

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

August 23, 2020: Twenty-First 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

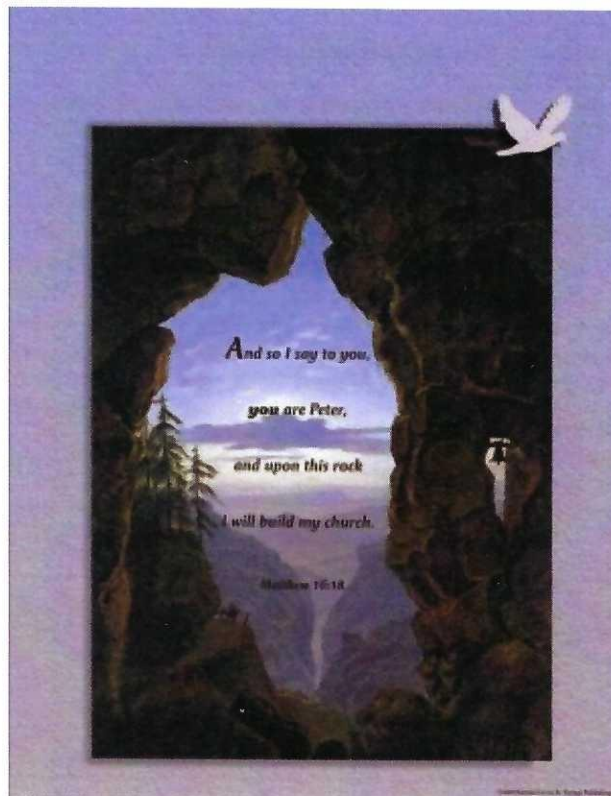
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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 23, 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 22, 4:00 PM

For the Community of Saint George

Sunday, August 23, 10:00 AM

50th Wedding Anniversary Mass Melba Sanford requested by her husband Jim Sanford

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

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Bulletin for September 7, 2020
due by August 27

Bulletin for September 14, 2020 due by September 4

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

*Thank
You*



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for E-news

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.



From Your Pastor

Two weeks ago we listened to Peter's misadventure as he was invited by Jesus to walk on the water toward him. There is an important lesson about discipleship in this Gospel, particularly in the necessity to stand firm in our faith in the midst of life's trials. At the time of Jesus winds and storms were associated not only with physical phenomena but with other phenomena like chaos and death. This image of the wind-and-wave battered boat with the disciples has often been portrayed as a symbol of us, the Church. Who could say that they have not been challenged by such trials during this time of pandemic or in the pursuit of justice for all people? When we find ourselves in such stormy situations, we can prevail and grow stronger in our faith at times and at other times we falter. Times of testing and adversity can show us where we are in our spiritual development and where we need to grow in Christian maturity. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the stormy sea, he had good reason to be frightened. There are situations in life that can cause us dismay and alarm if we allow ourselves to dwell on them. When we focus on Jesus, we will view our concerns in their proper perspective. Just as Jesus did not let Peter drown in the midst of personal trial, so he will show himself to be patient with us. He will not let us perish from our every mistake nor abandon us in our struggles. He is always there with his hand stretched out to us, ready to lift us up again. The challenge is to not let distraction and doubt take us away from our goal in Jesus. Our faith is always growing and can become stronger. Like Peter and all of Jesus' disciples, we will always have the need to cry out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!"

Fr. Niccolls

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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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

Total Weekly Collection August 8-16, 2020

On line giving: \$1,380.00
Ordinary Collection \$5,603.00
Total \$6,983.00



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

Take A Walk on God's Great Earth

Visit our parish Website for
More Resources and Activities

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.

Outdoor Walking, Hiking or Biking Trails:



- Hopedale Parklands - Hopedale
- West Hill Dam - Uxbridge
- Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Princeton
- Purgatory Chasm - Sutton
- Doyle Conservation Center - Leominster
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden - Boylston (no bikes, check the local public library for free tickets)
- Nashua River Rail Trail - Ayer
- Drumlin Farm Audubon Society - Lincoln
- Waseeka Audubon Society - Hopkinton
- Look Out Rock - Uxbridge
- Birch Hill Dam - Royalston
- Rice City Pond - Uxbridge
- Peppercorn Hill - Hopkinton
- Willard Brook State Forest - Townsend
- Riverbend Farm - Uxbridge
- Blackstone Gorge Trail - Blackstone
- Cormier Woods - Uxbridge
- Hopkinton State Park - Hopkinton
- Upton State Park - Upton
- Whitehall State Park - Hopkinton

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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 1:00 pm

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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St. George's Book Club

Our next meeting will take place on TUESDAY, September

8th at 1 p.m. We are practicing social distancing and wearing masks as prescribed at this time. For our September meeting, we have selected a book by Fr. G. Boyle entitled "Tattoos on the Heart: The power of Boundless Compassion". The topic deals with poverty, gang identity, and boundless compassion. If you would like to hear more about the book club, please call Vivianne Ouellette at

508- 829-5341 or
email at vivoue30@charter.net.

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.



The Pandemic has Increased Families Need for Food - Please Help

Thank you for continuing your generous food donations to the Mustard Seed Food Panty and to our local "Loaves and Fishes" Food Pantry.

For free Information on Bargains join St. George's "Food Donation Team" just email Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com

Special needs for July are:
Tuna, Soup, Canned Vegetables



Who do you say that I am?

Simon Peter said in reply,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply,
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah."
(Matthew 14: 15-16)

The question "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" was raised by Jesus two thousand years ago. Answers have been raised for millennia and continue to be discussed by many people.



In the world we live in, many people know Jesus Christ. Many people speak of Him. But do they know who Jesus truly is? I do not think so. If we did a survey at the end of a Holy Mass and asked people: "Who is Jesus?" We would probably hear quite different answers. Everyone thinks that Jesus is a friend, a brother, a healer, a prophet, a shepherd, a Jew, etc. Many of these views about Jesus are reductive, and do not fully express who Jesus is in all His greatness. Nowadays, Jesus' question continues to challenge us: "Who do you say that I am?" To better answer this question, as Christians, we must open our eyes and our hearts, and truly follow the footsteps of Jesus, the suffering servant.

Whoever believes in Jesus as the path that leads to God, is called to follow Him in solidarity caring for the marginalized of the world. The answer for the question "Who do you say that I am?" is simple if we base it on solidarity among people who promote human dignity in defense of life.

Many blessings,
Fr. Thiago

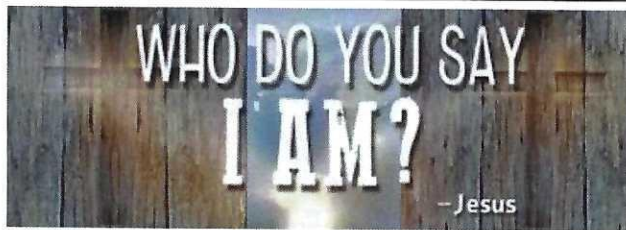
This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

In today's reading, St. Paul reminds the Romans - and us - that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that all is gifts and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

A Community of Ministries



**St. George
Parish Outreach**
Annie Doyle Ext.111
508-450-4134
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org



Dear Friends,

As you know, in this weeks Gospel "Jesus asks us, Who do you think that I am?" There are so many titles for Jesus that I think it can be confusing at times. To name a few:

- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Son of David
- Prince of Peace
- Bread of Life
- Lamb of God
- Emmanuel
- Christ
- Lord
- Master

But for me, I think that my own answer to that question would be that Jesus is God. Its simple and direct and for me, that says it all. God, a short word for all that is good, loving and forgiving. To proclaim that Jesus is God makes sense to me.

To put his weeks Gospel in action calls me to fully answer that question by living with enthusiasm - by reaching out to family, friends and folks in need with the love of Jesus who is God. That is surely a humbling thought! I am greatly relieved that I have many moments to keep trying to do that in many ways - big and small. I am especially grateful that I am surrounded by the community of St. George; all of you who continue to encourage me to keep working at it. Peace and Joy,
Annie Doyle



Thank You all for continuing to donate food for neighbors in need. Last week this carful was delivered to the Mustard Seed.

A second delivery was made to the "Loaves and Fishes Food Panty". Special thanks for the big boxes of School Supplies!

"Loaves and Fishes" Food Panty

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!

*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

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.

Praying Together...

St. George Parish Day of Prayer

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