

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

December 13, 2020: 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

Rev. Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor,
Ext. 117

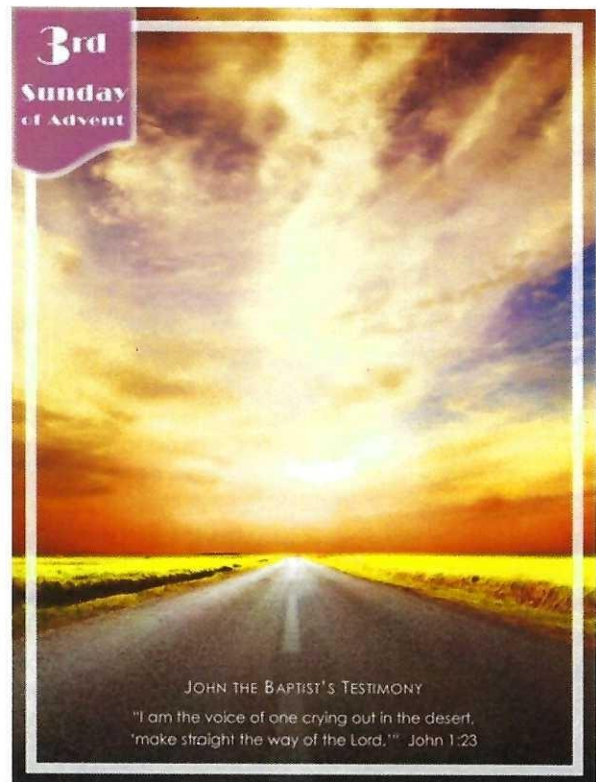
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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 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 13th, 2020

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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 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 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.

The deadline for registration is 12:00 Noon on Sunday, December 13th. 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 24th.

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 & Reflection: Once again, we will have our Advent Evening of Prayer & Reflection with the opportunity to go to confession this Wednesday, December 16th, from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. here in church.

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.

Below you will find a letter written by Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell who is the chairperson of our Pastoral Council. On behalf of the council, she wishes to extend her greetings to you during these rather different holiday times:

Dear Parishioners of St. George Church,
Our Parish is very blessed to have you as their parishioners. It goes without saying that the last 8 months, as well you know, have been trying times for all of us in many different ways. I want to take a moment and thank each and every one of you for what you have done for St. George Parish and our community. Your donations (clothing, food and monetary), prayers, personal time, helping others in need and generally caring for those around you have not gone unnoticed. These marvelous acts that you all have done have helped to keep our Church enriched in faith. While many of you have not been able to return to Church yet, we hope that in the not so distant future you can do so. I know many of us look forward to the day that Covid-19 is in our past and we return to a sense of normalcy. Please be assured, that I, along with the other members of our Pastoral Council, are keeping you in our Prayers and thoughts every day. You are never alone during this Christmas Season; God is always with you.
One final thought this Christmas Season. My father passed away this year in May from Covid-19. The other day I sat down to write up my Christmas list of the people to whom I wanted to give gifts. I saw my dad's name and cried as I deleted his name. I told my brother what happened and he told me to put dad's name back on the list, buy him something and then donate the item. I loved this idea, and the thought gave me some peace. I added his name back to the list and put down what I wanted to give him. Then I will donate the items. So don't delete the name of someone who has passed away. Instead, leave their name on your gift list and buy them their Christmas Gift. This act of kindness may help fill some of the emptiness of your heart with the joy of giving.

Many Blessings to You & Your Loved Ones,
Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell, Chairperson Pastoral Council

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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 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

Monday, December 14, 8:00 AM

5th Anniversary Mass for Gavin Daly

Requested by his wife Maureen

Wednesday, December 16, 8:00 AM

Friday, December 18, 8:00 AM

Saturday, December 19, 4:00 PM

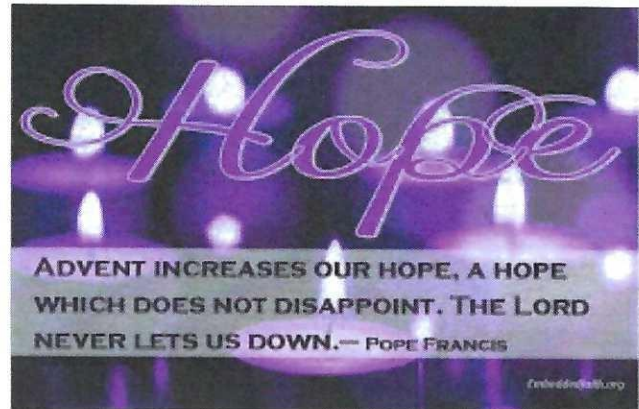
Anniversary Mass for Bertha Lefrancois

Requested by her Family

Sunday, December 20, 8:00 AM

10:00 AM 3rd Anniversary Mass for Andy Murray

Requested by his wife



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 its 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 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

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Let your light shine! As the Advent wreath gets brighter, we move closer to the day we celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Light. After it turns dark this evening, light your Advent wreath again, light some other special candles, or light up your Christmas tree. As a family, enjoy the wonder that the light brings to the darkness. Then share stories about Jesus. In what ways has Jesus been a light for you? In what ways have you been a light to each other?



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

Total Weekly Collection December 6, 2020



Ordinary Collection \$ 4,523.00
Total \$ 4,523.00

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

Thank You!

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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- 1/28

Grade Two- 1/14

Grade Three- 1/13

Grade Four- 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 classes 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: 1/10/2021,
1/24/2021

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Thursday, January 7th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

and Friday January 8th,

immediately following

the 8:00 AM Mass - until 10:00 a.m.

We strongly urge you to participate in this powerful spiritual experience.



The "O" Antiphon

December 17 O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

"O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation."

December 18 O Adonai (O Lord)

"O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your hand to set us free."

December 19 O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

"O Root of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid."

December 20 O Clavis David (O Key of David)

"O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death: and lead your captive people into freedom."

December 21 O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn)

"O Rising Sun, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death."

December 22 O Rex Gentium

(O King of All The Nations) O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart: O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust."

December 23 O Emmanuel (O God With Us)

"O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God."

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.

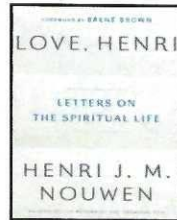
Due to HIPAA regulations, unless you allow the hospital or health care institution to release information and list St. George's as your religious affiliation, we are not told that you are a patient. Thank you for your understanding.

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From Deacon Paul Audette:

Henri Nouwen Speaks to us through his Letters Excerpts from a letter to a scholar studying pastoral care who had written to Henri about his views on handling pain experienced by the terminally ill. This is Part 1 of Henri's response (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):



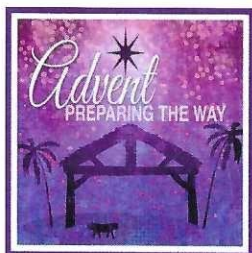
"...Over the last few years I have been increasingly aware that true healing mostly takes place through the sharing of weakness. Mostly we are so afraid of our weaknesses that we hide them at all cost and thus make them unavailable to others but also often to ourselves. And, in this way, we end up living double lives even against our own desires: one life in which we present ourselves to the world, to ourselves and to God as a person who is in control and another life in which we feel insecure, doubtful, confused and anxious and totally out of control. The split between these two lives causes us a lot of suffering. I have become growingly aware of the importance to overcome the great chasm between these two lives and to become more and more aware that facing, with others, the reality of our existence can be the beginning of a truly free life..." With many kind wishes,
Henri J. M. Nouwen

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

All of the people in today's readings - the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist - seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

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



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 27, 2020	December 17, 2020
January 3, 2021	December 23, 2020
January 10, 2021	January 4, 2021

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

**"Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near."**

Dear Friends,

On this third Sunday of Advent our Readings and traditions remind us to rejoice. Lately I have been amazed by so many reasons to rejoice:

- For weeks our Outreach Collection Area has been filled with food for families which we were able to share with 3 local food pantries.
- Despite the challenges of the times, our community donated turkeys and groceries to Our Lady of Providence Parish for Thanksgiving.
- With the support of our parish and partnered with 30 other Congregations and Synagogues, the Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter continues to give a safe home to families in crisis. Our parishioner Mike Ohl is a tremendous support with repairs and building needs at the shelter!
- Last Sunday our church basement was filled to overflowing with the Christmas gifts that you gave to children, elderly and struggling folks. The gifts were sorted and delivered by many helpful parishioners. So amazing!
- Our parish continues to pray, worship, serve and praise God with faith in action at our church building and in the homes of our families. The global pandemic has not lessened our vibrancy.

On a personal note, I am filled with the joy of being a grandparent to my lively 6 month old grandson who is full of smiles and enthusiasm! I also continue to be filled with the immense joy of being your Outreach Coordinator. Thank you so very much!

Peace and Joy,
Annie Doyle

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. of prayer and reflection.

A Volunteer Blessing

You have blessed others
With the gif of yourself
With the gift of your time
With the gift of your heart



You have been kind
You have been patient
You have been faithful

As you are a blessing to others
May you be blessed as well
With generous hearts to share your journey
With hands of friendship in times of need
With a clear understanding
that you have enriched many lives

For this we are so grateful

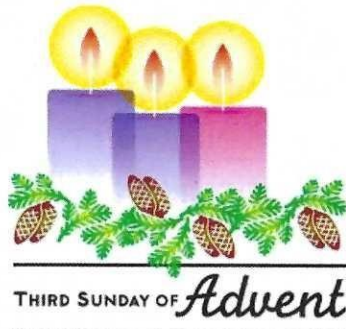


Sign up for ENews

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" on the homepage to add
your email address.

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

*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 Panty 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 .

Pray Along with Us!

Visit our Parish Website to listen to beautiful
Daily Advent Prayers
Recorded by members of the
Community of St. George



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



You Can Help Prevent Family Homelessness after the 4 PM Mass Saturday 8AM 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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His Excellency Archbishop
Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio to
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Questions: uscoordinator@globalresponsibility.org

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