

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

November 29, 2020: 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

Rev. Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor,
Ext. 117

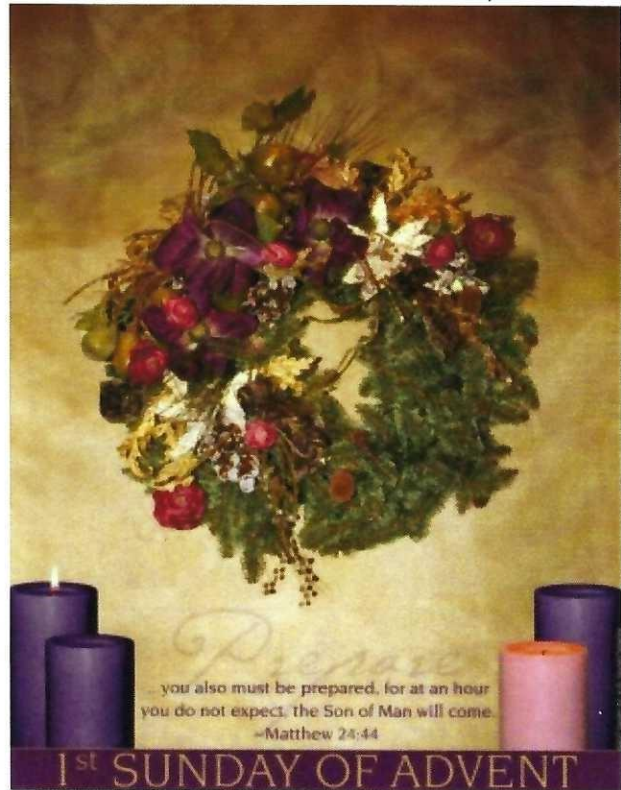
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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.

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, November 29, 2020

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Mass Intentions

Phase B

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

Saturday, November 28, 4:00 PM

Memorial Mass for David Gosselin

Requested by family

Sunday, November 29, 10:00 AM

Memorial Mass for Welsey Cordwell and Statia and
Victor Jakatavich requested by Andrea Cordwell

Monday, November 30, 8:00 AM

Birthday Remembrance for Clare Menezes

Requested by Abjani Family

Wednesday, December 2, 8:00 AM

Friday, December 4, 8:00 AM

Saturday, December 5, 4:00 PM

10 Anniversary Mass for June LaMalva

Requested by her family

Sunday, December 6, 8:00 AM 10:00 AM

Memorial Mass for Ed Weber req. by Purcell Family

Live-streamed Mass is offered on our parish website
Sundays at 10:00 AM. Confessions heard in the church
on Saturdays at 3:30 PM.



From Your Pastor

This Sunday we begin the Season of Advent which is also the beginning of our Church's year. This year we will be in the B cycle of the liturgical year when we will hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed through most of the year. It is commonly held that Mark's Gospel was written within a few decades of Jesus' death and resurrection. It was written in such a way as to invite readers on the same adventure that Mark and Jesus' first disciples encountered. It was an adventure of getting to meet Jesus, to know who he truly is and to commit one's whole life to him. Advent was originally celebrated as a type of "Lent" during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a slight penitential dimension from Lent but emphasizing more of our joy-filled hope at the coming of the Lord.

In this spirit of preparing for the coming of the Lord, we are once again offering a prayer initiative on our parish website where each day parishioners will offer a two or three minute Advent prayer, scripture reading and reflection, focusing upon the true meaning of the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

This Sunday we begin the Season of Advent which Beginning next weekend, December 5th/6th, we will offer three live Masses – one on Saturday at 4:00 P.M. and two on Sunday at 8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

From Your Pastor continued...

Also, we will continue to offer the weekend Mass by way of live-stream (or recording) on Sundays at 10:00 A.M. as a service to you.

11/15/2020 The following notice has been revised to comply with the most recent directives issued by our Diocese of Worcester and Bishop McManus:

Because of regulations issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the most recent ones issued by the Diocese of Worcester, we will not be able to have crowded churches. **Therefore, registration to sign up for Masses will be required for live attendance at any Christmas Mass since our church can allow for 80 individual seats. Therefore, we will have two Masses on Thursday, December 24th, one at 3:00 P.M. and the other at 4:30 P.M.** For those who sign up for the 4:30 P.M. Mass, we ask that you arrive no earlier than 4:15 P.M. in order for the church to be completely sanitized. **On Christmas Day, December 25th, we will have Masses at 8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.**

Information will be available on our parish website as Advent begins explaining when and how to register for these Masses. Please follow these directions carefully so that we will be able to accommodate everyone as much as possible. Tickets will be issued for each person who attends these Masses, so you must include an accurate number of people who will be attending Mass in order to have the correct number of tickets. No one will be able to attend these live Masses without a ticket, and everyone who attends these Masses will have a seat (standing will not be allowed.) Tickets will be mailed out to those who register since this is the best way that we can guarantee a seat for those who wish to attend these Masses. We also remind you that since Bishop McManus has suspended the obligation to attend Mass in person, we will also offer Christmas Mass through our parish website beginning at 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 24th.

We invite you to take advantage of Christmas Mass on our website if you or anyone among your family or friends test positive for the coronavirus (symptomatic or asymptomatic) in the period leading up to Christmas.

Finally, as we approach the Christmas season, Fr. Donato Infante, our Vocations Director has asked that the following announcement be placed in our parish bulletin:

*This year the Vocation Office is adapting the annual **Seminarian Giving-Tree tradition** during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important for us to keep safety in mind for everyone. The need for our men in formation for the priesthood is still great, and we are once again asking for your support. If you would like to participate, please mail a gift card of any amount in an envelope addressed to "Seminarists, 51 Illinois St., Worcester, MA 01610." Suggested stores where the seminarists can purchase both everyday items or the books they need for their education include Amazon, Barnes & Noble, CVS, Staples, or Walmart. We will equitably sort the cards sent to the House of Studies and distribute them to the seminarists at Christmas time. Thank you kindly in advance for your generosity and know of our prayers for you and your loved ones. God bless.*

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION will take place in the church on the Thursdays before the First Fridays of every month from 6:00-7:00 P.M. as well as on the First Fridays after the morning Mass until 10:00 A.M.

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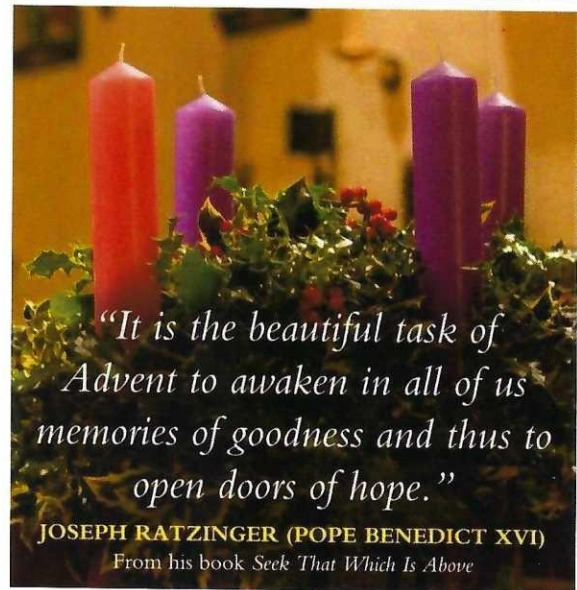
November 29, 2020: First Sunday of Advent

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

'Tis the season to be generous. Advertisements tell us what to give and where to buy it. Mailings tell us what to send and where to send it. Outreach projects tell us what to give and where to give it.

During the holidays, generosity doesn't need a lot of definition. But how about a little reflection? December is a busy month, but remember generosity isn't seasonal. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to be generous. Plan to look for them.

FREE Grandparent Prayers used at our previous monthly parish Grandparent Group for the safety and well being of grandchildren. Send a self addressed stamped envelope to Ruth Viens, 700 Grove St. Worcester MA 01605



Thank You!

Thank you to each of you who have continued to financially support our parish over the months. You have found ways to make sure your offertory makes it's way to our virtual 'collection' - whether through dropping it at the doorway on your way into Mass or, more likely, sending it through the mail or delivering it to the rectory.



Thank You!

**Total Weekly Collection
November 16 - 22, 2020**

On line giving	\$ 2,335.00
Ordinary Collection	\$ 2,618.00
Total	\$ 4,953.00

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

Our Online Giving has seen an increase in its users as many find this an easy way to make an on-going gift for weekly Mass as well as one-time special collections such as a Giving Tree Gift, or Religious Education fees or . Use our Online Giving icon on the parish website or contact Kathy Hessel at mkhessel@aol.com for assistance.

Please know that we are sensitive to the households impacted by the financial stress of these trying times.

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

Thank you again for your continued generosity.

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November 29, 2020: First Sunday of Advent



Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

email: sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org

Zoom Classes for Grades 1-5 Students Registered for In Person Session Two:

Grade One- 12/10, 1/28

Grade Two- 12/9, 1/14

Grade Three- 12/2, 1/13

Grade Four- 12/3, 12/17

Grade Five- 12/16

First Reconciliation:

Congratulations to our 1st group of 2nd graders to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They did a great job preparing and it was so wonderful to be able to celebrate this Sacrament of Healing together. Please keep this group in your prayers as they now begin to prepare to make their 1st Communion in January.

Virtual Meetings for Week of December 29th:

Following the lead of area school districts, we have decided to conduct what would normally be in person classes on Sunday, November 29, Monday, November 30, and Tuesday, December 1 virtually. This will allow for a greater amount of time between class meetings after the Thanksgiving holiday. We realize that some families may be spending the holiday with extended family, and therefore might have an increased risk of being exposed to Covid-19. Emails explaining how the virtual classes will work will go out to families.



Confirmation 2021 Please Pray with Us

Due to the Corona Virus we are unable to be together in the church building sharing Mass and enjoying Coffee Shop and donuts at this time. We are sharing Sunday morning mass on line and attending in person if we are able. We ask our parish community to pray with us as we prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The next zoom classes will be:

Sunday mornings: 12/6/2020, 1/10/2021, 1/24/2021

Please pray with us often!



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.

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Thursday Dec. 3, 6:00PM-7:00PM

Friday, Dec. 4, (First Friday)

immediately following the 8:00 AM Mass - until 10:00 a.m. We strongly urge you to participate in this powerful spiritual experience.



We invite you to view a beautiful and inspiring video of Eucharistic Adoration always available on our parish website.

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**. Please join us from home or work wherever and whenever you are able as we pray together while apart.

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.

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

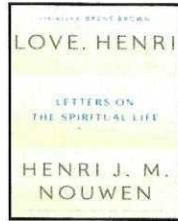
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From Deacon Paul Audette:

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his Letters:

Excerpts from a letter to a friend whose marriage is breaking down (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

"...I deeply admire your spiritual strength and your ability to hold on to your Lord in the midst of the storms...There is something incomprehensible about your pain. I am deeply convinced that you and L. had a beautiful marriage, that both of you were very happy with each other, that your life was full of joy and love...I keep having the deep sense that you are being tested very deeply. You are asked to cling to your Lord no matter what...You are asked to enter the darkness of not understanding with an ever growing surrender...I also hope and pray that L. and you will be able to find each other again and re-commit yourself to each other, but this might not be God's will for you. This is very much a desert time for you, a time of being lost, of having little to hold on to, a time full of temptations to give up, to become bitter and resentful."



Time and Talent Shared at St. George Parish

The Parishioners of St. George Parish continued to share their time and talent during the Fourth Quarter of FY 2020:

- Liturgy Committee volunteers meet virtually, working to modify our Mass to meet constantly changing State and Diocesan Guidelines.
- Spiritual Growth Committee members shared their faith on zoom and socially distanced outdoors on parish grounds
- Evangelization efforts grew on our Parish website with the Mass presented live and on facebook, thanks to our wonderful videographer! Creative videos to teach about the faith and to introduce our new Associate Pastor were added. Parish Ambassadors hand delivered the weekly bulletin to their neighbors
- Pastor Advisory Ministries met to support the pastor on financial and parish planning matters
- Our "Community of Peacemakers" continued Outreach and service at the Mustard Seed, the Inter-faith Hospitality Network Shelter and at the food pantries that we supply with food for our neighbors in need
- Our Religious Education Ministers facilitated Confirmation of 40 candidates and First Holy Communion. Weddings and Baptisms welcomed new members to our community.

Thank You!

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

Pastoral Council Note:

The Pastoral Council met recently and are looking forward to their upcoming virtual retreat which will be held on Saturday, January 16th. This retreat will focus on the core and mission of the Pastoral Council and its meaning and place within the Parish. The council also discussed funding for the 2021 scholarships and a potential new site sign. The Council is hopeful that Fr. Thiago is doing well in Brazil and is awaiting his return.

Elyse Gemme
Pastoral Council Secretary

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

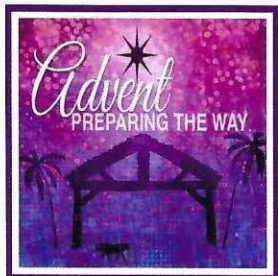
<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
December 13, 2020	December 3, 2020
December 20, 2020	December 10, 2020
December 27, 2020	December 17, 2020

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

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.



A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

Annie Doyle Ext.111

508-450-4134

annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

Holiday Outreach

Giving Tree Gift Tags still Available

Several dozen requests for zip up hooded sweatshirts still remain. Our goal is to give each guest at the Mustard Seed a new sweatshirt for Christmas. Several dozen requests from nursing homes are also available. Again, our goal is to give each nursing home resident something special this Christmas.

**Gifts for Seminarians needed-
See Fr. Niccolls letter on page 2**



Giving Tree Gift Returns

**Drive-Through Saturday,
December 5th 12:30 till 2PM**

**Sorting and delivery
Sunday, December 6 at 12noon**

All are invited to drive through the church parking lot with Giving Tree Gifts in the trunk of your car. Confirmation candidates and volunteers will be happy to remove the items from your trunk and bring them into the church. Additional gifts may be left in the Outreach Collection area or inside the church hall for delivery no later than Sunday, December 6 at 12noon. Volunteers welcome. Contact Kevin Cusak at KCuse@me.com to volunteer.

Give yourself the gift of a Christmas Blessing Saturday, December 5, 12:30 –2:00 PM

A Christmas Blessing area of the parking lot will be set aside by our Spiritual Growth Ministry for those who would like to receive a blessing from our priests while you are in your car. These items can always be left in the Outreach Collection Area.

Thank You for the Thanksgiving Food!

This year our food collection was led by our Confirmation Candidates. Five candidates volunteered to collect food in their neighborhoods. They distributed 100 bags and returned cars full of food! Parishioners joined in and we were able to donate to three food

Can we assist you buying a Giving Tree gift during this time of the pandemic?



Click the Online Giving icon on our parish website to give a one time donation in any amount and we will buy a gift to give where the need is greatest. Donations towards a Giving Tree gift can also be mailed to the parish office.

If you are unable to access the website, please call Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 and we will assist you.

Who will receive our Giving Tree Gifts this Year?

- 29 special requests have come from parents of children who come to the Mustard Seed food pantry for basic groceries items. Many of these parents have lost jobs during the pandemic. These gifts are something extra special this year.
- 55 children of families from Our Lady of Providence food pantry on Lincoln Street. The gifts are a wonderful treat to tuck into the grocery bag the day before Christmas Eve.
- 14 gifts for the elderly residents of Winter Hill Rest Home on Chester Street will add joy to their Christmas morning.
- 51 gifts are for Crescent Manor, 25 to St. Francis Rest Home, and 100 to St. Mary's Nursing home. The Corona Virus has caused fear, suffering, and loneliness for many of the elderly in these homes this year. Your gift will add joy to Christmas day.
- We hope to be able to give 100 men who come to the Mustards Seed for a nightly meal - a new sweatshirt for Christmas. Rarely do most of them have something unused to wear. For many it will be their only gift.
- Other gifts were requested by our parishioners. We are honored to be able to share with them.

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



Food for Families 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.

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

Special needs for December are: Peanut Butter and Canned Tuna

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 .

Visit our Parish Website for Advent Prayer and to Register ahead to attend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass in person.
See Fr. Niccolls Letter on page 2.



Holiday Cheer for Isolated Older Adults



Holiday Season letter and Card Writing Campaign

- Send a card, a handwritten note, a hand drawn picture or a simple doodle
- Start your card or letter so it can be shared with a man or woman, for example Dear Friend, Hello Neighbor, Good Day
- Add a colorful, heartfelt, non-denominational message and put the card/letter in an unsealed envelope
- Send as many cards/letters as you like by January 31, 2021 to:
- Elder Services of Worcester, Attn: Holiday Cheer, 67 Millbrook St., Suite 100 Worcester MA 01606
- Questions? Contact Carol McCrohon at 1(508) 498-6379

You Can Help Prevent Family Homelessness



**after the
4 PM Mass Saturday 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.

Hope for Housing Cards make great Christmas gifts too!

See Dave and Sue Genereux who are in the Church Hall after both Masses. Contact them at 978-833-0306 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information or for special arrangements.

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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Winter 2020 Webinar Series
The Common Good in the Public Square

**Social Implications of Fratelli Tutti:
A Call to Fraternal Love**
His Excellency Archbishop
Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio to
the United States of America
Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6l8ubrh>
Questions: uscoordinator@globalresponsibility.org

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