### Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

#### January 8, 2023 - The Epiphany of the Lord

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. Miguel A. Pagan, Assoc. Pastor Ext 117

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

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

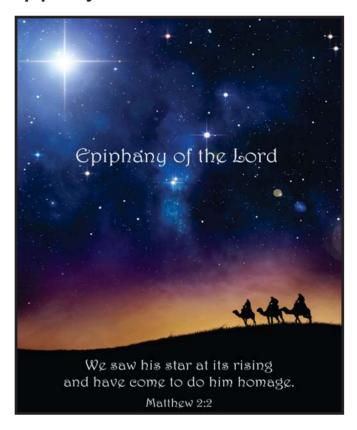
Patty LaBonte, Parish Admin Assistant office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110 Fax 508-854-0864

**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.



# 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.

### **Farish 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.

### From Your Pastor

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord and pray that we may have the open-heartedness of

the Magi. Their open-mindedness allowed them to see a star which led them to something far more wonderful and awe-inspiring than they could have ever imagined. They traveled from their own country to a foreign land to accept a simple gift that is revealed to them – a humble, simple child who does not appear to be a king but someone who below the surface is seen for who he truly is. Upon this recognition, the Magi pay him homage without hesitation and present him with their gifts. As Church we, like the Magi, witness together to the presence of Christ in the world. Let us pray for the grace to always have the openmindedness of the Magi. May we remember that everything is a gift from God. Some gifts are more easily accepted while others are more difficult. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we greet the obvious gifts and those that are more challenging to understand as truly gifts from God. May we see the example of the Magi as one to always keep in mind.

Year 2023 Calendars are available for anyone who wants one.

Fr. Niccolls



# Statement from Bishop McManus on the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

"The universal Church is profoundly saddened at the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, whose pontificate was an extraordinary gift to the Church and to the world. Ever the brilliant theologian and teacher, the late Pope Emeritus guided the Church through the rough seas of doubt, confusion and challenging ideologies, always presenting the tenets of our Catholic faith with wisdom and genuine pastoral concern. It is the same Catholic faith in the resurrection of Christ from the dead that gave our deceased Pope Emeritus and that gives us as well our only hope of future glory in heaven. I encourage all Catholics and all people of good will to pray for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in the coming days that he may be welcomed home to the new and eternal Jerusalem by the Risen Lord whom he loved and served so well. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

December 31, 2022

### Mass Intentions

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

Monday, January 9, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Roger Pedjoe

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

**12:10 PM** In Memory of Clare Menezes
Requested by the Ajbani Family

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Anthony Laconte

Requested by his Children and Grandchildren

Thursday, January 12, 2023

5:30 PM In Memory of John Connolly, Jr.

Friday, January 13, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Fred Sanford Requested by James Sanford

Saturday, January 14, 2023

**4:00 PM** In Memory of Thomas Kim Requested by his Family

Sunday, January 15, 2023

**8:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George **10:00 AM** In Memory of Donald Viens

Requested by John and Susan Pacek

#### 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 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, or email pieta3@gmail.com.

#### **Stewardship Thought of the Week**

Today we remember the three wise men from the East who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



The gifts we bring - our time, service, and some share of what we earn for the work we do - are equally precious in His sight.

#### Weekly Collection

December 19, 2022 - January 1, 2023

On Line Giving: \$ 1,657.00 + \$ 1,659.00 \$ 7,068.59 + \$ 6,977.00 **Ordinary Collection:** Totals: \$ 8,725.59 + \$ 8,636.00

> 2 week Total: \$ 17,361.59

**Month of December:** 

A/C: \$ 270.00 \$ 680.00 Fuel: Repairs: \$ 737.00 \$ 1.687.00 Total:

Thank you for your generosity! We are truly grateful.



#### Parish Calendar

Saturday, January 7, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary Group Church Church Hall 800 PM AA Meeting

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 Classes Parish Center 6:00-7:30 PM Religious Ed gr 6-9 Parish Center Monday, January 9, 2023

4:30-5:30 PM Religious Ed gr 1-5

Parish Center 7:00 PM Pieta Support Conference Room 7:00 PM Faith Sharing Rm 107 Parish Center

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

4:30-5:30 PM Religious Ed gr 1-5 Parish Center

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 Thursday, January 12, 2023

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Church Hall 6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Church Friday, January 13, 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023

2:30-4:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Retreat Church Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, January 15, 2023

After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop Church Hall 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy given out after Mass

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

Weekend of: Due by: January 19, 2023 January 29, 2023 February 5, 2023 January 26, 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.

#### Coffee Shop Club after 8:00 & 10:00 AM Masses

January 8 - Dave Carlson and Team

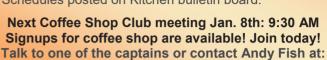
January 15 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn and Team.

January 22 - Steve Toole and Team

January 29 - Dave Walsh and Team

February 5 - Mark Cormier and Team

Schedules posted on Kitchen bulletin board.



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

St. George Book Club: Jan. 17th Parish Center Conference Rm 107 1:00 - 2:00 PM

"The Friendship of Women" by Joan Chittester Contact Nancy Forhan 508-963-9909



Gentle Yoga for "Every Body" Virtually on Wednesdays 6:00 PM

Virtual Yoga will start in February.

Contact Sue Stevens: MonarchYoga@gmail.com

#### 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

#### **Vianney Dinner**

The next Vianney Dinner is:

Thursday January 19th, 2023 **Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies** at 51 Illinois Street Worcester.



These are nights for men, high school aged and up, interested in learning more about a priestly vocation. Don't want to come alone? Bring a friend! You are welcome to come to all or part of the

evening as your schedule allows.

6:05 pm Mass, 6:30 pm dinner, and 7:00 pm social.

An RSVP is not needed but it is helpful in getting an accurate count for food.

Email: director@worcestervocations.com

#### **Prayer Before Mass**

May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord, we pray, shed its light upon our hearts, that we may pass through the shadows of this world and reach the brightness of our eternal home.



Through 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 XI), 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 welcomes, Hospitality is an important virtue in both the Old and New Testaments. Humor is a subtle way of showing hospitality. Perhaps the easiest way to make someone comfortable is to prompt laughter. Only when people feel at home can they laugh... Humor heals. Physicians, psychologists and psychiatrists believe that humor helps the healing process in the physical body. If we take seriously the Pauline image of the body of Christ, we might ask if the same holds true for the Christian community. In the midst of some of the worst times in the church. the people of God could use some laughter. This is not to say that one laughs over the considerable pain in the church. Rather, humor gives us a much-needed break and can help heal."



#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

The Thursday evening and Friday morning Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration will be: **Thursday, February 2nd, 2023** 6:00-7:00 PM

Friday, February 3rd, 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.

The Holy Eucharist: Source of Life and Love
A Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment

Saturday, January 14th, 2023 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Cathedral of St. Paul: 38 High Street Worcester 9:00 AM Mass, followed by check-in/coffee, presentation, reflection, lunch at 12:00 pm and concluding prayer.

Pre-registration is required. To register: send you name, parish, email address to <a href="mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org">aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org</a> with words "JAN. 14 REGISTRATION in subject line or contact Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311.

#### 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 7th, 2023

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

### Religious Education

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

Sarah Kelly's email: <a href="mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org">sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org</a> Kevin Browne's email: <a href="mailto:kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org">kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org</a>





#### **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

#### THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Ideas for Baptism anniversaries: Mark the dates of each family members baptism on the calendar this year. Set up a special place in your home for the person's baptismal candle, memories and pictures if available. Give the godparents a call or if they are in town invite them for dinner.



#### 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: <a href="mailto:ruthviens@charter.net">ruthviens@charter.net</a> or 508-852-5658 for more information.

Grandparents make memories that the heart holds forever.



# A Community of Ministries





#### St. George Parish Outreach

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

#### Parish Outreach 2023

#### At The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker:

- The Mustard Seed Meal donated, prepared and served by St. George Parishioners is on Friday, January 20, 2023. Preparation begins at 2PM in our church hall. Volunteers are needed. A donation of \$5 sent to "St. George Parish Outreach", 40 Brattle Street, Worcester 01606 will provide a meal for a person in need. We hope to be able to provide 120 meals. Confirmation Candidates are invited to join us. Please contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 to sign up.
- Blankets, gently used sleeping bags and men's gloves continue to be needed by the homeless guests at the Mustard Seed.
- At IHN Family Shelter there is a need for toilet paper and paper towels.
- Our families from Afghanistan are so grateful for you holiday gifts!







# 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 >
- Help to serve a meal and set up the food pantry at the Mustard Seed any Thursday evening at 4:30 PM.
   Please call Annie if you are interested.

January 8, 2023.

Dear Parishioners and Friends, Life Story reflection continued from last week's bulletin ....

These past decades living in Worcester have flown by. We knew no one when we first arrived here because of my husband's new job. St. George Parish welcomed our young family, and our two young children liked the donuts on Sunday morning so we have been here ever since.

Twenty years ago, Fr. Henry Donoghue invited me to join the parish staff to update the parish census. Since then my job description and responsibilities have changed many times. Each change offered new challenges, new lessons to learn, and new ways to serve.

Now in my elder years, I look back with immense gratitude. I am guessing that if you are still taking the time to read this reflection you might have been a part of this journey with me. As a community we have shared Baptisms, First Communions, family weddings and anniversaries, church fairs and picnics, new Pastors and Associates, new Ministries as well as new ways of praying, worshiping and serving together. We have shared moments of sadness and times of great happiness.

Lately, some of us are sharing the joyful arrival of grandchildren. We are also prayerfully supporting one another through illness and grieving the loss of loved ones together.

Through it all, you the People of God, have been the Church to me. You have blessed me, over and over again, with your generosity and kindness.

Years ago, a dear friend asked me what was my "Heart's Desire". I wasn't sure back then. Now it is clear to me that God has given me my "Heart's Desire" by guiding and allowing me to live and serve in loving communities in many parts of the world, especially here with you.

Peace and Joy 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).

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring food donations to keep our 3 food pantries going! Items can be left in the Outreach Collection Area inside the parking lot door at the basement level of the church hall.



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



This Sunday, January 8th, the Church celebrates the Epiphany of the Lord. This Feast commemorates the visit of the 3 Wise Men to the newborn Christ Child. The Magi paid homage and gave the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Child Jesus. For many people, it is customary to give gifts in the Feast of Epiphany.

The Emmaus Ministry, through the generosity of a couple in the Parish who wish to remain anonymous, will be giving you the gift of a copy of Matthew Kelley's book, Holy Moments. We trust that this book will provide inspiration and draw you to moments of reflection and prayer. We have been given the greatest gift of all through the Birth of Jesus. Ever mindful of this great gift, may we be a gift to others!

#### Wishing you abundant blessings in this New Year!

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



#### **Faith Sharing Group**

Monday Faith Sharing Group will meet: February 13th at 7:00 PM in Parish Center, Room 107



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



# Readings To-Go!

The Epiphany of the Lord January 8, 2023

Scan QR code to see this week's readings!



#### **Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner**

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran Saintgeorgespiritual growth@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. Niccolls, Fr. Pagan and Deacon Paul as ex officio members.

#### **NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!**

We are honored and delighted to welcome you to our parish family.

Contact Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 for an Introduction to our ministries, our needs, and your interests. We would enjoy talking with you.

#### **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.



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