Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

June 4, 2023 - Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

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

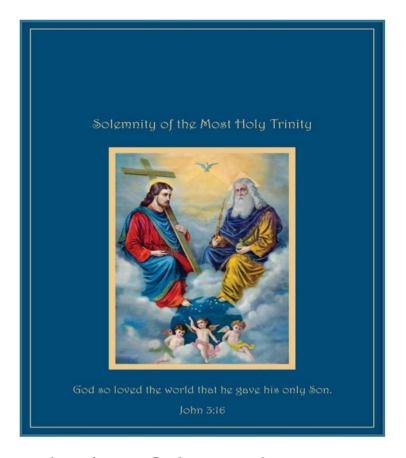
Patty LaBonte, Parish Admin Assistant office@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext.110 Fax 508-854-0864

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:

No Mass on: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 AM

Thursday: 5:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church 2:30 PM—3:15 PM on Saturdays.

Taxish 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, June 4, 2023

From Your Pastor

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful celebration of my 75th birthday on

Sunday, May 21st. Thank you also for your many cards and gifts. Your overwhelming generosity is gratefully appreciated.

Thank you!!!

On this Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, the Church worships one God that believers encounter in three ways. Through the totality of God which we refer to as Triune (one God, two natures, three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit), love and grace flow as a complete whole to us. The doctrine of the Trinity is not only the center of our faith and life, but it is also the source of all other mysteries of our faith refer to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #234). The whole of the Church's life flows from this belief and reveal who God is. It also shows us how we are meant to be united to God. God is an eternal exchange of love among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we have been destined to share too in this exchange of love. Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. In making the sign of the cross, we are using and calling upon the name of each person of the Trinity. Throughout the Mass the Trinity is invoked. The relationship of each person of the Trinity is one of perfect unity and communion. Everything of one belongs to the other, and yet they are distinct from each other. It is through the totality of the Trinity that love and grace flow as a complete whole to us, Christ's faithful. They are three divine persons who are adored and glorified. We revel in that divine love. May that same divine love also permeate our lives!

Fr. Niccolls



Anyone who spends time with little kids knows that you never know when they will say the funniest things. Their observations on life range from the totally in-

sightful to the completely innocent to the absolutely comical. One four-year-old's comment touched on all three. Riding quietly in the car during his family's vacation, he suddenly commented, "You know Santa Claus? I don't know how he does it, but I really do like his work."

Many theologians and spiritual thinkers wrestle with the problem of evil, free will, the Incarnation and most of all, the Trinity. Using examples, stories and complex theories, they attempt to explain the mystery of God. Nothing really comes close. Infinite power, wisdom and love cannot be contained nor defined by the limits and constraints of the human mind. But the soul, the spark of the Divine within us, sees and understands. The soul recognizes the work of God and calls us to the mission that is written in our hearts by the waters of Baptism.

People spend a lot of time trying to figure God out. But God is not known nor understood by reason alone. God is known through acts of faith, hope and love. He is found in the poor and oppressed. He is seen in the eyes of those we love. He reveals Himself in quiet moments of reflection and prayer. We may not be able to explain the Father who creates, the Son who redeems and the Spirit who sanctifies. But we do enjoy their work. *~James Gaffney* © *Pilot Bulletins*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 3, 2023
4:00 PM In Memory of Albert Marzilli
Requested by his Family

Sunday, June 4, 2023

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George
10:00 AM In Memory of C. Louise Hadley
Requested by Craig and Ann Hadley

Monday, June 5, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of William Kett, Jr. Requested by Ann Marie Kett

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 No Mass

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Susan DiDonato

Thursday, June 8, 2023

5:30 PM In Memory of Joseph Ohl

Friday, June 9, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Helen Dymek

Saturday, June 10, 2023

4:00 PM In Memory of Dudley Shaw and Linus Fung Requested by Seraphina Wong

Sunday, June 11, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of James Phelan, 4th Anniversary Requested by his Family

10:00 AM In Memory of Pierce Gould, 1st Anniversary Requested by his Family

Deacon Paul Audette

James Martin

James Martin SJ in his writings points the reader toward the hidden or obscured treasures of daily life, even when that life can seem one of pointless suffering or underserved struggle. In this essay from the August 14, 2006 issue of America magazine, Fr. Martin talks about the gift of parenthood (Part I): "...with my sister and brother-in-law now the parents of two small children – one 7 years old and one 13 months – I am beginning to see something of what I gave up [when I decided to be a priest] and what it is that parents may experience...For one thing, I am amazed at how much I love my nephews...When I am around my nephews I think, 'I never knew that one could love so much.'...After passing a sunny afternoon with my nephew Charles doing his favorite things battling each other with his plastic 'Star Wars' light sabers, reading surprisingly detailed books about dinosaurs and playing with anything remotely connected with water (water pistols, water guns, water balloons), I poured myself onto a local commuter train for the ride home...Suddenly a wave of emotions swept over me: a deep love for my nephew, for my sister and brother-in-law; gratitude for God's creative love; and then - oddly - fear. I felt how much I cared for Charles and how ardently I hoped that nothing terrible would ever befall him...Then, with a start, I realized that this must be one onehundredth of what parents must feel every day about their children."

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, June 12th at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall

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

Weekly Collection May 22, 2023 - May 28, 2023

On Line Giving: \$1,704.70 Ordinary Collection: \$4,033.00

Total: \$ 5,737.70

Thank you for your generosity. We are truly Blessed and grateful!

Parish Calendar

| Saturday, June 3, 2023 | |
|--|-------------|
| 8:00 AM Rosary Prayer Group | Church |
| 8:00 PM AA Meeting | Church Hall |
| Sunday, June 4, 2023 | |
| After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop | Church Hall |
| 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy | Church Hall |
| Monday, June 5, 2023 | |
| Tuesday, June 6, 2023 | |
| 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting | Church Hall |
| Wednesday, June 7, 2023 | |
| 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Gentle Yoga | Church Hall |
| Thursday, June 8, 2023 | |
| 11:00 AM Faith Sharing | Church Hall |
| 6:00 PM Family Prayer Night | Church |
| Friday, June 9, 2023 | |
| Saturday, June 10, 2023 | |
| 8:00 PM AA Meeting | Church Hall |
| Sunday, June 11, 2023 | |
| After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop | Church Hall |
| 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy | Church Hall |
| 10:00 AM Baccalaureate Mass | Church |
| | 0 |



Most Holy Trinity Prayer O most Holy Trinity, bless me with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please give me wisdom so that I may recognize the importance of others and keep God central in my life. Please, also, pray for me and my intentions (State your intentions here). With my voice and my heart, I glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Do you like to draw or enjoy making art? Come join open studio event once a month! Saturday, June 24th, 2023 ART & PIZZA 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Church Hall Bring your own materials & drop in to doodle, finish a project or work in your sketchbook.

For teens to adults (ages 13+). PIZZA Questions: contact Parish Office 508-853-0183

Back to Basics Narcotics Anonymous

Support group for those attempting to recover from drugs. Our Lady of Lourdes, Parish Hall 1290 Grafton St. Worc. Meetings are every Friday from 7:00 - 8:00 PM

National Helpline: 1-800-662-4357



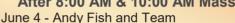
Partner's in Charity St. George Church donated \$72.125.00. our goal is \$95,000.00 76% of our goal.

Please consider donating. Thank you for helping! Our agencies and ministries are faces of hope to so many people. 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 and mail to: Partners In Charity 49 Elm St., Worcester, MA 01609.

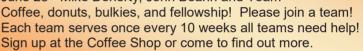
Join us for Coffee Shop Club After 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Masses



June 11 - Kevin Browne and Team

June 18 - Dave Carlson and Team

June 25 - Mike Doherty, John Beahn and Team



Coffee Club meetings are 2nd Sunday every other month. Contact Andy Fish: andy@andyTfish.com or 508-901-7813

Online Donating News

Our Online Giving vendor has changed! The new online giving vendor is Our



\$1.00 each

Sunday Visitor. Email instructions on how to register with Our Sunday Visitor were sent and a letter was mailed to you if you had a ParishSoft account. We are here to assist you. Visit St. George Website: https://saintgeorgesparish.org/ If you have any questions please contact: Kathy Hessel at: mkhessel@aol.com or Patty LaBonte at 508-853-0183 or send an email to: office@saintgeorgesparish.org

Indoor Yard Sale - Spencer Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish in the Church Hall 7 Church Street, Spencer

Saturday, June 17th 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Featuring: housewares, small furniture, books, home décor, jewelry, kids toys and games, seasonal items, vendor tables, raffles and lunch café. Cash sales only. Ample Parking.

Bulletin Item Due Dates:

Postings are due 10 days before the Sunday Bulletin. Please submit items at least 10 days before the Bulletin 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 or After Mass

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. 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.

ZOOM 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 and put "Rosary" in the subject line.

A ZOOM link will be sent to your email.



Family Prayer Night Thursdays 6:00 PM in the Church

There is a gathering of people who pray for all families. The Divine Mercy Chap let 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 and pray together.

"God so loved the world, He gave His only Son."

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.

Trip to the Holy Land October 23, 2023 - November 5, 2023. St. Joseph's Church, Charlton, MA

Join Fr. Bob Grattaroti for trip to the Holy Land. Flight from Boston to Tel Aviv/Holy Land. Spend 7 days in the Holy Land before heading off to Rome with a papal audience. Then off to visit Florence and Assisi and Venice. Price includes Roundtrip airfare from Boston, 2 meals a day, 4/5 star accommodations, luxury buses and a lifetime of memories. Cost is \$5,999.00 per person.

For more information please reach out to:
Proximo Travel at 855-842-8001

Eucharistic Adoration in the Church



The Thursday evening and Friday morning Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration will be: Thursday, July 6th, 2023 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

<u>Friday, July 7th, 2023</u> after 8:00 AM Mass-10:00 PM. We hope you can come join us in prayer and to spend time in the presence of Jesus Christ.



Calling all Singers! Liturgical Music Concert in Milford

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish 17 Winter Street, Milford MA Friday, June 23rd, at 7:00 PM

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish welcomes Liturgical Music Artist and Composer: Janet Sullivan Whitaker. Singers are invited to join in a choir for this concert. A mandatory rehearsal will be held Thursday, June 22nd, at 7:00 PM in St. Mary's Upper Church. All vocalists for all parts are welcome!

Please contact Jonathan Capece, Director of Music at jcapece@stmarymilford.org if you wish to sing.

Position Available Custodian/Janitor Position St. Mary's Parish in Jefferson/Holden MA

is seeking a part-time custodian (30 hours). Candidate is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of all buildings and the surrounding grounds. Must be able to lift over 50 lbs have some knowledge regarding cleaning products and equipment and be able to multitask. This is a fast moving establishment with lots of set-up and take-downs for daily events.

If you are interested in the position please send resume to: Parish Manager, Sarah Brodie at sbrodie@stmaryjeff.com



Holy Hour to Pray for Priests

Immaculate Conception Church 353 Grove Street Worcester Friday, June 9th, 2023 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The holy hour of prayer for priests consists of time for silent adoration, a short reflection, the rosary and benediction.

Please join us to pray for our priests.

Repeats every second Friday of each month.

SAVE THE DATE Mini-Retreat for Women this Fall

The Commission for Women of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to join a Mini-Retreat on this Fall on:

Saturday, October 28, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Anne's Parish Hall.
Located on 130 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury.

This retreat will be led by Sarah Hart, a leading figure in contemporary Catholic music today.

Further information and a registration form may be found at worcesterdiocese.org/2023-morning-retreat-invitation or you can send an email to the Commission at: worcestercommissionforwomen@gmail.com or email Susan at susanzybert@gmail.com

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

Important News about Fall Registration:

Fall Registration:

Registration information will be emailed to families for grades 1 to Confirmation in May 2023. Please contact Sarah Kelly if you have any questions or have not received an email in May to register for Fall 2023 Religious Education classes.

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

Grades 1 to Confirmation questions:

Please email Sarah at sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org

Youth Ministry questions:

Please email Kevin at kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org

Catholic Youth Leadership Program Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team

The application period for the 2023-2024 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team is OPEN! This program is open to all 9-12 grade youth (as of August 2023). If you are a high schooler or a current 8th grader or know of someone 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.neworcester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team

Questions: contact Tim Messenger, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at: tmessenger@worcesterdiocese.org, or 508-929-4360



Youth Ministry Gathering
Please contact Kevin Browne
For next gathering.

Open to grades 7-12 Please contact:
Kevin's email: kevin.browne@saintgeorgesparish.org



Strawberry Festival in North Brookfield 30th Annual Strawberry Festival

St. Joseph Parish - in the Church Hall 296 North Main St., North Brookfield Saturday, June 17th 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Come and join the fun! Food includes: Baked Ham,
ALL homemade = Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw!
Also, delicious soft Rolls, Coffee and Water.
Take out is available too!

Dessert is the always a delicious **Strawberry Shortcake**!

Tickets for Adults: \$15.00, Children 5-10 yrs old: \$7.00. Call the Parish Office at 508-867-6469.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

To our graduates...you are a unique creation blessed by God, a person called in love to grow and to share your gifts with others. May you always be surrounded by people who support and love you. We ask this today in hope that God will continue the great things already begun in you.



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 508-852-5658 or email: ruthviens@outlook.com

Grandparents make memories that the heart holds forever.



Girl Scout Troop 64885 Meet the first and third Tuesdays

Our last meeting before the Summer is on: Tuesday June 6th, at 6:30-7:30 PM in the Church Hall



Contact Michelle Vigneux email: Mrs.vigneux@gmail.com

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 Dovle 508-450-4134 annie@saintgeorgesparish.org



As many of you know, St. George Parish has been a partner with In the Hour of **Need Family Shelter (IHN)** for more than 15 years, IHN promotes self-sufficiency by

providing temporary shelter, meals, and housing advocacy services to homeless families with children regardless of income and family structure.

Our annual week of service at IHN is June 18-24, 2023. Only 2 weeks away! Needs have been posted at each entrance of the church. Please choose a ticket to join this effort. Volunteers are needed to help donate evening and overnight hours which help staff the shelter. There will also be a need to help with cleaning, gardening, painting and other activities. Donations of "Hope for Housing Cards" will help provide supplemental food items for meals and hygiene items. Please call Annie (508-450-4134) to learn about how you can help.

Current Parish Outreach Needs and Opportunities

Mustard Seed Catholic Worker: Reusable grocery bags are needed for the Food Pantry. Men's T-shirts, shorts and jeans are needed for the clothing room.

Our Afghanistan Families: Donations of gently used towels and face cloths are needed. Toilet paper, bars of soap and dish washing liquid would be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU! We are grateful to everyone who helped to provide the May Mustard Seed Meal for 150 homeless and elderly neighbors. Your donations, preparation, delivery and service were greatly appreciated!

Your Help is Needed to Feed the Hungry



Special Needs for June are: Cheerios Peanut Butter & Jelly, Cereal and Soup.





The last weeks of each month are especially difficult for folks coming to our 3 food pantries lately. Government assistance (SNAP & WIC) has been decreased and inflation is stretching family food budgets.

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.

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!

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

Call the Parish Office with questions at 508-853-0183.

All Children Are Welcome

The community of St. George warmly welcomes children:

- Babies who make sounds that carry our prayers to
- Toddlers who wiggle and jump,
- Little ones who ask a million questions,
- Older children who are growing in their friendship with Jesus are all welcome.

Children belong here. We all belong to Christ. We are all God's people.

We invite you to sit up front when you come to Mass. It's easier for children to see and hear there. At the 10AM Mass children are invited downstairs for part of the

- Toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners, accompanied by a parent, can move around a bit, sing and listen to the Gospel story in a simple way.
- Children in Grades 1-3 attend the "Children's Liturgy of the Word" where they will hear the Readings and Gospel in an age appropriate way.

Please join us after Mass every Sunday in the Church Hall for coffee and donuts.

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.

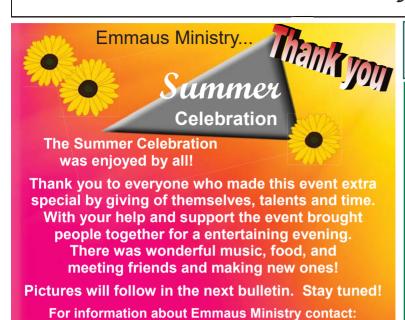
These Gift Cards for local retailers, including Big Y, CVS, Dunkin' Donuts, Hannaford, Panera, Shaws, Stop & Shop Target, Starbucks, and TJ Max are purchased in bulk, which in turn are sold to members of participating congregations who receive the full value of the card. The retailers donate 2-10% of 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. Any questions call them at: 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.

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



JoAnn Nally or Andrea Svagdys-Gumbrell

Email: emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com or call

Parish Center at 508-853-0183

Faith Sharing Groups

If you are interested in learning more about Fatih Sharing group, or interested in becoming involved, please contact JoAnn. Meetings will resume again in September in the Parish Center, Room 107.



If interested in joining a group, please contact JoAnn. Handicapped Accessible. Call JoAnn Nally at 508-527-6973



On a beautiful Saturday in May, I sat at a table in the park, reading term papers and enjoying the sights and sounds of spring. My favorite

sound is that of little children laughing and squealing as mom and dad play games with them, or throw a ball or sit and eat a picnic lunch. It's the perfect image of family. Love is in the air, infusing the mind and spirit with a sense of peace and joy. There is something about a toddler's laugh that makes you smile with hope and happiness.

Angels and perhaps theologians can best explain the mystery of the Trinity, but we all experience the power of God. In every breath, we acknowledge the creative power of the Father; in every good deed, we see the redeeming glory of the Son; in every prayer, we are inspired by the sanctifying Spirit. Faith is an intimate relationship with God and He gives us all that we need to become His people, His ministers, and His church.

The Church describes the family as a domestic church. In it, we learn the ways of God, the story of salvation, and the virtues of faith, hope and love. We do not learn our lessons from a book, but from each other; not just form words, but from deeds; not just from explanations, but from example. Like a spring day, faith can infuse us with love and hope so that we grow together, strong and faithful. ~J. Gaffney © Pilot Bulletins



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran
Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

Eucharistic Renewal

Father Simeon, O.C.S.O. (formerly Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis) is a Trappist monk at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. He recently published Volume IV of *Fire of Mercy*, a 3,000 page meditation (verse by verse) on the Gospel of St. Matthew. This excerpt from his exegesis on Matthew 26:26 (*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body."*) gives us something to think about in this year of Eucharistic Renewal.

"Toward the end of his soaring discourse on the Bread of Life in John 6, Jesus declares categorically: 'Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you,' and also 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.' Then we read poignantly that, in the face of such an offensive teaching, 'many of the disciples...said, 'This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?'... Then, seeing that the Master was not about to modify his teaching to accommodate their aversion to it, 'many of his disciples drew back and no longer walked with him.'...Now, then: What does Jesus do in the face of their defection, when he sees that the uncompromising nature of his teaching is driving away promising recruits? Does he go running after them with assuaging proposals of accommodation? Does he explain that perhaps he has gotten a bit carried away with his metaphors in the heat of inspiration and that, after all, the idea of the Eucharist is still a 'work-in-progress' requiring further refinement? Does he try to persuade them that the offending words should be understood at another, more spiritual and symbolic level, because their uncouth rawness has only been meant to capture people's attention?...Absolutely not! None of the above. Rather, just as imperturbably as before. Jesus turns to the Twelve and puts to them a simple question that in fact contains a strong hint: 'Do you also wish to go away?'...Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

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.





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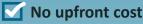
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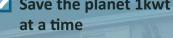
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