

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden
February 7, 2021: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

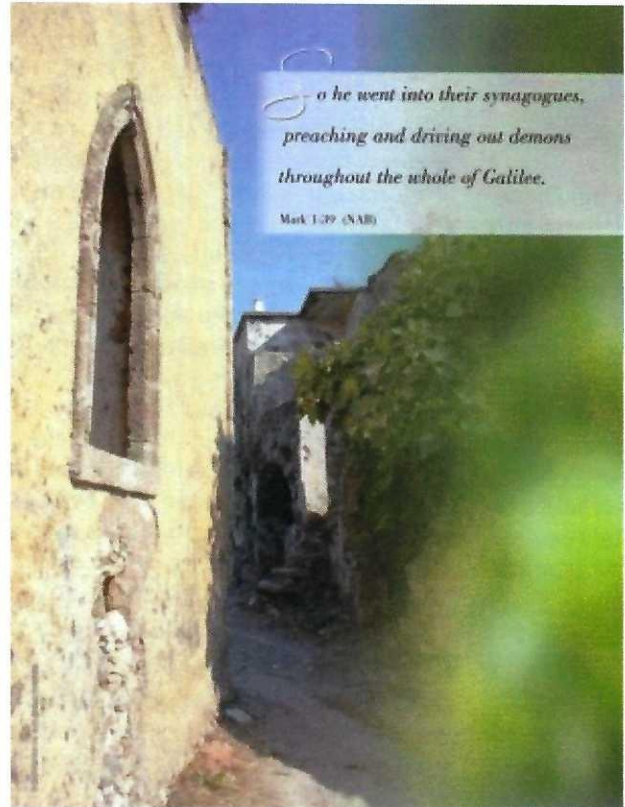
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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.



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, February 7, 2021

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From Your Pastor

In ten days we will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. With this Ash Wednesday and all Ash Wednesdays in the years to come, all parishes in the Diocese of Worcester will be taking up a collection for Priest Retirement. This collection will help to supplement revenues that are collected from the endowment of the Legacy of Hope campaign, the annual Partners in Charity appeal, the assessment to parishes for Priest Retirement, the 1% of the Cathedralricum (Diocesan Tax to parishes) that is used for Priest Retirement and the annual Celebrate Priesthood Program held in October. Without this collection our Diocese of Worcester will continue to operate in a deficit to fund Priest Retirement. We realize that making an appeal of this type is challenging in these difficult times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, but in any way that you can support this collection, your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

On Monday evening, March 1st, we will hold the first of a four-session Bible Study for Lent, entitled Sip, Snack and Scripture. During these four sessions, we will study the Letter to the Hebrews (Selected passages are used closer to and during Holy Week). This Bible Study will take place virtually from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. The other three sessions will take place on March 8th, 15th, & 22nd. You can provide your own refreshments for "Sip & Snack". All are welcome to attend.

Virtual Faith-Sharing for Men: Over a year ago, Fr. Nally, when he was our senior priest, began a faith-sharing group for men during Advent (2019) and Lent (2020) before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. This year during Lent, it is my plan to have this faith-sharing group during Lent but virtually on Saturdays from 8:00-9:00 A.M. Any man who would like to participate in this faith-sharing group is asked to contact me (508-853-0183) for more information.

Fr. Niccolls

Total Weekly Collection

1/25 2021 — 1/31, 2021

Ordinary Collection	\$ 3,752.10
On line giving	892.00
Total	\$ 4,644.10

Monthly Totals January:	
A/C	\$ 205.00
Fuel	1,022.00
Repairs	748.00
Total	\$1,975.00

**We are so grateful
for your generous
support especially
during these
pressing times.**

THANK
YOU



Mass Intentions

Live Mass is offered Saturdays at 4:00 PM
Sundays at 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM.
Live Mass is offered in the church at 8:00 AM
on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Live-streamed Mass is offered on our parish website
Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Confessions - heard in the church Saturdays 3:30PM

Saturday, February 6, 2021 4:00 p.m.

One month Anniversary Mass for Barbara Lamoreux
Requested by Fran and Bob Pike

Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:00 a.m.

Memorial Mass for Gerald DuCloss and Jerry DuCloss
Requested by Family

10:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Monday, February 8, 2021

8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

8:00 AM

Friday, February 12, 2021

8:00 AM

Saturday, February 13, 2021

4:00 PM

Sunday, February 14, 2021

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM Memorial Mass for Stuart Leroy

Requested by Ann Walsh

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of:

February 21, 2021

February 28, 2021

March 7, 2021

Due by:

February 11, 2021

February 18, 2021

February 27, 2021

Please submit items by 10:00 a.m. on the due date.

E-mail our Parish Secretary

Kate Lockney at: office@saintgeorgesparish.org.



To hear about updates and notifications from
St. George Parish, simply visit
www.saintgeorgesparish.org
and click on the yellow link "Join Our Email List"
on the homepage to add your email address.

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FRIDAY FAITH SHARING

With Joyce Purcell and
Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell

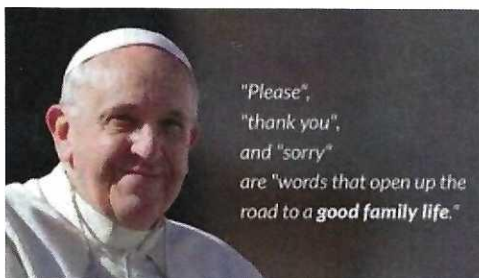
We have gone VIRTUAL
We hope you will join us for this time of
enriching prayer and reflection. No previ-
ous
experience necessary. All are welcome!

What You Need To Do:
Contact Andrea via email
andrea@svagdys.com

Andrea will email you the Zoom Link
and Readings/Reflection
(no need to buy the book this time)
You will need to have access to a computer with
Video and a Microphone.

The Family Connection:

Today ask yourselves what "ordinary" thing God
wants each of you to do well... be it doing the dishes,
listening to a friend in need, giving someone a ride or
letting someone get ahead of you in traffic.



Love recognizes no
barriers. It jumps
hurdles, leaps fences,
penetrates walls to
arrive at its destination
full of hope.

Thank you

You, the parishioners of St. George's, have con-
tinued to support our parish throughout these
historic months of the pandemic, and you have
recognized the need for maintaining our build-
ings and meeting our financial require-
ments. The Finance Committee's report last
month confirmed that our parish has been sus-
tained financially through these long months, and
we are grateful to you.

If you are interested in eliminating your enve-
lopes with our Online Giving program, you can
choose either a weekly or monthly method of
making your ongoing donations. The special col-
lections are also available through Online Giv-
ing. Access is available through our website's
weekly bulletin, and Kathy Hessel can assist at
mkhessel@aol.com.

For those who are not able to attend Mass in
person, we welcome your envelopes via regular
mail or by simply dropping them in the mailbox
on the front porch of the rectory. If you are in
need of support during this time, please contact
our Outreach Coordinator, Annie Doyle at
508-450-4134

**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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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784
email: sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org
Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org

This Weekends Stewardship Thought:

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of sharing in its blessings"

Congratulations:

Our 2nd graders from Session One made their First Holy Communion on Saturday, January 23, 2021. They did a wonderful job! The video can be found on the homepage of the parish website.

Session Two:

Session Two for students in Grades 1-5 will begin with a Zoom meeting for all students who have been remote during Session One on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 4:30pm. We will review the calendar, policies & procedures and health screening. A zoom link will be sent home to families. In person classes will then begin on February 8 & 9.

Zoom Meetings for Session Two:

Those students in grades 1-5 who attended classes in person 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 4:30pm on 3/4, 3/18, 4/15
Grade Two- Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 3/10, 3/31
and on Thursday at 4:30pm, 2/11
Grade Three- Wednesdays at 4:30pm on 2/24, 3/24, 4/14
Grade Four- Thursdays at 4:30pm on 2/25, 3/11, 3/25
Grade Five- Wednesdays at 4:30pm 2/10, 3/17, 4/7

The Spiritual Growth Committee met on Monday, January, 25th:

Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell and Bonnie Moran presented the final draft of the survey of parishioners to be administered within the next few weeks. The survey, to be completed either on line or on paper, will help Fr. Niccolls and the Spiritual Growth Committee plan future activities, especially during the duration of the COVID-induced limitations.

Lenten spiritual activities will include daily reflections from a brochure that will be inserted into the bulletin on the weekend of Feb. 13/14; a Bible Study conducted by Fr. Niccolls on the Letter to the Hebrews on four Monday evenings in March from 7 – 8:30 pm via ZOOM (March 1, 8, 15 and 22); a Lenten Evening of Recollection (with confessions) on Tues., Mar. 23 at 6:30 pm; confessions on Tues., Mar. 30 at 6:30 pm.; and Stations of the Cross available on the website every Friday in Lent.

Fr. Niccolls and the Committee are talking about an outreach to parishioners on the topic of death and dying: How will St. George parish support you when you lose a loved one? How can St. George parish, in conjunction with your preferred funeral director, help you pre-plan your funeral? What does it mean to "live well" and "die well"? What does the Church teach about cremation?

Fr. Niccolls and the Committee are talking about responding to an invitation from Fr. Donato Infante, Director of the Office of Vocations, to form a Vocations Team at St. George's.

Andrea reported that after a year of COVID-induced inactivity, the Friday Faith Sharing Group has resumed meeting. They are doing so virtually.

Spiritual Growth Committee members are: Deacon Paul – Chair; Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell; Joyce Purcell; Joan Talbot; Bonnie Moran; Patty Walsh; and Kyle Lewandowski.

Fr. Niccolls and Fr. DaSilva serve as *ex officio* members.

Eucharistic Adoration

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

**Thursday, March 4 from 6 - 7 pm and
Friday, March 5 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 posted on the home page.



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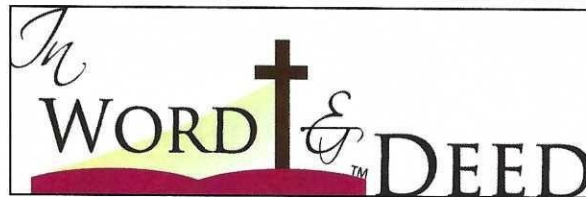
From Deacon Paul Audette:

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us
through his Letters

Henri exchanges letters with a priest friend who is a teacher. Both of them recognize the importance of affection in the relationship between a good teacher and his/her students (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

Dear David,
"... What you write about your relationship with your students really speaks to me very directly. If there is anything I have learned from teaching, it is that loving your students is the basis for a real learning process from both sides and that indeed this love has to be expressed concretely and directly... The mystery of it all is that as you start loving your students, often you start experiencing their pains more deeply yourself. But, as you well know, in this life love and pain are never separated, and I guess it is the place where suffering and love both meet that God is most present..."

Yours,
Henri



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A student presented an article to his class about things which successful people did to achieve their goals. Amazingly, almost every one of the famous people he researched had identified prayer and spiritual practices as an essential part of the day. It put life in perspective and values into practice.

Jesus needs time to pray and be one with the Father. In spite of the massive needs of the people and His desire to serve, Jesus still seeks time and the quiet solitude necessary for prayer. The more difficult the task, and the more challenging the work, the more time He prays. Jesus finds in prayer the grace and strength of His Father who guides and directs His mission. Prayer is essential to the success of Jesus and ultimately, the success of his Church.

Prayer strengthens our faith and renews our hope. It allows us to put our life in perspective, offering ourselves for the service of others. It is the Gospel of Christ we preach and the Kingdom of God we build. Don't lose contact with the Source of our life. Pray for wisdom, strength and courage. It's yours for the asking.

*~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St.
George Publishing*

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, February 8th 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.



Prayers for the Sick

Please, especially during these troubling times, call our parish office to let us know if a family member, friend or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. Since we can't always be together these days, you can help us to hold one another close in prayer.

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. Thank you for your understanding.

A Community of Ministries



"How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed. Though this is one of the smallest of seeds, it grows to become one of the largest of plants, with long branches where birds can come and find shelter."

Mark 4:30-32

Dear Friends,

A recent weekday Gospel was the parable of the mustard seed. The following was a reflection on that Gospel, given by Bishop Robert Barron. It reminded me of you and the ways that you work, as God works, reaching out to those in need - helping to make "God's Kingdom come".

Bishop Barron said,

"How does God tend to work? From the very small to the very great - and by a slow, gradual process. God tends to operate under the radar, on the edges of things, quietly, clandestinely, not drawing attention to himself.

C.S. Lewis speaks to this principle. How, he asks, did God enter history? Quietly, in a forgotten corner of the Roman Empire, sneaking behind enemy lines. How was European Christianity established? Through the handful of people that listened to St. Paul in Philippi and Athens. How did the mighty Franciscan movement come to be? One odd, mystical kid who heard a voice coming from a crucifix: "Francis, rebuild my Church, which is falling into ruin." A handful of followers joined him in his quixotic project, then dozens, then hundreds, then thousands.

So don't be afraid to do small things at the prompting of God! Plant the seed, make the move, take the risk - take even the smallest step, and don't worry about who notices or how much attention you're getting. Sow the seed and leave the rest to the mercy and providence of God."

Continued in next column above...

As I see it, so many of you sow these seeds every day!

I find the thoughtful treats that you leave, cookies in the bag of groceries you donate to the food pantry. I find cases of new towels for the shelter and so many cans of tuna fish I can hardly lift the bag! You donate not one Giving Tree gift but a half dozen! You knit Prayer Shawls for years and you always donate the yarn along with your labor and prayers. There is a need for warm winter clothing and in a few days the Outreach Collection Area is filled with everything that's needed. In the middle of this worldwide pandemic you are donating so much food that we are now able to even share some with the Urban Missionaries food pantry!

You continue to sell, buy and send grocery cards for families in need. You always ask, "What do you need?". "How can I help?" You sew scarves, knit hats, buy soup and cereal, donate meals, teach Religious Ed classes for years, serve as ushers and Ministers of Holy Communion for decades, and send incredibly generous donations for folks in need. You sing for all of us when Covid precautions sadly silence us. You make videos and take pictures, You shop for elderly neighbors and bake for grieving families. And so much more!

As I see it, you - the parishioners of St. George Parish, work as God works. Quietly and carefully you plant seeds of love and kindness....abundantly, faithfully and generously!

Every day I am amazed and so grateful.

Peace and Joy to You All,

Annie Doyle
Parish Outreach Coordinator

You plant seeds every single day, in the world and in others, with every thought you think and word you speak and action you take. You have influence. You're making a dent in the universe and you matter, in a very real way.

jennifer williamson

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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.*



Food for Folks in Need

Thank you for continuing your generous food donations to the Mustard Seed Food Pantry and to our local "Loaves and Fishes" Food Pantry. We are now also sharing food donations with the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope.

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 February are:
Cans of soup, peanut butter and tuna**

**Join Our Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2021
Knit or Crochet At Home**

Thank you to all of our faithful knitters who continue to spread comfort and kindness through their generous work!

During this difficult time we knit and pray as we work from home.

New members are invited to join this important ministry of outreach to the sick, suffering and lonely.

Feel free to contact Kathy Hessel with any questions at mkhessel@aol.com

**Help to Spread the Good News!
Join St. George Bulletin Ambassadors**

Generous St. George volunteers continue to hand deliver our weekly bulletin to their neighbors each week. How about joining this effort to deliver the bulletin to a neighborhood near you?

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 .

**You Can Help Prevent Family Homelessness
after the 4 PM Mass Saturday
and
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.



Fr. Thiago sends a message from Brazil!

We invite you to visit our Parish website for a video interview from Brazil with Fr. Thiago .

Father is waiting there for his visa and is taking care of his mom who is ill. Please pray for her as she is having surgery this weekend.

The video also includes pictures of the local area and a visit with Fr. Thiago's mom.

Many thanks to our technology ministers for making this amazing video possible!

Please continue to pray for Fr.Thiago and his family.

Thank You!

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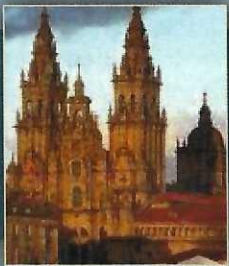
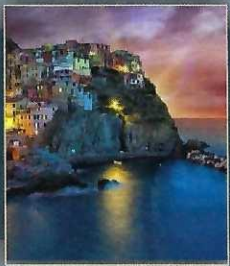
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