## November 14, 2021, Thirty-third 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

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.111

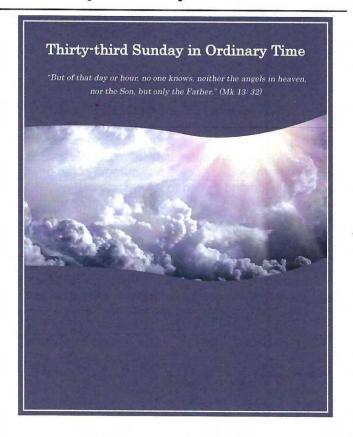
Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110 Fax 508-854-0864

Current Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

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



# St. George Catholic Church

#### **Baptism Information:**

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

#### **Eucharist Celebrated:**

Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Live-Streamed Mass is offered on our parish website each Sunday at 10:00AM.

Weekday Masses Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church 2:30 - 3:15 PM on Saturdays.

## **Farish 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, November 14, 2021

## November 14, 2021 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



## From Your Pastor

Coming Home to Church 2

At the conclusion of last week's article about the worldwide synod and the need for us to be a Eucharistic people, we are reminded that God welcomes us to Mass where the Eucharist is celebrated. We are welcomed home to the source and summit of the entire Christian life and invited to a foretaste of the heavenly banquet and to the holy and living sacrifice which gives us the strength to live the Christian life.

So when we come to Mass, what do we bring to it? Often we place the emphasis on participation at Mass as to what we get from it. This thinking is a reflection of our society that can prize freedom and individual rights above all else. As Americans, we rightly value and celebrate the freedoms we have and that were won at great cost. After all, these freedoms include the freedom to practice our religion. This singular emphasis on individual rights and freedoms, however, can also lead to unrealistic expectations. If something does not meet our expectations, we simply can't be bothered. Perhaps this sentiment is behind the often heard reasons given for not coming to Mass: "It does nothing for me," or "I don't get anything out of it." These responses seem to be conversation enders, not conversation starters. What do we get from participation in Mass? Like most things in life, we get what we put into it. What do we bring to Mass? Once we actually get there, we may feel like the publican in the parable standing silently in the back aware of his sinfulness or like the widow who only had two mites to offer. We bring our stresses, our brokenness, and our distractions. Yet, we are welcomed. We come to the Lord, who affirmed both the publican and the widow. We come to the one who healed the deaf, the mute, the lame, and the leper. We come to the one who dined with sinners. There are other times when we are full of thanksgiving - the healthy return of a son or daughter from a faraway battlefield, finding something that had been lost, a delightful visit with grandchildren, getting that job we were hoping for. These are moments when we experience a benevolent power beyond ourselves. At Mass, we lay our joys and our brokenness on the altar together with those of our brothers and sisters. In return, we get the support of the community, we are nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ to help us on our journey, and we are given a renewed sense of purpose and hope.

Fr. Niccolls' message continued next column:

Fr. Niccolls' message continued:

Before too long we will be celebrating our American feast of Thanksgiving a fall holiday which is a festive celebration and a time to recall our responsibilities as Christian stewards as well. Although it is a national holiday, this feast echoes the basic orientation of our Christian faith. It is naturally expressed in our central ritual of worship, the Eucharist, which comes from the Greek word for Thanksgiving. Every time that we celebrate the Eucharist we should remind ourselves that everything we have and all we are comes from God. As we celebrate this festive holiday, we will offer one Mass for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 A.M. We will also have the special blessing of food during this liturgy. Please bring something to church that you are going to serve at your Thanksgiving meal for this blessing.

Fr. Niccolls

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 13, 2021
4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Peter Murray
Requested by Yvonne Murray
Sunday, November 14, 2021
8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George
10:00 AM
Monday, November 15, 2021
8:00 AM In Memory of B. Justin Hughes

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 8:00 AM Birthday Remembrance for Melba Sanford Requested by her husband Jim

Friday, November 19, 2021 8:00 AM Mass for All Souls Requested by the Bui Family

Saturday, November 20, 2021
4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Gilbert Bouchard
Requested by Dennis and Sharon Bouchard
Sunday, November 21, 2021
8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George
10:00 AM First year Remembrance for Ernest Pantos
Requested by Andrea Berger

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Parish, simply visit

www.saintgeorgesparish.org
and click on the yellow link "Join Our Email List" on the
homepage to add your email address.



## November 14, 2021, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Parish Calendar

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Coffee Shop Express following 8AM & 10AM Mass

Church Hall

10:00AM Toddler and Children's Liturgy of the Word Church Hall and Alcove

Monday, November 15, 2021

4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5

Center

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

1:00 PM Book Club

4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5

Center

6:30PM - 7:30PM Girl Scouts

Church Hall

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Thursday, November 18, 2021

11:00AM-12:15PM Faith Sharing 6:00PM-7:00PM Family Prayer

Church Hall **Upper Church** Parish Hall

6:00-9:00 PM Diocesan Youth Friday, November 19, 2021

Saturday, November 20, 2021 8:00PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Coffee Shop Express following 8AM & 10AM Mass

Church Hall

10:00AM Toddler and Children's Liturgy of the Word Church Hall and Alcove

Following the 10:00AM Mass Confirmation Class

Parish Center

6:00PM Religious Ed Grades 6-9 Parish Center 11:00AM-12:15PM Confirmation Class Parish Center



Regular Offertory Donations, Special collections and donations are available through Online Giving.

Access is available through our website click on the icon like the one pictured here.

Kathy Hessel is always happy to assist you at mkhessel@aol.com

Many thanks to all of our on line givers who help to provide faithful and consistent financial support to our parish during this time of great need.



## We Hope You'll Join Us for **Coffee and Donuts** In the Church Hall After Sunday Mass

The Coffee Shop ministry of hospitality has begun as "Coffee Shop Express". This is a modified, socially distanced gathering following the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses on Sunday Mornings. Please join us.



## Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Especially during these difficult times, please call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, home bound or ill.

(Ann Doyle at 508-450-4134)

We want to be with you in prayer and support. We can perhaps arrange a visit and possibly 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 that you are a patient. Thank you for your understanding.

#### 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.

## November 14, 2021 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Family Prayer Night at St. George Church

Every Thursday at 6:00 PM In the Upper Church

There is a gathering of people who pray for all families.

#### Everyone is invited to join us!

The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed during this time. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to pray the Rosary. Eucharistic Adoration is also a part of this wonderful time of prayer on the Thursday before the first Friday of each month.

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Thursday, December 2 from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM and Friday, December 3 from the end of the 8:00 AM Mass until 10:00 AM



If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to visit our parish website to view the "Eucharistic Adoration" video on the homepage.

#### Weekly Collection: November 1- November 7

On Line Giving \$ 3,037.00
Ordinary Collection \$ 6,008.00
Total \$ 9,045.00

Thank you for your generosity. We are so grateful for your support!



#### **Bulletin Item Due Dates:**

Weekend of: November 28, 2021 December 5, 2021 December 12, 2021 <u>Due by:</u> November 17, 2021 November 23, 2021 December 1, 2021

Please submit items by 10:00 AM on or before the due date. E-mail our Parish Secretary, Kate Lockney at office@saintgeorgesparish.org

## From Deacon Paul Audette

Henri writes to a student who is questioning his belief in God. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

Dear Raymond,

... As far as your first question is concerned, yes, I do think that even when you struggle with the notion of God and have a hard time accepting some of the teachings you have been brought up with, you can still live a life that is spiritually profound and very authentic. In fact, I even think that at times we have to dare to let go of the God of our youth in order to find a more silent, and maybe even a more hidden God. I am not sure if this is what will happen to you, but I do trust that faithfulness to a true spiritual way of living will lead you to the place where you will know your deepest vocation in life...Your most difficult question to answer is the question of whether an atheist can have an intimate, fruitful and joyful life. If by an atheist you mean someone who continues to fight the existence of God, I think it is hard to remain joyful because you end up being so defensive, and therefor so unfree. But if you simply cannot affirm God at this moment of your life but remain open for the mystery of existence and even open to a God who can reach your heart deeply, then joy and peace can be really part of your life even when you have very little answer to the question about God. There is a form of atheism that becomes very dark and unfruitful, but there is also a form of atheism in which you remain open to the mystery of existence and open to discover in new ways that God is love...Often the search is more important than the answer, the quest is more important than the finding..."

> With warm greetings, Yours, Henri Nouwen

## Stewardship Thought for the Week

The readings today speak of the end of the world and the coming of the kingdom. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship says clearly that "that 'life to come' is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now." May our good stewardship help us to be numbered among the chosen on the last day!

## We are honored and delighted to WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

to our parish family!
Contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 for an introduction, depending on your interests, to our parish spaces and ministries.

## November 14, 2021, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"
Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784
sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Kein.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org

## Religious Education 2021-2022

Religious Education for students in **Grades 1-5** and 6-9 is off to an exciting start. Please keep our students and their teachers in your prayers.

Confirmation Preparation classes begin November 7th and will meet following the 10:00am Mass until 12:15 p.m. and again on November 21 & December 12, 2021. Next year's dates are January 9, February 6 and March 6, 2022. Dates for the Retreat, the final class and the Rehearsal TBD.



## **Confirmation Service Experiences**

This year's Confirmation Service Experiences are an "Introduction to Ministry at St. George Parish". Candidates have each chosen a Sunday morning date to serve (7:30-12N) with our parish ministers of Music, Hospitality, Videography, Greeters, Collectors and Coffee Shop Ministers and others. Thank you to Anaheed and Camden who served this Sunday. I look forward to serving with you, Annie Doyle
Parish Outreach Coordinator

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Has begun on Sundays, During the 10 AM Mass All Students Grade 1 to Grade 4 are invited.

Please contact Sarah Kelly if you have any questions.

Thank you to our parents who have volunteered to help proclaim the Word of God to our children.



#### First Reconciliation Preparation and Dates

Retreat: January 15, 2022 2:30-4:00pm in Church Hall. The students attend with one or both parents. Ceremony: January 29, 2022, 10:00am in the Church

#### **First Communion Preparation**

Retreat & Family Dinner

March 26, 2022 2:30-6:0pm in Church Hall The students attend the retreat portion with one or both parents.

Everyone then participates in the 4:00pm Mass. Families, including siblings, then all join together in the Church Hall for a shared meal.

#### **First Communion Dates**

Rehearsals: April 19 & 20, 2022 4:30-5:30pm Mass: Saturday, April 23, 2022 10:00am



#### Volunteer opportunities

We are in great need of volunteers willing to be on a substitute list for religious education teachers. We would also love to have more parent volunteers on our rotating schedule for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Annie Doyle handles the Toddler group, with veteran volunteers filling in for her when needed. With the "Big kid" group, we have a small group of parents who take turns. Depending on how many volunteers we have, you would be assigned to approximately one Sunday a month. Everything is provided for you and we'd be happy to go over how it all works or to have you sit in one week. Please consider helping with these great ministries. Contact Sarah Kelly at <a href="mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org">sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org</a>

## Toddler Liturgy of the Word

Has begun on Sundays, During the 10AM Mass

Toddlers with a parent are invited to attend. We will exit the church through the main central exit and gather in the alcove of the church hall.

Please call Ann Doyle at 508-450-4134 if you have any questions.

## November 14, 2021 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

# A Community of Ministries





#### St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134 annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

# Holiday Outreach The collection to buy Turkeys for families in need will continue for a few more

weeks. We have not yet received enough in donations to cover the cost for the turkeys that we have traditionally donated to Our Lady of Providence Parish for the past 20 years. We are confident in your continuing generosity. Please label an envelope "For Turkeys" - Mail it in or add it to Collection Basket at Mass. We hope to be able to donate 40 ten dollar gift cards to be added to Our Lady of Providence Parish Thanksgiving food baskets. Thank You to everyone who donated food at last week's Thanksgiving Food Drive.

**November 13 & 14 -** Today the Giving Tree Tags Will begin to be available on the "Giving Tree" in our church.

November 19 - Mustard Seed Meal for 100 guests. Please call Annie to help prepare the meal. Donations towards the \$5 cost of each meal are needed.

The Giving Tree is set up at the side of the Sanctuary decorated with tags that are labeled with the Christmas hopes of a needy person or family. There are many specific and special requests. It is especially important that you fill this need so that the wish is granted and the person or child in need is not left without a gift on Christmas morning. This year the Giving Tree gifts will be donated to Winter Hill Rest Home, Blaire House, St. Mary's Health Care, St Francis Nursing Home, Diocesan Seminarians, the children at Our Lady of Providence Parish and the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker. The elderly in nursing homes are truly the forgotten folks in our community. Your gifts help to make their Christmas joyful.

Please - As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace - No toy guns or violent toys. Also, no battery operated items - these are too expensive for the poor to replace.

Please, no cash and no food.

Please wrap your Giving Tree Gift loosely in a GIFT BAG or RECYCLABLE BAG and reattach the tag. Kindly return it to the church no later than December 5th at the 10:00 AM Mass.

If you are interested in helping with gift deliveries on December 5th, please contact:

Andy Labreque at 508-873-2728

#### Help Prevent Family Homelessness Buy "Hope for Housing Cards" after the 4 PM Mass Saturday,

And after the 8AM or 10 AM Mass Sunday.

See Dave and Sue Genereux who

If needed contact them at 978-833-0306 for more information.

are in the Church Hall EVERY Mass.



#### THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Lord, we thank you for each other. The years go by quickly and yet we know now that we are a part of each other. We thank you for all the laughter we have shared, our private jokes, our funny habits. We thank you for the times when we have been a strength to each other, for what we might have lacked apart we found together. We thank you for the day-to-day adventure of being man and wife - for the companion-ship, help, comfort that we have given each other. There's more yet. Help us to grow closer to each other and to you in everything that is yet to be.



#### **GRANDPARENTS:**

All interested grandparents are asked to pray for the safety and well-being of their grandchildren. Prayers are available by sending a long self addressed stamped envelope to Ruth Viens, 20 Mary Scano Drive, Apt. 223, Worcester MA 01605. As meetings resume in the parish it is hoped that the eight year monthly Grandparent Group will again be available.

Contact Ruth at <a href="mailto:ruthviens@charter.net">ruthviens@charter.net</a>, 508-852-5658 for more information.

Grandparents make memories that the heart holds forever.

## November 14, 2021, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Parish Vision: To **welcome** all, build **connect**ions to Christ and one another, and **live our faith** as true disciples of Jesus.

## The Refugee Story Continues ....

This past week the 4 oldest children in the family began Grades 2,3,4,and 5 in English. It is a short walk to their neighborhood school. The 3 little ones remain at home enjoying quieter days. A grassy back yard is a safe and lovely place for all the children to enjoy these warm Autumn days.

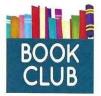
A trip to the grocery was a real adventure. We all began to learn about the complexity of buying food

#### **Current Outreach Needs:**

- Gently used clean recycle bags with handles, Shaw's heavy plastic ones can also be reused at the food pantry
- Women's socks
- Small portable blankets
- · Men's gently used warm jackets
- Men's and Women's gloves

## St. George Book Club Meets

Second Tuesday of every other month in the Church Hall



How about joining us? November 16, 2021

Contact Nancy Forhan at 508-963-9909

## Join Our Prayer Shawl Ministry Knit or Crochet At Home

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

out all the shawls that we have.

Please join us in prayer, knitting and crocheting from home.

Call Annie Doyle today: 508-450-4134

## Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

The Spiritual Growth Committee members are: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell; Joan Talbot; Patty Walsh; and Kyle Lewandowski. Fr. Niccolls and Deacon Paul serve as *ex officio* members. Several members will be adding Spiritual Growth Reflections in this column each week.

This week's reflection is from Kyle:

This week's readings, as we near the end of the liturgical year, recall the end times, which we typically associate as a grim subject. Given the considerable uncertainties we currently face, such as the growing political tensions throughout the world and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it may seem as though we are careening out of control towards such an end. But in the words of our Lord, and frequently used by Saint Pope John Paul II, "Do not be afraid!" Yes, we may be in some difficult times, but as this week's Gospel says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." God guarantees that He will be with us, even in our darkest times and most difficult struggles. We must also remember that even in this darkness, we have hope, as the Responsorial Psalm this week tells us. "You are my inheritance, O Lord!" Our journeys through life will not be easy. We will have rocks and pitfalls in our paths, but God will help guide us along these ways. help us grow in holiness, and at our life journeys' end, join Him in heaven.

## Saint George Rosary Group

You're invited to attend our once a month Saturday morning Rosary Group. First Saturday of every month. Please join us on:



Saturday, December 4, 2021
Currently we are meeting at 7:30 a.m.
If interested you may contact
Jim Hachey at 508-579-9623



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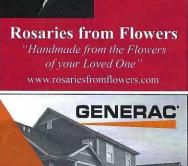
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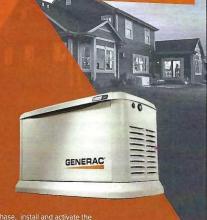
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