

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

December 12, 2021 Third 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:

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM - 12PM

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:
mkhessel@aol.com

For information regarding Pastoral Care of the Sick, Marriage Preparation, Confirmation, and



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, December 12, 2021

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From Your Pastor

Advent: Preparing for the Lord's Coming: 2

Advent can be a time to ponder the call to holiness that exists deep inside of us. A holy person is a Spirit-filled person called to manifest the fruits of the Holy Spirit – love, joy and peace as he or she grows and matures. Advent reminds us that Jesus Christ came into this world born into the poverty of his time. Throughout his life and ministry Jesus focused upon and had a special love for the poor. He invites us as holy people to do as he did – to love and minister to the poor. When we recognize that we are poor in spirit, we can minister to the poor. As Church the poor are given to us so that as the Body of Christ here on earth we can be and remain a place of mutual concern where true joy can be found. We will also be a Church of love and peace. To be this type of people in the Church, we have to be able to identify the poor. They are not people who are different from us – living in slums or sleeping on the streets, people in prison, people suffering from mental illness or other afflictions and disabilities or forgotten people living in nursing homes. No, they can be in our own families, churches, workplaces and schools. Even closer, they can be ourselves who can feel unloved, rejected, ignored or abused. It is when we experience this kind of poverty – whether it be far away, close by or in our own hearts – that we need to be Church, people who hold hands together as brothers and sisters, confess our brokenness and need, forgive one another, heal one another's wounds and recognize the need to gather around the table of Jesus to hear his reassuring word and break bread together. Here is where we can find true holiness and be like Jesus – people of joy, love and peace!

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.

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

Fr. Niccolls column continued:

and the Diocese of Worcester for all parishes in the city. We will also offer Christmas Mass through live-stream and our parish website beginning at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 24th. Therefore, in anticipation of Christmas, the Mass schedule for this holyday is as follows:

Friday, December 24 th :	Saturday, December 25 th :
4:00 P.M. – Church	8:00 A.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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 11, 2021

4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Andrew Murray
Requested by his wife Yvonne

Sunday, December 12, 2021

8:00 AM Memorial Mass for Maria Cuong Thi Nguyen
Requested by Thanh Lan Nguyen and Family

10:00 AM Fourth Anniversary Mass for Eva Marzilli
Requested by her family

Monday, December 13, 2021

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

8:00 AM In Memory of Ernest and Lena Zottoli

Friday, December 17, 2021

8:00 AM In Memory of Ralph and Jean Dunn

Saturday, December 18, 2021

4:00 PM Memorial Mass for Bertha LaFrancois
Requested by her daughter

Sunday, December 19, 2021

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM 8th Anniversary Mass for Neil Olen
Requested by his son David Olen



Stewardship Thought for the Week

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."



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for ENews**

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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

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

Monday December 13, 2021

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

7:00 PM Pieta Conference Room

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

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

6:30-7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop Church Hall

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Thursday, December 16, 2021

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Upper Church

Friday, December 17, 2021

Saturday, December 18, 2021

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Coffee Shop Express following 8AM & 10AM Mass
Church Hall

10:00AM Toddler and Children's Liturgy of the Word
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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. 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.

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

The Thursday evening Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration for will be held on 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:

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
December 26, 2021	December 15, 2021
January 2, 2022	December 22, 2021
January 9, 2022	December 29, 2021

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

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

Weekly Collection November 29 - December 5:

On line giving	\$ 2,114.00
Ordinary Collection	<u>6,070.25</u>
Total	\$ 8,184.25

Monthly totals for November:

Fuel	\$ 837.00
A/C	215.00
Repairs	<u>907.00</u>
Total	\$1,959.00



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

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 II of Henri's response. (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

Dear Dan,

...In your letter, you say that you cannot pray any more. I'd really like to encourage you to continue to pray, but to let your prayer be the prayer of a poor man, prayer which doesn't offer much satisfaction or insight, but is nothing but a simple being present to the One who came as we are, suffered like we do, and offers us his own poverty as a source of consolation and comfort. You really don't have to do anything more than say, 'Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner,' or 'Lord, make haste to help me,' and with the eyes of your heart keep looking at Him who was stripped of all human supports to offer you hope in the midst of despair and light in the midst of darkness..."

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.



The next meeting will be on:
Monday, December 13 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Please join us.

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

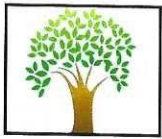
We are honored and delighted to
WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!
to our parish family!
Contact Annie Doyle at

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**
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 date of service is December 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.

Christmas Break

Christmas is approaching quickly! I hope you will all be able to have some special time with your families during this wonderful season. Students in grades 1-5 have two more class meetings before vacation. They will meet this week and next. On Sunday, December 12, our confirmation students will gather at the 10:00am mass and then have class, and our students in grades 6-9 will meet at 6:00pm.

Website Be sure to check the parish website regularly for updated information.
www.saintgeorgesparish.org

Tuition Fees

We still have some families who need to submit fees for religious education. If you would like to check your payment status, just email Sarah Kelly at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

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 2:30-6:00pm 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 Gifts Returned

Many thanks to our Confirmation Candidates and dozens of other parishioners who helped to sort and deliver over 500 Christmas gifts!

The residents, patients, clients, neighbors in need and guests of 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 are grateful for the opportunity celebrate the joy of Christmas. Thank you so much!



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 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

Thank You

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

The traditional Advent wreath is a marvelous action to teach holy expectation. Make a ritual of lighting it with your family as you gather for the evening meal.



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.

ON LINE GIVING:



There have been some changes to the Online Giving Software. When you log on through the link on our parish website, you will see a new screen that requests your email rather than a USERID. Use your email address that is on record with the parish and the password you have used most recently for Online Giving (which you used with your former USERID), and you should now be able to access screens for giving and for your recent giving history. The changes by the vendor are continuing. We will keep you updated.

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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 (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
Saintgeorgespiritgrowth

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

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" On this Gaudete (Rejoice in Latin) Sunday, the third week of Advent, we are over halfway through the Advent season, and it is an appropriate time for us to reflect how we, as Christians, are called to be a people of Advent. We live our lives in waiting and anticipation for the coming of the Kingdom, but as this particular weekend reminds us, we are also called to be a people of joy.

Our readings this week remind us to be joyful, rejoice, for our Lord is near. Indeed, He is; He always has been, is, and will be with us, and His presence brings us joy and peace, as St. Paul writes, "Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." We must remember, however, that this is not a gift we should stow away only for ourselves. On the contrary, this is a gift we are to share with others. The peace and joy that God gives us is meant for all His people. We are called to bear witness to this in all that we do, and in these uncertain days, what better gift can we give to others than the love, the joy, the peace, and the hope that comes from God?

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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For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. *Offer valid at time of estimate only. †The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercor Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSLB# 1035755 DOL# 1072688-9501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 92335 License# 128384 License# 218294 VIA USB 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFNIM222 License# W056912 License# WC-29998-417 Nassau HIC License# H01067009 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC 0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# RC6475 Registration# R213894 Registration# 13M409953900 Registration# PAD69383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registration# H19114