Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

April 9, 2023 - Easter 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. 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

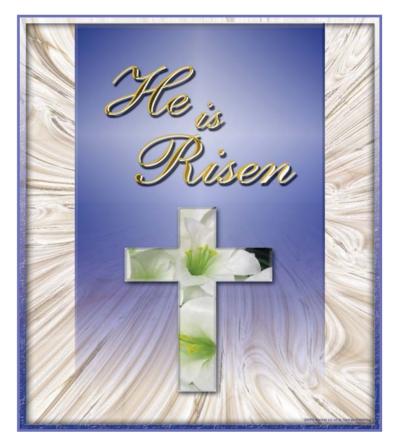
Current Office Hours:

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, 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.

Parish Missian 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, April 9, 2023



From Unur Pastor

We have now reached the greatest feast of our Church's liturgical year and of all Christianity: Easter Sunday, the Solemnity of the Lord's Res-

urrection. Easter brings the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Son of God - to its conclusion. This Mystery is most clearly perceived in the Sacrament of the Eucharist when we recall our Lord's words at the Last Supper that whenever we partake of the bread that becomes his body and the wine which becomes his blood, we do this in remembrance of him. In the reception of Holy Communion on this Easter Sunday, it is important to remember that we enter deeply into this Paschal Mystery whereby the Lamb has been slain for our salvation and we who receive his Body and blood are renewed by this mystery and come to the alory of the Resurrection.

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 6th/7th. This period of time (March-April) will allow us to have a sufficient number of ministers well trained for its distribution

On behalf of our Parish Staff, I extend to all of you God's Blessings, manifested in our risen Lord, **Jesus Christ, in this Easter Season!**

Fr. Niccolls

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



Stewardship Thought of the Week

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that

Jesus has been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 8, 2023 Easter Vigil Mass, NO 4pm Mass 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:30 PM Easter Vigil Sunday, April 9, 2023 Easter



8:00 AM Easter Mass

10:00 AM Easter Mass

Monday, April 10, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Patricia Pepper

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

12:10 PM In Memory of Daniel Murray Requested by his Family

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Susan Biork

Thursday, April 13, 2023

5:30 PM In Memory of Dorothy Olen

Friday, April 14, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Michael Shaughnessy

Saturday, April 15, 2023

4:00 PM In Memory of Allen Marzilli

Requested by his Family

Sunday, April 16, 2023

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

10:00 AM In Memory of Sister Lily Philomena Chu and

Lai China Wona

Requested by Seraphina Wong



The first Easter must have been WORD DEED confusing to the Appeals. confusing to the Apostles. They

Jesus taught them and now comes a report that the tomb is empty and Jesus had appeared to Mary. They race to the tomb, uncertain of what they will find. It could be a cruel joke, a political trap or even death by crucifixion. Or the report might be true and Jesus may have risen from the dead.

Easter Sunday is the highpoint of our faith. We boldly proclaim that Jesus is Lord, He has risen from the dead and He shares His life with us. We acknowledge Him as Savior and fervently pray to be one with him forever. We commit ourselves to a life of faith and trust that our efforts will win us the crown of life.

Like the Apostles, our limited knowledge and wisdom cannot grasp in a single moment the wonder and glory of the Resurrection. Our minds will doubt and our faith may question. But the answers are not found at the tomb. They are found in our daily life of living our faith—teaching, healing and forgiving as Jesus did. What the mind fails to understand, the heart will. With the vision and practice of faith, we will know the power of God that one day will raise us up.

~James Gaffney-Pilot Bulletins

PIETA

is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend. Next meeting on:



Monday, April 10th at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall

For more information, call Terry Gentile 508-284-0796 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, email pieta3@gmail.com.





Diocese of Worcester Office of the Bishop 49 Elm Street Worcester, MA 01606

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"Christ my hope has arisen..." - Easter Sequence

"You know what has happened all over Judea..." (Acts 10:37). Saint Peter's words in the Acts of the Apostles introduce a compact account of Jesus' public ministry. For three years Jesus' preaching, healings, and good works fulfilled the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. His works of love and words of truth led to the dramatic events of Holy Week which the Easter sequence describe as death and life contending in that "battle stupendous". On Good Friday it seemed as if sin, death and evil had triumphed. But when all seemed lost, Easter came. Christ rose. Today, the sequence joyfully announces, "The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal".

The joy of that announcement should sound in our souls and resonate in our hearts. Christ's resurrection shows that, in the end, good triumphs over evil, mercy overcomes sin, and life - eternal life - follows death. In a world weary from conflict, war, indifference, uncertainty and grief, the Easter message of hope is timely and needed.

Easter is not just an end to Lent, a day of feasting, and a break from life. Easter is an elevation of life. Christ's resurrection should be the lens through which we grasp life's true meaning and our ultimate goal. It is the perspective which enables us to keep life's disappointments, tragedies and discouragements in proper perspective. Our faith and God's grace don't exempt us from our trials in life. They equip us to live Christ's Gospel on earth and to share His victory in Heaven.

Today, and every day, we should rejoice in the resurrection and give thanks to God for His mercy and love. We should be resolved, as Saint Paul says to "seek that which is above" (Col 3:1). May the joy of Easter give you hope, may it guide your life and elevate your vision. Jesus Christ has risen and He promises His faithful followers, "whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live" (John 11:25).

With every prayerful best wish for a joyous Easter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

+ Robert J. Mc Manus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus Bishop of Worcester



Partner's in Charity from St. George donated \$36,020.00, our goal is \$95,000.00 Please consider donating.

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 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 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 donating. We couldn't do it without you!

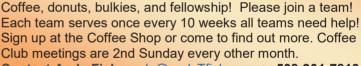
Join us for Coffee Shop Club after 8:00 & 10:00 AM Masses

April 9 - NO COFFEE SHOP, EASTER

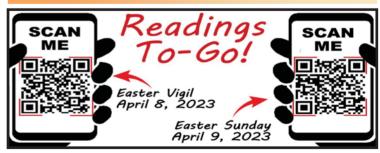
April 16 - Steve Toole and Team

April 23 - Dave Walsh and Team

April 30 - Mark Cormier and Team



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



Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Weekend of: April 9, 2023 April 16, 2023 <u>Due by:</u> March 30, 2023 April 6, 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.

Prayer Before Mass

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the

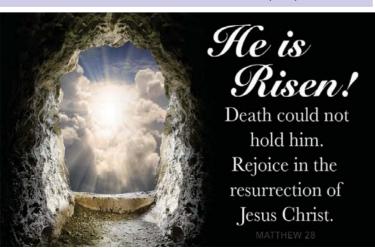


Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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, at (508) 929-4363.



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 XII and Conclusion): "Overall, you might say that living a spiritual life in the corporate world requires, among other things; carving out some time for both prayer and solitude; being willing to search for God at work; practicing detachment from some of the values of corporate America: and remembering the need for solidarity with God's poor, even in prosperous times. It's a tall order, of course, but no one, least of all Jesus, ever said the Christian life was going to be easy. Or, as my father is fond of saying, 'Why do you think they call it work?"

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.



Online Donors Update

An email will be coming from Kathy Hessel, and from Patty LaBonte about online giving. Our Online Giving vendor is changing and you will receive instructions on how to enroll in the program with Our Sunday Visitor.

Anytime from April 5th through May 31st you may start your online giving with Our Sunday Visitor and then delete your account with ParishSoft. Because of the security of your banking or credit card information we cannot do this for you. However, we are here to assist. Once you have reviewed the material and begun the change-over process, let us know if you need further assistance.

Please contact Kathy at: mkhessel@aol.com

Patty at: office@saintgeorgesparish.org.

Or call the Parish Office at 508-853-0183



Religious Education

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

Sarah Kelly's email: sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org Kevin Browne's email: kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org

Just a few reminders for schedules, rehearsals 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 April 10th and 11th from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the Parish Center.

1st Communion Rehearsal: questions - contact Sarah April 25th and 26th at 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM in the Church.

Grades 6-9 Classes:

Classes will take place on April 23rd 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 guestions:

Please email Sarah at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Grades 6-9, and Youth Ministry questions:

Please email Kevin at 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.neworcester.org/diocesan-youth-retreat

How to help: Ask your children, where do they think God is?

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

John saw the empty tomb. Many ideas must have crossed his mind. Like the rest of us he was a busy person. He had obligations as a fisher man. But he was ready and gave Jesus the chance to touch his life. Do we give Jesus that same openness into our lives? Or does our busyness shut God out? He wants all of us to allow him to transform our lives. When we allow him in he will!



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 or 508-852-5658

Grandparents make memories that the heart holds forever.

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.newworcester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team



Youth Ministry Gathering
Please contact Kevin Browne
For next gathering.

Open to grades 7-12 Please contact:

Email: kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org



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

A Community of Ministries





St. George Parish Outreach

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

Current Parish Outreach Needs and Opportunities

Mustard Seed Catholic Worker: Bars of soap and gently used wash clothes, as well as reusable grocery bags for the Food Pantry are needed. Gently used blankets and sleeping bags are requested every day and we have none.

IHN Family Shelter: Your weekly donations to St. George Parish help to shelter 6 families at the June Street home. As a Charter member parish we budget part of the supporting ongoing costs to keep the shelter open and available to families in crisis.

Our Afghanistan Families: The month of Ramadan has begun. The adults in both of our families are now fasting from all food and drink, from sunrise to sunset. Please keep them in your prayers.

Your Help is Needed to Feed the Hungry this Lent



Special Needs for April are: fruit cups, granola bars, and individual packages of nuts

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Lenten Food Drive last weekend!



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



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.

All Are Welcome!

Visitor or parishioner, sure or struggling, young or old, no matter what your day has been like so far—you belong here. We all belong to Christ.

Rejoicing or grieving, faith filled or doubting, poor or wealthy, no matter what your race, orientation or marriage situation—you belong here. We all belong to Christ.

With children or childless, weary or wondering, sick or anxious, Interfaith family or Interdenominational, no mater how long you may have been away from church or where you have been - you belong here.

We are all God's people.

We invite you to join us in worship, prayer, ministry and service. Want to know more? Call or text Annie Doyle: 508-450-4134

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. Questions? 978–833-0306

Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Especially during these difficult times, please call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. Call Ann Doyle at 508-450-4134. We want to be with you in prayer and support. We can perhaps arrange a visit and possibly bring Eucharist. Remember that due to HIPAA regulations, unless you allow the hospital or health care institution to release information and list St. George's as your religious affiliation, we are not informed that you are a patient. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

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 the 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 or call 508-853-0183

Easter Blessings

May the promise of the Easter season bring you great joy and abundant peace in the love and promise of Our Lord.

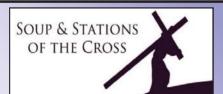
REJOSCE! HE SS RISEN!

THANK YOU to all who continue to enrich the Emmaus Ministry. Your encouragement, support and participation, have helped the Emmaus Ministry to flourish!

Praise God!

The Emmaus Ministry Committee and Co-Chairs: Andrea and JoAnn





The Lenten Evening of "Soup and Stations" was an enormous success. The evening was a wonderful and joyous Parish Community event. Special thanks to the Emmaus committee for all you do to make events like this evening a joyous activity. Thank you to the wonderful group of women who made 6 different and delicious soups. and those who made the decadent deserts for coffee after Stations. We are so grateful to all our "behind the scenes" helpers for set up, clean up and in so many ways anticipated the needs of all who attended.

Because of your generosity with "free will donations", we will be sending a check to Visitation House in Worcester.

WE WILL HAVE OUR "ANNUAL"
SOUP AND STATIONS EVENING DURING LENT, 2024!



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritual growth@gmail.com

This weekend, our Lenten observances and preparations conclude with the celebration of Easter, Jesus conquering death, and making possible for us the promise of Eternal Life. This week's readings show us the joy of this awesome mystery, as well as the charge we are each given in light of it. The Gospel details Mary Magdalene finding Jesus' tomb empty, and Peter and John investigating further, not yet understanding what happened. The first reading recalls Peter's witness to the events in Jesus' life and Resurrection. We, as Christians, share this same responsibility, to evangelize, and share with others the love and joy of the Gospel. This is no small task; unlike the Apostles, none of us have lived with or seen the risen Christ. How can we testify to something we haven't seen? We aren't very different from the disciples not understanding what the empty tomb meant. This challenge can only be met and overcome by our faith, which St. Paul defines as, "...the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). We may not have physically witnessed Jesus' life, death, or Resurrection, but we do still believe, and know, that they happened. And as we begin our Easter-time celebrations, let us remember this. and let the joy this truth brings help bring us resolve to share this joy and truth with others, that Christ is risen, and shares this Resurrection with us. 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

Monday Faith Sharing Group will meet:
April 24th at 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
in the Parish Center, Room 107
Wednesday Faith Sharing Group will meet:



April 26th 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









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Weekends are coming up in 2023





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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

Wishing all a Blessed Easter Season

The Saint John Cemetery System of Diocese of Worcester

Call for information regarding a Catholic Cemeteries in your Community 508-757-7415