

**Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden**

**December 27, 2020: Holy Family Sunday**

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

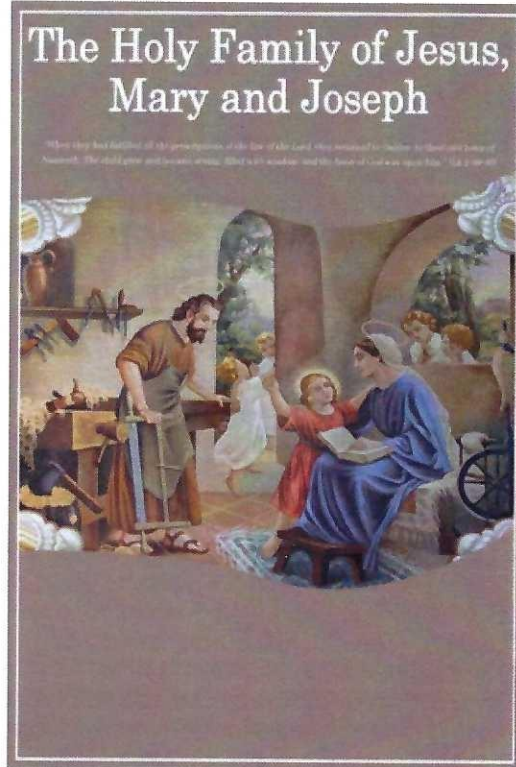
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

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 27th, 2020*



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### *From Your Pastor*

#### *A Christmas Message*

How often have we found ourselves saying that this year it is going to be a holiday season like no other. We will probably be socially distanced from many of the people with whom we would spend our holidays or whom we may just see and greet with the prayers and good wishes of the season. Rather than bemoaning the fact that this will be our situation this year, it might do us well to reflect upon what really is essential and important about this time of the year. Fr. Henri Nouwen, a great spiritual writer of the twentieth century, puts it something like this:

*"Our faith in God who sent his Son to become God-with-us and who, with his Son, sent his Spirit to become God-within-us cannot be real without our faith in the Church. The Church is that unlikely body of people through whom God chooses to reveal God's love for us. Just as it seems unlikely to us that God chose to become human in a girl living in a small, not very respected town in the Middle East nearly two thousand years ago, it seems unlikely that God chose to continue his work of salvation in a community of people constantly torn apart by arguments, prejudices, authority conflicts and power games. Still believing in Jesus and believing in the Church are two sides of one faith. It is unlikely but divine."*

All too often we look for the Church to be a perfect community of like-minded people. However, God tells us that this is not the way he created the Church to be. It is true that God made the Church to be a community of believers but, as it is mentioned above, we have to deal with people so often in the less than ideal situations of life. In reflecting on Fr. Nouwen's words, let us pray about them and try to see the message of Christmas, as he expressed it in his words today, in the faces and lives of those with whom we come into contact.

This may help us not only get through this pandemic holiday season but renew in us the spirit of Christmas that God has intended us to see and live all along in this coming year of 2021 and in the years to come. May God's blessings of this holiday season and the New Year ahead be with you!

(Continued in the next column above)

This year our holiday open house at the rectory will take place as a walk-through on the first floor after the 8:00 & 10:00 A.M. Masses on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. You are most welcome to come. Proper safety and social distancing regulations will be followed.

Calendars for the year 2021 are available.

*Fr. Niccolls*



### *Mass Intentions*

Live Mass is 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 Saturdays 3:30PM

#### **Saturday, December 26, 4:00 PM**

For the Community of Saint George

#### **Sunday, December 27, 8:00 AM**

**10:00 AM** Memorial Mass of Thanksgiving  
Requested by a parishioner

#### **Monday, December 28,**

**8:00 AM** Mass for Diane Jeffers  
Requested by Kristen Jenkins

#### **Wednesday, December 30, 8:00 AM**

#### **Friday, January 1, 8:00 AM**

#### **Saturday, January 2,**

**4:00 PM** Memorial Mass for Lorraine Vayo  
Requested by Diane Scally

#### **Sunday, January 3, 8:00 AM**

**10:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George





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### Thank you

You, the parishioners of St. George's, have continued to support our parish throughout these historic months of the pandemic, and you have recognized the need for maintaining our buildings and meeting our financial requirements. The Finance Committee's report last month confirmed that our parish has been sustained financially through these long months, and we are grateful to you.

If you are interested in eliminating your envelopes with our Online Giving program, you can choose either a weekly or monthly method of making your ongoing donations. The special collections are also available through Online Giving. Access is available through our website's weekly bulletin, and Kathy Hessel can assist at [mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com).

For those who are not able to attend Mass in person, we welcome your envelopes via regular mail or by simply dropping them in the mailbox on the front porch of the rectory. If you are in need of support during this time, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134

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#### THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Today is *Holy Family Sunday* which is celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate your own "holy family". Plan a family activity, whether a visit to other family members, a game, a family movie, or something else your family particularly enjoys. Take time to explain to your children that this is a "family" day in your house because it is the day when the church celebrates the family of Jesus and all our families. Make it a traditional fun day, one the whole family will anticipate each year.



### Letter from Bishop McManus

Christmas 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
As Advent gives way to Christmas, we find ourselves in a continued state of waiting, longing and expectation for a promised vaccine. How our world has changed in a year!

Last Christmas, none of us had heard of COVID-19. Since then our lives, jobs, recreation and worship have been shaped by it. COVID precautions have led to COVID-fatigue as we long for a return to normal life.

Anxious waiting and expectation for the vaccine marks and impacts our celebrations. Gatherings in church and at home will be smaller, travel truncated, carols fewer, precautions increased and parties cancelled.

But Christmas is not cancelled. Our way of celebrating has changed, but our reason for celebrating remains the same. While the world awaits the arrival of a vaccine, we celebrate the arrival of the world's Savior.

We hope for a vaccine that for a time will ward off illness and death. The Divine Savior whose birth we celebrate gives us resurrection and reunion. We pray the vaccine will restore normal life on earth. The grace Christ offers promises eternal life in Heaven.

For two millennia Christians throughout the world have celebrated Christ's birth. Many of these Christmases have been marked by famine, plagues and wars. Through those hardships and others, Christians have found in Christ the strength, hope and joy to persevere, endure and triumph over all of life's uncertainties.

As we wait for the vaccine to come, let us rejoice, give thanks and find peace in the Savior who has already come, defeated sin and death and will come again to share His definitive triumph of eternal life. With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester



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### 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- 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

#### 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.



#### Total Weekly Collection November 23 - December 4, 2020:

On line giving	\$ 5,486.00
Offertory (Dec. 13)	6,757.00
	<u>\$ 12,243.00</u>

Christmas Flowers	45.00
Immaculate Conception	15.00
Giving Tree	70.00
Retirement Religious	315.00
Turkey Fund	100.00
	<u>\$ 545.00</u>

#### Monthly Expenses, November:

Fuel	\$ 927.00
A/C	185.00
Repairs	760.00
	<u>\$ 1,872.00</u>

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



#### 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, home-bound 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.



*Christmas  
Blessings  
to the  
Community  
of St. George  
Parish*



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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 3 and the conclusion of Henri's response (taken from "Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life"):

"...All of this I am saying to restate my conviction that often deepening the pain is the way to healing because deepening the pain means to go to that place in me where I am really broken, sinful, dependent and where I'm no longer trying to stay in control but where I can reach out to God and to my fellow human beings without fear....I agree with you that all of this has a lot of implications for care of terminal patients... I also agree that often much care is primarily concerned with reduction of pain and therefore often avoids the more basic core that often many people look for...I very much agree with your suggestion that much pastoral care over the last decades has been so deeply affected by contemporary psychological ideas that often the true spiritual dimension of pastoral care has been lost...much work needs to be done to develop a true spiritual-pastoral care for terminally ill people..."

With many kind wishes,  
Henri J. M. Nouwen

### **This Week....**

On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, let us pray together for all families throughout the world, that they may begin this New Year in PEACE and JOY.



### **Bulletin Item Due Dates:**

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Due by:</u>
January 10, 2021	January 4, 2021
January 17, 2021	January 7, 2021
January 24, 2021	January 14, 2021

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).

### **The Spiritual Growth Committee met on Monday, November 30, 2020:**

- Kyle Lewandowski was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.
- Joan Talbot reported on the very successful Be-reavement Mass on Nov. 14 and commended all those who participated in any way. The COVID pandemic forced a number of changes, but the people who attended or watched on the web-site were very touched.
- Eucharistic Adoration is now available on two occasions every month – on the 1st Friday of every month at the conclusion of the 8am morning Mass until 10am and on the Thursday preceding the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month from 6 – 7 pm, ending with Benediction. Beginning with the season of Lent, there will be a third opportunity. The Wednesday morning Mass will be moved back to 6:30 pm. and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at the conclusion of Mass until 8 pm.
- Bonnie Moran was commended for the 15-minute prelude she is coordinating to our weekly streamed Mass. She is conducting interviews with parishioners as well as making presentations on other general parish topics. All parishioners are encouraged to tune in to these meaningful presentations.
- Bonnie Moran and Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell are preparing a survey of parishioners to determine how we as a parish can better meet their needs during this pandemic period of time. The survey will be posted on our web-site in mid-January and also inserted in our bulletin.
- There will be an Advent Evening of Spirituality with the opportunity for confessions on Wednesday, December 16th from 6:30 – 8 pm.
- Spiritual Growth Committee members are: Deacon Paul – Chair; Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell; Joyce Purcell; Joan Talbot; Bonnie Moran; Patty Walsh; and Kyle Lewandowski. Fr. Niccolls and Fr. DaSilva serve as *ex officio* members.

### **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

Thank You to the People of St. George Parish:

- From the families of the Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter for providing food, shelter, house repairs, and essential products such as laundry detergent, home made face masks and hygiene items.



- From the men, women and children of the Mustard Seed for providing meals, warm clothing weekly groceries all year long, Christmas gifts and so much more!



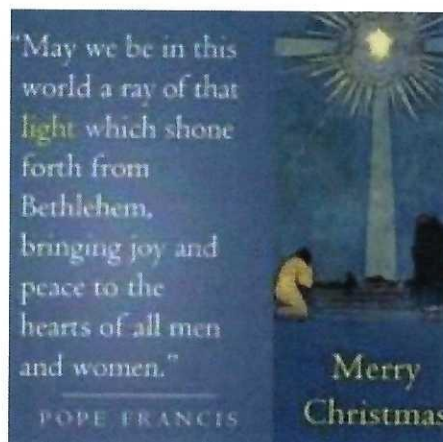
- From friends and families of the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry for providing non-perishable food items to help feed folks in our local neighborhood every month.



- From the parishioners of Our Lady of Providence Catholic Parish on Lincoln Street for providing Thanksgiving meals and so many wonderful Christmas gifts for our children.



During this year of a global pandemic you faithfully served those who came to these buildings all year long. You made these places of love, kindness and shelter from the storms of poverty, illness, unemployment and fear. Thank You and Christmas Blessings to you all. *Annie Doyle*



**Parish  
Pastoral  
Council**

The Pastoral Council met for the last time this year. The meeting was brief, but provided an excellent opportunity to connect and share cheerful and positive updates. One of the many positive updates included Stephen Gemme being appointed Vice Chair. The Council is looking forward to celebrating the Advent season with family and is hopeful for a great start to 2021. They will start their new year off with a council retreat that will focus around St. Francis Xavier and the blossoming of a new church year.



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.



*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](mailto: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 .



*For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given...  
Isaiah 9:6*

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



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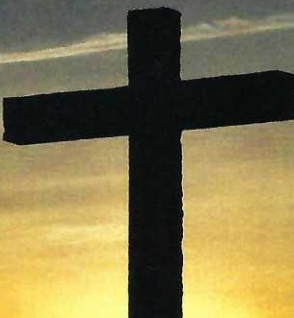
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The Common Good in the Public Square

**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)

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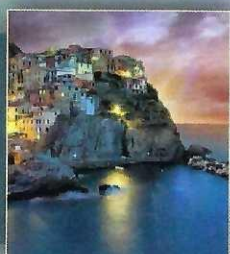
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