Saint George Church - Worcester and Holden

March 17, 2024 - Fifth 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

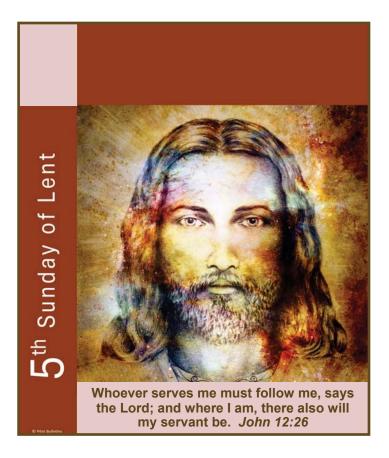
Current Office Hours:

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.

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, March 17, 2024

From Your Pastor



In today's Gospel, some Greeks want to see Jesus. It is unclear as to whether the Greeks ever get to see Jesus. Philip and Andrew inform Jesus of their

desire and request, and Jesus then speaks to "them" which may or may not include the Greeks. Jesus focuses on his imminent death which brings eternal salvation in his description about the seed that falls to the earth and dies to bear much fruit. Setting an example for his followers, he says that he will not ask the Father to spare him from death. Jesus' death is inevitable because he comes to inaugurate a new age of God's reign that challenges and drives out the ruler of this world. The death of Jesus – and his followers – will become a judgment and victory over this worldly ruler. When the voice from heaven interrupts him, Jesus says that this voice is not for him but for his listeners. This may be why the audience to Jesus is speaking is ambiguous, because it includes readers of John's Gospel. If we lose the one who is the source of life, then we will surely be losing our own lives.

Here are some questions to reflect upon with this Gospel:

- When Jesus savs he will draw everyone to himself, he is speaking about aligning our lives with his. What does aligning your life to Jesus' mean to you? How does it draw you to him?
- 2. A newly broken seed is fragile and may or may not grow depending upon how it is nurtured. Think of such a seed from your past or in your present. Do you nurture it? If so, how do you nurture it? If that seed is just now breaking open, how might you tend it into becoming a thriving plant?
- 3. In what ways do you think that we are supporting or resisting the ruler of this world?

LENTEN QUIET EVENING: On Tuesday evening, March 19th, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. we will have a Lenten evening of prayer & reflection in church. This will be an opportunity to go to confession and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We encourage you to take this opportunity to do so.

Fr. Niccolls



Embracing Loss FS Finding Your Way and Healing Your Spirit Saturday, March 23rd 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. 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, preregistration is requested. Light refreshments and a free book will be offered. Please call 508-829-4434 to register.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 16, 2024

4:00 PM In Memory of Nelson Boucher, 16th Anniversary and Al LeFrancois Requested by Lu Boucher

Sunday, March 17, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Robert Shays

Requested by his wife Lucille Shays and Family

10:00 AM In Memory of Paul, Mafalda and Robert Pareseau Requested by Judy Pickett

Monday, March 18, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Robert Mullins, and Paul Francis Mullins, Sr. Requested by Kevin Mullins

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 No Mass

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Madelyn G. Kelley

Thursday, March 21, 2024

5:30 PM In Memory of Frank Pizan Requested by the Family

Friday, March 22, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Emily Roy

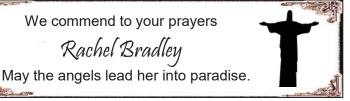
Saturday, March 23, 2024

4:00 PM In Memory of Alberico LoStracco Requested by his Family

Sunday, March 24, 2024

8:00 AM In Memory of Roger C. Hessel, 9th Anniversary Requested by his wife Katherine Hessel and Family **10:00 AM** In Memory of Robert Ovian, 13th Anniversary Requested by his Family

> We commend to your prayers Rachel Bradley



When someone is in the service of another, certain qualities are important: dedication, WORD DEED certain qualities are important ability, and attentiveness. But most essen-

tial is loyalty. If there is a common purpose to achieve, or values to be secured, or friends to be won or enemies to be vanquished, loyalty assures that everyone moves in the same direction, toward the same goal. If not, everyone works for their own purpose and the common goal is lost. Sometimes, the price of loyalty is life itself. Jesus willingly paid that price for our salvation.

Loyalty to faith may not require our life, but it may require something else. Giving witness to faith and being loyal to our beliefs can put us in an awkward position, cause social tension and even cause some people to walk away. When we ask the Lord to create a clean heart in us, we are asking for a new start, the chance to prove our loyalty and love to God. That is not always an easy task.

In these final days of Lent, we are reminded that we are in the service of God and of God's people. Service means being loyal and true to what we claim as our belief. Don't compromise truth or love. Live as God's loyal servant. Your fasting and prayer will prepare you. God's love and grace will do the ~James Gaffney—Pilot Bulletins



Parish Calendar

Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Group w/ Fr. Niccolls Rectory 8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, March 17, 2024 ~ Happy St. Patrick's Day~

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, March 18, 2024

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

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Book Club Rm 108 Parish Center 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Rel. Ed Classes gr. 1-8 Parish Center 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Lentin Eve Prayer/Reconciliation Church

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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

Thursday, March 21, 2024

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

Friday, March 22, 2024

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross Church

Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Diocesan Discipleship Prgm Church Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Church Hall

Sunday, March 24, 2024

After 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 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

Stewardship Thought of the Week

"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be." In what way is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me? John 12:26

Saint George Book Club Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 Parish Center Room 108, 1:00 to 2:00 PM "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" By James McBride



Contact Nancy Forhan 508-963-9909

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.



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

March 17 - Mark Cormier and Team

March 24 - Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

March 31 - No Coffee Shop, Easter April 7 - Robert Gray and Team



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



Donated amount \$17,380.00, 18% of our goal. Thank you!

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 to view the online video showing some of the many charities, ministries and educational programs that rely on your generosity. To donate you can place your donation in the collection basket at Mass, by using the Partners in Charity envelopes in the pews, or text the word "donate" to 84576 to access the online giving page, donate online at www.Partners -Charity.net or call in a pledge at 508-929-4366. Checks 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!

Prayer Before or After Mass

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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, April 4th, 2024 after 5:30 PM Mass to
7:00 PM and Friday, April 5th, 2024 after 8:00 AM Mass until 10:00 AM. Come and join us spending time with Jesus.



St. George Church Lenten Evening Prayer & Reconciliation Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 to 8:00 PM 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.

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

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 mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com 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.

Holy Hour Our Lady of the Angels Church 1222 Main Street, Worcester Sunday, March 24th at 1:30 PM

Our Lady of Angels Church will have a Holy Hour starting at 1:30 PM with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the rosary, and silent adoration time with the Lord.



Bus Trip to Divine Mercy Shrine St. John's Church 44 Temple St., Worcester Sunday, April 14th Cost \$55 per person

St. John's social committee is hosting a bus trip to the **Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Sunday, April 14**. Cost is \$55 per person and includes round trip on coach bus, Dinner at the Golden Corral, Springfield (all you can eat buffet with tax and gratuities included). Leaves St. John Church in Worcester at 11:00 AM and returns to the Church by 7:00 PM. To reserve seats, make checks payable to St. John's Church and mail to the attention of Judy Burke, 44 Temple Street, Worcester, MA 01604. Please include a note with your telephone number and first and last names of attendee(s).

Checks need to be received by April 1.

Any questions please call Judy at 508-478-9813

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:31-34: "The days are coming says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people." We have made a covenant in our marriage with God and with our spouse to love one another and to fulfill our vows. To nourish your sacrament, sign up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Learn how to listen better, communicate more, and be a better couple. You will be glad you did! Some of the dates are:

March 15-17, 2024, Upton, MA
April 11 - May 23, 2024, (Virtual 3RE)
June 21 - 23, 2024 in Huntington, NY
To find more dates visit: https://wwme.org/

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of virtual and in-person marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee.

Need information contact Joe and Ginny Vatelle at 978-870-5646 or https://wwmema.org/





Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"
Sarah Kelly, Administrator Phone: 508-852-1784
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 April 7th, 2024. The last class will be on Sunday, April 21st. Confirmation will be held at Cathedral of St. Paul on April 28th at 3:00 PM. Please email Sarah if questions.



Young Men's Vocation Discernment Retreat

Friday & Saturday: March 22nd/23rd

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 22nd and 23rd 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, visit: https://www.worcestervocations.com/retreat
For more information or if you have questions, please call the Parish Office at 508-853-0183 and ask for Fr. Niccolls.



February 14th to March 24th For more events, please visit website below.

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. For more events, please visit the website below or send email.

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

St. Anthony of Padua, 84 Salem St. March 26th, 7:00 PM

All are welcome to a Lenten Concert filled with inspirational music sung by the "St. Anthony & Friends Choir" on **Tuesday, March 26**th at **7:00 PM** inside the church at St. Anthony of Padua, 84 Salem St., Fitchburg. Refreshments will be served downstairs in the church hall following the Concert.

If you have any questions, please call St. Anthony of Padua Church at 978-342-4706

The Family Connection Dedicated to Ruth Viens

Our kids today are seeing their fair share of violent stories on TV, in the movies, on their computers, and in the news. Make sure this Lent they get exposed to a different way, the way of Jesus on his path to Calvary. Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' suffering and death with them and bring them with you to Lenten services. Show them there is another way, a way to risen life.



"DOES THAT 'DAILY BREAD' COME WITH PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY?"

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 snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?
- 2. What food was traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins?

Answers: 1. Pretzels, 2. Hot Cross Buns. 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



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

Spring 2024

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Spring has arrived! Although there might always be some lingering snow and cold weather here in New England, the promise of warmer days and new life is here! I love to see the daffodils appearing and the finches turning bright yellow! Signs of hope also surround us here in our parish thanks to the vibrancy of our youngest parishioners who join us in ministry!

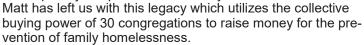
- * Thanks to Caitlin, a sixth grader at Mountview Middle School, supplies for the homeless are being collected. In collaboration with our Religious Education Ministry, Caitlin invited families to donate essential items. (Collection ends March 24)
- * Thanks to Will, a freshman at St. John's, who collected items to help protect vulnerable folks from the dangers of hypothermia. The collection bin was filled to overflowing due to the generosity of our parish community!
- * Thanks to Ruby and Anna who faithfully serve as leaders of Toddler Liturgy of the Word every Sunday! They are recently upgrading teaching supplies to enliven their ministry!

These young parishioners and many more like them are serving on the altar, helping out at Coffee Shop, video recording our liturgy, and adding their voices to our prayers and songs of worship at Mass. They give us hope and the assurance that the uplifting joy of Easter will be with us for many years to come.

Peace to you All, Annie Doyle

Hope For Housing Cards Help Prevent Family Homelessness

Hope for Housing is a non-profit program developed by our parishioner Matt Ryan.



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

Please call to let us know if you, a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, home bound or ill. Call or text Annie Doyle at 508-450-4134. We want to be with you in prayer and support. If you like, we can arrange a visit and bring Eucharist. Due to HIPAA regulations, we are not informed that you are a patient.

Current Parish Outreach Needs

Mustard Seed Catholic Worker: Men's lighter spring jackets and T-Shirts are needed. Jeans and sweatpants are especially welcome.

IHN Family Shelter: There is a need for Juice Boxes and healthy snacks. In an effort to reduce the use of paper towels, small hand towels are needed.

Our Afghanistan Families: This is the month of Ramadan. The adults and older children fast from sun up to sunset. Our prayers join with theirs during this time of renewal.

Food Pantries: Special Needs continue for Cereal, Jelly and healthy portable snacks. These items are not available at the Worcester County Food Bank. All types of non-perishable food items, hygiene products and toilet paper are always welcome. These can be left in the Outreach Collection area at the food of the steps as you enter the side parking lot door.

St. George Parish adds a New Reading Area to IHN Family Shelter!

BEFORE



An old unused storage space has been transformed into a relaxing place for the children to read and study. Thank you to all who donate to Parish Outreach!

AFTER



Thank You So Much!

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 Meet in the Parish Center Room 108



Monday Faith Sharing Group: March 18th, at 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday Faith Sharing Group: March 20th, 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.



Eat Pray Share

Saturday, April 6th, 2024 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Discussed led by Liz Woods
Cost is \$15 per person
Catered Lunch will be provided

Parishioners and friends are invited to join together in a guided discussion about discovering our own gifts and recognizing the gifts in others. Registration starts March 3rd to March 31st after all Masses.

Seating is limited.

Questions or for more information or for a registration form email emmaus.stgeorge@gmail.com

Spring Morning of Reflection for Women Blessed Sacrament Church 551 Pleasant St., Worc. Saturday, March 23rd 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

The Guild of Our Lady of Providence will hold its' Spring Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 23rd at Phelan Center at Blessed Sacrament Church. Sister Francis Murphy SNDdeN will present a talk on "Inspirational Women Transforming Others Through Their Love of God." A donation of \$10 would be appreciated. To make reservations send your donation, name, address, phone and your email to Patricia Matthews: 144 Moreland St. Worcester, MA 01609 or call Jo Luikey at 508-450-0478 by Friday, March 15th. Please make the check payable to The Guild of Our Lacy of Providence.



Spiritual Growth Ministry Corner Ministry Leader: Bonnie Moran

Saintgeorgespiritualgrowth@gmail.com

The Spiritual Growth Committee met on Monday, February 26th and discussed the following:

175 copies of the 2024 Lenten Reflection Booklet have been distributed and the booklet is available in its entirety on the parish website. Feedback has been positive. Our thanks to all who submitted their faith-filled and inspirational scriptural reflections.

The Committee is considering the best way to proceed with a Synod related parish activity this year. No decision has yet been made.

The Lenten Evening of Prayer, Reflection and Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, March 19th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available during Holy Week on Tuesday, March 26th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

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.





As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me, the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me. May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me, the word of God speak for me, may the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before me, the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me. May Christ shield me today. Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day



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Unlike "stay-at-home" emergency systems MobileHelp protects you:		
Places where your Help Button will work	MobileHelp	Traditional Help Buttons
At Home	✓	✓
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