

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

***February 25, 2024 - Second Sunday of Lent***

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, Res. Sr. Priest Ext. 122  
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.

### ***2nd Sunday of Lent***

**The Transfiguration of Jesus**



Then a cloud came casting a shadow over them: from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."  
**Mark 9:7**

## ***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  
and Thursday at 5:30 PM

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Confessions are heard inside the church  
2:30 PM to 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, February 25, 2024***



## From Your Pastor

Today, as we listen to the Gospel account of Jesus' transfiguration, we hear that voice that comes from the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

We have heard that statement so many times, but how do we live it out? In the first reading Abraham listened to God's voice and was willing to obey God even if it meant sacrificing his only child, Isaac. Abraham trusted in God's goodness because God would always love him and provide for him. In the second reading, St. Paul says in his letter to the Romans that God did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all. Such is the depth of God's love for us. God does not hold anything back for us, not even his Son, to show us the glory that awaits us when we live and love in service of him. God is always present to us, and in this season of Lent, God is inviting us to more closely listen to his beloved Son. He invites us to take and eat in the Eucharist, the ultimate gift of Jesus himself. This is the love of God which brings us through our Lenten journey and through our lives.

**Vocation Discernment Retreat:** Bishop McManus is extending an invitation to any young man who is in high school or older to an annual discernment retreat to be held on March 22/23, from 6:00 P.M. Friday to 6:00 P.M. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. There is no cost for this retreat, and transportation can be provided if necessary to the retreat center which is only 30 minutes away from Worcester. To register, please go to -

<https://www.worcestervocations.com/retreat>.

You can also speak with me for more information.

*Fr. Niccolls*



## Saint George Church

### Stations of the Cross

### Fridays during Lent

**March 8th - March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM,**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM**

**in the Church.**

**March 1st: 5:00 PM Soup and Stations.**

**All are welcome!**



**Embracing Loss**  
**Finding Your Way and Healing Your Spirit**  
**Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 2:30 PM**  
**Holden Senior Center located on**  
**1130 Main St., Holden**

The staff at Miles Funeral Home understands the journey and task of mourning. Although the grieving process is different for everyone, many experience the emptiness and confusion which follows the death of a loved one. We are sponsoring a seminar in our bereavement series, **Sharing Hope**, offered to those seeking caring support as they journey through the experience of mourning. In this seminar, Pamela Reidy, Director of Community Education, will explore Francis Weller's book, "The Wild Edge of Sorrow", where he offers the five gates of grief as a way to recognize and understand loss as an effective starting place when navigating the challenges and opportunities of grief. We hope this **Embracing Loss** seminar will assist participants in their recovery and in living fully once again. There is no cost, *pre-registration* is requested. Light refreshments and a free book will be offered. Please call 508-829-4434 to register.

## Mass Intentions



**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

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Robert Reynolds

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 No Mass**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Clara and Gunner Burglund  
 Requested by a Friend

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

**5:30 PM** In Memory of Robert Morrison

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Raymond Shea

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

**4:00 PM** In Memory of Daniel Toomey, 5th Anniversary  
 Requested by his Family

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

**8:00 AM** In Memory of Hoyt M. Woods  
 Requested by his Family

**10:00 AM** In Memory of Francis E. Pike

Requested by Jim Sanford



Community colleges often offer developmental courses in math, writing, and study skills. As students master basic skills, teachers encourage them to focus on the goal: a new career, a degree, advancement at work or personal pride in completing their education. Keeping an eye on the goal can inspire, motivate, and energize us to achieve great things. When we remember what we set out to do, we can push ourselves to go the extra mile with confidence. You might even call it a mission.

Jesus will entrust His mission to the Apostles. His passion, death and resurrection will severely test their faith. And so, on the mountain, Jesus gives them a glimpse of the glory that will be theirs, the goal that will keep them focused and faithful. With Moses and Elijah, who represent the Law and the Prophets, Jesus shows Himself as fulfilling all the hopes and prayers of the past. In the glory of the Resurrection, all will be transformed by God's saving grace.

As we follow Jesus, we strive to be more like Him, doing the Lord's work through good works, prayers and our worship together. In word and deed, we give witness to the Lord, showing others the power of God in our lives and in theirs. We reflect to others the promise of faith, which is a share in God's glory. It is through grace that we are shaped and molded into the image of Christ, as we share His life, His grace and His destiny. Stay focused on the goal and you will complete your mission. ~James Gaffney—Pilot Bulletins



**Readings To-Go!**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**  
**February 25, 2024**

Scan QR code to see  
 this week's readings!



## Weekly Collection

February 12 - February 18, 2024

On-line Giving: \$ 1,006.60  
Ordinary Collection: \$ 4,350.00  
Total: \$ 5,356.60

Thank you for your generosity!  
We are very appreciative.



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

February 25 - Mike Doherty/John Beahn & Team  
March 3 - Steve Toole and Team  
March 10 - Dave Walsh and Team  
March 17 - Mark Cormier 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](mailto:andy@andytfish.com) or 508-901-7813

## Parish Calendar

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

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

Church Hall

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8

Parish Center

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Church Hall

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

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

Parish Center

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8

Parish Center

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

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

Parish Center

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

11:00 AM Faith Sharing Room 108

Parish Center

6:00 PM Family Prayer Night

Church

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

5:00 PM Soup and Stations of the Cross

Church Hall/Church

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

8:00 AM Rosary Group

Church

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Church Hall

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

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

Church Hall

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8

Parish Center

10:00 AM Toddler & Children's Liturgy

Church Hall



## 2024 Partners in Charity Appeal!

Our agencies and ministries are faces of hope to so many. Your pledge or one-time gift is a tangible way to "be God's 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](http://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](http://www.Partners-Charity.net) or call in a pledge at 508-929-4366. Checks can be made payable to: Partners in Charity and mail to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

**Thank you for your continued support!**  
**We couldn't do it without you!**



Emmanuel Ministry

SOUP & STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS



**FRIDAY, MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:office@saintgeorgesparish.org) or call: 508-853-0183.

Pancake  
BREAKFAST



Boy Scout Troop 175, Holden will have a Pancake Breakfast on **Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** after the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses. Cost is \$9 for adults, and \$6 for children. Come enjoy and support our Troop!

If you have any questions, contact Adam Currier at 508-769-0825, or email: [adam@currier.us](mailto:adam@currier.us)

### Prayer Before or After Mass

God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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.



### St. George Church Eucharistic Adoration

The Thursday evening and Friday morning Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration will be on: **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024** after 5:30 PM Mass to 7:00 PM and **Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024** after 8:00 AM Mass until 10:00 AM. Come and join us spending time with Jesus. **All are welcome.**



### St. George Church Lenten Evening Prayer and Reconciliation Night

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Church**

There will be peaceful music playing while you pray and reflect, as well as an opportunity for Reconciliation. Come and join us for a quiet evening of prayer during this Lent.

**All are welcome!**

Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions, at 508-853-0183.

### 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

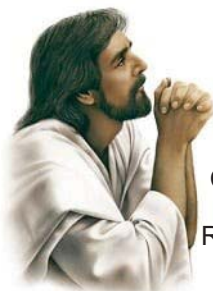
**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 8:00 AM**

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



### 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.



### Holy Hour to Pray for Priests Immaculate Conception Church 353 Grove Street Worcester Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

## The 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](https://facebook.com/CatholicFreePressnews)  
[instagram.com/the\\_catholicfreepress](https://instagram.com/the_catholicfreepress)  
X(formerly Twitter) [twitter.com/CatholicPress](https://twitter.com/CatholicPress)

### Vianney Dinner

The next Vianney Dinner is on **Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at **The Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies located on 51 Illinois Street, Worcester.**

Mass at 6:05 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Social at 7:00 PM These are nights for men, high school age and up, interested in learning more about priestly vocation. An RSVP is not needed but helpful: email [dinfante@saintpaulknights.org](mailto:dinfante@saintpaulknights.org)



### Annual Novena of Grace Saint John Church 44 Temple Street, Worcester Saturday, March 4 - Sunday, March 12 Mass & Novena Prayers:

Weekdays at 9:15 AM, 12:15 PM and 6:15 PM  
Saturdays at 4:15 PM, and 7:15 PM  
Sundays at 8:00 AM, 10:15 AM, 12:15 PM, and 7:15 PM  
On Saturdays, March 4th and March 11th there will also be Benediction and Novena Prayers at 2:15 PM.

For a schedule of speakers please visit: [www.stjohnsworcester.org](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org) and click on devotions.



### 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](http://www.catholicmenworc.org)

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

For further information you can email [cathmenworc@gmail.com](mailto:cathmenworc@gmail.com)





## Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784

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

**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.



**Family Dinner  
Knight of Columbus  
91 Manville St., Leicester  
Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 PM**



Knights of Columbus will hold a Family Dinner on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Menu is Mac & Cheese with Pulled Pork or Baked Fish. Cost is \$15 and includes: Salad, Entrée and Dessert. All are welcome!

Call Don at 508-615-8434 or email at [ohono7g7@yahoo.com](mailto:ohono7g7@yahoo.com) by Friday, March 8 for reservation.



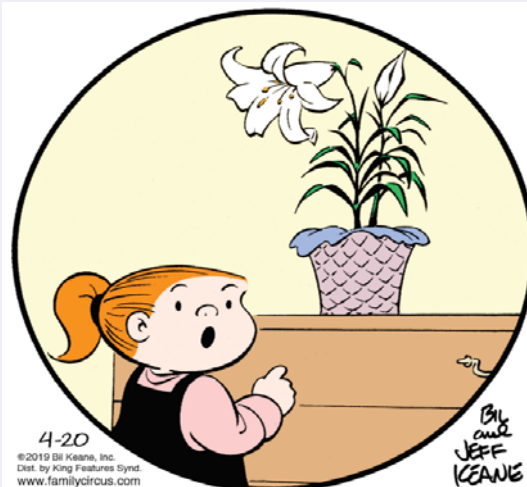
**Diocesan Scout Sunday  
March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
551 Pleasant St., Worcester**

Catholic Scouts and Scouters from the Worcester Diocese are invited to gather together in worship in observance of the season of Lent as well as in celebration of Catholic Scouting. Those Scouts who attend the Mass in uniform will receive a Diocesan Scout Sunday patch, and additional patches are available for sale by sending an email request to: [JKARL1958@gmail.com](mailto:JKARL1958@gmail.com). A reception will follow with light refreshments in the parish center for all Catholic Scouts, Scouters and their families. This Mass is not meant to take the place of any Scout Sunday observance that any local unit is planning to attend, rather is intended to further the importance of the Duty to God component of Scouting which all Scouts are called to make a priority in their daily lives. It is especially timely during the Lenten season that we make an extra effort to explore and appreciate our many blessings as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Questions about the Mass can be directed to Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting Chairman, John Atlas at [JKARL1958@gmail.com](mailto:JKARL1958@gmail.com)

## The Family Connection Dedicated to Ruth Viens

The Psalmist declares: "Be still and know that I am God!". (Psalm 46:10) Dear God, in our busy lives, may our families have quiet moments in which they are still and reflect on your presence in their lives. We ask this through Jesus, Amen.



**"How do Easter lilies know what date to open up their flowers?"**

**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 forever heartfelt memories.**



## Family Faith Byte

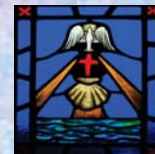
### Trivia:

1. How many Stations of The Cross are there?
2. How many times does Jesus fall in the Stations?
3. Who helped Jesus carry his cross?

Answers: 1. 14, 2. 3, 3. Simon of Cyrene  
[www.teachingcatholickids.com](http://www.teachingcatholickids.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. Please contact: **Susan Pacek** by either phone **508-856-9960** or send email to [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.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 [jguillette@charter.net](mailto:jguillette@charter.net)

# A Community of Ministries



## St. George Parish Outreach

Ann Doyle 508-450-4134  
[annie@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto: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. Nicolls, 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.

**Prayer** 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.

**Fasting** 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 26<sup>th</sup>, at **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Wednesday Faith Sharing Group:**  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.**



## Emmaus Ministry

**Interested in being  
involved in Emmaus Ministry?**

**Your ideas, talents  
and time are most welcome!**

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

**to walk as  
ONE**



Halfway through the first week of Lent, my friend's 6-year old was asking, "Why do I have to be nice to my sister again?" And for the umpteenth time, the youngster received yet another lesson on the meaning of doing good deeds during Lent. It was never clear if the problem was being nice or if Lent just took so long. Either way, it was a lesson in patience and in being a better brother.

We all begin Lent with the best of intentions, often choosing a great penance or spiritual practice that will carry us into Easter. But it is also true that we can get distracted, lose sight of our goal and feel as though Lent will never end! So, to keep focused and build support for our spiritual undertakings, why not create a visual reminder? Use a picture, or painting or small statue. Enthroned the Bible in your living room. Make a poster to keep on the fridge, or create your own piece of art that keeps the whole family focused on why we celebrate Lent. Joining our small sacrifices to that of Jesus helps us appreciate Him more. It makes us better people, strengthening our resolve to live our life in faith and in service. It is not an easy task. Do what you can to keep your eye on the goal of coming to Easter with a renewed heart and a grateful spirit.

*~James Gaffney—Pilot Bulletins*



**The annual observance of Lent**

**is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter.**

*- Ceremonial of Bishops*



**Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner**

Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran

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

How can I become more loving and merciful during this Lenten season? Will growing in my relationship with Jesus lead me along the path of greater transformation?

A recent article in "America" magazine written by Joyce Rupp, O.S.M., author and speaker, tells the story of her personal growth in her relationship with Jesus. Joyce took to heart the words of a teacher who encouraged her 7 year old students to consider Jesus as a friend—someone to whom they could talk. Performing her daily farm task of feeding the chickens, Joyce found happiness sharing her thoughts and feelings with her friend, Jesus.

As her "perception of the divine" grew she fostered her relationship with Jesus and found peace and direction for how to live. Meditating on the Gospel passages of the Lenten season and relating them to daily life was enriching for Joyce. As a sister Joyce attended Jesuit retreats and learned and integrated the Ignatian method of placing herself among the people in the Gospel scenes. She was "absorbed in the spiritual energy of the one who healed and counseled the people". This process gave Sr. Joyce "insight and courage" to relate to Jesus in a more personal manner.

The teachings of Jesus are transformative messages which "provide counsel". He gave advice about the attitudes we hold regarding others. A few of the guidelines Sr. Joyce learned by placing herself in the Gospel scenes include: cease comparing; be humble; remember what genuine love is; move toward those who treat you as an enemy; stand with and support marginalized persons and let go of what keeps you from being kind-hearted.

Recognizing the virtues so present in Jesus, Lent can be a time to grow, as Sr. Joyce Rupp did, leading us to a deepening of our ongoing personal transformation. May we during this special Lenten time move closer to the person of love we are called to be.

Spiritual Growth Committee members: Bonnie Moran – Chair; Deacon Paul Audette, Joan Talbot; Patti Walsh; Helen Hurley, and Kyle Lewandowski. Fr. Nicolls as ex officio member.



## 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 starting 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>

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