December 5, 2021 - Second 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

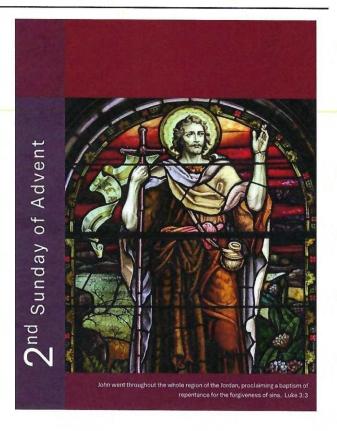
Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.111

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



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 and10:00 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, December 5, 2021

December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent



From Your Pastor

Wednesday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be on Tuesday, December 7th, at 6:30 P.M. and Wednesday at 8:00 A.M. & 12:10 P.M.

Advent: Preparing for the Lord's Coming 1

We often refer to the Advent and Christmas seasons as times of wonder and contemplation. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, tells us that caring for and cultivating creation is an instruction given by God not only at the beginning of creation and history but one that is given to each one of us. So the wonder of God's creation is something that we should see every day. Advent gives us the opportunity to renew ourselves in this God-given instruction. Yet we are easily guided with selfish pride whenever we want to dominate, exploit, manipulate and possess what God has given to us in creation. To truly appreciate creation as a gift from God we must preserve it. This is not only respecting creation but the God who has provided it for us. When we contemplate the wonder of God's creation, whether it be to watch a sunrise or to taste the sweetness of the fruits of the earth, we do what the last Jesuit scholar Fr. Walter Burghardt called a "long, loving look at the real," when referring to what contemplation truly means. Living and enjoying this kind of wonder and contemplation can help us to better appreciate these seasons.

This year in order to avoid excessive overcrowding in the church building as well as to avoid a serious parking problem in the church parking lot and the surrounding streets (especially Rochelle Street) on December 24th in the afternoon, we are offering a second Mass that afternoon at 5:30 P.M. here in church. Please take advantage of this second Mass on December 24th in order to avoid overcrowding the church especially since we must still follow the Covid-19 mask mandate issued by the City of Worcester and the Diocese of Worcester for all parishes in the

Therefore, in anticipation of Christmas, the Mass schedule for this holyday is as follows:

Saturday, December 25th: Friday, December 24th: 8:00 A.M. - Church 4:00 P.M. - Church 5:30 P.M. - Church 10:00 A.M. - Church

Please note: There will be No confessions nor 4:00 Mass on Saturday, December 25th.

Fr. Niccolls column continued:

Advent Evening of Prayer & Reflection: Once again, we will have our Advent Evening of Prayer & Reflection with the opportunity to go to confession on Monday, December 20th, from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. here in church.

Fr. Niccolls

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 6, 2021 8:00 AM Memorial Mass for June LaMalva Requested by her family Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:30 PM Special Intention Wednesday, December 8, 2021 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:00 AM Special Intention 12:10 PM Community of Saint George Friday, December 10, 2021 8:00 AM Community of Saint George

Saturday, December 11, 2021 4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Andrew Murray Requested by his wife Yvonne

Stewardship Thought for the Week

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"



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.

December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent

Parish Calendar

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

Following the 10:00AM Mass Confirmation Class

Parish Center

6:00PM Religious Ed Grades 6-9 Paris

Parish Center

Monday December 6, 2021

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

Center

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

4:30-5:30PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5 6:30-7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop

Center Church Hall

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Thursday, December 9, 2021

6:00-9:00 PM Diocesan Youth Ministry Parish Hall 6:00-7:00 PM Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration

Church

Friday, December 10, 2021

Saturday, December 11, 2021

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

Sunday, December 12, 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

NOTICE: Winter Weekday Mass Storm Schedule

As we enter the winter season, we confront travel with snow, sleet and freezing rain. So that you will know what will be done about the weekday morning Mass when we have such weather, please note that whenever there is a "Cancellation" or "Delay in Opening" announcement for the Worcester schools and/or Wachusett school district, the 8:00 AM Weekday Mass is automatically cancelled.



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. Niccolls 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.

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.

December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent

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

The Thursday evening Eucharistic **Exposition & Adoration for December will** be held on December 9th beginning at 6:00 PM The January dates are Thursday, January 6 from 6:00 until 7:00 PM and Friday, January 7 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.

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of: December 19, 2021 December 26, 2021 January 2, 2022

Due by: December 8, 2021 December 15, 2021 December 22, 2021

Please submit items by 10:00 AM on or before the due 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.

Weekly Collection November 22 - November 29:

On line giving Ordinary Collection \$

\$ 1,609.00 4,887.75

Total

6,496.75

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



WELCOME

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.

From Deacon Paul Audette

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his Letters Henri writes to Dan Wakefield, an American novelist, journalist and screenwriter, who had written to Henri about his spiritual struggles following the collapse of a brief marriage. This is Part I of Henri's response. (taken from "Love. Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

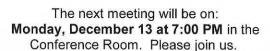
Dear Dan.

... I am very aware that the failure of your marriage can easily tempt you to become very bitter and even make you reject Jesus as useless or at least irrelevant for your day-to-day life. But this is truly a temptation because Jesus wants to lead you to the place where he himself becomes the only safe way to God. I have this vision of him taking away many of the support systems that you could rely on until now. It almost seems to me that he is saying to you, 'Am I not enough for you?' People will criticize you; people will question your conversion; people will use your failure in your marriage as an argument against your faith, and in many ways you will be very alone. But, after your conversion, the aloneness can be seen as a second loneliness. It is not the loneliness of a person who needs emotional support, but it is the loneliness of the person who, after having discovered God as the only source of true life, is now asked to let go of everything but Him..."

> Much love, Henri

PIETA

Pieta is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend.



For more information, please call Terry Gentile at 508-284-0796 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, or email pieta3@gmail.com.



December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent



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 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 December 5 and 19. Next years dates are January 16, 2022, February 13 and March 13, 2022. Thank you to those who have served already. 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



CYC Basketball

St. George/St. Mary's will once again be part of the Worcester Diocese CYC

Basketball Program.

This program is for boys in grades 9-12 who are not playing high school varsity basketball. We have a few open spots available.

Please send an email to Bryan Moore at bmoore@countrybank.com if you're interested in more details.

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.

A Community of Ministries





St. George Parish Outreach

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

Giving Tree Gift Returns This weekend

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



This year more than 500 Giving Tree gifts are being 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.

Dear Parishioners,
For more than 20 years I have
been utterly amazed at the generosity of so many of you! You continue to reach out to our hungry,
cold, lonely. worried and sick neigh
This past month you have sent foo
and monetary donations to families

cold, lonely. worried and sick neighbors in need. This past month you have sent food, clothing, gifts and monetary donations to families, the elderly, children, parents who struggle, refugees and homeless folks. No one that I know of has gone without essential necessities. There has always been someone in our community who continues to ask, "What can I do?" or "Let me know what is needed." The Spring flowers were planted, summer plants watered, and Fall leaves raked, and Christmas gifts delivered with the help of so many of you. The coffee is made, "Hope for Housing" cards are sold, the donuts are picked up, Religious Ed classes continue, the Mass is recorded, the Word of God is proclaimed, guests are greeted and Holy Communion is shared. May each of you know the good you have done was greatly appreciated. Peace and Joy to you All,

Annie Doyle

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.

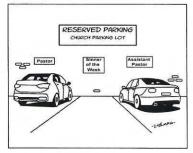
If needed contact them at 978-833-0306 for more information.



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.

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent

Our Parish Vision: To **welcome** all, build **connect**ions 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 (Peanut Butter and Jelly has also just run out)

Current Outreach Needs Continue:

- 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 :



January 8, 2022
Currently we are meeting at 7:30 a.m.
If interested you may contact



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

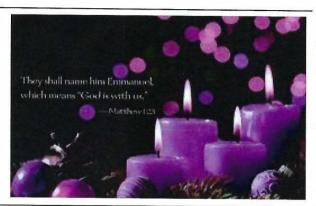
Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran Saintgeorgespiritagrowth

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

From Deacon Paul Audette:

Welcome to the liturgically rich month of December. Take time to ponder the season of Advent's penitential tone, symbolized by violet vestments. Also ponder the Christian hope we hold in our hearts (poignantly symbolized by the rose vestments of Gaudete Sunday) as we await our celebration of the Incarnation. Take advantage of the opportunity to go to confession by attending our Advent Evening of Recollection on Mon., Dec. 20 at 6:30 pm. The importance of Our Blessed Mother in the Incarnation story is highlighted on Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation this year on Wed., Dec. 8 at 8 am or 12:10 pm. And, of course, revel in the transition to the Christmas Season which begins on the evening of December and 24 and continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 9. December is an otherwise busy - if not frantic - month. Let us not allow that busyness to prevent us from prayerfully pondering this liturgically and spiritually season.

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





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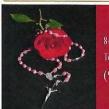
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