

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

***March 26, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Lent***

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

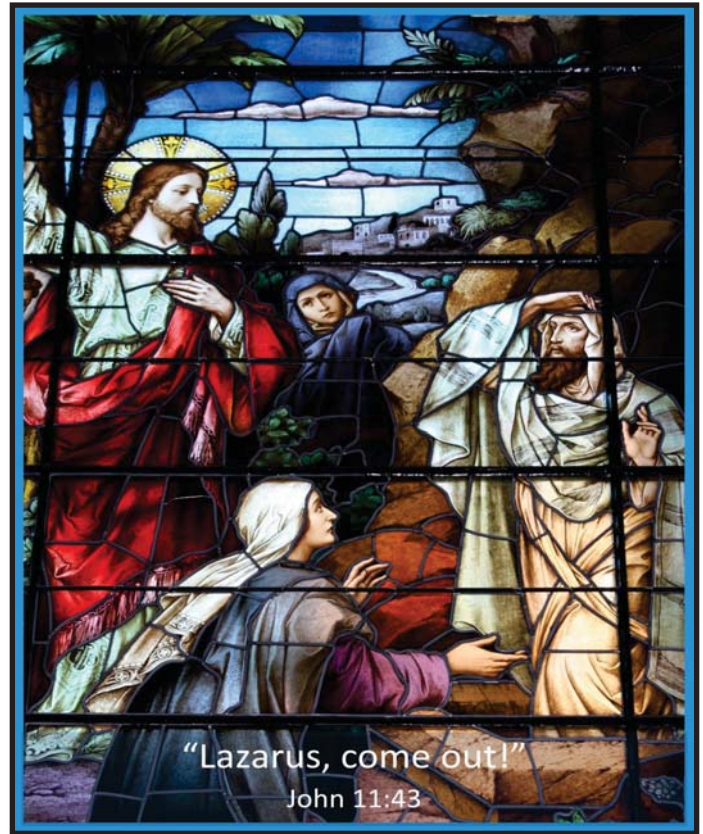
Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org) Ext.111

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, see Easter Schedule:**

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, and Easter Schedule:**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00 AM  
Tuesday 12:10 PM, Thursday 5:30 PM - see below.

**Holy Thursday:** April 6th, Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM, Mass at 7:30 PM, NO 5:30 pm Mass.

**Good Friday:** April 7th, Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM, Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM, Mass at 7:30 PM

**Easter Vigil:** Saturday, April 8th, Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM, Mass at 7:30 PM.

**Easter:** Sunday, April 9th Mass - 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Confessions are inside the church 2:30 PM—3:15 PM on Saturdays.

*No Confessions on Saturday, April 8th.*

### ***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, March 26, 2023***



## From Your Pastor

In today's Gospel Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." In Baptism, we have died with Jesus in the blessed hope that we will rise with him on the last day. We can call to mind Jesus' words, "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit." According to the Didache, the ancient teaching of the Twelve Apostles, the grains of wheat which were used to make the bread which becomes the Body of Christ, were once scattered on the hillside. When the grains were gathered and baked, they became a single loaf. It is in this same way that each of us who receives the Holy Eucharist becomes one in the Body of Christ. This oneness is what we are called to by Jesus who wants us to enjoy the light and life itself. He also calls to roll away the stones of poverty, indifference, violence and personal and social sin that keep others in their tombs. After all, the Bread of Life, which is the Eucharist because it is Jesus himself, is food for our journey right now, turning death into life and Lent into Easter.

**LENTEN QUIET EVENING:** On Tuesday evening, March 28th, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. we will have a Lenten evening of prayer & reflection in church. This will be an opportunity to go to confession and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We encourage you to take this opportunity to do so.

### Return to the Distribution of Communion Under Both Species:

Beginning Easter Sunday, Bishop McManus will lift the last of the COVID-19 restrictions from three years ago and will allow the distribution of the Precious Blood along with the distribution of the Body of Christ during Mass. The bishop has given this permission to pastors whenever they deem it appropriate for Communion under both species to occur in their parishes. In light of the fact that the number of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion greatly diminished during this three-year period, the return to the distribution of the Precious Blood will begin in a limited manner here at St. George's (with two cups at the center communion station of the church) beginning on the weekend of May 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>. This period of time (March-April) will allow us to have a sufficient number of ministers well trained for its distribution.

*Fr. Niccols*

## Annual Mass to Honor and Remember our Children

You are invited to attend the Pieta Annual Mass to honor and remember all of our children on:

**Monday, May 1 at 7:00 PM**  
**St. George Church**



This is a special time to come together with family and friends in remembrance of our children. Refreshments will be served following the Mass. Please invite any families who have lost a child. Sponsored by the Pieta Support Group for Bereaved Parents.

For more information, call Terry Gentile [508-284-0796](tel:508-284-0796) or Sue Stevens at [508-852-4887](tel:508-852-4887), email [pieta3@gmail.com](mailto:pieta3@gmail.com).

## Mass Intentions



### Saturday, March 25, 2023

**4:00 PM** In Memory of Dorothy Perkins  
Requested by Seraphina Wong

### Sunday, March 26, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Roger Hessel  
Requested by the Family  
**10:00 AM** In Memory of Nelson Boucher  
Requested by his wife Lu Boucher

### Monday, March 27, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Joan B. Allen

### Tuesday, March 28, 2023

**12:10 PM** In Memory of Mary R. Neilan

### Wednesday, March 29, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Joseph J. Monfredo

### Thursday, March 30, 2023

**5:30 PM** In Memory of John M. Ligor

### Friday, March 31, 2023

**8:00 AM** In Memory of James P. Lewandowski

### Saturday, April 1, 2023

**4:00 PM** In Memory of Robert Ovia  
Requested by his Family

### Sunday, April 2, 2023

**8:00 AM** For the Community of Saint George  
**10:00 AM** In Memory of Robert Ovia  
Requested by his Family



In the movie, *Karate Kid*, Daniel practices different movements through activities that are totally unrelated to karate. 'Wax on, wax off' and other chores serve to teach him basic moves. His instructor shows him how to put it all together and that one moment is the insight he needs to understand what he has already learned.

The Lenten readings form a catechism that teaches the lessons of the spiritual life. Our struggle with temptation (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent) opens us to God's transforming grace (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday). Strengthened and renewed by grace (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday), our blindness is lifted and we see God's will more clearly and proclaim our faith in Jesus (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). This pattern of spirituality defines our life of faith. We struggle with temptation and are changed by the grace we receive. Our experience of God renews us and we seek greater clarity in our understanding and love of Him.

These lessons all prepare us for the greatest and final lesson. Filled with God's Spirit, the very life and breath of God, we are given new and eternal life. Like the people of Ezekiel's time, or Lazarus, we are called to life in God, never to be separated from Him. It is this promise of the Lord that gives us hope and strength to seek Him, to find Him and to love Him forever. ~James Gaffney-Pilot Bulletins

## Stewardship Thought of the Week

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives - our gifts as well as our sufferings - can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

See John 11:4

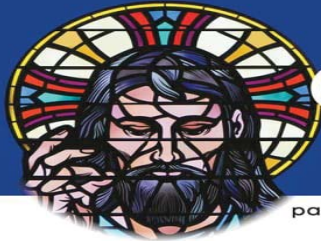


## Weekly Collection

March 6, 2023 - March 19, 2023

On Line Giving: \$ 2,469.00 + \$ 4,038.00  
 Ordinary Collection: \$ 2,612.00 + \$ 4,411.00  
 Totals: \$ 5,081.00 + \$ 8,449.00  
 Total: \$ 13,530.00

Thank you for your generosity.  
 We are truly grateful.



Be the *face* of  
**CHRIST**  
 and his helping hands

partners-charity.net

2023  
**Partners**  
 in Charity  
 DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

## Thank you to all who have already made a gift to our 2023 Partners in Charity Appeal!

Our agencies and ministries are faces of hope to so many. Your pledge or one-time gift is a tangible way to be a 'face of Christ and his helping hands' to the world through your support of the agencies and ministries which rely on this appeal for the funding each year. And you, in turn, share in the joy of bringing hope into the lives of those we serve. Please visit [Partners-Charity.net](http://Partners-Charity.net) to view the online video showing some of the many charities, ministries and educational programs that rely on your generosity. To donate you can place your donation in the collection basket at Mass, by using the Partners in Charity envelopes in the pews, or text the word "donate" to 84576 to access the online giving page, donate online at [www.Partners-Charity.net](http://www.Partners-Charity.net) or call in a pledge at 508-929-4366. Checks payable to: Partners in Charity send to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Thank you for your continued support!  
 We couldn't do it without you!

**Stations of the Cross Fridays during**  
**LENT** Lent February 24th - March 31st  
 6:30 PM in the Church here at  
 St. George Church

All are welcome!

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

March 26 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn and Team

April 2 - PANCAKE BREAKFAST

April 9 - NO COFFEE SHOP, EASTER

April 16 - Steve Toole and Team

Coffee, donuts, bulkies, and fellowship! Please join a team!  
 Each team serves once every 10 weeks all teams need help!  
 Sign up at the Coffee Shop or come to find out more. Coffee  
 Club meetings are 2nd Sunday every other month.

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



\$1.00 each

## Parish Calendar

### Saturday, March 25, 2023 Lenten Food Drive

2:30 - 4:00 PM 1st Communion Retreat Church Hall/Church

5:00 - 7:00 PM Arts Night Church Hall

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

### Sunday, March 26, 2023 Lenten Food Drive

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

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy Church Hall

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

### Monday, March 27, 2023

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

7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Rm 107 Parish Center

### Tuesday, March 28, 2023

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

6:30 - 8:00 PM Lenten - Reflection/Reconciliation Church

### Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Virtual Yoga email Sue Steven [MonarchYoga@gmail.com](mailto:MonarchYoga@gmail.com)

2:00 - 3:15 PM Faith Sharing Group Rm 107 Parish Center

### Thursday, March 30, 2023

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Church Hall

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Church

### Friday, March 31, 2023

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross Church

### Saturday, April 1, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary Prayer Group Church

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

### Sunday, April 2, 2023

After 8:00 and 10:00 Mass Boy Scout Pancakes! Church Hall

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy Church Hall

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

## Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of:

April 2, 2023

April 9, 2023

Due by:

March 23, 2023

March 30, 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](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org) The best way to book or  
 reserve a Mass is to call our office: 508-853-0183.

Pancake  
 BREAKFAST



Please join us on Palm Sunday, April 2nd, for our  
 Annual Boy Scout Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast in  
 place of our regular coffee shop! All proceeds benefit  
 Holden Troop #165 give the Scouts a chance to serve!  
 Come enjoy companionship & support a great cause!

### Prayer Before Mass

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, you Son handed himself over to death. 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.



### 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, at (508) 929-4363.

### 22nd Annual Catholic Men's Conference

Come join us on **Saturday, March 25 Reg. at 7:30 AM Assumption University, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester.** Please join a thousand men and enjoy: inspiring talks from outstanding dynamic and Catholic leaders, about 50 relevant exhibitors with free material, important sponsors, beautiful music, old friends, lunch, optional Rosary, Confession, Adoration & Mass: **Bishop McManus 4 PM.** For more information: email [cathmenworc@gmail.com](mailto:cathmenworc@gmail.com) or visit the new website [www.catholicmenworc.com](http://www.catholicmenworc.com)



*"Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"*

Do you believe that Christ may be calling you to see the glory of the Blessed Trinity through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life?

Contact the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or [donato.infante@gmail.com](mailto:donato.infante@gmail.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 April 1st, 2023



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

### Family Prayer Night Thursdays 6:00 PM 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 first Thursday and Friday of each month.



### Deacon Paul Audette

James Martin Speaks to us through his "Essential Writings"

James Martin SJ attended the Wharton School of Business and worked for 6 years in corporate finance. Here he uses his experiences in corporate life to inform a sketch of the challenges and possibilities for living a spiritual life in the business world. (Part X): "But is there ever a need to sacrifice some upward mobility in exchange for a clear conscience? One friend put it bluntly, 'I don't expect to make partner, because I don't play the games that others play, but I don't really want that; it's not good for me.' For if you work in a corporation that prizes offensive behavior you might find it necessary to choose between advancement in the company and your own ethical standards."



### Eucharistic Adoration

The Thursday evening and Friday morning Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration will be:  
**On Divine Mercy Sunday:**


**Sunday, April 16th, 2023** after 10:00 AM Mass-12:00 PM  
We hope you can come join us in prayer and to spend time in the presence of Jesus Christ.

### Lenten Regulations

- **Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years and older on **Ash Wednesday, Good Friday**, and all **\*Fridays** of Lent.
- **Fasting** is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by all Catholics over the age of 18 but not yet 59. Those bound by this may only take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

**Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal practices.**

Those who are ill, pregnant, on medication or special diets for health concerns, or those who work at extremely physical jobs may be exempt from these regulations.



**SCAN ME**

**Readings To-Go!**

**5th Sunday of Lent**  
**March 26, 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's email: [sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

Kevin Browne's email: [kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org)

Just a few reminders for schedules and times:

### Confirmation Classes:

Students registered for confirmation classes will meet Sunday, April 16th - Parish Center from 11:00 AM 12:15 PM. Candidates are expected to attend the 10:00 AM Mass.

### Confirmation Students & Community Service:

Join in our ongoing Parish Outreach Experiences. To help in the community, simply text Annie Doyle's cell phone for details at 508-450-4134.

### Grades 1-5 Classes:

Classes will take place on March 27th, 28th, April 3rd and 4th from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the Parish Center.

### Grades 6-9 Classes:

Classes will take place on March 26th, and April 2nd, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.

If interested in helping or any questions, then please reach out to Sarah or Kevin via email.

### Grades 1-5 or for Confirmation questions:

Please email Sarah Kelly.

[sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### Grades 6-9, and Youth Ministry questions:

Please email Kevin Browne.

[kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org)

## THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Our kids today are seeing their fair share of violent stories on TV in the movies on their computers and in the news. Make sure this Lent they get exposed to a different way, the way of Jesus on his path to Calvary. Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' suffering an death with them and bring them with you to Lenten services. Show them there is another way, a way to risen life.



### 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 back table in the church hall under the bulletin board.

Contact Ruth at: [ruthviens@charter.net](mailto:ruthviens@charter.net)  
or 508-852-5658 for more information.

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



GIRL SCOUTS

### Girl Scout Troop 64885 Meet the first and third Tuesdays

Our next meeting will be on:  
**Tuesday April 4th, at 6:30-7:30 PM  
in the Church Hall**

Contact Michelle Vigneux email: [Mrs.vigneux@gmail.com](mailto:Mrs.vigneux@gmail.com)



### Youth Ministry Gathering Please contact Kevin Browne For next gathering.

Open to grades 7-12 Please contact:

Email: [kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### Diocesan Youth Retreat

All high school youth and current 8th graders are invited to:  
**Diocesan Youth Retreat on May 19-21, 2023  
at Anna Maria College!**

Retreat theme is Mysterium Fidei (Mystery of Faith). Come for a relaxing and recharging weekend that will include fun and games, prizes, music, guest speakers, breakout sessions, and an experience into the ultimate mystery of Christ in the Sacraments through Eucharistic Adoration, confession and Mass! The retreat will start Friday evening and will conclude Sunday around noon. Cost is \$125/person.

**Deadline to register is April 25, 2023.**

To sign up or to get more information visit:

[www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-retreat](http://www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-retreat)

### Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team 2023 - 2024

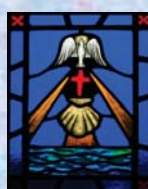
The application period for the 2023-2024 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team is now OPEN! This program is open to all 9-12th grade youth (as of August 2023). If you are a high schooler or know of one in your parish or school who is interested in diving deeper into the Catholic Faith, looking to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, and interested in Christian leadership and evangelization opportunities, then this is the perfect opportunity for you! Complete details as well as the online application can be found at:

[www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team](http://www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team)

## Family Faith Byte

How to help others:

**Pray for those in hospitals  
or those who are having surgery**



### 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](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)

### 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.

### Current Parish Outreach Needs and Opportunities

**Mustard Seed Catholic Work:** Bars of soap and gently used wash clothes as well as reusable grocery bags for the Food Pantry are needed.

**IHN Family Shelter:** Let us pray in thanksgiving for Michael Ohl who continues to work on household repairs at IHN.

**Our Afghanistan Families:** If anyone hears of a three bedroom affordable apartment, available in the Tatnuck or Newton Square area of Worcester, please call Annie Doyle as soon as possible. This is an urgent need.

**Our Mustard Seed Meal was served Friday March 17.**

Thank You to all who helped to make it possible through your donations and service to prepare and serve it.

**Our Lenten Food Drive will be March 25 & 26.** All types of non-perishable food items would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

### *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 for your understanding.

### Hope For Housing Cards Help Prevent Family Homelessness

Here How it Works:



Hope for Housing is a non-profit program developed by our parishioner Matt Ryan with the Interfaith Coalition to Prevent Family Homelessness and the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance. Sadly, Matt is now deceased, but his work goes on, raising awareness about homelessness in our community and utilizing the collective buying power of 30 congregations to raise money for the prevention of family homelessness. The fastest growing homeless population is children who experience deflated self worth, diminished school achievement and related health and emotional issues.

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 to assist families at risk of homelessness. By purchasing gift cards for **your use** at local retailers, you can help to stabilize families by providing counseling and support to keep them in their homes.

Please buy "Hope for Housing Cards" available after all Masses. See Dave and Sue Genereux in the Church Hall after Mass. Questions? 978- 833-0306



Thank You to several parishioners who recently donated Hope for Housing Cards directly to Parish Outreach. They were used to purchase emergency groceries and cleaning supplies for our Refugee families.

### Your Help is Needed to Feed the Hungry this Lent

#### Special Needs for March are: Cans of Tuna and Peanut butter



All types of food donations are welcome and can be left in the "Outreach Collection Area" just outside the entrance to the Church Hall on the basement level.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

#### Men's Prayer Shawls Needed

Thank you to all who knit and crochet. We are in need of Men's **Large and Extra Large** dark colors prayer shawls. Please call Annie or bring them to the Parish Center.

Call Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134 for details.



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



## Emmaus Ministry

**Save the date:**  
**April 20, 2023 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Evening of Reflection**  
**In Church Hall**

Evening of Prayer and Reflection. Details to come.

For information about Emmaus Ministry contact  
JoAnn Nally or Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell  
Email [emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com)  
or call 508-853-0183



**Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner**  
Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran  
[Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com](mailto:Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com)

This week we heard the Gospel telling of the final miracle Jesus performed before his death-the raising of Lazarus from the dead. We heard that Jesus arrived at the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany four days after learning of the illness of Lazarus. Both Martha and Mary said as they greeted Jesus, "If you had been here my brother would not have died." But still clinging to faith Martha says, "But even now I know whatever you ask of God, God will give you." We may recall difficult circumstances during which God seems to be absent in our lives and yet we hold fast to our faith. Then at a later time God's response becomes evident. In the Bible story Jesus responds to Martha and Mary with tears and action. He calls out loudly, "Lazarus come out!" And Lazarus did, much to the amazement of those present. Many who had come to support Martha and Mary became followers of Jesus that day.

Now we move forward to today's world and the pilgrimage Rev. James Martin S.J. took to the Holy Land and the reflections he shared concerning this particular Gospel in his book, 'Jesus-A Pilgrimage'. Fr. Martin describes Bethany as it is today. There is a wall separating the Palestinian people from the Israeli people making access to Bethany more difficult. Bethany itself is very poor resembling a slum city. Fr. Martin had meditated in the past several times on this miracle and visiting the actual site was very important to him. He secured the key to a metal door leading to the tomb of Lazarus from a shopkeeper across the street. He was told to turn on the light before proceeding down the flight of uneven stairs. Father tentatively descended wondering what he would find. In the room at the foot of the stairs was a small low opening through which he crawled. He was alone in a small chamber: the actual tomb. As he prayed, Fr. Martin thought about what it was like for Lazarus to hear the voice of Jesus calling him to come out. What would it mean to live again? It would mean "change" which can be frightening.

Actually being present in the tomb of Lazarus brought about deep spiritual awareness to Fr. Martin and placed him on the path of some changes in his life. The image of Jesus saying the words, "Unbind him and let him go" came to his mind. Fr. Martin was ready to set aside his focus on the past, leave the bandages of the false self behind and step into the light. Spiritual Growth Committee members: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Deacon Paul Audette, Joan Talbot; Patti Walsh; Helen Hurley, and Kyle Lewandowski. Fr. Niccolls, Fr. Pagan as ex officio members.

### Faith Sharing Groups

**Registration: Lenten Faith Sharing Group**  
**After 8:00 and 10:00 AM Sunday Masses.**

**Monday Faith Sharing Group will meet:**  
**March 27th & April 3rd at 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**in the Parish Center, Room 107**



**Lenten Faith Sharing Group will meet:**  
**Wednesday, March 29th & April 5th at 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM**  
**in the Parish Center, Room 107**

**If interested in joining a group, please contact JoAnn.**  
*Handicapped Accessible.*  
Call JoAnn Nally 508-527-6973 with any questions.

Please complete your copy of, Saint George Parish 2023 Lenten Reflections, by placing this reflection in the book for:

**Thursday, March 30, 2023**  
*John 8:51-59*

How easy it is for us to discredit someone or something that we don't understand or believe.

Repeatedly Jesus answers questions from those in authority who are trying to trip him up, so to speak, and catch him in a lie. Over and over again he points to himself, in truth and humility, as the way to eternal life. He doesn't yell or chastise. He doesn't get angry or call names.

No, He answers their questions, in peace and humility and Love. He references the Old Testament prophets and teachings to help them understand. Even referencing when Moses asked, who are you and God said, "I am".

How frustrating it must have been for Jesus....

In my own life, dear Lord, help me to be truthful, in peace and humility, in my everyday dealings with those who are different or who can be difficult. Help me to be a true disciple, not only in words, but in my everyday actions, in truth and humility and Love. Terry Gentile



### 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.

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