#### Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

#### February 18, 2024 - First Sunday of Lent

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

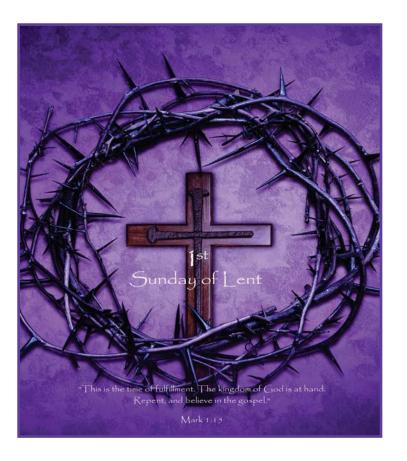
**Current Office Hours:** 

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 and Thursday at 5:30 PM

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are heard inside the church 2:30 PM to 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, February 18, 2024

#### From Your Pastor

Mark, in his Gospel, speaks so casually of Jesus being among the wild beasts. For us beasts are fearsome, and Lent may be a good time to name

them. As adults we may identify our beasts as the fear that you may not always be able to pay your bills and meet your financial obligations, or that an illness may overwhelm you, or you are getting paunchy and out of shape, or the confusion and sadness of mourning a loved one will never release you or that you yourself might die. These can be some scary beasts.

This may be why Mark says that the Spirit "drove Jesus into the desert." It seems that even he did not want to go there. He goes and he survives. He is simply among the beasts which recalls for us the harmony that was meant to exist between humans and animals in the Garden of Eden. This harmony looks forward to the restoration of God's plan for all of creation. We can undertake our own perilous journeys and go among our own wild beasts because God has done so first - as Creator, Savior and Spirit - by sending Jesus. Jesus went among these beasts and was ministered to by angels. These same angels are here for us as well. They are signs of God's blessings for those who courageously go into the desert.

Here are some questions to reflect upon with this Gospel: Jesus was with the beasts – and angels, too.

- When you were a child, maybe your angel was the friend who ate lunch with you every day or when your mom or dad made your favorite meal just because it was your favorite.
- Maybe it was when you felt that your parent really did remember what it was like to be your age.
- As an adult was that angel the child who ran to the door to meet you when you came home from work?
- Maybe it was the spouse who did the dishes when it was really your turn or rubbed your shoulders when you had a terrible day?
- Perhaps your angel was the friend who sat with you when you cried or maybe the person who let you into that long line of traffic?
- Who are your angels today?

Sometimes we can become so focused on "giving up" something for Lent that we are distracted from the real desert journey of being among the beasts and noticing the ministry of angels in your life and in the lives of others. Take some time to ponder how your Lenten practice this year might help you to see others' sufferings in life's desert, and how you might be an angel to them.

Fr. Niccolls

#### Stewardship Thought of the Week

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. Stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising." from the Sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources, their selves at God's service in and through the Church."

#### Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17, 2024

4:00 PM In Memory of Agnes and Paul Wong Requested by Seraphina Wong

Sunday, February 18, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Susan Charbonneau Requested by the Family

10:00 AM In Memory of Elizabeth Lohnes, 1st Anniversary Requested by her Family

Monday, February 19 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of John M. Ligor

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 No Mass

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Geraldine P. Sawyer

Thursday, February 22, 2024

5:30 PM In Memory of Ronald Bullard

Friday, February 23, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Gerald Duclos

Saturday, February 24, 2024

4:00 PM In Memory of Nancy Scappaticci Requested by her Family

Sunday, February 25, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of John Michael Shoro Requested by his Family

10:00 AM In Memory of Claire Evans

Requested by her Daughter Theresa Moylan



Fresh starts and new agreements generate excitement and hope. With renewed energy excitement and nope. ..... excitement and nope. ..... and an optimistic outlook, people begin new

jobs, countries work toward peace, teams rebuild their season, and broken promises are restored. Setting aside past mistakes and starting again can be our best hope for restoration, reconciliation and progress.

God's covenants with His People are fresh starts and new beginnings. Noah, Abraham, and Mosses entered into new covenants with God and the people were given a new sense of purpose, of life and of faith. They were renewed by the mercy and love of God and accomplished great things. The terms of the covenant spelled out God's Will and the people's faith was renewed and restored.

Lent is our time of renewal and restoration. We are given a fresh start through penance—both sacramental and personal. This is our opportunity to take a spiritual inventory, to set a new course, and to grow in faith, in grace and in holiness. In Baptism, we begin a journey of faith, to love with His heart, to think with His mind, to act with His Will. To be a follower of Christ is to live a life of conversion and penance, seeking union with God and the community of the Church. Our daily conversion of mind, body and soul takes us closer to Jesus and the sacrifice of the cross. This Lent, make each day count. Do just one thing, one simple act that will make you stop, think and choose the Lord. Renew your own agreement with the Lord. ~James Gaffney—Pilot Bulletins





Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, MA 01609

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent 2024

"Jesus is calling us deeper." That reminder of our three-year National Eucharistic Revival is intended to "renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist" (www.eucharisticrevival.org). That call of renewal through a deepened relationship with Christ is particularly apt in this season of Lent.

We have begun our forty-day journey of deepened prayer, more frequent penance, and greater charity. We embark on the journey because we are sinners in need of and called to repentance by Jesus Christ. Lent's annual journey also prepares us for the fruitful celebration of the Paschal Mystery - from the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and His Passion and Death on Good Friday to his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The forty penitential days of Lent derive from Jesus' forty days of prayer and fasting in the desert. They also call to mind Moses' forty days on Mount Sinai during the forty-year journey of the Israelites through the desert to the Promised Land.

During that long journey, the Israelites were sustained by the manna which each night came down from Heaven to nourish and strengthen the people. Centuries later, Jesus would say, "I am the living bread which comes down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread that I give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). Just as the Israelites would not have made it to the Promised Land without the manna from Heaven, we cannot complete the journey of life to Heaven without the nourishment of Christ in the Holy Eucharist ("unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" [John 6:53]).

In addition to the Lenten penances and almsgiving, please consider going to weekday Masses and making visits to the Church outside of Mass to adore the Lord whether reserved in the tabernacle or exposed in the monstrance. Through the greater Eucharistic devotion, we will appreciate, even more, Christ's presence to us, the graces He offers at every Mass, and the peace and comfort of a prayerful visit to Church. Thus, nourished and strengthened, we will be better equipped to meet life's challenges, reflect God's love, and make progress on our journey to Him.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. Mc Manus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus Bishop of Worcester



# Diocese of Worcester Lenten Regulations Guidelines for Fast and Abstinence

**Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**Fasting** is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

For more information on Lenten Regulations visit: https://worcesterdiocese.org/lenten-regulations-2024

#### **Bulletin Item Due Dates:**

Bulletin 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 or call: 508-853-0183.

#### Parish Calendar

Saturday, February 17, 2024

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Group with Fr. Niccolls

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Sunday, February 18, 2024

After 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Masses Coffee Shop

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Monday, February 19, 2024

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Faith Sharing Rm 108

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Faith Sharing Rm 108

Thursday, February 22, 2024

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

Friday, February 23, 2024

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24, 2024

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2024

After 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Masses Coffee Shop 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Ref. Ed Classes gr. 1 10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy Church Hall

Rectory

Church Hall

Church Hall

Church Hall

Parish Center

Parish Center

Parish Center

Church

Church

Church Hall Parish Center Church Hall

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

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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, call her at (508) 929-4363.

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

February 18 - George Gumbrell and Team February 25 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn & Team

March 3 - Steve Toole and Team March 10 - Dave Walsh and Team



\$1.00 each

Coffee, donuts, bulkies, and fellowship! We NEED TEAM MEMBERS! 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

# Saint George Church Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent February 16th, February 23rd, March 8th - March 22nd 6:30 PM, March 29th 3:00 PM in the Church. March 1st: 5:00 PM Soup and Stations. All are welcome!

#### **Online Weekly 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 <a href="mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com">mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com</a> put "Rosary" = subject line. ZOOM link sent to your email.

#### Saint George Family Prayer Night Thursdays starting after the 5:30 PM Mass

In the Church, there is a gathering of people who pray for all families. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary are prayed. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to pray the Rosary. Eucharistic Adoration is also a part of this wonderful time of prayer on the first Thursday and Friday of each month.

#### St. George Church Eucharistic Adoration

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



Thursday, March 7, 2024 after 5:30 PM Mass to 7:00 PM and Friday, March 8, 2024 after 8:00 AM Mass - 10:00 AM. Come and join us spending time with Jesus. All are welcome.

# Catholic Free Press

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

The month of February is Catholic Free Press month. Catholic Communications and keeping us connected! Subscribe or renew home delivery by using your parish envelope. Follow The Catholic Free Press on social media:

facebook.com/CatholicFreePressnews instagram.com/the catholicfreepress X(formerly Twitter) twitter.com/CatholicPress



#### 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



March 2, 2024 at 8:00 AM

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



Catholic Men's Conference Returns to DCU Center 'You Shall Know the Lord'

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important conference. Scheduled to take place at Worcester's DCU Center on: **Saturday, March 16, 2024** Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, 2024; afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will not be available at the door this year because of advance planning for the luncheon. For more information and purchase tickets online:

www.catholicmenworc.org

Come and hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, James Wahlberg, Michael Nicholson, Bishop Robert McManus, and Mgsr. Thomas Sullivan. Adoration will be available all day. Closing Mass at 4:00 PM.

For further information you can email cathmenworc@gmail.com



#### Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"
Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784
<a href="mailto:sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org">sarah.kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org</a>

**Schedule Online:** The schedule for all religious education classes, grade one through confirmation, can be found on the parish website. Please check the website for updates.

Emails, Website & Remind App: All important updates are typically sent out through email. We also post any changes to the schedule, or important updates on the parish website. A 3rd way, and often the quickest, of getting information out to families is through the Remind App. Simply text the code @397b76 to 81010. You can also follow the link on the parish website to sign up for the Remind App.

**Confirmation:** The next class for Confirmation I & II will be Sunday on March 10, 2024. The next class will be on Sunday, April 7th. Church website has updates.

**Volunteers Needed:** We are still in need of volunteers, especially those willing to be called as substitutes. 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.



# Irish Festival St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln Street, Worcester Saturday, February 24th From 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Admission is \$5.00 per person. Featuring live Irish music and Irish step dancers from the McInerney School of Irish Dance. Corned beef dinner is \$15.00; corned beef sandwich and chips \$10.00; beer and wine will be sold.

Tickets will be sold for these.

For more information or questions, please call St. Joan of Arc Church at (508) 852-3232.

#### Word of Life: Intercessions for Life

For all married couples struggling with infertility:
May the Lord help them trust in His love
and sustain them with His peace;
We pray to the Lord:

"We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do', but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility...If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you...God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple."

"Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility"
www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility

#### **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 send email to st.geobaptism@gmail.com



#### The Family Connection Dedicated to Ruth Viens

Family Lenten ideas: give up certain food or drink one day a week (fasting), participate as a family to help others by vounteering, find time to read the Bible together for 15 minutes daily, set aside one evening each week with no TV or computer...just family activities.



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 forever heartfelt memories.

# Family Faith Byte

#### Trivia:

- 1. What was the original meaning of the word Lent?
- 2. What color vestments does the priest wear during Lent?
- 3. What word is never said or sung during Lent?



Answers: 1. "Spring" 2. Purple 3. Alleluia www.teachingcatholickids.com

# Youth Ministry Contact Jay Guillette for next gathering in the Church Hall



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

# A Community of Ministries





#### St. George Parish Outreach

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

#### **Special Announcement**

Will Berger is a freshman at St. John's High School and they are collecting coats, hats, mittens, and socks. Items can be new or gently

used, and will be donated to the Mustard Seed, and "My Brother's Closet" at St. John's. A collection bin is in the Church Hall.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I recently read a piece of news from the local newspaper of the Diocese of Worcester. The article refers to the synthesis report that has been submitted to the Vatican to be included in the Worldwide Synod.

The synthesis says; In the U.S. alone during the diocesan phase more than 30,000 listening sessions ... involving an estimated 700,000 participants ... took place. These listening sessions revealed that:

- U.S. Catholics seek a more welcoming church in which their "lived reality" is prioritized over rules and regulations,
- continue to feel wounded by the clergy abuse crisis, and
- desire lifelong spiritual, pastoral and catechetical formation as disciples.

I am amazed and delighted that the incredible power of listening has been set in motion by God's Holy Spirit. I am grateful to Fr. Niccolls, Bonnie Moran and our Spiritual Growth Ministry for adding our voices to this hopeful process.

As many of you know, the purpose of the Synod is not just to produce more documents, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, and to learn from one another.

As Lent begins, I look forward to these days of hope, healing, serving and growing together.

Christ's Peace be with You, Annie Doyle

#### 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

# Why the Ancient Traditions of Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving during Lent?

In preparation for the great celebration of Easter, we are called to pray, fast and give alms as some of the ways to help us draw closer to God during Lent.

<u>Prayer</u> is one of the ways to connect with God, in silence, in words, and in worship. Jesus prayed constantly and taught us to pray to Our Father in heaven. Jesus emphasized that our prayer need not be long, complicated or showy, but rather, short, to the point, and heartfelt.

<u>Fasting</u> on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, (taking only one full meal) reminds us of our dependence on God. We "do not live on bread alone". On the Fridays of Lent we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence from meat. These are acts of self-discipline and self-control which can help to keep us mindful of God's loving presence.

Almsgiving: Lent invites us to see the face of Christ in the hungry and homeless, sick and suffering. Jesus depends on us to listen with compassion to the joys and sorrows of our friends and family members and to reach out in kindness and compassion to all.

#### **Current Parish Outreach Needs**

Our Lenten Food Drive will be March 9 & 10. All kinds of non-perishable food items are needed. Recycle Bags are especially helpful.

**Mustard Seed Catholic Worker:** Men's sweatpants, size large and XL, gently used blankets as well as socks are needed. During recent frigid temperatures the needs are even greater!

**IHN Family Shelter:** There is a need for Juice Boxes and healthy snacks. The children really enjoy this as an after school treat. Wash cloths are also needed.

**Our Afghanistan Families:** Toilet paper and grocery gifts cards are needed. As you can imagine, food costs are soaring and each family has 6 or more children to feed.

**Our next Mustard Seed Meal is March 15.** Please let Annie Doyle know if you can help with prep or serving.

**Food Pantries-** Special Needs for February are: Cereal and Jelly. Some special items which we request here, are not available at the Worcester County Food Bank.

## 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.

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

Time Change **Faith Sharing Groups** Meet in the Parish Center Room 108

**Monday Faith Sharing Group:** February 19th, at <u>6:30 PM - 8:00 PM</u>

Wednesday Faith Sharing Group: February 21st, at 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Back Entrance of Parish Center is Handicapped accessible.

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



#### FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

5:00 PM - Soup (Church Hall) 6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (in the Church) Dessert Buffet following Stations. Good will offering will go to Visitation House!

Please RSVP on the Bulletin Board by the Side entrance of the Church. Any questions, please send email to emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com or call the Parish Office.



#### Fish Fridays during Lent

Every week a list of places where you & your family can buy Friday Fish Dinners during Lent. Call Parish Office 508-853-0183 with questions.

Dudley: St. Andrew Bobola 3p-6p, 54 W. Main St. \$15 Milford: St. Mary of Assumption 4:30p-7p, 17 Winter St.\$15 Sutton: Knights of Columbus 4p, 356 Boston Rd. \$15 Worcester: St. Joan of Arc 6:30p, 570 Lincoln St. \$14, and weekly raffles. Call 508-445-9625 to pre-order.



**Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner** Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

The Saint George Parish 2024 Lenten reflection book is out! We are now several days into the Lenten season. Have you committed to prayer, fasting and alms? Have you been following the Gospel readings and the heartfelt reflections of our Saint George Community? It is our hope that this gathering of scriptures, and reflections with time spent in prayer, more fully connects our community with each other and with Christ.

In Lent 2023, Joanne Johnson was introduced to our parish as an adult catechumen. She was fully initiated into the Catholic Faith with the beautiful Easter Vigil, receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion - in witness of the entire church.

As she continues to walk with us in faith, it has been a blessing to get to know Joanne over this past year. Through faith and writing, Joanne's spirit in Christ continues to grow. She shared with the parish, through a (Liminal Media Team) livestream Mass intro, her poem, "You Are Everywhere". She wrote this poem after the loss of one of her sons, who had struggled for several decades with a neurological disorder. Joanne's hope was that it would resonate and help others who may also be dealing with great loss.

Joanne continues to write poetry. Recently "You are Everywhere" and another poem she authored, "Broken Heart" appeared in the Dec 29<sup>th</sup> and Jan 26<sup>th</sup> issues of Worcester Magazine. Joanne has allowed us to share "Broken Heart" with you.

#### Broken Heart

My heart is broken and you have taken a piece So I reach out to retrieve it while touching you I know that it will always be there it is intertwined with your spirit. I feel it's pulse as it shows itself in you I wrap my hand around it and squeeze Letting it fill up your loving image Never minding losing it to you I know that I can go there anytime And find it within you as you rest You are a protector of that piece Helping my heart to heal I will never feel the need to take it back As it has a permanent place with you now As I close my eyes I see the loving Beat of two hearts forever entwined

As we move through the Lenten Season may we continue to see the blessings of a faith renewed and shared in Love.

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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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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#### Private Home Care HHA Services

Assisting Clients with Personal Care and Homemaking Needs:

Activities of Daily Living • Light Housekeeping • Meal Prep/Feeding • Incontinence Care Hospice Care • Alzheimer's & Dementia Care • Assist to Medical Appointments Grocery Shopping • Services Available 7 Days a Week Including Holidays • Respite Care

Services Available 7 Days a Week Including Holidays

VINE For More information: Contact Linda Belsito MANAGEMENT Linda@vinecares.com • Cell: 508-454-1519

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