

Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

December 31, 2023 - Holy Family Sunday

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

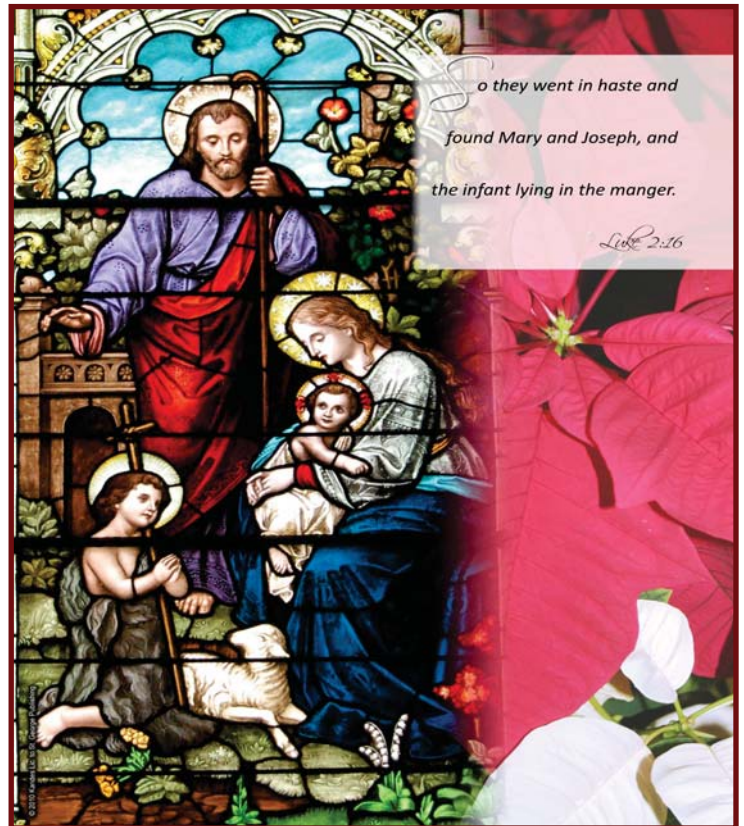
Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 111

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.

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 31, 2023



From Your Pastor

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

This year our holiday open house at the rectory will take place after the 8:00 & 10:00 A.M. Masses **next Sunday, January 7th**. You are most welcome to attend.

I also 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!!!

Several additional "thank-you"s are also in order this week:

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 Greeters for the Masses at Christmas. Your service, too, was very much appreciated.

Monday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is not observed as a Mass obligation this year.

Year 2024 Calendars are available for anyone who wants one.

Fr. Niccolls



Stewardship Thought of the Week

"Whatever you do," says St. Paul to the Colossians, "...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him." And so it is that we offer of gifts in the Eucharist "through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

See Colossians 3:17

We commend to your prayers

Daniel Malley	Joan Hamm
Margaret Shilling	Russell Dube
Roger Fortin	Joan Mazzer



May the angels lead them into paradise.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00 PM In Memory of Elizabeth Brosnihan,
1st Anniversary
Requested by her daughters, Susan Pedone and
Victoria McCarthy

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

Monday, January 1, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of George L. Anderson, Sr.

40th Anniversary

Requested by his Family

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 No Mass

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Mary Helen Pratt

Thursday, January 4, 2024

5:30 PM In Memory of Joseph Jacques, Sr.

Friday, January 5, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Francis Zecco

Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 PM In Memory of Stuart C. Leroy, Jr.

Requested by the Leroy Family

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Claire Evans, 3rd Anniversary

Requested by her daughter Theresa Moylan

10:00 AM In Memory of Francis E. Pike

Requested by the Cusack Family

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

**Monday, January 8, 2024 at
7:00 PM in the Church Hall**

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



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.)

"During my novitiate...I came upon an old paperback book called *The Wit and Wisdom of John XXIII*...Until this point, all I knew about John XXIII was that he had convened the Second Vatican Council. I had no idea he was so funny... One day the pope stopped by the Hospital of the Holy Spirit for a surprise visit, and the sister in charge rushed up to greet him and say, 'Your Holiness, I am the Superior of the Holy Spirit!' and John said, 'Oh you're very lucky. I'm only the Vicar of Christ!'...One thing that John XXIII shows us is how wrong-headed is the idea of the grumpy and depressed saint. And he shows us the value of humor in the spiritual life. As the French novelist Leon Bloy once said, 'Joy is the surest sign of the Holy Spirit.'"



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, MA 01609

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

December 28, 2023

Next weekend, the parishes in our diocese will participate in the national collection for **The Catholic University of America** in Washington, D.C. Established in 1887, the university is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy and theology.

Catholic University is a community of students, faculty, and staff who are committed to upholding the highest standards of education. Through its 12 schools, 32 research facilities, and more than 250 academic programs, the University community works tirelessly on behalf of its 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students to help educate them to serve the Church and nation as the Catholic leaders of tomorrow.

Support of the National Collection not only provides critical support to students but also it helps the University serve dioceses and parishes through innovative research initiatives and training programs, such as Insight, the first Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) professional development program for K-12 Catholic school educators, a master's program in Ecclesial Administration and Management, and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America to be taken up on the weekend of January 7, 2024.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Robert J. McManus*

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Weekly Collection

December 11 - December 25, 2023

On-line Giving: \$ 2,341.60 + 1,143.20
Ordinary Collection: \$ 7,125.00 + 5,134.00

Total: \$ 15,743.80

Thank you for your generosity.
We are truly blessed.



Join us for Coffee Shop Club

After 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Masses

December 24 and 31- No Coffee Shop
January 7 - No Coffee Shop, Open House
January 14 - Robert Gray and Team
January 21 - 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 14th at 9:30 AM Church Hall

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

Parish Calendar

Saturday, December 30, 2023

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Church Hall

Monday, January 1, 2024 *Happy New Year!*

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Thursday, January 4, 2024

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Room 108

Parish Center

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night

Church

Friday, January 5, 2024

Saturday, January 6, 2024

8:00 AM Rosary Group

Church

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

Sunday, January 7, 2024

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

Rectory

9:00 AM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8

Parish Center

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Church Hall

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.

2023 Parish Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements will be available for parishioners who wish to have a record of their 2023 contributions by contacting our Administrative Assistant at the Parish Office at 508-853-0183, extension 110 to request one.

Mailed only upon request.



*Readings
To-Go!*

*Holy Family Sunday
December 31, 2023*

*Scan QR code to see
this week's readings!*

Prayer Before or After Mass

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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.



Become a Certified Spiritual Director Immaculate Conception Center 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, CT

Winter 1 (of 3): Jan. 28 - Feb. 10, 2024.
Application due Date September 1, 2023.

The Immaculate Conception Center in Putnam CT, partnership with Franciscan University of Steubenville, is offering a three year training program for those who feel called to serve as Spiritual Directors. Classes are taught during a two-week winter training session each year.

For application visit: Immaculateconceptioncenter.org.

If you have any questions, you can either email us at: admin@immaculateconceptioncenter.org call 860-928-7955.

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

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 6, 2024

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



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.



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.



HANDBELL CHOIR

Handbell Concert in Shrewsbury St. Anne Parish 130 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury Saturday, January 6th, 2024 Starts at 7:00 PM

St. Anne Parish is hosting a handbell concert by the Merrimack Valley Ringers on Saturday, January 6th, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Church. Concert is open to the public. Appropriate for all ages. Free-will offering at the end of the concert, all proceeds go to the Merrimack Valley Ringers. All are welcome! Hope to see you there.

For more information contact
St. Anne's Parish at
508-757-5154



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.org 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



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 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!



Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784
sarah.kelly@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 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.



St. Peter Central Catholic School
865 Main St. Worcester, MA 01610
Open House, Sunday, January 28th, 2024
from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Please join us at St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School for an **Open House on Sunday, January 28th, 2024.**

St. Peter's has openings in Grades PreK- 8.

Please visit us on January 28th.

For more information please contact
 Mary Beth Soucy at marybeth.soucy@stpeterccc.com
 or by phone at 508-791-6496. You can also visit their
 website: www.stpetercentralcatholic.com



Bottle and Can Drive
American Heritage Girls Scout Troop 0716
Saturday, January 6, 2024
from 9:00 AM to Noon

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Loreto at
33 Massasoit Road, Worcester

Come support the Girls Scout Troop! Bring your redeemable bottles and cans to this drive. Help support their troop.

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



Baptismal Announcements

The community of St. George's Parish welcomes:

Jonah Robert O'Doherty and
Emerson Avery Sgandurra

May God Bless you, your families and godparents as you both Journey in faith with all of us here at St. George's Church.



The Family Connection

A Blessing Prayer for Our Home - Lord God, bless our home and all those who enter here. May this family and all who visit us this year be healthy and holy. Christ's peace to all who enter. May we worship Jesus within these walls. As the star made Christ visible to the wise men, help us make the light of Christ visible in our home today.



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.

Word of Life: Intercessions for Life

For all families:

As the domestic Church,
 may they pursue holiness,
 pass on the faith, and persevere in love;
We pray to the Lord:

"Dearest St. Joseph...Help us to faithfully
 commit ourselves to the service and defense
 of human life - especially where it is vulner-
 able or threatened. Obtain for us the grace
 to do the will of God in all things."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life.



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

Job Opportunity - Parish Administrator
St. Christopher Church
950 West Boylston Street, Worcester

St. Christopher's Parish is currently accepting applications for the position of Parish Administrator. This is a (21-24) hour per week position. Responsibilities include: answering phones, maintaining parish website, creating parish bulletins, preparing and scheduling daily and Sunday Mass intention, mailing periodic information to parishioners, ordering and maintaining office supplies. The successful candidate must have an appreciation for the Catholic faith and knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, and Publisher is preferable. Experience in Flocknote or ParishSoft is a plus.

If you are interested, please contact the Pastor at 508-853-1492 or submit your resume by email to:
parish@stchristopherparishworchester.org

A Community of Ministries



St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134
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 side entrance of the Church beside the Church hall door. Thank you!

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.



Please buy "Hope for Housing Cards" available after all Masses. See Dave and Sue Genereux in the Church Hall after Mass. Thank you very much. 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 welcome!

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



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran

Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

Welcome to the final countdown to the year 2023. It has been a busy one here at St. George Church as we continue to work on growing our parish since the pandemic.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We pay tribute to the ultimate family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as well as all our human families on earth.

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is a feast day honoring the Mother of Jesus and also the Mother of the Church. While this is usually a holy day of obligation, it is lifted when the date falls on a Saturday or Monday. All are still cordially invited to attend Mass here tomorrow at 8:00 AM.

Our liturgical Christmas season continues through January 7, 2024 at the Sunday Mass celebration of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

As we approach 2024, here is a thought of inspiration for the New Year.

The Work of Christmas Begins

When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and fiends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules

The work of Christmas begins:

To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace for all people,
To bring Christ's light to the world.

- by Michael Dougherty, a variation of Howard Thurman's "When the Song of the Angels is Stilled"

We wish you all a very blessed New Year!

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.

EMMAUS MINISTRY

Thank You

*To our Priests and Fellow Parishioners
During this Holy Season of Christmas, we pray
in thanksgiving for each of you who have so
generously given of your time, talent and
treasure for the Emmaus Ministry.*

We have been greatly blessed in the programs offered. Because of your support and participation, many new programs have been presented, such as "Soup and Stations", a Mardi Gras celebration, a delicious Italian dinner (catered by Dino's Restaurant) and Karaoke, "Caroling, Cookies and Cocoa", Be Our Guest/Bring a Guest to Sunday Mass and An Evening of Reflection on the Emmaus Gospel (Luke 24:13-35). These are just some of the many programs initiated to socially and spiritually enrich our Parish Community here at St. George!

The Emmaus Ministry is thriving because of your support and the hard work of our parishioners and by the Emmaus Committee (Patti Walsh, Wendy Babola, Vivianne Ouellette, Janice Toole, Sue Pacek, Maria Parker and Mike Savino) and CoChairs: Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell and JoAnn Nally.

*Thank you and may you and your family
experience the peace, love and joy of
Emmanuel, God With Us.*

Rectory Open House:

January 7th, 2024

after 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses

Hope you can come!

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