#### Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

#### September 24, 2023 - Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606 Parish Office: 508-853-0183 Ext. 110

www.saintgeorgesparish.org

Parish Staff: It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Niccolls, Pastor Ext. 112

Rev. Thomas H. Hultquist, Res. Sr. Priest Ext.122

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext.113

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

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

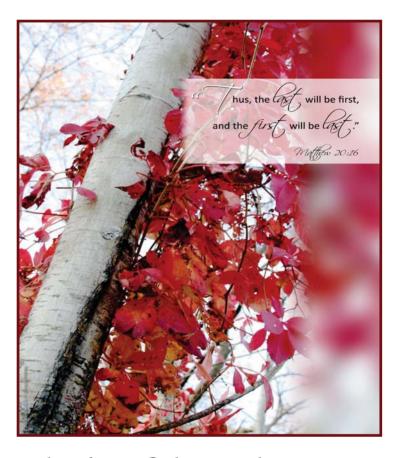
**Current Office Hours:** 

Monday—Thursday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Online Giving: Kathy Hessel at:

mkhessel@aol.com

For information regarding Pastoral Care of the Sick, Marriage Preparation, Confirmation, and Ministry Involvement, we invite you to call the Parish Office.



## St. George Catholic Church

#### **Baptism Information:**

Please contact Susan Pacek at 508-856-9960 or email: st.geobaptism@gmail.com

#### **Eucharist Celebrated:**

Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Live-Streamed Mass is offered on our parish website each Sunday at 10:00 AM.

#### Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 AM *Starting October 5, 2023*: Thursday at 5:30 PM

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

#### **Tarish 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 24, 2023



#### From Your Pastor

Next weekend we will celebrate Welcome Weekend. Whether it is the occasion of welcoming new

parishioners or welcoming back those who have been away. we will gather as a parish community of faith who come together around the table of the Lord. Our faith tells us that we gather with Jesus among us in his life-giving presence as we listen to God's word in Scripture and receive him in his body and blood in the Holy Eucharist. When we do this, we become, as Fr. Henri Nouwen says, the living Christ and are enabled to discover our own chosenness and blessedness and acknowledge our brokenness and that in everything we do as a faithfilled people, we do in our living for others. We become transformed not only individually but as a community. We may be of different ages and races with different backgrounds and histories but we become the living Christ who is taken, blessed, broken and shared. We become one body and are living witnesses of God's immense desire to bring all of us together as his one family.

New Altar Server Appeal & Training: We are looking for new altar servers especially among our younger families who have children in Grade 3 or older. We would like to have at least two servers scheduled for each Mass, particularly at the 4:00 P.M. Mass on Saturdays, so as to have sufficient coverage when a server may not be able to serve due to some unforeseen circumstance. We are looking for any boy or girl who is in the 3rd Grade or older to consider becoming an altar server. Training sessions will be held beginning on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:00 A.M. in the church.

**Expanded Daily Mass Schedule**: Beginning Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, a Mass will once again be offered at 5:30 P.M. This Mass will become part of our daily Mass schedule on Thursdays thereafter. The daily Masses on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will remain the same.

The celebration of the nativity of our Lord is just about three months away, but there is something of which I want to make you aware now. Our outdoor nativity set is showing signs of aging and deterioration and needs to be replaced. Three weeks ago I went shopping at Boucher's religious store and was shown a set that is unbreakable (our present set is not and two pieces are broken) and should last for many generations of parishioners to come. This is one reason why I think that this would be an appropriate time to replace our nativity set. A picture of the set and the prices of the new figures are included in this week's bulletin. Donations for this new set can be made through buying individual pieces. In providing donations in this way, many of us can make a contribution toward this holiday setting that commemorates the birth of Jesus. In order to have a 3 piece set of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for Christmas, all contributions toward it must be received by October 31, 2023. The remaining pieces of the nativity set will be available from the supplier after Christmas.

Fr. Niccolls

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 23, 2023

4:00 PM For the Community of Saint George

Sunday, September 24, 2023

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

**10:00 AM** In Memory of Donald T. McClain, 1st Anniversary Requested by his wife Angela McClain

Monday, September 25, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Carol M. Montague

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 No Mass

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of John F. Dickman, Jr.

Thursday, September 28, 2023 No Mass

Friday, September 29, 2023

8:00 AM In Memory of Florence Emma Duquette

Saturday, September 30, 2023

4:00 PM In Memory of Jean Corio

Requested by her Family

Sunday, October 1, 2023

8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George

**10:00 AM** In Memory of Martin Forhan

Requested by his wife Nancy Forhan

#### Deacon Paul Audette

James Martin

(excerpts from his book Seven Last Words)

"How does Jesus's suffering change us? Help us?...First, it helps us to feel less alone...Second, knowing that Jesus understands you may help you feel not only less alone but more able to speak to Jesus more openly in prayer. Perhaps you've had this experience: you are facing a difficult problem and struggle to talk about it. It's hard to find the words; you're not certain that people will understand; and you're worried that people might think that you're just complaining. Suddenly you meet someone who is going through the same thing. Perhaps you've met someone who lost a parent, just as you have. Perhaps you've met a person who is looking for work, as you are. Perhaps you've even found a support group of people living with the same illness that you have. Suddenly you feel more at ease, and can open up. It's a relief to be able to let down your quard and speak candidly with that person or that group...You can do the same with Jesus. Let your quard down. Open up. Be honest with him in prayer. It's a relief to be honest after feeling that you won't be understood, that you can't complain, you can't ask for help, that you can't even mention your struggles. No, Jesus wants to hear your struggles and he understands them."





#### Parish Calendar

Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Art Night Church Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, September 24, 2023

After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop Church Hall 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Religious Ed gr 1-8 classes Parish Center 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy Church Hall

Monday, September 25, 2023 Tuesday, September 26, 2023

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Religious Ed gr 1-8 classes Parish Center

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 Thursday, September 28, 2023

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Room 108 Parish Center 6:00 PM Family Prayer Night Church

Friday, September 29, 2023

Saturday, September 30, 2023 WELCOME WEEKEND

8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, October 1, 2023

After 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Shop Church Hall 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Religious Ed gr 1-8 classes Parish Center 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy Church Hall



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 <a href="mailto:mkhessel@aol.com">mkhessel@aol.com</a> Many thanks to our online givers who help to provide faithful & consistent financial support to our parish during this time.

#### **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.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org">office@saintgeorgesparish.org</a>. 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. 24 - Steve Toole and Team

Oct. 1 - Dave Walsh and Team

Oct. 8 - Mark Cormier and Team

Oct. 15 - Robert Grav 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@andyTfish.com or 508-901-7813



## **GREETERS MINISTRY**

#### St. George Church Needs You!

We need Greeters to welcome parishioners to each and every Mass at all of our doors, to handout bulletins, assist with those who have mobility issues and generally offer a warm welcoming to everyone entering the church for services. Please step up if you see no one welcoming parishioners at the door. This is your church and you are needed to help make others feel like they belong.

Please help, and Thank you!

St. George Welcome Weekend September 30th and October 1st after all Masses!



Complimentary Ice Cream on Saturday, September 30th. Complimentary cup of Coffee, Donut or Bulkie after ALL Sunday Masses, October 1st. Free raffles with Emmaus Ministry. Come find out how to help Parish Outreach, join other Ministries and the many other ways to serve.



## Readings To-Go!

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 24, 2023

Scan QR code to see this week's readings!

#### **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

Help lines National: 1-800-662-4357, Mass: 1-855-523-1426

#### **Prayer Before or After Mass**

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you With all our heart. 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.



Pro-Life Morning for Life Saturday, September 30: 9:15AM - 1:00PM Cathedral of St. Paul 38 High Street, Worcester

Please not the CHANGE OF DATE from the originally scheduled September 16 date. All are invited to attend A Morning for Life! Msgr. James Moroney will offer a reflection on "Preaching the Gospel of Life to a Confused World". The day will include Mass and a light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required.

To register: Send your names, parish, and email address to: <a href="mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org">aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org</a> "SEPT16REGISTRATION" in the subject life or call Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311



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

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

The Immaculate Conception Center in Putnam CT, partnership with Franciscan University of Steubenville, is offering a three year training program for those who feel called to serve as Spiritual Directors. Classes are taught during a two-week winter training session each year. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining our program to begin accompanying brothers and sisters in Christ on their journey with our Lord.

For application visit: <a href="mailto:lmmaculateconceptioncenter.org">lmmaculateconceptioncenter.org</a>. If you have any questions, you can either email us at: <a href="mailto:admin@immaculateconceptioncenter.org">admin@immaculateconceptioncenter.org</a> call 860-928-7955.



#### 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.



#### **Eucharistic Adoration in the Church**

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

Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Friday, October 6, 2023 after 8:00 AM Mass to 10:00 AM. Come spend time being with Jesus and pray with us.

#### 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 October 7, 2023
If interested, please contact Jim Hachey at 508-579-9623



St. Joseph School 47 Whitcomb Street Webster - October 7 starting at 9:00 AM.

All women are invited to the **Worcester Catholic Women's Conference**, "Male & Female He Created Them". Hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders: Dr. Deborah Savage, Dr. Christopher Klofft, Fr. Derek Mobilio, Fr. Colin Blatchford, and Patricia Sandoval. Diocesan priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop Robert McManus will celebrate Mass. Register early, limited seating. For more information and to register: visit website:

www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969.

#### Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:00 PM Cathedral of St. Paul 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!

Pre-register no later than October 13th.

To register, complete the registration form at:

www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass or

Contact Office of Marriage & Family 508-929-4311

## Mini-Retreat for Women Commission for Women of the Diocese of Worcester

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

This retreat will be led by Sarah Hart, a leading figure in contemporary Catholic music today. Her songs of faith having touched thousands. This experience is woven with fun, humor, songs, prayer, scripture, and Sarah's personal stories.

Further information and a registration form may be found at: https://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.kellv@saintgeorgesparish.org

#### Welcome to St. George Religious Education Classes 2023 - 2024

#### Grades 1-8:

We are so excited to welcome back our students from last year. We are also very excited to welcome new students to our religious education program. Classes for students in grades 1-8 begin the week of September 24th. Emails went out last week to registered families with pertinent information. If you did not receive an email, please email Sarah Kelly.

#### Confirmation:

The first classes for students in Confirmation I & II begin on Sunday, October 15. Emails will be sent out soon to registered families. If you have any questions, please email Sarah Kelly.

#### Volunteers Needed:

We are still in need of volunteers at many different grade levels. Please prayerfully consider donating your time and talent to the young people of our parish. All curriculum and lesson plan materials are provided, as well as teaching support. Please email Sarah Kelly.

Sarah Kelly's email: sarah.kelly@saintgeorgeparish.org



September 27 to November 5, 2023

Come join us for 40-Days For Life Worcester Campaign to end abortion. Vigil location is outside Planned Parenthood on the side walk (right of public way) on 470 Pleasant Street in Worcester from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Sign up for time.

To sign up for time please go to the website https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/local-campaigns/worcester/ or call Lee Crowley at 508-887-1064 or send an

email to: leecrowley67@gmail.com



Youth Ministry **Email Jay Guillette for Gathering Dates** 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 jquillette@charter.net

#### Word of Life: Intercessions for Life

For all who are forgotten or cast off, Especially the unborn, the poor, the sick, and the aged: May they be treated according to the dignity With which God created them; We pray to the Lord.

#### The Family Connection

Lord we pray for children involved in organized sports that they may learn what it means to be a good sport and not focus on winning. That families may find a healthy balance between supporting children's involvement in sports and saving unstructured time for the family to be together. 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

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



#### **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





## A Community of Ministries





#### St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134 <a href="mailto:annie@saintgeorgesparish.org">annie@saintgeorgesparish.org</a>

#### **Caring for Neighbors in Need**



Heartfelt thanks to all of our parishioners who donated, prepared and served the September Mustard Seed Meal for 150 guests.

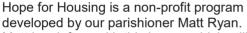
Please remember Robert "Bobby" Guthro in your prayers. Bobby passed away after a brief illness. He was a daily volunteer at the Mustard Seed for over 40 years.

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

- 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, blankets, and backpacks

All item can be left in the outreach collection area. Thank you!

## Hope For Housing Cards Help Prevent Family Homelessness





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

Nine of the children are now happily enjoying school. Seven of them are on soccer teams this year. They play with great enthusiasm and skill! Parents and younger family members attend the games to cheer everyone on.

#### **Current Needs Include:**

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- 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.

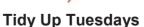


Thank you!





In the Hour of Need Family Shelter



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 <a href="mailto:slinn@ihnworcester.org">slinn@ihnworcester.org</a> 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.



#### Faith Sharing Groups

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



Monday, October 16th from 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM └─ Wednesday, October 18th from 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Room 108 in the Parish Center is Handicapped Accessible.



The seniors at the Catholic high school were required to do a certain number of community service hours. One project the fall sports teams had to do was to staff the

soup kitchen on New Year's Day. Amid many objections about the early hour after being up so late and that it was still a school holiday, students still showed up and worked hard to prepare a cooked meal for several hundred people.

Waiting nervously, the students expected the stereotypical homeless man to show up. The seniors were shocked and even moved to tears when young families, well dressed senior citizens and even kids their own age showed up for dinner. They soon realized that poverty and hunger affect many people. Even more surprising was the politeness and gratitude expressed by everyone who came. Students were clearly moved by the experience.

Later, as students shared their thoughts, one common theme emerged. As much as they may have given, the students thought they received more than they gave. They had a new sense of gratitude and appreciation for what they had and a determination to make a difference for those less fortunate. That's a New Year's resolution worth keeping any time of year. ~James Gaffney © Pilot Bulletins



### Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

A few years ago the husband of a friend of mine returned a book to me entitled 'All Will Be Well'. It was a gift I had given to my friend as she was courageously battling multiple myeloma. The book was based on the spirituality of Julian of Norwich. My friend ultimately lost her struggle, but the frequent underlining gave evidence that many of the thoughts within deepened her spirituality and hopefully mine as I reread the meditations and prayers through the eyes of my friend.

Julian of Norwich was a medieval mystic about whom we know little. We do not even know if her name of origin was Julian or whether she was named for the church (St. Julian of Norwich) to which her house was attached. She is the first woman writer in English whose work survives. She has left the world one work, 'Showings' which has two versions. This writing describes 16 visions she received from God during a near-death illness. The second version explores the meaning of these visions. Julian's experience of God brought her love and joy, instead of seeing the world of God in terms of sin and judgment. She tells of God's courtesy, an important trait in her day. God's courtesy makes God respectful of us and patient with our failings.

Julian recognizes a feminine aspect in the Divine- a nurturing force, immanent in nature, which draws souls close to it and provides comfort. Her idea of the divine all-encompassing love resonates above differences in doctrine and dogma. She expresses a vision of God in which everyone is welcome.

The book 'All Will Be Well' gives the reader 30 days of morning reflections, mantras to turn to during the day. At the end of the day encouragement to meditate on a few questions are followed by a night prayer. These are taken from the first and second versions of 'Showings'. One of the night prayers especially speaks to us today from Julian's medieval world.

#### Dear Lord,

Give me the strength to meet the events of my life believing in you that all will be revealed and everything made well.

Help me to surrender my anxiety so that my spirit may have ease and be at peace in love.

When faced with a particular challenge, difficulty or decision we may wonder, "Will all be well?" Listen to the voice of Julian of Norwich speaking through her written words of wisdom. "All will be well, and every manner of thing will be well".

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.





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