 AM Grandparent Prayer Conf. Room
Saturday, January 3:
8:00 PM AA Hall
Sunday, January 4:
8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Room
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf. Room

Bulletin Item Due Dates

January 5, 2020 Thursday, December 23
January 12, 2020 Monday, December 30
January 19, 2020 Monday, January 6
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.



No Coffee Shop on December 29,
Holiday Open House in Rectory

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!

Rectory Open House – December 29, 2019

Please join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season with our annual rectory open house.

Everyone is invited to stop by the Rectory on Sunday, December 29 after all Masses.

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Letter from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, I appeal to you to give generously next weekend to the National Collection for The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Established in 1887, the University has served the Church, students and the community for generations and is the only American University with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy and theology.

Catholic University is helping to renew and strengthen the Church. The University has always been the research institution where the Church comes to think. Through hosting a national conference series focused on laity response to the sex abuse crisis, and in creating an Institute for Diocesan Excellence in Administration (IDEA), where lay scholars and professionals can support clergy by providing expertise and accountability in the areas of education, finance, canon law, culture, and more, Catholic University will serve as a springboard in renewing and strengthening Catholicism in our country.

Catholic University serves the Church by engaging its students to discover knowledge and truth through excellence in teaching and research. With its 12 schools and 23 research centers, the University provides an exceptional Catholic education to almost 7,000 students annually. By way of its many programs, such as those in ethical business practices; classical architecture; intelligence studies; neuroscience; nursing; Spanish language and Hispanic ministry; social service; and Catholic bioethics the University prepares students to respond to the many issues facing the Church and society today.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America, to be taken at the Lord's Day Masses in all the parishes throughout the Diocese of Worcester next weekend, January 4 & 5.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



From Your Pastor

We extend to you & your loved ones our prayerful best wishes for a Happy New Year!

This year our holiday open house at the rectory will take place after the 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 A.M. Masses this Sunday, December 29th. You are most welcome to attend.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your many cards, gifts (and treats which will come in handily at the holiday open house this morning as well as being shared with the parish staff). Your overwhelming generosity at this time of the year is gratefully appreciated. Thank you!!!

Several additional "thank-you"s are also in order this week:

THANK YOU to those who helped in decorating the church for the Christmas season. Many comments were shared with me as to how nice and festive the church looked.

THANK YOU to our Music Ministry for the spiritually uplifting music you provided to make these special days of Advent and Christmas so festive. Your service was very much appreciated, as always.

THANK YOU to those of you who volunteered as Altar Servers, Lectors, Communion Ministers and Greeters for the Masses at Christmas. Your service, too, was very much appreciated.

Wednesday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be on Wednesday at 8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M. There will be no Mass at 6:30 P.M.

On Monday evening, January 6th, we will hold the third session of our Bible Study, entitled Sip, Snack and Scripture. This Bible Study will take place in the church hall from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. On that night we will focus on the following chapters from the Prophet Isaiah – 40: 1-8 & 55: 1-13. All are welcome to attend.

Calendars for the year 2020 are available here in church.

Fr. Niccolls

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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

Hello families,

I am sending out my regular email to families of students in grades 1-5, but I am also including the families of students in grades 6-9. I want to give the students in the older grades the opportunity to take part in the Christmas pageant. It would be wonderful to have our older students helping our younger students.

Christmas Pageant: This year we will have a Christmas pageant on Sunday, January 5 at 1:00pm in the church with refreshments to follow in the church hall. There will be speaking parts for narrators, a choir of angels singing parts of different Christmas songs and we will have children playing the parts of the people of the Nativity story. The first meeting will be on Sunday, December 15 immediately following the 9:00am mass in the church. We will also have rehearsals on Sunday, December 22 and Sunday, December 19 immediately following the 9:00am mass. Please respond to this email if you plan to attend this coming Sunday in order for me to have any idea of how many students would like to be involved.

We will have the pageant in the Church and then join together downstairs for some refreshments. I have a wonderful script that includes speaking parts who act as narrators, a choir of angels who sing parts of different Christmas songs and the members of the Nativity. Please let me know if you would like to be involved as a volunteer, and if your children would like to participate.

Classes will resume on Monday, January 13 and Tuesday, January 14.

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.

Attention of Parents 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.



Scripture for the week of December 29, 2019

29	SUN Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
30	Mon 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
31	Tue 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

This Week...

On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, let us pray together for all families throughout the world, that they may begin this New Year in PEACE and JOY.

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



From Father Nally:

Read the full version at
respectlifeprogram.org/adoption-love-story



Having children and raising a family had always been our expectation. We soon learned, however that our changes of becoming pregnant were small. It wasn't long before we started talking about the possibility of adoption. I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would have loved a biological child. But with the prayerful discernment, we decided to start the process. On Christmas Eve, Bill* and I left the hospital with Andrew. It didn't take long before there was no doubt in our minds that he was our son, the greatest gift from God! We can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived more that we love Andrew.

* Name change for privacy. 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.

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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.

Giving Tree Gratitude

As many of you know, this year the Giving Tree gifts were donated to Aids Project Worcester, Winter Hill Rest Home, Blaire House, Crescent Manor Rest Home, St. Mary's Health Care, St Francis Nursing Home, Diocesan Seminarians, and the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker.

More than 500 gifts were given for those who would otherwise have very little or sadly would have gone without!

Thank you for all the care and attention that you gave to make Christmas possible for so many men, women and especially for the children. Your kindness was obvious in the lovely gifts and the extra treasures that you have added along with the requests.

We are very grateful to Ann Laurant, Cheryl Labreque and Andy Labreque for coordinating the requests, the sorting and the delivery effort.

Special thanks to the dozens of friends who helped to sort the gifts after Mass! It was great fun to work together! It has become a great tradition for so many of us now!



Thank You!

Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Contact: JoAnn Nally
508-527-6973



FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Would you like to try out a Faith Sharing Group?

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



ST. GEORGE CHURCH

Lenten Parish Mission
March 7-9, 2020

Presenter: Rev. John Predmore, S.J.
Topic: "GOD, WE ARE ALL EARS!"

Developing Greater Awareness of God's
Presence in our Daily Lives

Day and Evening Events
Encompassing All Age Groups

Information table, detailed brochures and
registration,

Weekends: January 4-5, 11-12, and 18-
19, 2020

Please Call Joanne (508-527-6973)
or Andrea (508-330-0267) for
additional information

A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

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

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Today is **Holy Family Sunday** which is celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate your own "holy family". Plan a family activity, whether a visit to other family members, a game, a family movie, or something else your family particularly enjoys. Take time to explain to your children that this is a "family" day in your house because it is the day when the church celebrates the family of Jesus and all our families. Make it a traditional fun day, that the whole family will anticipate each year.

All are Welcome to the Sacrament of Baptism

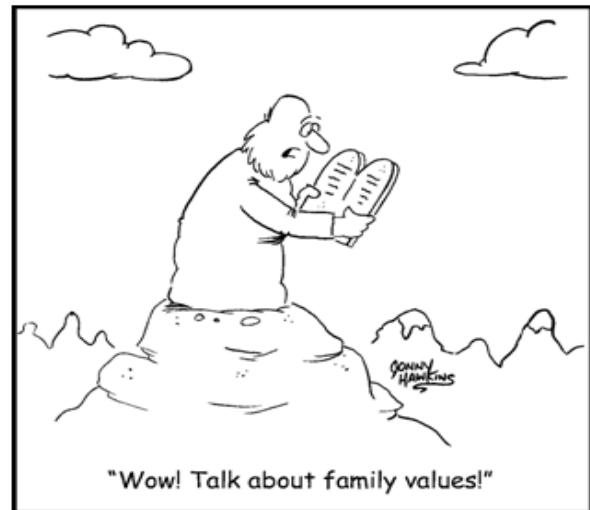
For registration, preparation
session dates and more information
please contact:

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



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Ages 3-5years

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a religious education program for children ages 3-5. The class meets one morning a week for an hour. The day for the 2019-2020 school year is Wednesday at 11:00am. Learn more at <https://www.cgsusa.org/> Please contact Sarah Kelly at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org to learn more.



Consider Joining Our Community of Ministries

*Call or e-mail the Parish Office today to
check out the many possibilities.*

We have something for everyone!

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.*

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)



Heartfelt thanks to the all our parishioners and friends who have been knitting scarves and hats for the homeless. They are now keeping hundreds of people warm! They also loved the cozy warm fleece scarves that Donna sewed!

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 December are:

Cereal, Peanut Butter and Cans of Chicken



(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.

A True Christmas Story

This story occurred over 100 years ago on Christmas Eve. It is one of the most unusual events in military history. On the night of December 24, 1914, the weather became very cold and froze the water and slush in the trenches where the German and British soldiers who were fighting each other in World War I were bunkered. Suddenly, the German soldiers began lighting candles. The British sentries reported seeing small lights raised on poles or bayonets. Although these lanterns clearly illuminated the German troops, making them vulnerable to being shot, the British did not fire. What was even more amazing was that British officers saw through their binoculars some enemy soldiers holding small Christmas trees with lighted candles over their heads. The message from the Germans to the British was clear. Germans who celebrated Christmas on Christmas Eve were extending holiday greetings to their enemies. Within moments of that sighting, the British began hearing a Christmas carol being sung by a few German soldiers. All the German soldiers soon picked it up as they started harmonizing. The words the British heard were, "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" The British soldiers recognized the carol as "Silent Night! Holy Night!" and began singing along with the Germans.

The singing of "Silent Night" quickly neutralized hostilities on both sides. Both German and British soldiers began to lay down their weapons and venture into no-man's land. So many soldiers had ventured out that there was no way that their superior officers could stop them. An undeclared truce had erupted and boards with the words "Merry Christmas" emerged. As the British and Germans walked more closely to each other, they met and after raising their hands above their heads, they shook hands. Some of the German soldiers spoke perfect English and told how fed up they were with the war and would be glad when it was over. Their British counterparts agreed. That night former enemies sat around a common campfire. They exchanged small gifts with each other from their meager belongings – chocolate bars, buttons, badges and small tins of processed beef. Men who were only two hours earlier had been shooting to kill each other were now sharing Christmas festivities and showing family pictures to one another.

The truce ended about the same way as it had begun. The captain of the British troops fired three shots into the air at 8:30 A.M. on December 26th and then stepped onto the bank of the trench. A German officer did likewise. They bowed and saluted to each other and then climbed back into their trenches. The German officer then fired two shots into the air, and the war resumed.

.. (from an article in *The Priest* magazine)