

## ***Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden***

***December 17, 2023 - Third Sunday of Advent***

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. Thomas H. Hultquist, Res. Sr. Priest Ext. 122  
Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 113

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext. 111

Patty LaBonte, Parish Admin Assistant  
[office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto: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](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:**

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

**Christmas Eve:** 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM

**Christmas Day:** 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

### **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, December 17, 2023***



## From Your Pastor

In today's gospel we are introduced once again to John the Baptist where we find ourselves at the beginning of the Gospel of John. This gospel presents John mysteriously as he is one who came "to testify to the light." When he is questioned by the authorities as to his identity, he responds with "I am not." and "No." John finally identifies himself as the one who is preparing the way for someone far greater than he. John the Baptist claims his role joyfully by pointing others to Jesus with humility and clarity. John could have made himself seem more impressive before the religious authorities, but does not make himself the focus of his work. In his humble spirit he uses his voice to prepare the way for Jesus.

### Questions

1. *John the Baptist claims his joyful role of pointing others to Jesus with humility and clarity. What are the ways that we might use to do our share of using our voice and preparing the way for Jesus?*
2. *When John the Baptist urged people to hope in Jesus, he directed attention away from himself. Can you think of someone who quietly and diligently helps others without drawing attention or recognition?*

*What do you think is the difference between a humble ministry of preparation like John's and the work done by Jesus?*

### Attention Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers!

There is a sheet in the sacristy to sign up for any of the Christmas Masses.

**Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection:** Once again, we will have our Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection with the opportunity to go to confession on Tuesday, December 19th, from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. here in church.

**New Nativity Set – Thank You:** I have now received enough donations to purchase all of the new nativity set figures. My thanks to all our donors for their generous gifts! We have good news that all of the new Nativity figures are available and have arrived here for this Christmas season!

**THANK YOU** to Tom Pirani, Mark Cormier and Bob McCrohon for the installation of the new security camera (above the outdoor nativity set) and of the new and brighter lighting in the church.

This year in order to avoid excessive overcrowding in the church building as well as to avoid a serious parking problem in the church parking lot and the surrounding streets (especially Rochelle Street) on December 24th in the afternoon, we are offering a second Mass that afternoon at 5:30 P.M. here in church. Please take advantage of this second Mass on December 24th in order to avoid overcrowding the church. Therefore, in anticipation of Christmas, the Mass schedule for this holyday is as follows:

#### Sunday, December 24th:

4:00 P.M. - Church  
5:30 P.M. - Church

#### Monday, December 25th:

8:00 A.M. - Church  
10:00 A.M. - Church

*Fr. Niccolls*

## Stewardship Thought of the Week

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

## Mass Intentions



### Saturday, December 16, 2023

**4:00 PM** In Memory of Rev. Bernard Wong and Theresa Leung  
Requested by Seraphina Wong

### Sunday, December 17, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Francis E. Pike  
Requested by Linda and Bob Mulhearn  
**10:00 AM** In Memory of Neil Olen, 10th Anniversary  
Requested by his son, David Olen

### Monday, December 18, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Andy Murray, 6th Anniversary  
Requested by his wife, Yvonne Murray

### Tuesday, December 19, 2023 No Mass

### Wednesday, December 20, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of George McKenna  
Requested by Ann Walsh

### Thursday, December 21, 2023

**5:30 PM** In Memory of Francis E. Pike  
Requested by Susan and Robert Ovan

### Friday, December 22, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Nancy E. Shea

### Saturday, December 23, 2023

**4:00 PM** In Memory of Robert J. Sr. and Virginia M. Reidy  
Requested by the Family

### Sunday, December 24, 2023

**8:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George

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

#### Christmas Eve Masses

**4:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George

**5:30 PM** For the Community of Saint George

We commend to your prayers

*Cornelius W. Spellman*

May the angels lead him into paradise.



## 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.)*

"Here is what Mother Teresa said in a letter to her spiritual director. 'In my soul,' she wrote, 'I feel a terrible pain of loss, of God not wanting me, of God not being God, of God not existing.' That's Mother Teresa saying that she struggled with feelings that God did not exist. Eventually, she began to see that this sense of abandonment as a way of God drawing her even closer to the figure of the abandoned Christ and to the abandoned poor... So there you go. Many of us think that the saints might have hard lives - what with all the working with the poor and founding religious orders - but had it easy when it came to faith and prayer. And that kind of thinking sometimes acts as an excuse. We say, 'Well, the saints had this sort of mystical union, so following the Gospel was easier for them. So let's leave the radical Christianity to them.' But as Teresa shows us, this is not always the case. Sometimes the saints had it harder than we do. This makes their examples more inspiring and helps us to feel much closer to them. It helps to know this when we are struggling with our faith that even the saints struggled."



## Weekly Collection

December 4, 2023 - December 10, 2023

On-line Giving: \$ 1,768.60  
 Ordinary Collection: \$ 8,147.50  
 Total: \$ 9,916.10

**Funds Donated for the Month of November:**  
 (Amounts reflect on-line and collection basket.)

Weekly Fund: \$ 20,785.00  
 Monthly Fund: 8,869.00  
 All Souls & All Saints: 757.00  
 Catholic Schools: 2.00  
 Catholic Communications: 25.00  
 World Mission Sunday: 27.00  
 Human Development: 732.00  
 Nativity Set: 275.00  
 In Memory of Donations  
 and Funeral Stipends: 835.00  
 Total: \$ 32,307.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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

December 17 - Mark Cormier and Team  
 December 24 - No Coffee Shop  
 January 7 - Robert Gray and Team  
 January 14 - Jim Moughan and Team



\$1.00 each

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!

**Coffee Shop Meeting January 7th at 9:30 AM Church Hall**

Contact Andy Fish: [andy@andyfish.com](mailto:andy@andyfish.com) or 508-901-7813

## St. George Church

**Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection  
 and an opportunity for Reconciliation  
 will be held in the Church on:**

**Tuesday, December 19th 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**



Prayer and Reflection with the  
 opportunity to go to confession on  
**Saturday, December 16th from 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM.**

## Parish Calendar



**Saturday, December 16, 2023**

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Art Night

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

Church Hall

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop  
 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Church Hall

Church Hall

**Monday, December 18, 2023**

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Faith Sharing Room 108

Parish Center

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Advent Evening of Prayer  
 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Book Club Room 108

Church

Parish Center

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Gentle Yoga

Church Hall

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Room 108

Parish Center

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night

Church

**Friday, December 22, 2023**

**Saturday, December 23, 2023**

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Church Hall



## O Antiphons of Advent

December 17 - 23

### Sapientia (December 17)

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

### O Adonai (December 18)

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

### O Radix Jesse (December 19)

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

### O Clavis David (December 20)

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

### O Oriens (December 21)

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

### O Rex Gentium (December 22)

"O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust."

### O Emmanuel (December 23)

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

## Thank you

Your help with the Fall clean-up on November 21st was so very much appreciated. Many hands made the work light. Nice job everyone!

Dolly and John Mckiernan  
 Carolyn and Bill Gemme  
 Roland Bercume  
 Bob Chekarian  
 Sue Pacek

Richard Mattson  
 John Nielan  
 Jimmy Moughan  
 Dave Walsh



### Prayer Before or After Mass

God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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.



### Visitation House, Inc.

A welcoming home for women with Unplanned pregnancy in Worcester, MA

Visitation House in Worcester provides housing and support for pregnant women who need assistance, support and kindness. St. George's Community has helped with contributions to Visitation House through the Baby Bottle Drive. The drive this year will be during the season of Advent. Instead of filling a baby bottle with spare change you can donate in 2 ways:

Donate online: [www.visitationhouse.org](http://www.visitationhouse.org) or send a check to Visitation House, Inc. 119 Endicott St., Worcester, MA 01610

Please indicate in the Memo on your check that the donation is from St. George's Church.

Please keep Visitation House in your prayers. Call the Parish Office with any questions at 508-853-0183.

**Thank you for your prayers and generous support!**

### 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](mailto:mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com) put "Rosary" = subject line. ZOOM link sent to your email.



### 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 with us.  
All are welcome.



### St. George Church Eucharistic Adoration

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

**Thursday, January 4, 2024** 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and

**Friday, January 5, 2024** after 8:00 AM Mass - 10:00 AM.

Come and join us spending time with Jesus. All are welcome.

### Vianney Dinner

The next Vianney Dinner is on **Monday, December 18th** at **The Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies** located on **51 Illinois Street, Worcester.**

Mass at 6:05 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Social at 7:00 PM  
These are nights for men, high school age and up, interested in learning more about priestly vocation. An RSVP is not needed but helpful: email [dinfante@saintpaulknights.org](mailto:dinfante@saintpaulknights.org)



### 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.

Visit the conference website: [www.catholicmenworc.com](http://www.catholicmenworc.com) for information and to purchase tickets online.

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

For further information you can email  
[cathmenworc@gmail.com](mailto:cathmenworc@gmail.com)

### St. George's New Nativity Set



Thank you!



### Readings To-Go!

3rd Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

Scan QR code to see  
this week's readings!





**Religious Education** "Growing Together in Faith"  
 Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784  
[sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

**Welcome to St. George  
 Religious Education Classes 2023 - 2024**

**Schedule Online:** The schedule for all religious education classes, grade one through confirmation, can be found on the parish website. Be sure to check the website frequently for any 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 on January 21st, 2024. Make sure to check our website for 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 Kelly at [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgeparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgeparish.org)

**Word of Life: Intercessions for Life**

For all the victims of human trafficking:  
 May they find hope and healing  
 in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives  
 And release to prisoners; We pray to the Lord:

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

**March for Life**  
**Registration now open!**

Plan now to attend the 51st annual March for Life in Washington, DC on: **January 19, 2024**. Buses will leave from St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, January 18, 2024 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 pm, and will travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Friday morning Mass followed by the March for Life at noon. Busses will return to Worcester immediately following the march, arriving back at St. Paul's at approximately 1:00 AM on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Cost is \$125/seat.

**Registration deadline is December 15, 2023**, on a first come first serve basis. For more details and to download a registration form visit: [www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life) or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311 or send email to Allison LeDoux: [aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org).

**The Family Connection**

Anticipation. Who is not an expert in the fine art of waiting? Waiting is never easy. Give your waiting a purpose. Read a short piece from the Bible every day, or talk with your children about the birth of Jesus. Encourage your children to do things for others as Jesus did for others. Make a list of people to pray for each time you get stuck in line or on hold.



**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](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org)


**Grandparents make forever heartfelt memories.**

**Family Faith Byte**

What is the meaning of the 3rd week of Advent?



**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 [jguillette@charter.net](mailto:jguillette@charter.net)

**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** or email [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com)



# A Community of Ministries



## St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### Folks at our three Food Pantries Still Need Help



**Special Needs for December are:**

#### Jelly, Cereal and Healthy Snacks



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 WCFCB to increase the food which we are able to share with families in need. Thank you.

### Current Parish Outreach Needs

- Mustard Seed Catholic Worker continues to need towels, socks, gloves, hats, blankets and warm coats for men.
- Reusable grocery bags for the Food Pantries are always needed.
- Toilet Paper is needed for our Afghanistan Families and IHN.

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



### Hope For Housing Cards Help Prevent Family Homelessness



Hope for Housing is a non-profit program developed by our parishioner Matt Ryan. 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.

### Gift Cards Make Great Christmas Gifts! Helping Prevent Homelessness & Giving to Others!

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

December 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Pope Francis recently said, "What the poor need is our hearts open to love...we are called to find Christ in them."

It has been my experience that your hearts are amazingly open to love of the poor! You certainly help me to see Christ in them: Christ the homeless child born in Bethlehem, Christ the refugee in flight to Egypt, Christ who fed the hungry, Christ the teacher and friend.

#### You make Christ the Homeless Child visible:

- This past year, your donations helped to give 13 families a place to live and learn at our IHN Shelter. The 23 of them were children who enjoyed summer camp and a music program, learned how to ride and repair a bike, and could rest comfortably and securely within their own family.

#### You show us the face of Christ the Refugee:

- It never totally occurred to me that Christ and his young parents were once refugees. Your donations to Parish Outreach has put me in contact with the lives of our now three refugee families from Afghanistan. Just recently a young mom experienced the sad loss of her own mom still living far away in Afghanistan. While there is great joy for them now living here in America, there is also sadness.

#### We see Christ who fed the hungry through you:

- This year we served 900 meals at the Mustard Seed and you shared food with hundreds of others who came in need to our three food pantries. The struggles of so many folks are lessened because you shop, carry, cook, prepare and share.

#### Thanks to you, Christ the teacher and friend is present among us:

- So many of you volunteer at our Religious Education Classes, and join our voices together to lead us in praise and worship. You lovingly reach out to family, friends and neighbors in need. You pray for and comfort the sick as well as those who grieve. You listen and share your faith quietly and gently. And so much more! Your kindness and love is Christ present among us.

Gratefully Yours, *Annie Doyle*

### 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.



*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 welcomed!**


Contact Andrea or JoAnn for more information at **508-853-0183** or [emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com)



## Advent Faith Sharing Groups

**If you are interested in learning more about Faith Sharing groups, JoAnn Nally at phone number 508-527-6973.**

**Next meeting on Monday is:**  
**December 18th from**  
**7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**Handicapped Accessible**




## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Over the last year or more, interest and speculation about the presidential election headlined the news almost every day. As candidates debated the issues and frontrunners emerged, people's excitement grew. They waited for the announcements of running mates, winners, new appointments, and big changes. The anticipation of big ideas and new leaders got everyone's attention and interest.

Out of the depths of oppression and slavery was born the hope and longing for a Savior. The Israelites looked for the day that God's promise of salvation would restore their status as the Chosen People. When John the Baptist arrived, there was much speculation that he might be the One. He created a lot of interest and excitement that prepared the way of the Lord.

We've heard the Advent message so often that it might seem old to us, and Advent may become just another time of year. Perhaps we are not sure what it means to prepare the way of the Lord. But preparing for the Lord is like spring-cleaning. We need to take a good look at ourselves, change the bad habits of the past, and renew ourselves with grace, hope and the promise of life and peace. We announce His coming by our words and deeds. Live the message of the Gospel and you will generate some interest of your own.

~James Gaffney © Pilot Bulletins



## Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran  
[Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com](mailto:Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com)

The Universal Phase of the 2021 -2024 Synod completed in late October of this year. The Synthesis report from this Universal Phase, *A Synodal Church in Mission* is available at [www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-universal-phase/documents.html](http://www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-universal-phase/documents.html).

The entire church having "received the fruits of this consultation in order to discern, in prayer and dialogue, the paths that the Spirit is asking us to follow" will continue until October of 2024. At that time the Second session of the Assembly of Bishops will offer it to the Holy Father.

All reports to date from the Synod are available by visiting our parish website [saintgeorgesparish.org](http://saintgeorgesparish.org) under the Spiritual Growth Committees' page.

This Universal Phase report moves to encompass the deeper conversations among all those involved including bishops, lay people, those in consecrated life, deacons and priests. The familiar categories (which parishioners here at Saint George spoke of in our gathering sessions) the *Synodal Church: Communion, participation and mission* now emerge as three parts. Part 1 *The Face of the Synodal Church*, Part 2 *All disciples, All Missionaries* and Part 3 *Weaving Bonds, Building Communities*. The introduction, defining, and discussions of these parts leads to building "Matters for Consideration" and "Proposals". These are the action steps along our path. Deepening Our Mission, following the Holy Spirit as we grow in community leading up to the second session in 2024.

There is a lot to read, think, listen and pray about in this next phase. What are your responses to the matters for Consideration? On the Proposals? We as a church need the next year to continue the conversations and complete the enormous work still to be done in realizing the hopes and dreams of our future church.

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.

## Rectory Open House: December 31st, 2023

**after 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses**  
**Hope you can come!**



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