

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden
December 9, 2018: Second Sunday of Advent

40 Brattle Street Worcester, MA 01606
Parish Office: 508-853-0183
www.saintgeorgesparish.org

Office Hours:
Monday till Thursday 9:00AM to 3:00PM
Closed on Fridays

Parish Staff:

It is our privilege to serve you.

Rev. Edward D. Nicolls Pastor Ext. 12
Rev. Charles P.O. Omolo, Associate Pastor
Ext. 24

Deacon Paul T. Audette Ext. 13

Annie Doyle, Pastoral Outreach
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org Ext. 11

Parish Secretary
stgeooffice@gmail.com Ext. 10
Fax 508-854-0864



St. George Catholic Church

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

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

Eucharist Celebrated:

First Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM - Chapel
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM
Wednesday: 6:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 PM and
by appointment

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, December 9, 2018

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Mass Intentions

Saturday December 8: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Charles Keith
 by family

Sunday, December 9: Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM Special Intention
 9:00 AM 1st anniversary for Eva Marzilli by family
 11:00 AM 5 year anniversary for Daniel Benoit
 by family

Monday, December 10:
 8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Tuesday, December 11: St. Damasus I
 8:00 AM In memory of Ann & Ray Zukowski

Wednesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 6:30 PM Memorial for Joseph Elias Lobo
 by family

Thursday, December 13: Saint Lucy
 8:00 AM In memory of Marion & Deacon John Cahill

Friday, December 14: St. John of the Cross
 8:00 AM In memory of Shirley and John Foran

Saturday, December 15: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Bertha LeFrancois by family

Sunday, December 16: Third Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM Memorial for Larry Milugo by family
 9:00 AM Memorial for Silvester Marion Dsa by family
 11:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving: Deacon Sagar Gundiga
 Fifth anniversary for Neil Olen by family

Second Collection

*This weekend, a special collection will be taken up at all Masses for **Retirement Fund for the Religious.** Thank you for your generosity!!*

Everyone is Invited!

Join us downstairs in the Church Hall after Sunday Mass for coffee, a donut, or for just a quick visit to enjoy a bit of our community life.



Altar Ministries

We are thankful to the Altar Servers and Ministers of Holy Communion from TEAM D who will serve at our Masses next weekend.

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. The victim service coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette. A report can be made by phone to (508) 929-4363.

Parish Calendar

Saturday, December 8: GIVING TREE RETURNS
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 9 GIVING TREE RETURNS
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf Rm
 9:00 AM Confirmation Mass & Mtg Church/ Ctr
 9:00 AM RCIA Hall
 10:00 AM Men's Club Conf Rm
 6:00 PM Religious Ed Gr 6-9 Hall/Center

Monday, December 10:
 4:15 PM Rel Ed Gr. 1-5 Center
 5:45 PM Yoga
 7:00 PM Pieta Hall

Tuesday, December 11
 4:15 PM Rel Ed Gr. 1-5 Center
 6:30 PM Girl Scouts Conf Rm
 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Center

Wednesday, December 12:
 6:00 PM Rel Ed gr. 6-9 Make Up Hall/Ctr
 7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Conf Rm
 7:15 PM Faith Sharing Group 2nd Fl Ctr

Thursday, December 13:
 6:00 PM Diocesan Leadership Group Hall
 6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, December 14:
 10:00 AM Faith Sharing Group 2nd Fl. Ctr

Saturday, December 15:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 16
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Conf Rm
 9:00 AM Confirmation Make Up Church/ Ctr
 9:00 AM RCIA Hall
 4:00 PM Rel Ed Make Up

Scripture for the week of December 9, 2018

9	SUN	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
10	Mon	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
11	Tue	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
12	Wed	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
13	Thu	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
14	Fri	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
15	Sat	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
16	SUN	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to parish</u>
December 23	Wednesday, Dec. 12
December 30	Wednesday, Dec. 12
January 6, 2019	Wednesday, December 19
January 13, 2019	Wednesday, December 26

Items must be submitted by 3:00 PM on the due date.
 Email items to stgeooffice@gmail.com, or fax to the rectory.

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**Weekend of
November 25th, 2018**

Total Weekly Ordinary: \$6603.50

Your generosity helps us to
continue to be a caring
and vibrant community !

**Holy Father's Prayer
Intentions for December**

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith, that people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

God has begun a great work in us! May we carry it through to completion. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!

A Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.



Rectory Open House – Save the Date

Join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season with our annual rectory open house. Everyone is invited to stop by the Rectory on Sunday, December 30 after all Masses.

Senior Fraud Hotline

RSVP's Senior Fraud HelpLine is a toll-free resource for seniors and their families to call when they are concerned that they are being targeted by scammers. If they are in doubt, they should check it out by calling 1-800-297-9760. Confidential. Knowledgeable. Local. Supportive.

Join St. George's "Food Donation Team"

For information on bargains and/or to join the team, just email Dave at DavewithFDT@gmail.com

Special needs for December are:

Cans of Tuna Fish (flip top if possible)
100% Juice Boxes and Granola Bars



From Your Pastor

This coming Saturday, December 15th, at 10:00 A.M. Sagar Gundiga (our seminarian from the summer of 2017) will be ordained to the Diaconate at St. Paul's Cathedral. He will be assisting and preaching at his First Mass of Thanksgiving as a Deacon here at St. George's on Sunday, December 16th, at the 11:00 A.M. Mass. A reception will follow in the church hall. Since no one from his family in his native India will be able to attend his Diaconate Ordination and Mass of Thanksgiving, I hope that many of you - his parish family - will plan on attending these two joyous celebrations

[Winter] Weekday Storm Schedule

Soon, we will be entering the winter season, and we all will be confronting travel with snow, sleet and freezing rain. So that you will know what will be done about weekday morning Mass when we have such weather, please note that whenever there is a "Cancellation" or "Delay in Opening" announcement for the Worcester schools and/or Wachusett school district, the 8:00 AM Weekday Mass is automatically cancelled. Please save this announcement for future reference.

This year, like in the past few years, in order to avoid excessive overcrowding in the church building as well as to avoid a serious parking problem in the church parking lot and the surrounding streets (especially Rochelle Street) on December 24th in the afternoon, we are offering a second Mass that afternoon at 4:30 P.M. at St. Peter-Marian High School. We are very grateful to the staff of St. Peter-Marian for letting us use this facility and its parking area which accommodates approximately 250 vehicles. Therefore, in anticipation of Christmas, I want to mention that the Mass schedule for this holyday is as follows:

Monday, December 24th:

4:00 P.M. - Church

4:30 P.M. - St. Peter-Marian High School

Tuesday, December 25th:

8:00 A.M. Church

10:00 A.M. - Church

Calendars for the year 2019 are available here in church.

Fr. Nicolls

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Religious Education

"Growing Together in Faith"

Sarah Kelly, Administrator - 508-852-1784
Email : sarah.Kelly@saintgeorgesparish.org
Kevin.brown@saintgeorgesparish.org

Time for Confession

The students in grade three will have the opportunity to go to confession during class time on December 10th and 11th. We have taken some time in class in the weeks before to review the steps to making a good confession. The 4th and 5th grade students will have to opportunity to go to confession during Lent.

Christmas Carols

The students of our religious education program will be learning some Christmas Carols during class time in Advent. On the last day of classes before Christmas Break, we will be gathering together in the church to sing these Christmas Carols. All are invited to the church on Monday, December 17th and Tuesday, December 18th at 4:45pm to sing with us.

Join Us! Pick up a **Ministry Booklet** on the Resource Table at the back of the Church Hall today. Choose a ministry that you might be interested in and call the Ministry Leader to find out more.

Attention Parents of Young Children

The Church building is open to all. We ask parents of young children to please accompany them at all times. Thank you.

Online giving is one method of making your financial contributions to St. George Parish through an electronic network. It eliminates paper envelopes, thereby reducing the cost of printing, postage and processing.



In whatever manner you choose to give to our parish, be it electronically, by using weekly envelopes or the basket, know that your donations are essential and always greatly appreciated.

If you would like assistance contact Kathy Hessel at MKHessel@aol.com

MEN'S CLUB MEETING

ALL ARE WELCOME

The monthly Men's Club meeting will be held *THIS* Sunday, December 9 in the Conference Room after the 9:00 AM Mass. Men's Club members and parish staff are welcome to attend. The coffee is on us!!!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

New members are invited to join this important ministry of outreach to the sick and suffering. You might want to knit or crochet – here at our semi-monthly meetings or at home. Please call Annie Doyle at the Rectory for more information 508-853-0183.

Gatherings are in the church hall at 10:30 AM on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Open 4:30 AM to 8:00 PM Daily

Please consider visiting the Chapel, especially during the Season of Advent.

All are welcome!

(Note: The chapel is closed during the hours when students are in the building as of September 16th and continuing until the end of April. Times are posted on the door.)



Holy Hour for Priests

On Friday, December 14 a holy hour to pray for priests will take place from 7 to 8 pm at Immaculate Conception. This holy hour will consist of adoration, a short reflection, the rosary, silent prayer and benediction. This holy hour will be held on the second Friday of each month.

All Are Welcome – Call Today

If you, or someone you know, are interested in finding out more about being baptized into the Catholic faith, please call the Parish Office today @ 508-853-0183.

Perhaps you would like to learn more about receiving Holy Communion or Confirmation? Couples married by a Justice of the Peace may want to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Preparation sessions for this strengthening Sacrament are also available and far simpler than you would imagine.

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Room for Christ

"It is no use saying that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Christ...Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. But now it is with the .. heart of anyone in need that He longs for shelter. And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ."

Dorothy Day (1897-1980)



2nd Sunday of Advent

In a writing course, students had to write an essay in which they were to define love. It proved to be a difficult challenge. Everyone had used the word, and knew what it referred to. But to actually define it, make it precise and understandable, took a lot of time and effort. Most of the students did not do well. They knew what it meant, but had difficulty explaining it. It raises a good question for us in Advent. What do we really believe? We use religious words like faith, belief, grace and salvation, Savior and Lord. But what do the words mean to us? How do they change our way of looking at the world, and how we act and what we think?

Time and time again, the Church calls us to be renewed, to strengthen our faith, to deepen our prayer, to be more apostolic and to offer a better example to others. Our faith is meant to be one of action, change, and transformation. During Advent, we recall God's plan of salvation, and how we are the beneficiaries and the missionaries of His work and love. We know the whole story of our redemption. With God's presence -His grace- in our lives, we are changed. Our celebration and our actions will tell the world how.

~James Gaffney

Diocesan Daily Mass on TV

Daily Mass is LIVE each weekday morning on Charter TV3 (Ch193), delay Broadcast on Shrewsbury TV28 at 4:30 pm and Clinton Cable TV8 at 4:30 pm.

Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Please: Call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. We can arrange to visit and 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 told that you are a patient. We call the area hospitals each week to see if any of our parishioners are hospitalized. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Coffee Shop Captain

December 9, 2018
Robert Gray
508-755-1268



All men and women are invited to join the St. George Coffee Shop Teams to serve once every 9 weeks. Please contact Jim Sanford at 508-852-0293 for more information.

Note: Team Listings and Schedule of Teams can be found on our parish website.

Marriage Enrichment Weekends

Consider attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to enrich your Sacrament of Marriage.

The next Weekend is Jan 18-20, 2019 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.



Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the
wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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A Community of Ministries



Love. Grow. Serve.

PARISH OUTREACH

Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183
Ext. 11
Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5
annie@saintgeorgesparish.org

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Copies of Advent Resources are available on the Resource Table in the rear of the church hall compliments of St. George Family Ministry. Links to these are also on the Family Ministry page on the parish website. <https://saintgeorgesparish.org/family-ministry>



Schedule a date for a family visit to a nursing home – not now but in February or March when Christmas caroling is just a memory. Thank a salesperson for his/her assistance saying you realize how hard it must be to keep smiling during the pre-Christmas rush.

**Giving Tree Gift Returns this weekend
December 8/9 before the 11AM Mass**

All are welcome to help sort gifts, in the sanctuary, after the 11 AM Mass.



**Non-perishable food items,
donated here at St. George parish
reach those in need throughout the city**

Throughout the year and especially during the holiday season, the community of St. George donates bags, boxes and carloads of food for folks in need. We are sometimes asked, "where does all this food go." **Here are some of the places that receive and help distribute the food to those in need:**

St. Joan of Arc and Our Lady of Providence are Catholic Parishes on Lincoln Street in Worcester. Their food pantries help to provide weekly supplemental groceries to elderly residents living on fixed incomes who live in near-by high rise buildings. They also serve working families who need assistance to help make ends meet especially during times of sickness or family crisis.

The "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry serves neighbors in our local zip codes. The food is distributed from the UUC on Shore Drive. This pantry is an interfaith effort supported by several churches on Brattle Street. It began decades ago at St. John's Episcopal Church which shared a "covenant relationship" with St. George Parish. More than 70 families are served once a month.

The **Mustard Seed** food pantry serves 30 + families and 20+ individuals once a week. A small bag or box with about 15 staple items are given to each person from the Piedmont St. neighborhood. This area includes housing for those with a variety of life challenges and several homeless folks or those living in shelters.

This Week...

Please pray for all who are homeless, that they might find warm and safe shelter where they are welcomed with kindness and without harsh judgement.

Help prevent family homelessness !

Use "Hope for Housing Cards" to buy your weekly groceries or prescriptions at CVS.



They make great holiday gifts as well!

Give a Dunkin Donut or Panera Bread Gift Card as a birthday gift to a friend.

You receive the full face value of a card in the amount you choose. The stores - CVS, Panera Bread, Dunkin Donuts and local grocery stores - donate up to 5% of that amount to "Hope For Housing" to assist children with families in crisis.

See Sue & Dave Genereux who are selling these cards in the Church Hall after every Mass. Contact them at 508-829-5776 or email WaysideATQ@aol.com for more information.



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

Giving Tree Ministry 2018

The purpose of this ministry is to provide a Christmas gift for those who would not have one otherwise.

This year the Giving Tree gifts will be donated to Aids Project Worcester, Winter Hill Rest Home, Blaire House, Crescent Manor Rest Home, St. Mary's Health Care, Sisters of Mercy, The Bridge (Now called Open Sky), St Francis Nursing Home, Miranda House, Diocesan Seminarians, and the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker.

Please wrap your Giving Tree Gift loosely in a GIFT BAG and reattach the tag.

Kindly return the gift to the church this Sunday, December 9th at the 11:00 AM Mass.



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Advent Evening of Prayer and Reflection



Tuesday, December 18th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation - three priests will be available

This evening is to give each of us some time to "come away to a quiet place and rest awhile"... away from the hectic pace of this busy time of year.



**3rd Annual:
Young Women's Evening
of Faith and Fellowship**

Thursday, January 31, 2019
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Contact Sarah Kelly 508-852-1784 or
Kate Connor 508-829-4250 for details



We are grateful to all of our parishioners who so generously give to make Christmas a reality for over 600 of our neighbors in need.

Pray with us this Advent!

This year, we will offer a prayer initiative on our parish website where each day parishioners will offer a two or three minute Advent prayer, scripture reading and reflection. Its purpose is to help us, in the spirit of the Advent season, to prepare well for the birth of Jesus. Visit our website today



Sign up for e-news

Parish e-news

Want to hear about updates and notifications from St. George Parish? Simply visit **www.saintgeorgesparish.org** and click on the link on the homepage to easily add your email address.

Please Note: Toddler & Children's Liturgy of the Word will not take place during Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.