Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

January 28, 2024 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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. Thomas H. Hultquist, Res. Sr. Priest Ext.122

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

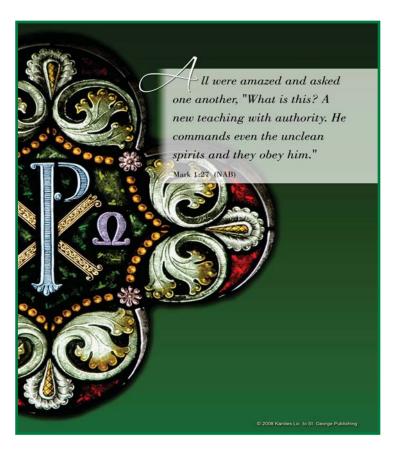
Current Office Hours:

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.



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 and Thursday at 5:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church 2:30 PM to 3:15 PM on Saturdays.

Taxish 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 28, 2024

From Your Pastor

In this weekend's Gospel Jesus astonishes the people with his teaching. He teaches with authority

which means that he acts with his own power. This is different from the teaching not only of the scribes but of the prophets as well. The prophets spoke words of God, not their own. If a prophet did not do this, he risked a punishment of death for speaking blasphemy which was imposed by God himself according to the first reading. With Jesus' teaching with authority, everything changes. When Jesus speaks, God acts. When Jesus teaches, his words have power to act. The command of Jesus to the unclean spirit to come out of the person is itself a command that the unclean spirit obeys completely. All of Jesus' words are like that; they are not empty promises but words of authority. We are then invited to put our trust in the God who so loves us that he sent his only Son to speak and act on our behalf and on behalf of our salvation.

Year 2024 Calendars are available for anyone who wants one.

Fr. Niccolls



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What good is a great story unless someone tells it? What's a wonderful song unless someone sings it? How can an idea change the world unless someone makes it work? Ideas, songs and stories all need to be put into practice so their value will be seen, heard and known.

Jesus confronts and rebukes evil and then banishes it. People were amazed and began to ask the basic question of faith "who is this man?" The answer leads to a choice, sometimes called the leap of faith; is Jesus the Messiah? If the answer is ves. life is never the same.

Faith is not just a good idea. It must be lived and expressed, preached and accepted, taught and understood. By word and deed, Jesus shows us the power of faith: its ability to conquer sin and death, its power to change lives and its availability to everyone. In imitation of Jesus, when we reach out to others, and offer the love and mercy we have been given, faith is shown as a way of life, and an open invitation is given to everyone to hear the Good News. And our pursuit of holiness and eternal life begins. ~James Gaffney © Pilot Bulletins

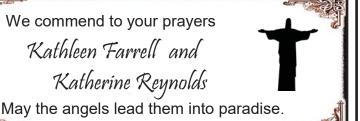
PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend.





For more information call Terry Gentile at 508-284-0796 or send an email to either Terry or Sue at pieta3@gmail.com

We commend to your prayers Kathleen Farrell and Katherine Reynolds



Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 27, 2024

4:00 PM In Memory of Richard P. Lohnes, 2nd Anniversary Requested by his Family

Sunday, January 28, 2024

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George 10:00 AM In Memory of Thomas Kim Requested by his Wife

Monday, January 29, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Helen A. McNally

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 No Mass

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Dr. Paul V. Gardner

Thursday, February 1, 2024

5:30 PM In Memory of Lori J. Maloney

Friday, February 2, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Ryan P. Stevens

Saturday, February 3, 2024

4:00 PM For the Community of Saint George

Sunday, February 4, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Rev. Jeddie P. Brooks Requested by Liz Woods

10:00 AM In Memory of Armand and Jeanette Audette Requested by Sue Graves

Deacon Paul Audette James Martin

(Perhaps the favorite topic of Fr. Martin's writings is the personal quest for holiness in life and the communion of saints who are ever present to help us in that quest, whether through intercession or example.)

"The saints show us that being holy means being ourselves. That's a powerful message to carry to the ends of the earth. And a powerful message to carry to a parish or a school or a retreat house. So, by way of conclusion, how might you increase an understanding and appreciation of the saints in your own spiritual life and in the lives of the people with whom you minister?...First, for your own personal life. Let me give you three easy ways. 1. Read. There are few things more enjoyable than reading a good biography of a saint or soon-to -be-saint. And when faced with a choice between a scholarly treatment over the more fictionalized versions. I'd start with the scholarly one...In scholarly biographies you always find the kinds of things that are left out of some of the pious stories – specifically, places where the saint struggled and felt discouraged...2. Pray. After reading a saint's life it's natural to meditate on his or her life and ask for some intercession. And I have a theory that is unprovable: I think that we start praying to a saint because that saint is already praying for us...meditating on the lives of the saints is one way to enjoy their company. 3. Evangelize. It's fun to introduce other people to the saints.....By introducing them to a saint you are offering them encouragement and help. And it may also help you feel closer to your friends, with whom you can now share your affection for that saint."



Gentle Yoga: Thank you Sue Stevens! 🧑 🕦

Sue has been providing Gentle Yoga here at St. George Church since 2011. She has shared her time, skill and compassion to help and support bereaved families with the healing power of Yoga, and retreats. Thank you Sue for all you have done for those who attended your many classes, and for St. George Church.

If you would like to contact Sue Stevens, or to learn more about Gentle Yoga, send an email to Sue at: MonarchYoga@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

Saturday, January 27, 2024 10:00 AM First Reconciliation 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Church Hall

Sunday, January 28, 2024

After 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses Coffee Shop Church Hall Parish Center 9:00 AM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8 Church Hall 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Monday, January 29, 2024 Tuesday, January 30, 2024 4:30 PM Rel. Ed Classes gr 1-8

Parish Center

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 Thursday, February 1, 2024

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Room 108 Parish Center After 5:30 PM Mass - 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration Church

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Friday, February 2, 2024

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

Saturday, February 3, 2024

8:00 AM Rosary Group

Church

Church

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

Sunday, February 4, 2024

After 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses Coffee Shop Church Hall 9:00 AM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8 Parish Center Church Hall 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy



Regular Offertory Donations, Special collections and donations are available through Online Giving.

Access is available through our website: click on the icon like the one pictured here. Kathy Hessel is happy to assist you, email with questions at mkhessel@aol.com Many thanks to our online givers who help to provide faithful & consistent financial support to our parish.



Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Bulletin Postings are due 10 days before the Sunday Bulletin. Please submit items at least 10 days before the Bulletin date. E-mail our Parish Administrative Assistant, Patty LaBonte, at office@saintgeorgesparish.org or call: 508-853-0183.

Join us for Coffee Shop Club After 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Masses

January 28 - Kathy Hessel and Team February 4 - Andy Fish and Team

February 11 - Jim Kelly and Team February 18 - George Gumbrell and Team

Coffee, donuts, bulkies, and fellowship! We NEED TEAM MEMBERS! Each team serves once every 10 weeks. All teams need help. Sign up at the Coffee Shop, come to find out more about how you can help, and help a team!

Contact Andy Fish: andy@andyTfish.com or 508-901-7813



Catholic Men's Conference Returns to DCU Center 'You Shall Know the Lord'

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important conference. Scheduled to take place at Worcester's DCU Center on: Saturday, March 16, 2024 Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, 2024; afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will not be available at the door this year because of advance planning for the luncheon. For more information and purchase tickets online:

www.catholicmenworc.org

Come and hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, James Wahlberg, Michael Nicholson, Bishop Robert McManus, and Mgsr. Thomas Sullivan. Adoration will be available all day. Closing Mass at 4:00 PM.

> For further information you can email cathmenworc@gmail.com



St. Vincent de Paul Free Home Pick-up

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Worcester and Hampden Counties is now offering free curbside pick-up of clothing, shoes, books, and household items. The funds received go to help our neighbors in need with (but not limited to) food, clothing, rent, and utilities.

To schedule a free home pick-up, visit website https://svdworcester.org and click on the "How You Can Help" tab, then choose "Schedule a Home Pick-Up". Complete the form, and you're done! You may also contact our partner (CMRK) at 508-474-8966 or scan the QR code which will bring you to the website.



Please Help us help our neighbors in need! Thank vou!

Prayer Before or After Mass

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen



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. Contact Judith Audette, Diocese of Worcester: Victim Assistance Coordinator, call her at (508) 929-4363.

St. George Church Eucharistic Adoration

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

Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and
Friday, February 2, 2024 after 8:00 AM Mass - 10:00 AM.
Come and join us spending time with Jesus. All are wel-

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



February 3rd, 2024 at 8:00 AM

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

Miracles at St. George, "My Mary Stories" - Susan Ovian, Part 4 Page 7 and 8: "My Holy Rocks", Booklet can be found in the Mary Chapel

Occasionally I open my holy drawer to check out my Medjugorje souvenirs gathered from my trip there in October of 1992. Consisting mostly of dried twigs, leaves and little rocks, they don't look very special, but I found out that they are.

I knew they were holy because I took them from Apparition Hill, the spot where the Blessed Mother first appeared to the children back in 1981 with messages for the world. This time when I opened the plastic bag I kept them in, I noticed something unusual. They smelled like flowers, fields of them! I took them out and smelled each one separately. Even the tiniest one had an overpowering fragrance. I had heard of things like this happening to other people, but would the Blessed Mother actually be doing this for me? Still clutching the rocks in my hand, I went next door. Casually I asked my neighbor to look at the rocks. Without hesitation he asked, "Why do they smell like roses?".

The next week I flew to Florida to visit my Dad. I was sure Mary's plan was to deepen my father's faith with my holy rocks.

After two hours stuck in the middle seat on a full flight, I reached in my travel bag for my rocks. I wanted to make sure they still smelled like flowers. When I opened the bag the scent was stronger than ever. People started turning around to see what it was. I had to explain to the little old ladies beside me. I didn't want to get into the whole Medjugorje story. I had already pegged one as a well-to-do southern belle and the other probably a non-believer. Besides, I was tired and I didn't feel like talking, but I owed them an explanation.

I mentioned Medjugorje, and the lady to my right said she'd heard a little about it and wanted to know more. "I'm having some family problems, and I've often prayed to Mary for help." "By the way, my name is Mary Elizabeth." We talked a little more and I gave her one of my tiniest rocks. (I was saving the biggest one for my father.)

The lady on my left told of her recent battle with sickness and her wish to renew her faith. I gave her a rock and she thanked me and introduced herself. "Isn't that funny, my name is Mary Elizabeth too!"

Upon arriving, I quickly unpacked my bags and with great anticipation I got my holy rocks. I briefly told my father my story and opened the bag. I pulled out the rocks and held them to my nose. They smelled like ROCKS...not flowers...just rocks.

Oh sure, he believed my story, but I couldn't understand why the smell was gone. Didn't Mary know they were for Dad?

Through the messages of Medjugorje, Mary is calling us back to God. I've come to understand that my plan and God's plan are one and the same and He does have a plan for us all. My holy rocks still smell like rocks...but I know God's plan is in motion.

St. George Family Prayer Night Thursdays starting after the 5:30 PM Mass

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 first Thursday and Friday of each month. Come pray the Rosary. Our Lady is calling.

Online Weekly Rosary

Urban Missionaries from Our Lady of Hope
If you would like to join via Zoom for a weekly Rosary:
Every Sunday, 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Send an email to mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com
put "Rosary" = subject line. ZOOM link sent to your email.





Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith" Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784 sarah.kellv@saintgeorgesparish.org

Schedule Online: The schedule for all religious education classes, grade one through confirmation, can be found on the parish website. Please check the website for updates.

Emails, Website & Remind App: All important updates are typically sent out through email. We also post any changes to the schedule, or important updates on the parish website. A 3rd way, and often the quickest, of getting information out to families is through the Remind App. Simply text the code @397b76 to 81010. You can also follow the link on the parish website to sign up for the Remind App.

Confirmation: The next class for Confirmation I & II will be Sunday on February 11, 2024. The next class will be on Sunday, March 10th. Church website has updates.

Volunteers Needed: We are still in need of volunteers, especially those willing to be called as substitutes. Please prayerfully consider donating your time and talent to the young people of our parish. All curriculum and lesson plan materials are provided, as well as teaching support. Please email Sarah.



Family Dinner Knights of Columbus Saragna 90 Manville Street, Leicester Thursday, February 8th, 2024 starts at 6:00 PM

25)

Bring your family for either a Lasagna or a Baked Fish Dinner. Cost is \$15.00 and includes: salad, entrée, and dessert.

Call Don at 508-615-8434 or email ohno7q7@Yahoo.com by February 1st, 2024 for reservations.

All are welcome!



Irish Festival St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln Street, Worcester Saturday, February 24th From 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Admission is \$5.00 per person. Featuring live Irish music and Irish step dancers from the McInerney School of Irish Dance. Corned beef dinner is \$15.00; corned beef sandwich and chips \$10.00; beer and wine will be sold. Tickets will be sold for these.

> For more information or questions, please call St. Joan of Arc Church at (508) 852-3232.

Job Opportunity - Administrative Assistant St. Christopher Church 950 West Boylston Street, Worcester

St. Christopher's Parish is currently accepting applications for the position of Administrative Assistant. This is a (21-24) hour per week position. Duties include: answering phones, scheduling daily and Sunday Mass intentions, creating parish bulletin, ordering supplies, and other duties. If you are interested or have guestions, please contact the Pastor: Fr. Krutcik at St. Christopher's Church at 508-853-1492 or email your resume to: parish@stchristopherparishworcester.org Thank you!

The Family Connection Dedicated to Ruth Viens

A Prayer for Spiritual Health. Simple see every day events or markers of family life as cause for celebration of God's presence: a child's soccer...learning to ride a bike...getting that assignment done...a good report at the doctor's office. Practice gratitude and give praise to God as a family every day.

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH









DON'T JUST ASK GOD TO DO THINGS FOR YOU, THANK HIM FOR ALL HE'S ALREADY DONE FOR YOU.

Grandparents: All interested grandparents are asked to pray for the safety and well-being of their grandchildren. Copies of grandparent prayers are available on the table in the Church Hall. Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions: office@saintgeorgesparish.org

Grandparents make forever heartfelt memories.

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. Please contact: Susan Pacek by either phone 508-856-9960



Youth Ministry Contact Jay Guillette for next gathering in the Church Hall



Youth Ministry is open to grades 7-12. Come find out more about Youth Ministry and what we will be doing this year! Contact Jay with any questions at iquillette@charter.net

Word of Life: Intercessions for Life

Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend or confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion":

http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

A Community of Ministries





St. George Parish Outreach

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



Three Refugee families from Afghanistan

Since we welcomed our first family in August 2021 they have been joined by two related families. The 19 children all delight in being with their cousins and the 6 adults share all that they have with one another. This is a

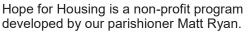
picture of purses and baby booties that were crocheted by one of the older girls using yarn donated by a parishioner from St. George. Thank you for all that you do for these families!

Current Parish Outreach Needs

- * Reusable grocery bags for the Food Pantries are always needed.
- * Toilet Paper is needed for our Afghanistan Families in IHN.
- * The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker currently needs men's white socks and gently used blankets.

All items can be left in the Outreach Collection Area at side entrance of the Church beside the Church hall door.

Hope For Housing Cards Help Prevent Family Homelessness





Matt has left us with this legacy which utilizes the collective buying power of 30 congregations to raise money for the prevention of family homelessness.

These Gift Cards for local retailers, including Big Y, CVS, Dunkin' Donuts, Hannaford, Panera, Shaws, Stop & Shop Target, Starbucks, and TJ Max are purchased in bulk, which in turn are sold to members of participating congregations who receive the full value of the card. The retailers donate 2-10% of all sales to the Hope for Housing program. By purchasing gift cards for **your use** at local retailers, you can help to stabilize families by providing counseling and support.

Please buy "Hope for Housing Cards" available after all Masses. See Dave and Sue Genereux in the Church Hall after Mass. Any questions call them at: 978-833-0306

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, homebound 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.

What is the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker?

The Mustard Seed of Worcester began in 1972 when two Holy Cross College students wanted to make a difference in the lives of the poor. Since then it has continued its main mission of providing a safe place to eat, with kindness and respect, for all who come to the door. The work is inspired by the example of Dorothy Day who began the first "Catholic Worker House of Hospitality" decades ago. The Mustard Seed is not funded by any one religion or group. There is no paid staff.

Since 2014 St. George parish has joined the Mustard Seed Community to serve meals and to provide basic necessities to our neighbors in need. Together as a community of faith we strive to practice the "Works of Mercy", to care for creation and our neighborhood.

Currently, with the help of our community, the Mustard Seed offers a free Medical Clinic, a weekly Food Pantry, basic clothing and hygiene supplies as well as a Christmas Giving Tree gift for guests and families with young children.

Thank you to everyone who helped to donate, prepare and serve the meal at the Mustard Seed on January 19.



Tidy Up Tuesdays

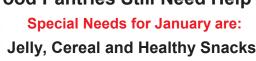
Bring your cleaning tools and grab a friend to help keep 91 June Street looking good! Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 10am until 2pm to lend a hand in tasks to be done. Light lunch will be provided.

Tasks include, but are not limited to:

Room cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, putting away donations, painting, or anything that needs some attention.

For more information, contact Sheri at slinn@ihnworcester.org or (508)755-2212 Weekdays 9:00 AM -2:00 PM.

Folks at our three Food Pantries Still Need Help





Some of these are items that are not available at the Worcester County Food Bank. Due to currently desperate food needs we now make weekly trips to WCFB to increase the food which we are able

to share with families in need. Thank you.



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



Emmaus Ministry

Interested in being involved in Emmaus Ministry?

Your ideas, talents and time are most welcome!

Contact Andrea or JoAnn for more information at **508-853-0183** or emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com

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BRING A GUEST BE OUR GUEST

Sunday, February 11, 2024 after the 10:00 AM Mass

Mardi Gras Celebration in the Church Hall

Coffee Shop is Open Kings Cake Prize for finding Baby Jesus

Featuring:
Emmaus
Breakfast Sandwich
Free Will Offering will go
Towards Emmaus Programming

Faith Sharing Groups
Meet in the Parish Center Room 108

Monday Faith Sharing Group: February 12th, at 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

Wednesday Faith Sharing Group: February 14th, at 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Back Entrance of Parish Center is Handicapped accessible.

If interested in joining a group, please contact JoAnn Nally at 508-527-6973.



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner
Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

We hear the term "Reign of God" in the Gospels read during the year. A few months ago our book club here at St. George Church read and discussed Fr. Richard Rohr's book, 'Jesus' Alternative Plan'. The words appear there many times along with Richard Rohr's enlightening explanations.

Rohr recalls the parable of the small mustard seed which becomes a tree - the "Reign of God" is like that. Jesus is telling us He has planted the seed of eternal truth which like the mustard seed will grow and take over-in time. He tells the poor, mostly enslaved people to whom He speaks that they can live the new reality right now.

We read the "Reign of God" is not the same as heaven or where we go after we die: eternal life. The prayer Jesus taught and we say at each Mass and beyond has these words, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". "Thy kingdom come" is a reality that breaks into our world now and then, when people are like God-ordinary people as well as saints.

"Reign of God" people are anchored by their awareness of God's deep love within them. "Reign of God" people recognize that all is passing away. They are free for God and truth they are the salt of the earth.

Our writer tells us that the world as it operates is power. The world as it should be is love. How do we live in both worlds? According to Richard Rohr the new world order ("Reign of God") of which Jesus spoke is "good, joy-filled, trustworthy, relational, communal, shared and somehow, at the same time, local and small-scale".

Belief that the "Reign of God" is meant to be present in our complicated world of today stresses the importance of being the bearers of God's love within us to those in our world-family, friends, neighbors and our broader community.

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





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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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