

**Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden**  
**December 6, 2020: Second Sunday of Advent**

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40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606  
Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110  
[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://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

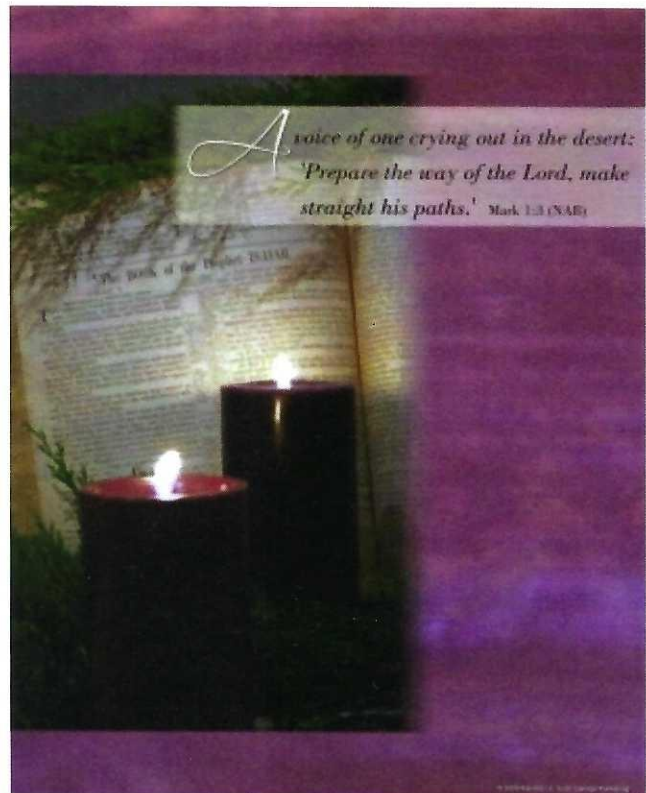
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 111

Kate Lockney, Parish Secretary  
[office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 110  
Fax 508-854-0864

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:  
[mkhessel@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com)

### **Eucharist Celebrated:**

Live Weekend Masses are offered at 4:00 PM on Saturday as well as 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on 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, December 6th, 2020*



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*Mass Intentions*

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

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.

**Saturday, December 5, 4:00 PM**

10th Anniversary Mass for June LaMalva  
Requested by her Family

**Sunday, December 6, 8:00 AM** For the Community  
of Saint George

**10:00 AM** Memorial Mass for Ed Weber  
Requested by Purcell Family

**Monday, December 7, 8:00 AM**

**Wednesday, December 9, 8:00 AM**  
Memorial Mass for Michael Woods  
Requested by Liz Woods

**Friday, December 11, 8:00 AM**  
Mass of Thanksgiving  
Requested by a parishioner

**Saturday, December 12, 4:00 PM**  
3rd Year Anniversary Mass for Eva Marzilli  
Requested by her Family

**Sunday, December 13, 8:00 AM** For the Community  
of Saint George

**10:00 AM** 7th Anniversary Mass for Neal Alan Olen  
Requested by his son David Olen

*From Your Pastor continued...*

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 (No standing will be allowed.). The tickets will be mailed out to those who register since this is the best way that we can guarantee a seat for those who 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 24<sup>th</sup>.

We would invite you to take advantage of Christmas Mass on our website if you or anyone among your family or friends have tested positive for the coronavirus (symptomatic or asymptomatic) recently.

**Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection:**

Once again, we will have our Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection with the opportunity to go to confession on Wednesday, December 16th from 6:30- 8:30 p.m.

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 "Seminarians, 51 Illinois St., Worcester, MA 01610." □ Suggested stores where the seminarians 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 seminarians at Christmas time. Thank you kindly in advance for your generosity and know of our prayers for you and your loved ones. God bless.*

*Fr. Niccolls*



*From Your Pastor*

*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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have Masses at 8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M. Information will be available on our parish website as to 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.



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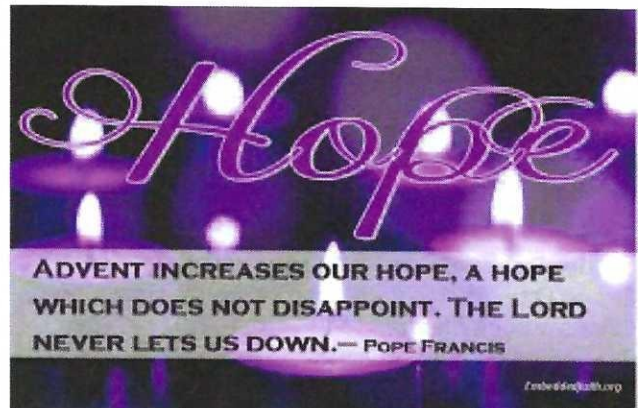
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**THE FAMILY CONNECTION**

If the Shoe Fits...December 6th is the Feast of St. Nicholas. In Norway, Germany and Switzerland, children put their shoes outside their doors on the evening before the Feast of St. Nicholas. The next morning their shoes are filled with candy and gifts. Put a twist on this tradition. In honor of St. Nicholas, buy some shoes for children in need. Fill them with candy and gifts and take them to the nearest collection site for Christmas gifts.



**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 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.

Our Online Giving has seen an increase in its users as many find this an easy way to make an ongoing 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](mailto: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

**Total Weekly Collection**  
**November 23 - 29, 2020**

On line giving	\$ 1,222.00
Ordinary Collection	\$ 4,342.00
Total	\$ 5,564.00

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

*Thank You!*



## Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

December 6, 2020: Second Sunday of Advent



### Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784

email: [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

[Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto: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

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

### 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.

### The "O" Antiphon



The Advent/Christmas season is rich in symbolism and tradition. In monastic life, during the octave before Christmas Eve, a time that is called the "Golden Nights," the seven "O Antiphons" are sung during Evening Prayer. Each antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title that comes from the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah. Centuries ago the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose in mind. On December 24 the monk would start with the last title and take the first letter of each one and read the Latin words "*Ero Cras*," meaning, "Tomorrow I will come." Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for during Advent, and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now assures us he will soon be here. These "O Antiphons" not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, they also bring it to a joyful conclusion. ("O Antiphons" by Fr. Vincent de Paul Crosby OSB). More information on the "O Anti-

### Eucharistic Adoration

Your next opportunity to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will be on **Thursday, January 7th and January 8th, (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.



### 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.



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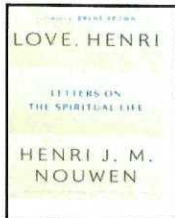
**From Deacon Paul Audette:**

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his Letters

Excerpts from a letter to a friend who was worried about the survival of humanity. The man's concern in 1981 was the risk of nuclear holocaust.

Henri's response is good advice for those of us who worry about the future of our planet for any number of reasons. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

*"...I really don't know if our civilization will survive the century...But important for me is not if our civilization will survive or not but if we can continue to live with hope, and I really think we can because our Lord has given us His promise that He will stay with us at all times. He is the God of the living. He has overcome evil and death and His love is stronger than any form of death and destruction. That is why I feel that we should continually avoid the temptation of despair and deepen our awareness that God is present in the midst of all the chaos that surrounds us and that that presence allows us to live joyfully and peacefully in a world so filled with sorrow and conflict." Peace, Henri*

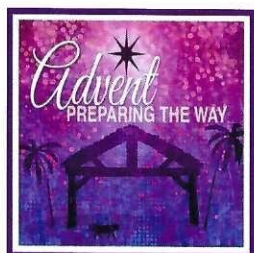


***This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:***

John the Baptist call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversation: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live - the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

**Pastoral Council Note:**

The Pastoral Council met recently and are looking forward to their upcoming virtual retreat which will be held on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. 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



**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.

**Bulletin Item Due Dates:**

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
December 20, 2020	December 10, 2020
December 27, 2020	December 17, 2020
January 3, 2021	December 23, 2020

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



### **Giving Tree Gift Returns**

Many thanks to everyone who assisted with the drop-off delivery of gifts on Saturday afternoon Dec. 5th

### **Sorting and delivery of Giving Tree Gifts Continues until Sunday, December 6 at 12noon**

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 508-829-6886 to volunteer.



Sign up to receive e-news!  
To hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish, simply visit [www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org) and click on the yellow link "Join Our Email List" on the homepage to add your email address.

### **Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection**

We will have our Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection with the opportunity to go to confession on Wednesday, December 16th from 6:30- 8:30 p.m. We hope that you will join us for this peace filled time.



Click the Online Giving icon on our parish website to give a one time donation in any amount and we will give a gift where the need is greatest. Donations towards special need can also be mailed to the parish office, c/o Annie Doyle, Parish Outreach with the notation "For Parish Outreach Needs".

### **Thank you for so generously giving to the "Giving Tree" this year!**

- You filled all 29 special requests from parents of children who come to the Mustard Seed food pantry. Many of these parents have lost jobs during the pandemic. Your gifts are something extra special this year!
- All 55 requests for children of families from Our Lady of Providence food pantry on Lincoln Street were filled and several extra beyond that number were also added! Your kindness is amazing!
- The 14 gifts for the elderly residents of Winter Hill Rest Home on Chester Street will add joy to their Christmas morning. Thank You for your thoughtfulness!
- Dozens and dozens of gifts for Crescent Manor, St. Francis Rest Home, and St. Mary's Nursing home were given! The Corona Virus caused fear, suffering, and loneliness for many of the elderly in these homes this year. Your gifts will add joy to the celebration of the birth of the "Prince of Peace".
- So many men come to the Mustards Seed for a nightly meal. Rarely do most of them have something unused to wear. For many of them, the sweatshirt that you gave may be their only gift this Christmas. Thank You!





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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.*



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**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](mailto:DavewithFDT@gmail.com)

**Special needs for December are:  
Peanut Butter and Canned Tuna**

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**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 .

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Visit our Parish Website for Advent Prayer  
and to Register ahead to attend Christmas  
Eve or Christmas Day Mass in person.  
For details see Fr. Nicolls 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

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**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](mailto:WaysideATQ@aol.com) for more information or for special arrangements.



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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](mailto:uscoordinator@globalresponsibility.org)

HOSTED BY



# DEC 07

8:00 pm EST



Catholic Cruises and Tours

# Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY

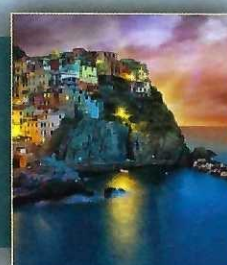
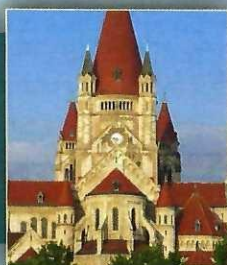


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