

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

***September 3, 2023 - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606  
Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110  
[www.saintgeorgesparish.org](http://www.saintgeorgesparish.org)

Parish Staff: It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls, Pastor Ext. 112  
Rev. Thomas H. Hultquist, Sr. Priest in Residence  
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.

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.  
*Matthew 16:24*

## ***St. George Catholic Church***

### **Baptism Information:**

Please contact Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960  
or email: [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com)

### **Eucharist Celebrated:**

Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Live-Streamed Mass is offered on our parish website each Sunday at 10:00 AM.

### **Weekday Masses:**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 AM

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

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

### ***Parish Mission Statement***

We, the parish community of St George, celebrate the welcoming presence of Christ in our lives. Together with the universal Church, we are nourished and sustained through the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, and we are inspired by the proclamation of the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit. We continually seek to grow in a deeper understanding of our faith, to respect the sanctity of human life, and respond to what Jesus asks of us in our time by sharing our gifts and participating in parish activities and outreach to others.

***A Community of Ministries, September 3, 2023***





## From Your Pastor

Living the Gospel means giving up a life of fantasy and following the mind of God. The challenges and results that come from such a change are the theme of this Sunday's readings. Jeremiah in the first reading served Israel's king and came from an elite family. His prophecy of invasion and exile was one that most rejected. He struggled as an out-cast but remained committed to the mind of God, thus ensuring that Israel would survive such a disaster. When Jesus instructs his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him, he is speaking to exactly the same type of life that Jeremiah lived. Disciples who live such a life often find that they want more of it because they feel a presence of God in both soul and body. The responsorial psalm speaks of a soul that thirst for God like a desert does for rain. Satisfying this desire requires an offering of the entire self. In the second reading St. Paul speaks of this kind of life. Those who offer soul and body as a living sacrifice will understand the mind of God and have a life filled with abundant grace.

Here are some questions for reflection:

1. Are there immature ways that Christ has asked you to leave behind?
2. What dreams has God shared with you? How can you fulfill them?
3. As you read (and possibly reread) this weekend's Gospel, how does Peter's thinking need to change?

*Fr. Niccolls*



No one ever wins a battle by underestimating the strength and intelligence of the opponent. Victory is the result of careful planning, sufficient force and exact execution of a great plan. In a sporting event, a chess match, business competition or war, the winner is the one who outwits, outplays or overpowers the opponent.

Spiritual warfare is a battle of grace and sin. The prize is our souls and the battlefield the everyday places and situations in which we live. We can become so comfortable with ourselves that we lower our guard and assume that all is right with the world. We lose enthusiasm, determination and interest. Our prayer life dries up, our spirits drag on and we never see the temptation or the sin coming. We can be overpowered by sin, one tiny step at a time.

As followers of Jesus, we must always be vigilant, strengthening our faith, practicing virtue, and turning to the Lord in prayer. In the smaller things of everyday life, we practice the love of Christ, bringing peace to every moment we can. We pick up the cross, making whatever sacrifice we must to follow and serve him. Don't fail! The battle is not yet done!

~James Gaffney © Pilot Bulletins

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

**Next meeting will be on:**

**Monday, Sept. 11 at 7:00 PM Church Hall**

For more information call Terry Gentile 508-284-0796 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887. If you would like to send an email contact either Terry or Sue at [pieta3@gmail.com](mailto:pieta3@gmail.com).



## Mass Intentions



**Saturday, September 2, 2023**

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

**Sunday, September 3, 2023**

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

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

**Monday, September 4, 2023**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Joanne L. Buda

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023 No Mass**

**Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Robert F. Flaherty

**Thursday, September 7, 2023 No Mass**

**Friday, September 8, 2023**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Lawrence McAuliffe

**Saturday, September 9, 2023**

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

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

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

**10:00 AM** For Ruth Kimball, 100th Birthday Celebration

Requested by the Thursday Faith Sharing Group

## Deacon Paul Audette

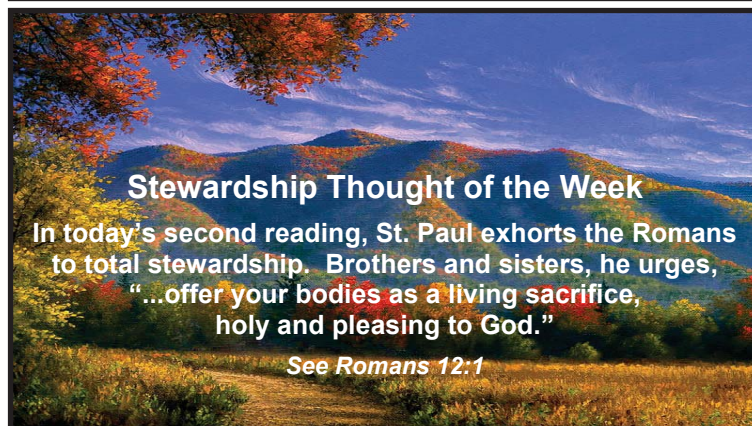
James Martin

The spirituality of Fr. James Martin was profoundly influenced by the spirituality of Thomas Merton. There was a moment in Merton's life that profoundly changed the way he looked at the world. Merton describes that moment in his book *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*. During a time when he found himself in a period of caustic judgmentalism of all those around him and a quick contempt for his fellow humans, Merton writes: *In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spiritual self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness... This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud... I have the immense joy of being man, a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate.* In the coming weeks, Fr. Martin will comment on how this insight can be the basis for how we live our lives.

## Stewardship Thought of the Week

In today's second reading, St. Paul exhorts the Romans to total stewardship. Brothers and sisters, he urges, "...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."

See Romans 12:1





# Happy Labor Day!

## Weekly Collection

August 21, 2023 - August 27, 2023

On-line Giving: \$ 1,048.90  
 Ordinary Collection: \$ 4,029.00  
 Total: \$ 5,077.90

Thank you for your generosity!  
 We are truly grateful.



## Parish Calendar

### Saturday, September 2, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary Group Church  
 8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

### Sunday, September 3, 2023

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

### Monday, September 4, 2023 Happy Labor Day

### Tuesday, September 5, 2023

### Wednesday, September 6, 2023

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Gentle Yoga Church Hall

### Thursday, September 7, 2023

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Room 108 Parish Center

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration Church

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Church

### Friday, September 8, 2023

After 8:00 AM Mass-10:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration Church

### Saturday, September 9, 2023

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

### Sunday, September 10, 2023

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

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

## Church Donation Envelopes

If you would like to receive or stop receiving Church Envelopes please call the Parish Office and let us know. Using Church Envelopes helps keep track of your donations for tax purposes. Tax letters are mailed upon your request starting January 2024.

Call the Parish Office with any questions: 508-853-0183.



Regular Offertory Donations, Special collections and donations are available through Online Giving.

Access is available through our website: click on the icon like the one pictured here. Kathy Hessel is happy to assist you, email with questions at [mkhessel@aol.com](mailto:mkhessel@aol.com). Many thanks to our online givers who help to provide faithful and consistent financial support to our parish during this time.

## 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 Administrative 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.

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



Sept. 3 - No Coffee Shop, Labor Day  
 Sept. 10 - Dave Carlson and Team  
 Sept. 17 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn & Team  
 Sept. 24 - Steve Toole and Team  
 Coffee, donuts, bulkies, and fellowship! Please join a team, you are needed. 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!  
 Contact Andy Fish: [andy@andyfish.com](mailto:andy@andyfish.com) or 508-901-7813

## Gentle Yoga for "Every Body"



In-person - \$5 donation

Wednesdays 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM in the Church Hall

Gentle yoga helps with flexibility, strength and well-being while relaxing your mind, increasing your energy, and reducing stress.

Contact Sue Stevens, email: [MonarchYoga@gmail.com](mailto:MonarchYoga@gmail.com)

## Saint George Book Club



Tuesday, September 19th, 2023

Parish Center Room 107, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Jesus' Alternative Plan by Richard Rohr

Contact Nancy Forhan 508-963-9909



## Do you like to draw or enjoy making art?

Come join open studio event once a month!

Saturday, September 23, 2023

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+).

Contact Veronica Fish: [veronica@undercoverfish.com](mailto:veronica@undercoverfish.com)

## St. George Welcome Weekend

September 30th and October 1st after all Masses!



Complimentary Ice Cream on Saturday September 30th, Free Coffee, Donuts and Bulkies after ALL Sunday Masses on October 1st. Come find out how to help Parish Outreach and ways to service. More details to follow.



## Readings To-Go!

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 September 3, 2023

Scan QR code to see this week's readings!

### Prayer Before or After Mass

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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.



### Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

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

**Thursday, September 7, 2023** 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Friday, September 8, 2023** after 8:00 AM Mass to 10:00 AM.  
Come spend time being with Jesus and pray with us.

### Holy Hour to Pray for Priests Immaculate Conception Church 353 Grove Street Worcester

**Friday, September 8th, 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.

**Repeats every second Friday of each month.**

### Family Prayer Night Thursdays 6:00 PM

*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 & Friday of each month.*



### Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

**Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:00 PM**

**Cathedral of St. Paul on 38 High Street, Worcester**

Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Paul. This liturgy of thanksgiving to God for many years of faithful witness to the sacredness of Christian marriage honors couples who are marking significant anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, etc.) this year. A light reception will follow downstairs in the Cenacle. Family and friends are welcome! Couples wishing to attend should **pre-register no later than October 13th** so commemorative certificates may be issued.

To register, complete the registration form at:

[www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass) or

Contact Office of Marriage & Family 508-929-4311

or email [aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org) for a form.



### Miraculous Medal 9 week Novena Starts Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 PM Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - Our Lady of Loreto Parish 37 Massasoit Road, Worcester

Our Lady's Annual Miraculous Medal Novena starts Tuesday, **September 5 at 7:00 PM** and continues for nine consecutive Tuesday nights, **ending October 31st**. Mark the dates and plan to come and bring a friend. This year's speakers are: Rev. Lucas Laroche, Rev. Jonathan Slavinskis, Bishop Robert McManus, Rev. Richard Polek, Rev. Kenneth Cardinale, Deacon Donald Pegg, Deacon Paul Audette, Rev. Fredrick Fraini and Rev. Paul O'Connell.

**All are welcome!**

### Holy Spirit in the Bible Course In-Person or Online

**Thursdays, starting September 7**

**9:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**St. Cecilia Parish**

**180 Mechanic Street, Leominster**

St. Cecilia Parish will hold a course online or in-person, based on the text "The Holy Spirit" in the Bible from Little Rock Scripture Study. A donation of \$25 is suggested.

**Registration is required.**

Contact Pat at [psolino@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:psolino@stceciliachurch.net)

To pre-register email [msgqr@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:msgqr@stceciliachurch.net)



### Sharing Hope Bereavement Series Saturday, Sept. 16, 1:00-2:00 PM Holden Senior Center 1130 Main Street, Holden

Walk into any bookstore and you will find a plethora of self-help guides for coping with loss and grief. Websites, blogs, and support groups that heal, teach, and encourage the bereaved are likewise readily available. Finding the best resource for you can be daunting. At this **FREE** seminar Pamela Reidy, Director of Community Education at Miles Funeral Home, will explore the landscape of death-loss and guide you in selecting beneficial resources for your personal journey.

For more information, and to *pre-register* please contact Miles Funeral Home at 508-829-4434



### Pro-Life Morning Reflection and Enrichment Saturday, September 16: 10:30AM - 1:00PM Cathedral of St. Paul 38 High Street, Worcester

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to a special event. The event includes Mass, presentation by Monsignor James Moroney, and lunch. Coordinators, volunteers in parish Respect Life Ministries, or anyone feeling called to become more involved are invited to attend the special event. There is something for everyone. Pre-registration is required for accurate count to plan for materials and lunch.

To register: Send your names, parish, and email address to: [aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org) "SEPT16REGISTRATION" in the subject line or call Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311





## Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith" Sarah Kelly, Administrator

Phone: 508-852-1784

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

### Welcome to St. George Religious Education Registration!

We are so excited to work with the children of our parish. We offer classes for children in grades 1-10. We prepare students for the sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion (typically in Grade 2), and Confirmation (typically in Grade 10).

The cost for the program is \$100 per student with a family cap of \$200. There is an additional fee of \$50 for those students in a sacramental year (1st Communion and Confirmation). As an example, if a family has 3 children in classes they would pay \$200 for their religious education fees, plus \$50 per any child making their 1st Communion or Confirmation.

Students in Grades 1-8 meet weekly, and have the option of registering for Tuesday afternoons 4:30-5:30 PM OR Sunday mornings 9:00-10:00 AM. Confirmation I & II students (typically grades 9 & 10) meet approximately once a month on Sunday mornings 11:00-12:00 PM, after attending the 10:00 AM Mass together. All meeting dates and the online registration can be found on our parish website:

<https://saintgeorgesparish.org/religious-education>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah Kelly at:  
[sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### Knights of Columbus Family Dinner in Leicester Thursday, September 14, at 6:00 PM 90 Mandeville Street, Leicester MA



Knights of Columbus will hold a Family Dinner! Cost is \$15 per person. Menu is a choice of Shepherd's Pie or Baked Fish and includes salad and dessert!

**Reservations by Friday, September 7.**

Call Don at 508-615-8434 or email  
[ono797@yahoo.com](mailto:ono797@yahoo.com) to make **Reservations**.



**Oktoberfest St. Boniface**  
**Saturday, September 16**  
**from 10AM to 6 PM**  
**817 Massachusetts Avenue**  
**Lunenburg**

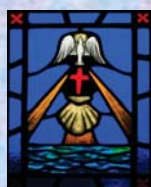
Please join us for a day of Family FUN and enjoy the beautiful area of Lunenburg. Lots of fun for everyone. We'll have raffles, prizes, crafts, chug-a-lug game, food, beer and wine and more.

For more info. call St. Boniface Parish Office 978-582-4008.

### Baptisms in the Church Family

If you, a family member, or friend is interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, we invite you to contact us today. Please contact:

**Susan Pacek** by either phone **508-856-9960**  
or email [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com)

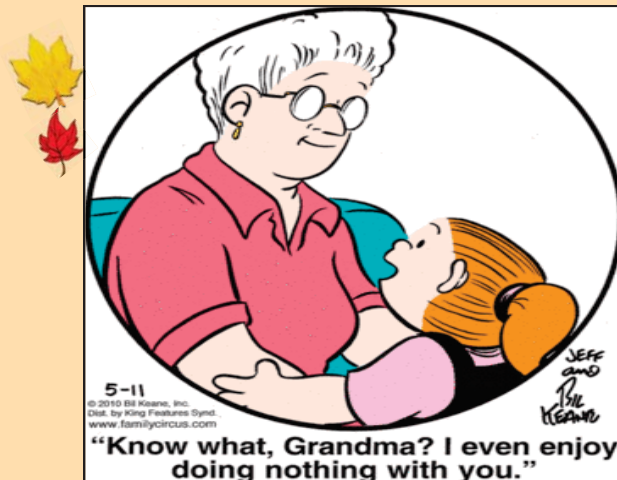


## THE FAMILY CONNECTION



*Pray for your grandparents*

Lord God almighty, bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health. May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Grandparents:** All interested grandparents are asked to pray for the safety and well-being of their grandchildren. Copies of grandparent prayers are available on the table in the Church Hall. Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions:  
[office@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org)

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

**National Grandparents Day is coming up  
Sunday, September 10th, 2023!**

## Family Faith Byte



**Thank people everyday who help you.**



**Youth Ministry**  
**First Meeting: Friday, September 15**  
**7:00 PM in the Church Hall**  
Open to grades 7-12

Youth Ministry is open to grades 7-12. Come find out more about Youth Ministry and what we will be doing this year!

Contact Jay with any questions at [jguillette@charter.net](mailto:jguillette@charter.net)

**American Heritage Girl Scout Troop 0716**  
**September 12th: 5:00 - 6:30 PM**  
**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Our Lady of Loreto**



Girls ages 5-17 are invited to come to the first meeting to learn more about girls scouts. Come join in a year of faith, fun and service. Email [troop0716ahg@gmail.com](mailto:troop0716ahg@gmail.com) or visit  
<https://sites.google.com/view/ahg-troop-0716>



# A Community of Ministries



## St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134

[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org)

### Caring for Neighbors in Need



Our Next Mustard Seed Meal is:  
**September 15, 2023.**

Donations to Parish Outreach and volunteers to prepare, deliver and serve the meal are needed.

#### Current Needs at the Mustard Seed are:

- Gently used towels and blankets
- Men's and women's outdoor Fall clothing such as jackets, sweatshirts, jeans, sweatpants and long sleeve shirts
- New socks and underwear for men and women - all types and sizes are welcome especially men's large and extra large boxers
- Sleeping bags and especially backpacks

All item can be left in the outreach collection area. 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. 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.

### Update on Our Families from Afghanistan



Next month begins the third year since these two families arrived here. Both dads are working, mom's are learning English and a total of 13 children under the age of 12 are healthy toddlers, and thriving school age children who enjoy learning, practicing their faith and playing soccer.

#### Current Needs Include:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- School supplies
- Grocery gift cards to Big Y (see Sue/Dave after Mass to buy Hope For Housing Cards in the Church Hall).

**Thanks so much!**

### Your Help is Needed to Feed the Hungry

#### Special Needs for September are:

#### Jelly and Healthy Snacks

Such as granola bars, individual package of nuts, Fruit cups and applesauce



The last weeks of each month are so difficult for folks coming to our 3 food pantries. Homelessness and poverty are on the increase. Food items can be left in the "Outreach Collection Area" just outside the entrance to the Church Hall on the basement level.



**Thank you!**



### In the Hour of Need Family Shelter



#### Tidy Up Tuesdays

Bring your cleaning tools and grab a friend to help keep 91 June Street looking good! Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 10am until 2pm to lend a hand in tasks to be done. Light lunch will be provided. Tasks include, but are not limited to: Room cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, putting away donations, painting, or anything that needs some attention. For more information, email [slinn@ihnworchester.org](mailto:slinn@ihnworchester.org) or call (508)755-2212 weekdays 9-2pm. Thank you.



### 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 the interests you might have to help.

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



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



## Emmaus Ministry

The Emmaus Ministry is getting ready for an exciting Fall line-up of programming.

We need your help!

Please join us at our next meeting:  
**Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 PM**  
in the Parish Center, Room 108

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



### Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran

[Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com](mailto:Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com)

#### Back to School Spirituality

Back to school changes the rhythm of our lives. All of us: students, parents of students, teachers and other school personnel, commuters who need to factor school bus traffic into their trip to work. The weather is getting cooler. The days are getting shorter. The leaves will soon be changing color and falling from the trees. The vegetables and flowers in our gardens have reached the end of their growth cycles. We never stop learning, but the beginning of the school year returns us to the classroom and a more formal setting for learning.

Education is the basis for growth and progress. It is not only an intellectual activity, but a spiritual one as well. We were placed on this earth for a reason. We have a purpose in life. When we cultivate an active prayer life, we are constantly challenging how our intellectual growth is leading us toward our true purpose. What excites us? What are we passionate about? What gives us a sense of fulfillment? How can we make a meaningful contribution to the world? We are spiritual beings just as much as we are physical and intellectual beings. When we nurture our spiritual growth through prayer, we grow with a balance that makes sense out of the world. Without that spiritual growth, then we are at the whim of a culture that would give us the impression that there is no meaningful purpose to life.

May the end-of-summer change of pace, symbolized so powerfully by the beginning of the school year, encourage all of us to prayerfully reflect on our purpose in life. May it encourage us to constantly challenge a culture that does not promote spiritual values.

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.

### Faith Sharing Groups

If you are interested in learning more about Faith Sharing groups, or interested in becoming more involved, please contact JoAnn Nally at phone number 508-527-6973.



Next Meetings will be in the **Parish Center in Room 108**

**Monday, September 11th from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Wednesday, September 13th from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Room 108 in the Parish Center is *Handicapped Accessible*.



## Diocese of Worcester Events!

Find out what is happening in Worcester County visit: <https://worcesterdiocese.org/events>

Here are just a few of the many upcoming Catholic events, Novenas, etc.:

**Tuesday, September 5: Parish Center 10AM - 2PM** (*Repeats every Tuesday*) **Golden Years Club** - Mt. Carmel Golden Years Club is always welcoming new members. Bring lunch - **Our Lady of Loreto Parish Center** 37 Massasoit Road in Worcester.

**Tuesday, September 5: Church 7-8:30PM** (*Repeats every 1st and 3rd Tuesday*) **Divine Mercy Cenacle** - **St. Luke Church** 70 West Main Street in Westboro. To join or for more information contact Andrea Malo [atandreamalo@gmail.com](mailto:atandreamalo@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, September 6: Church 7:00PM** (*Repeats every Wednesday*) **Weekly Bible Study**, Adult Formation at **St. Peter Church** on 39 Church Ave, Northbridge. Call Parish Office 508-234-2156 or email [parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org)

**Thursday - Sunday, September 7-10 St. Bernard School 4-Day Carnival!** Thursday and Friday starts at 6PM, Saturday and Sunday starts at 1PM on 254 Summer St. Fitchburg - see website for details <https://www.fiestashows.com/fs/fitchburg-carnival/>

**Friday & Saturday September 8 and 9 5-10PM Parish Bazaar.** **Our Lady of the Lake Parish** 1400 Main St. (Rt 13) Leominster will hold its bazaar Friday Sept. 8 from 5-10PM, Saturday Sept. 9 noon-10PM. Live entertainment, kids' alley, basket raffles, Christmas, white elephant and food booths, homemade pie and ice cream.

**Tuesday, September 12: Free Meal at St. Roch Church Oxford 5-6:00PM** 334 Main St Oxford, 2nd Tuesday every month!



**Mercadante FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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