

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

August 16, 2020: Twentieth 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

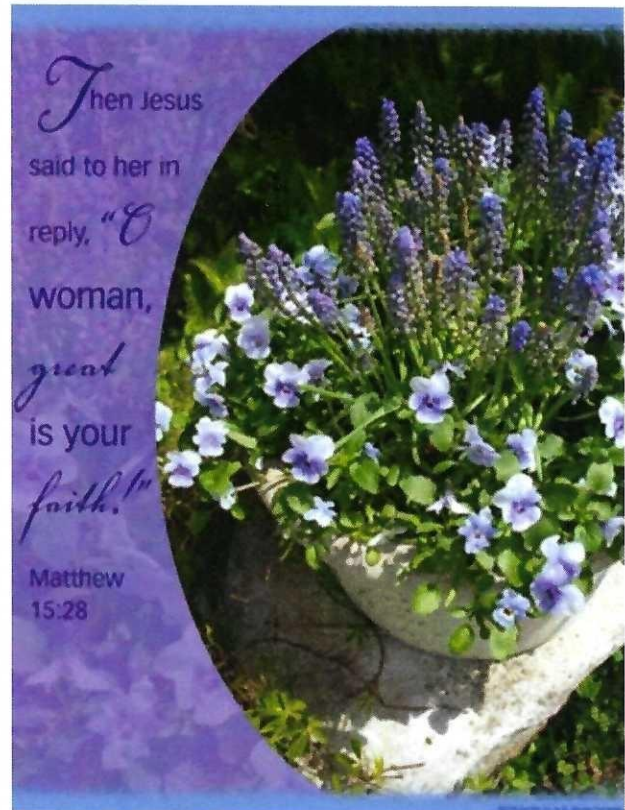
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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 and 10:00 AM Sunday.

Please visit our parish website for details
and to register for Mass.

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 will be 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, August 16, 2020

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Mass Intentions

Currently we are celebrating Masses in church on a limited schedule.

Phase B - Began July 1

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

Saturday, August 15, 4:00 PM

In memory of Matthew Ryan, req. by family

Sunday, August 16, 10:00 AM

For the Community of Saint George

Registration is required for those attending live weekend Masses

Register for Mass on our parish website,
Need Assistance registering for a weekend Mass?
Call our Parish Outreach Coordinator
Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134

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

No registration is required for live weekday Mass
at 8:00 AM, Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Confessions will be heard in the church
3:00-3:30 PM on Saturdays



From Your Pastor

Our readings for this weekend reveal the generosity of God's grace. God wants all people to know his love and mercy. Through Jesus and the gift of faith, the door to the Kingdom of God is opened to all who accept the Good News. We who accept God's grace through our Baptism and as members of God's Church are called to proclaim the Good News to everyone. Each of us has a role in welcoming those who seek God's healing and mercy. As we join in worship, let us pray that God's grace will help us to be channels of that grace to everyone, like the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel who came seeking help from Jesus.

I had forgotten to mention that our seminarian for this summer, Thiago Ibiapina, has already left for a visit with cousins in New Jersey and will then be returning to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore to begin his third year of theological studies. We wish him well as he begins this new school year and pray that it will be an enriching one for him spiritually as well as academically. Thiago will most likely be returning here around Thanksgiving for an extended stay to complete his first semester.

Fr. Niccolls

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Bulletin for Aug. 30, 2020 due by Thursday, Aug. 20
Bulletin for September 7, 2020 due by August 27

Please submit items by 10:00 a.m. on the due date.
e-mail our Parish Secretary at:

office@saintgeorgesparish.org.

Thank You

We commend to your prayers....

Gertrude "Trudy" H. Sand

*May the angels lead her
into paradise.*

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

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.



Sign up to receive e-news!
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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Offertory Alternatives

During this time, as we await the day when our parish may fully open its doors again, we continue to pray for those affected by the virus, the healthcare workers, and all whose livelihood is disrupted. Our parish is welcoming it's vibrant community 'home' in gradual phases, following State and Diocesan Guidelines.

Our buildings must be maintained and no one could predict this extraordinary event. As you are able, our offertory donations can be delivered in several ways. Online giving is an easy and safe method – simply go to our parish website at www.saintgeorgesparish.org and follow the icons for Online Giving. You may now make your donations weekly or monthly. If you need assistance with online giving, please contact Kathy Hessel at mkhessel@aol.com

Alternatively, should you wish to drop your envelopes at the rectory, the mail box on the front porch is available and checked regularly. Some parishioners may choose to send their donations through the regular mail.

At this time there will be no general collection taken during the Presentation of the Gifts at Mass. However, there will be baskets located at the railing for parishioners to leave gifts either before or after Mass.

Please know that we are sensitive to the households already impacted by this temporary loss of employment. Thank you for your support of our parish.

If you or anyone in your family is in need of assistance, please contact our Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, Annie Doyle, at 508- 450- 4134

God's Great Earth

Visit our parish Website for
Resources and Activities

Open My Senses

Open my senses, God, to understand and answer the needs of others. Keep my ears attuned to the laughter of children, my eyes to the needs of the hidden. Let my nose smell the beauty of flowers and transform the earth's decay to the scent of fecundity. May my touch be gentle in raising up those who live under a heavy burden. May I savour the taste of your abundance and make the earth sustainable for all. Open my senses, God. By Sr Bridgetta Rooney

*"Take a break. Look at the clouds. Listen to the wind.
Let the birds do the heavy lifting"*

What a lovely reminder it is of how God wants to meet us in and through his creation. When we feel tired and heavy-hearted by the complexities of our lives and this broken world, the birds of the air remind us of Jesus' words, "Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26). And perhaps we come to release our tight fists a little and breathe a little more deeply and slowly.

"Let the birds do the heavy lifting..." Hmm.

Taking a walk outside is such a wonderful spiritual practice. In fact, research shows that most people's earliest memories of God, or spiritual experiences took place in the outdoors. Being immersed in God's wild creation is one of those "thin" or "privileged" places where God's reality and felt presence comes near to us.

Next time when you are outside, why don't you try some new ways of engaging with God, and his creation through imagination and senses?

Total Weekly Collection August 3 - 7, 2020

On line giving: \$2,105.00
Ordinary Collection \$4,202.00
Total \$6,307.00



**We are so grateful for your generous support
especially during these pressing times!
Thank you!**



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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

email: sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Beginning the New Religious Education Year

We are in the planning process of launching a formal plan for our 2020-2021 Religious Education Program.

As you know, there are many variables that we are contending with in order to provide a safe, quality religious education program for our parish children. Like schools and youth programs all around the country, we are trying to weigh the options of in-person instruction, virtual online instruction, or some combination of the two.

Parents have been asked to complete a survey letting us know preferences and comfort level with returning to in-person instruction. More information can be found on our parish website.

We ask for the prayers of all our parishioners as we move forward into this new year.

First Communion Updates

An email and sign up has gone out to First Communion families with the news of the reschedule information. Please contact Sarah Kelly if you have not selected a date. More information about First Communion will be coming in the next week.



First Communion Rehearsal Dates:

Group 1-Tuesday, August 25, 2020

4:15-6:15 pm

Group 2 -Wednesday, August 26, 2020

4:15-5:15 pm

First Holy Communion Mass

Group 1 -Saturday, August 29, 2020 10:00 am

Group 2 - Sunday, August 30, 2020 1:00pm

COVID-19 Updates:

Please be sure to check emails for any updates as well as online resources during this time of social distancing.



- Have you visited our Parish Website recently? There is a whole new section on Care of Creation!
- Have you thought about praising God among friends more often lately? Holy Mass is celebrated here 5 days a week and live-streamed every Sunday morning
- How about joining a Faith Sharing Group? They meet regularly here at St. George.
- Have you perhaps heard God calling you to a deeper and more challenging faith life? The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one way to restart and begin anew. It's offered here every Saturday.
- Have you been wondering about the new series called 'Explaining the Mass'? Check our website, It's coming soon.
- Have you ever considered helping to pass on our faith on to young parishioners? Help is needed in Religious Education. Call Sarah.
- Why not join in from home? Every Friday we "Pray together while Apart".
- Want to help out? Join "Neighborhood Ambassadors" to deliver the Parish Bulletin every week
- Do you enjoy reading? All are invited to the St. George Book Club.
- Want to practice the "Works of Mercy"? As a "Community of Peacemakers" we continue to feed the hungry, shelter homeless families, and donate essential items for neighbors in need
- Do you enjoy working outdoors? Gardeners gather to keep our parish grounds looking beautiful - they are looking for help?

Read on, more information about these opportunities can be found in this bulletin!



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Faith makes us fight for what we believe

“The woman insisted, ‘Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters. Then Jesus said to her in reply, O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish. And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.’” (Matthew 15: 27-28)



I have one brother, Paulo Junio, who is younger than me. One day, Paulo Junio and I were talking about the way our mother loves us, then he said that our mother had more love for me than for him. Our mother saw that my brother and I were arguing with each other. Realizing this, she severely imposed the end of our discussion. She asked my brother and I to go to the bakery and buy one loaf of bread. “Only one bread!”, she said.

As soon as we returned from the bakery, mom cut the bread into slices and said to my brother, “get the most delicious slice.” My brother, looking at the slices of bread, was unable to choose. Then our mother, showing me the slices, said, “get the most delicious slice.” Smart. I replied, “Mom, how can I choose the most delicious slice? The bread is the same!” “Finally, you both understood the lesson!”, she said. Our mother’s lesson to us: we understood that the slices of bread are the same bread, so is our mother’s love to us. It is different for each of one of us, but it is always the same love.

In this sense, my brother and I understand that our mother’s love introduces us to the mystery of God’s love. God loves us infinitely and dedicates a very personal love to each one of us that remains the same.

Continued above

A Canaanite woman pleaded with Jesus for her daughter, who was tormented by a demon. The manner in which Jesus treated her might make many of us be horrified. We never imagine that Jesus would tell someone that he had been sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and that it is not acceptable to take the children’s bread to throw it to the dogs (see Matthew 15:21-28).

The most beautiful part of this story is the Canaanite woman’s response to Jesus. She replied to Him, “It is true, Lord; ‘for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters’. In other words, crumbs are also bread.

The Canaanite woman humbly accepted to be called “dogs.” A word that came from Jesus’ mouth. But she argued with him in order to overcome the idea of being excluded by others. With faith, we too can overcome the trials which afflict us throughout our life.

The Canaanite woman teaches us that only faith gives us access to God’s love. Why do we get discouraged so easily? Why doesn’t our faith lead us to resist our own circumstances, which often keep us away from God’s love? We must recognize that, in the plan of salvation, God wants all people to know his love.

Many Blessings,

Fr. Thiago



*For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in*

Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 8:38-39

A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

Annie Doyle Ext. 111
508-450-4134
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

"... great is your faith!"

Dear Friends,

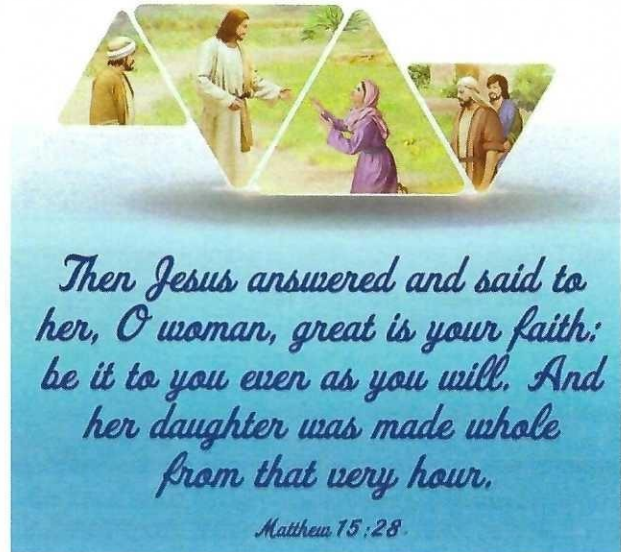
As I reflect on this Sunday's Gospel I am struck with how great your faith in the healing power of God's love is for all those who suffer.

I am amazed! Despite this pandemic and all the challenges that it presents, you continue to fill the Outreach Collection area of our church with food, hygiene products, household items and toilet paper for those in need! Some of you have even managed to find the Bath Wipes that are needed by the homeless who have no access to showers or running water!

Your faith in the goodness of God to work through you and your generosity is so uplifting! I praise and thank God for allowing me to be part of a community of believers who actively live their faith.

I miss seeing all of you but I continue to feel your loving presence through all that you continue to share with others in need. You make a difference in so many ways!

Peace and Joy,
Annie Doyle



Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, great is your faith: be it to you even as you will. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 15:28

"Loaves and Fishes" Food Pantry

Back to School Supplies needed

No matter how or when schools reopen, students will still need supplies! Loaves and Fishes will be stocking bags (37 of them) with the following supplies during August and September:

a pack of pencils and pencil sharpener
pack of pens (blue or black)
markers
colored pencils
3 highlighters
4 glue sticks
Scissors
3 single subject notebooks
1 composition notebook
3 pocket folders
crayons



Bring any items that you can donate to the Outreach Collection Area in the stairwell up to September 17.

Thank you!

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*Our Parish Vision: To **welcome** all, build **connections** to Christ
and one another, and **live our***

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:

- a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
- a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
- a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Update on the Series
"Explaining the Mass"**



Seminarian Thiago Ibiapina has recorded a series giving us some explanations about the Mass. This video series will be coming soon on our web site! Stay tuned!



**Join Our Prayer Shawl Ministry
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



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Contact: JoAnn Nally
508-527-6973

FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Small Faith Sharing Groups meet weekly. Reflecting on God's Word together is a wonderful way to connect with "Jesus as a Peacemaker" and to feel the peace of Christ fill our hearts. We hope you will consider joining us and building up our "Community of Peacemakers".

Jere and Rachel Bradley meet with a group on Thursdays at 11AM, outside or in the alcove of the church hall, depending on the weather. Participants are very conscious of social distancing and wearing masks.

JoAnn facilitates a virtual group through Zoom.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we look forward to more groups forming in new and creative ways. Please join us in prayer for the building up of this ministry of peace.

For more information, please contact JoAnn Nally at the number listed above

St. George Parish Day of Prayer

Our Parish Day of Prayer for the wellbeing and protection of all affected, in any way,

Praying Together...

by Covid-19. is **EVERY FRIDAY.**

Thank You to the many parishioners who have already committed to an hour of prayer. If you would like to sign up for a specific hour, please call JoAnn Nally @ 508-527-6973 or email me @ jnallyspirit77@aol.com.

I look forward to the day when we will come together to worship and celebrate God's great goodness to each one of us and our Parish Family. If we can be of assistance to you, please contact JoAnne and know that you are held in prayer each day.

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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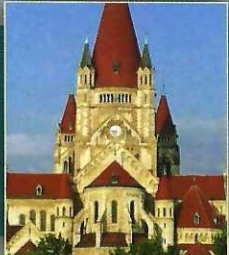




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