

Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

January 1, 2023 - Solemnity of Mary

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. Nicolls, Pastor Ext. 112
Rev. Miguel A. Pagan, Assoc. Pastor Ext 117
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

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

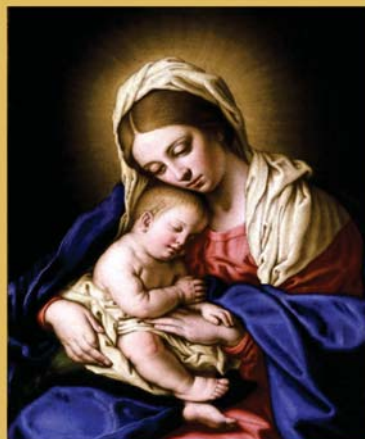
Patty LaBonte, Parish Admin Assistant
office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110
Fax 508-854-0864

Current Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday 8:30 AM - 2:30 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 Parish Office.

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God



And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.
Luke 2:19

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 10:00 AM.

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM
Tuesday 12:10 PM, and Thursday 5:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church
2:30 PM—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, January 1, 2023

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From Your Pastor

We extend to you and your loved ones our prayerful best wishes for a Happy New Year!

You are invited to our holiday open house at the rectory will take place after the 8:00 and 10:00 A.M. Masses this Sunday, January 1st.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your many cards, gifts and treats. Your overwhelming generosity at this time of the year is gratefully appreciated. Thank you!!!

Also ----

THANK YOU to those who helped in decorating the church for the Christmas season. Many comments were shared with me as to how nice and festive the church looked.

THANK YOU to our Music Ministry for the spiritually uplifting music you provided to make these special days of Advent and Christmas so festive. Your service was very much appreciated, as always.

THANK YOU to those of you who volunteered as Altar Servers, Lectors, Communion Ministers and Ushers and Greeters for the Masses at Christmas. Your service, too, was very much appreciated.

Calendars for the year 2023 are available.

Fr. Niccolls

Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 31, 2022

4:00 PM For the Community of Saint George

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:00 AM In the Memory of Gerald Duclas

Requested by his Family

10:00 AM In Memory of Lorraine Vayo, 3rd Anniversary

Requested by her Family

Monday, January 2, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Alyce Ovia

Requested by her Children

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

12:10 PM In Memory of Brendan Ritchie

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of C. Louise Hadley

Requested by Craig and Ann Hadley

Thursday, January 5, 2023

5:30 PM In Memory of Thomas P. O'Keefe

Friday, January 6, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Peter M. Klejna

Saturday, January 7, 2023

4:00 PM In Memory of John F. McLaughlin

Requested by his Spouse and Family

Sunday, January 8, 2023

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM In Memory of Cecelia Morley Laconte

Requested by her Children and Grandchildren



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Some great mystery writers, like the late Agatha Christi, tell a story so well that the ending is shrouded until the last few pages of the book. To understand how the clues fit together, it is necessary to look back and review how the story unfolded. Of course, once you look back it all makes sense. But the first time the reader reads the story the clues seem to point in a different direction.

Mary knows that something special has happened. She has no way of knowing what the future will bring or what God has in mind. But she can look back and see how God has worked throughout history, doing great things for His people and now for her. God has blessed her and she knows great things will continue to happen.

God works in our lives as He worked in Mary's. When we look back, we can see how His plan for us unfolds. People come into our lives that give it meaning and purpose. The Christmas Season gives us many opportunities to express our love and appreciation for these people. Time spent together is so precious and we should try to include everyone, even those who over time and events have grown a bit distant. Let others know they are loved. God has blessed us with faith, with grace and with His many gifts. Trust in God like Mary did, and great things will happen!

~James Gaffney © Karides Lic. to Pilot Bulletins

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2023

SUNDAY Jan 1, 2023	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Num 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6+8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
MONDAY Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
TUESDAY Jan 3	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
WEDNESDAY Jan 4	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
THURSDAY Jan 5	Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b, 2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
FRIDAY Jan 6	Saint Andre Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
SATURDAY Jan 7	Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a+9b/Jn 2:1-11
SUNDAY Jan 8	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

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Weekly Collection

December 12, 2022 - December 18, 2022

On Line Giving: \$ 2,647.00

Ordinary Collection: \$ 6,389.00

Total: \$ 9,036.00

Thank you for your generosity!
We are truly grateful.

Parish Calendar

Happy New Year
2023

Saturday, December 31, 2022

Sunday, January 1, 2023

After 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses Open House Rectory

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy given out after Mass

Monday, January 2, 2023

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Thursday, January 5, 2023

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Church Hall

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Church

6:00 - 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration Church

Friday, January 6, 2023

After 8:00AM Mass-10:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration Church

Saturday, January 7, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary Group Church

800 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, January 8, 2023

After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop Church Hall

9:30 AM Coffee Shop Meeting Conference Room

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy given out after Mass

11:00-12:15 PM Confirmation Class Parish Center

6:00-7:30 PM Religious Ed gr 6-9 Class Parish Center

Coffee Shop Club

Coffee and Donuts following the

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Masses on Sunday Mornings.



\$1.00 Each

Coffee Shop Club Schedules
posted on Kitchen bulletin board.

January 1 - NO COFFEE SHOP

January 8 - Dave Carlson and Team

January 15 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn and Team.

January 22 - Steve Toole and Team

January 29 - Dave Walsh and Team

Next Coffee Shop Club meeting Jan. 8th: 9:30 AM

Signups for coffee shop are available! Join today!

Talk to one of the captains or contact Andy Fish at:

andy@andyTfish.com or call 508-901-7813

Pastoral Council

Alex Roman was our only qualified candidate for the open council seat, so a motion was passed to forgo this years election and renew Alex's 3 year term. Alex has proven himself a valuable member of The Council and we are excited to continue working with him.

Email: andy@andyTfish.com with further questions.

Hail, O Mary, Mother of God

By St Cyril of Alexandria
(376-444)
Father & Doctor of the Church



Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
Virgin and Mother!
Morning Star, perfect vessel.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
Holy Temple in which
God Himself was conceived.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
Chaste and pure dove.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
who enclosed the One
who cannot be encompassed
in your sacred womb.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
from you flowed the true light,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
Through you the Conqueror
and triumphant Vanquisher
of hell came to us.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
Through you, the glory
of the Resurrection blossoms.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
You have saved
every faithful Christian.
Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Do you like to draw or enjoy making art?

Come join this open studio
event once a month!

Saturday, January 21st, 2023

5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Church Hall.



Bring your own materials and drop in to doodle,
finish a project or work in your sketchbook.

For teens to adults (ages 13+).

For more information contact: Veronica Fish at:

veronica@undercoverfish.com

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of:

Due by:

January 22, 2023

January 12, 2023

January 29, 2023

January 19, 2023

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

E-mail our Parish Admin Assistant Patty LaBonte at

office@saintgeorgesparish.org The best way to book or

reserve a Mass is to call our office: 508-853-0183.

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Prayer Before Mass

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



Help Prevent Family Homelessness

Please buy "Hope for Housing Cards" after the 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, and after the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday

See Dave and Sue Genereux in the Church Hall after EVERY Mass.

If needed, contact Dave and Sue at 978-833-0306.

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.

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. Call 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 informed that you are a patient. Thank you for your understanding.

Family Prayer Night Every Thursday at 6:00 In the Church



In the Church, there is a gathering of people who pray for all families. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary are prayed. 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.

Deacon Paul Audette

James Martin Speaks to us through his
"Essential Writings"

The theme of humor in the spiritual/religious life has been a frequent topic of Martin's lectures and media appearances. In these excerpts from an April 2, 2007 America Magazine essay (Part X), he treats both the long history of laughter's role in religious practice as well as the reasons why it can be such a healthy element of the spiritual life: "Humor shows Christian fortitude. In the 16th century, when St. Thomas More stepped up to the chopping block, he said to his executioner, 'I pray you, help me on the way up, and I will take care of myself on the way down.' This brand of humor says, 'I do not fear death.'...Humor deepens one's relationship with God. Like any relationship, prayer is leavened by humor. Nonetheless, some Catholics find it difficult to accept the idea that God might want to be playful with them. While traveling to one of her convents, Teresa of Avila was knocked off her donkey and fell into the mud. 'Lord, you couldn't have picked a worse time for this to happen. Why would you let this happen?' And the response in prayer that she heard was, 'That is how I treat my friends.' Teresa said, 'And that is why you have so few of them!' This is a playful way of addressing God that assumes God's own playfulness."



Eucharistic Adoration

The Thursday evening and Friday morning Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration will be:

Thursday, January 5th, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM

Friday, January 6th, 2023 after 8:00 Mass-10:00 AM

We hope you can come join us in prayer and to spend time in the presence of Jesus Christ.



Saint George Saturday Rosary Group

You are invited to attend our once a month Saturday morning Rosary Group.

First Saturday of every month.

Currently, we are meeting in the
Church at 8:00 AM January 8, 2022

If interested, please contact Jim Hachey at 508-579-9623

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, January 9th at 7:00 PM 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.



Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

January 1, 2023 - Solemnity of Mary

Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith" Sarah Kelly, Administrator
Phone: 508-852-1784

Sarah Kelly's email: sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Kevin Browne's email: kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org

Religious Education 2022- 2023

Just a few reminders for class
schedules and times:

Confirmation Classes:

Students registered for confirmation classes will meet Sunday, January 8th 2023 in the Parish Center from 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM. Candidates are expected to attend the 10:00 AM Mass.

Confirmation Students & Community Service:

Join in our ongoing Parish Outreach Experiences. Simply text Annie Doyle's cell phone for details at 508-450-4134. There are many ways to help the community.

Grades 1-5 Classes:

Classes will take place on January 9th and 10th, 2023 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Grades 6-9 Classes:

Classes will take place on January 8th and 22nd, 2023 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.

If interested in helping or if you have any questions, then please reach out to Sarah or Kevin via email. Please see emails above.

Grades 1-5 or for Confirmation questions:

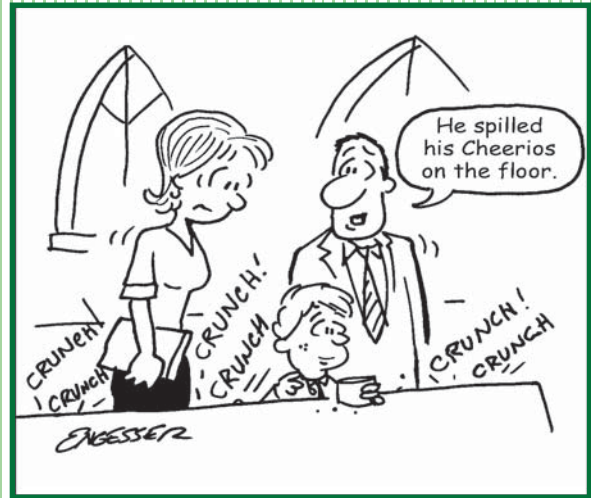
Please email Sarah Kelly.

Grades 6-9, and Youth Ministry questions:

Please email Kevin Browne.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Reflecting on the past year.....Take a few minutes as a family to reflect on the past year. What were the best things the family did together? What might we do this year? What were some of the things you learned during the past year and things you'd like to learn in the new one? What was one fond memory of the old year and one hope for the new one?



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
or 508-852-5658 for more information.

**Grandparents make memories
that the heart holds forever.**



Baptisms in the Church Family

If you, a family member, or friend is Interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, we invite you to contact us today:
Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or
email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com

Family Faith Byte



How to help others:

Pray for those who are in the news.

Say a spontaneous prayer at dinner.

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

January 1, 2023 - Solemnity of Mary

A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

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

Christmas Outreach Blessings Shared

- **At Our Lady of Providence Parish:** Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. George Parishioners, this Christmas the young children of Our Lady of Providence Parish on Lincoln Street received special gifts to help celebrate the birthday of Jesus, Prince of Peace.
- **At The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker:** Our St. George parish family shared the loving spirit of Christmas with dozens of neighbors at the Mustard Seed in downtown Worcester. Families were given holiday food items and special gifts for their children. Elderly and homeless guests received a new sweatshirt or a new pair of sweatpants. For many folks, this was the only gift they received this Christmas. The room was filled with joy and many words of appreciation.
- **At Winter Hill Rest Home, Blaire House, St. Mary's Health Care, and St. Francis Nursing Home** many elderly folks rejoice with us this Christmas! The Giving Tree gifts from St. George Parish were received with gratitude!
- **At IHN Family Shelter and in the homes of our refugee families from Afghanistan** Christmas was a very special day due to the ongoing support of the parishioners of St. George Parish.

Community Service Opportunities For Confirmation Candidates

Join in our ongoing Parish Outreach Experiences!

**Simply Text Annie Doyle's Cell for details:
508-450-4134 or visit our parish Website.**

Add non-perishable food items to our ongoing needs at our 3 food pantries. Donations can be left in the Outreach Collection Area. See special need here for the month of January. >

A donation of \$5 sent to "St. George Parish Outreach", 40 Brattle Street, Worcester 01606 will provide a meal for a person in need. **Our next meal at the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker is:
January 20, 2023.**

January 1, 2023

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis recently taught that knowing, 'rereading' and sharing our own 'Life Story' is essential. He adds the importance of 'nothing in it the silent and discreet steps of the presence of the Lord.' As we begin this New Year I share this letter with you as part of my ongoing reflection, rereading and gratitude as I rejoice in God's presence in my own "Life Story".

Over the 70 years of my lifetime I have spent this Christmas and New Year Season living in Connecticut, Sierra Leone West Africa, Boston, Batiki Island Fiji and here in Worcester. In each city, town or village I was so fortunate to feel the loving presence of God through the care and kindness of those I lived and worked with.

Growing up in a large extended family in Connecticut every Sunday was spent in my grandmother's kitchen full of aunts, uncles, cousins and a whole lot of food and fun. God was certainly there as we gathered together in that loud, wiggly, growing family.

While living and working as a nurse in a bush hospital in Africa we celebrated each Christmas Eve in a small Catholic church. Trucks full of Muslim and Christian villagers came from miles away to dance and sing to the sound of native drums at Midnight Mass. I felt for sure that God was with us all!

This Christmas New Year Season was the highlight of the year on the Island of Batiki in Fiji. As Peace Corp Volunteers my husband John and I set up a lovely little Christmas tree in our grass hut. So romantic for newlyweds! Village relatives came home to celebrate the holidays with family on the island. Our new 'Fijian family' generously shared their daily food, customs and faith in the loving presence of God with us.

My 'Life Story' reflection will continue next week. Thanks for 'rereading' with me.

Till then, peace to you all, Annie Doyle.



**Can you please continue
to help feed the hungry?**

Special needs for January are:

Jelly and Cooking Oil (if possible - small plastic bottles are safest and easiest to carry).

Outreach Collection Area: at basement level - church hall.

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

January 1, 2023 - Solemnity of Mary

Our Parish Vision: To welcome all, build connections to Christ and one another, and live our faith as true disciples of Jesus.



Emmaus Ministry

The Emmaus Ministry was launched in September 2022. Even in this short period of time much has been accomplished. Thank you to all of our Parishioners who have embraced this ministry with enthusiasm and generosity. Also, a very special thank you to Fr. Nicolls, Fr. Pagan, and the Emmaus Committee for their tireless commitment and involvement to build this ministry.

In 2023, we look forward to new opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and one another and to strengthen the St. George community. May Emmanuel, God with us, Bless you and your many kindnesses, encouragement and involvement as we grow in spirit and are guided by the Holy Spirit.

The donors to our basket raffle and the winners of the baskets will be announced in January, 2023.

For Information about Emmaus Ministry contact JoAnn Nally or Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell
email emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com
or call 508-853-0183.



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

On December 28 we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the babies slaughtered by King Herod in an effort to make sure that Jesus, the newborn king, wouldn't pose a challenge to his power. The Holy Innocents provide us with a way to approach this new year of 2023 as we strive to be good and faithful Christians. We sometimes think that we know the best way to love and serve God. But inevitably there are obstacles that get in the way – this person and his faults, this challenge, this cross. How am I supposed to become a great saint if God keeps sending me all these trials?

The Holy Innocents were not preoccupied with what they felt was due them, or all the ways they would have preferred to serve God and become saints. They could not say, "Lord, this is not really the kind of saint I expected to be, not quite the form of holiness I had in mind. I had more in mind a sanctity that would be entirely free of opposition and misunderstanding, that would allow me to bask in the sweet feeling of holiness without being radically stripped of everything but you."

We are all long past the innocence enjoyed by the Holy Innocents. But each feast and each saint provide the graces for us to share in their sanctity. So as we venture out into 2023, we can rely on the Holy Innocents to help us, whatever our vocation, to submit bravely, confidently, and peacefully to God's redemptive plan for our life – and to embrace the actual form of the cross he will send for us for our salvation and his glory.

Spiritual Growth Committee members: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Joan Talbot; Patti Walsh; Helen Hurley, and Kyle Lewandowski. Fr. Nicolls, Fr. Pagan and Deacon Paul as ex officio members.

Faith Sharing Group

Monday Faith Sharing Group will meet:
January 9th at 7:00 PM
in Parish Center, Room 107

Handicapped Accessible

Please call JoAnn Nally 508-527-6973 to sign up.



Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

2022 Parish Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements will be available for parishioners who wish to have a record of their 2022 contributions by contacting our Admin. Assistant at the Parish Office at 508-853-0183, extension 110 to request one.



Readings to Go!

Solemnity of Mary, January 1, 2023

Scan QR code to see this week's readings!

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"Feed My Sheep" John 21:17

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



SPRING 2023 REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Saint John's Seminary is a graduate school of theology and offers two fully accredited graduate theology degree programs for laity, professed religious, and deacons.

Available Spring 2023 Courses

- Faith and Reason
- New Testament
- Church History
- Trinity / Christology
- Ecclesiology
- Liturgy & Sacraments



www.sjs.edu/register

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

This holiday season, give your loved ones
the invaluable gift of
Peace of Mind
Contact us for pre-planning burial information
Cemeteries of the Diocese of Worcester
508-757-7415
worcesterdiocese.org/st-john-cemetery

