

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

November 28, 2021 - First Sunday of Advent

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

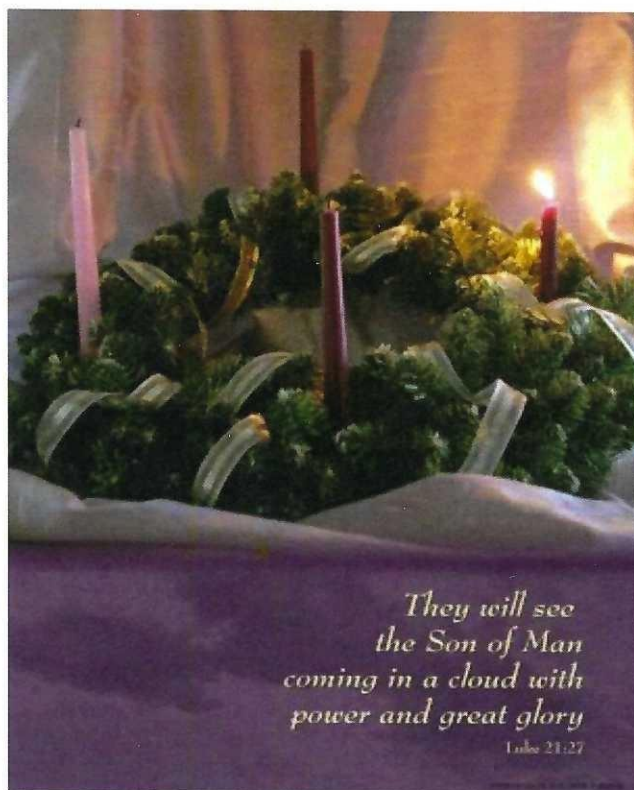
Current Office Hours:

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 Parish Office.



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.

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, November 28, 2021

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From Your Pastor

Coming Home to Church 4

As I conclude these articles of the past several weeks about the worldwide synod that Pope Francis is convening and how we as a Eucharistic people have an important part in it, we saw from last week's article that the Church is a body, not only as a holy and faultless body made Christ-like through Baptism and Eucharist but also as the broken bodies of all the people who are its members. This picture of us as Church points out that we have hearts that are indeed hungry. We hunger for security, relationship, understanding, acknowledgment, and also truth, justice and peace. Our weekly celebrations of the Eucharist will not completely satisfy us, but they do give us nourishment so that we might continue on the journey as true followers of Jesus. At the table of the word, we find wisdom, truth, and challenge in the Scriptures. We also find an identity as the sons and daughters of Abraham and as the disciples of Christ. We belong to an unbroken tradition that spans over 3000 years. At the table of the Eucharist, as we are fed with the very Body and Blood of Christ, our Communion with the Lord also brings us into Communion with our brothers and sisters who share the one bread, the one cup. In this community, we find companionship and support. Celebrating Mass with our parish family also brings us into relationship with all the other communities celebrating Eucharist throughout the world. We are indeed a "catholic" Church and as part of the Church, we share in the Church's mission to address the hungers of the human family worldwide. Together we stand for peace, justice and truth, and through our many Catholic institutions and organizations (Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, etc), we can truly make a difference.

So when we think about our parish family, the people we are with at the banquet of the Lamb each week, do we value it enough in our lives that we want to invite others to join us there, be it family, friends or neighbors? Will they come because it is important to you or me? Or, do we become frustrated or critical if they cannot come on the first invitation, or the second, or even the third. Sometimes we either expect too much of people that we invite to Mass, or they are afraid that too much will be expected of them. Start simple! You may start by saying, "Join me this weekend." – maybe it is for a special event Mass, or a Mass with a meal that follows, or simply because it's your birthday and you want to celebrate it that way. One final thought. Be honest.

Fr. Niccolls' message continued in column above

Fr. Niccolls' column continued:

Share what you love about your faith and why it is important to you, but let those you are inviting develop their own reasons. Hopefully, the one thing we can all relate to is this: God loves me no matter who I am and wants me to join others at his dinner table. *"Blessed are those who are fed at the banquet of the Lamb."*

This week we celebrate the beginning of the Season of Advent which is also the beginning of our Church's liturgical year. This year we will be in the C cycle of the liturgical year when we will hear the Gospel of Luke proclaimed through most of the year.

Fr. Niccolls

Mass Intentions



Saturday, November 27, 2021

4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Kathryn Davian
Requested by Donna Connelly

Sunday, November 28, 2021

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM Memorial Mass for Father Joseph Nally
Requested by Saraphina Wong

Monday, November 29, 2021

8:00 AM Mass for All Souls
Requested by the Bui Family

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

8:00 AM In Memory of

Friday, December 3, 2021

8:00 AM Mass for All Souls
Requested by the Bui Family

Saturday, December 4, 2021

4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Barry Schofield
Requested by Dennis and Sharon Bouchard

Sunday, December 5, 2021

8:00 AM Memorial Mass for Michael Woods
Requested by Family

10:00 AM Birthday Remembrance for Frances White
Requested by her family



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for ENews**

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"

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Parish Calendar

Sunday, November 28, 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

Monday, November 29, 2021

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

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

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

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Thursday, December 2, 2021

6:00-7:00 PM Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration
Church

Friday, December 3, 2021

Saturday, December 4, 2021

8:00PM AA Meeting
Church Hall

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Coffee Shop Express following 8AM & 10AM Mass
Church Hall
10:00AM Toddler and Children's Liturgy of the Word
Church Hall and Alcove
11:00 AM-12:15 PM Confirmation Class
Parish Ctr



**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. Volunteers needed. See Fr. Nicolls to help out.



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.



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.

**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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**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

**Friday, December 3 from the end of the
8:00 AM Mass until 10:00 AM**
**The Thursday evening Eucharistic
Exposition & Adoration will be held on
December 9th beginning at 6:00 PM**



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.

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
December 12, 2021	December 1, 2021
December 19, 2021	December 8, 2021
December 26, 2021	December 22, 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

Also, the best way to book/reserve a Mass is to call
our office and speak to Kate directly.



First Sunday in Advent

From Deacon Paul Audette

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his Letters

Henri writes to a friend who was struggling with challenges to her ministry. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

Dear Ann,
...You have been through some very hard times, and I realize that your heart feels very heavy and that it is very hard for you to be in touch with your own goodness and strength, and your own gifts. I am glad that you did decide to ask for some professional help...I would like to ask you not to focus too much on the ways in which you have been misunderstood, not appreciated or treated unjustly. Although this certainly has happened and has caused you a lot of hurt, I do think that God is calling you to a deeper place where you can step beyond these understandable complaints. Somewhere you have to hear again very clearly the blessing of God that says, 'You are my beloved daughter; on you my favor rests.' When you can hear that voice speaking gently in your heart, it might be possible to let go of some of the hurts that are now causing you so much pain..."

With warm greetings,
Yours,
Henri

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.



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.

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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 began November 7th and will meet following the 10:00am Mass until 12:15 p.m. 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 will take place May 15, 2022 at St. Paul Cathedral.



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, Coffee Shop Ministers and others. The next dates of service are today November 28, December 5 and 19. Next years dates are January 16, 2022, February 13 and March 13, 2022.

Please continue to pray with our Candidates...that the Holy Spirit may grace us all with wisdom and courage.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Takes place 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 sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Toddler Liturgy of the Word

Takes place 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. Many thanks to Ruby Moran for her kind and faithful assistance.



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

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A Community of Ministries



**St. George
Parish Outreach**

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

Holiday Outreach

Thank you for your Thanksgiving Outreach to folks in need! Through your generosity we were able to donate 40 turkeys and a car full of groceries to Our Lady Of Providence Parish Food Pantry!



November 13 until December 4 - The Giving Tree Tags are available on the "Giving Tree" our church.

November 19 - The Mustard Seed Meal for 100 guests was greatly appreciated! Thank you to the volunteers who prepared and served this delicious meal.



November 27 & 28 - Christmas Food Drive

All non-perishable food items are wholeheartedly welcome. Tucking a small Christmas treat in the bag is always appreciated.

December 4 & 5 - Giving Tree Gift Returns due before the 10:00AM Mass.

If you are interested in helping with gift deliveries please contact: Andy Labreque at 508-873-2728

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.

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 are in the Church Hall EVERY Mass.

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



THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Lord, we are grateful for the gifts of our lives, for the family and friends you have given us. We remember and give thanks for all of them today. We thank you for showing us how to return thanks by lives of service, by acts of hospitality, by kindness to others, and by concern for each other. We are most grateful for the way you, our loving God have become visible to us - in one another, in our families, in our friends and in the marvels of creation itself. Come Lord of Gifts. Bless our table and all the food of this feast. Let us thank the Lord today and all days. Amen.



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 ruthviens@charter.net,
508-852-5658 for more information.

Grandparents make memories that the heart holds forever.

Love and kindness
are never wasted.
They always make
a difference.

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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.*



To receive a free weekly food bargain grid, join St. George's "Food Donation Team" just email Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com

**Special needs December are:
Cans of SOUP and
RICE in Small boxes or bags**

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

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



**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. Hats and warm scarves for the homeless are also greatly appreciated.

Call Annie Doyle for more info: 508-450-4134



**Spiritual Growth
Ministry Corner**

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritgrowth@gmail.com

Thank you to our Spiritual Growth Ministry for this wonderful reflection:

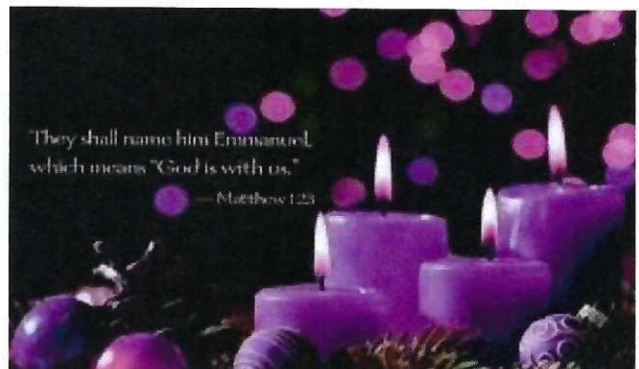
Thomas Merton has written a beautiful and meaningful prayer for the times we struggle with difficult life circumstances. He begins his reflection with the words, "I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end".

How do we respond to these situations? Do we first turn in prayer to the God who has promised to always be with us?

Sometimes we seem to get no response. But then we pick up the Scriptures and something speaks to us. Or a trusted friend shares words of wisdom. Or an idea comes to mind unexpectedly. Could God be speaking to us in these ways?

I believe we need to be aware of God's voice not only in Scripture but also in the words of those in our lives and the thoughts that come to mind. I believe if we begin with prayerful conversation with the God who loves us and waits for us to turn to Him we will experience a sense of peace and a path forward.

Spiritual Growth Committee members are: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell; Joan Talbot; Patty Walsh; Kyle Lewandowski and Helen Hurley. Fr. Nicolls and Deacon Paul serve as *ex officio* members.



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