

Saint George Church - Worcester & Holden

December 17, 2017: Third Sunday of Advent

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

Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Parish Staff:

It is our privilege to serve you.

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

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

Joan Koppenal, 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 through Friday at 8:00 AM*

*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 17, 2017

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16: Vigil
4:00 PM Memorial for Bertha LeFrancois by family

Sunday, December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM Memorial for Sr. Clare O'Brien by the Manning family
9:00 AM In memory of Peg Plante
11:00 AM 4th Anniversary for Neil A. Olen by family

Monday, December 18:
8:00 AM In memory of Walter Browning

Tuesday, December 19:
8:00 AM For the sick of the parish
7:00 PM Advent Evening of Prayer & Reflection

Wednesday, December 20:
8:00 AM For the souls in purgatory

Thursday, December 21: St. Peter Canisius
8:00 AM Memorial for James A. Dorsey by Ann Walsh

Friday, December 22:
8:00 AM For the Community of St. George

Saturday, December 23: Vigil
4:00 PM 30th Anniversary for Blanche Roy by her daughter Rita LaPlante

Sunday, December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM For the Community of St. George
9:00 AM Birthday Remembrance for George E. Nicolls by his son
11:00 AM No Mass
4:00 PM Seasons Blessings to our parishioners
4:30 PM Mass at St. Peter Marian

Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to parish</u>
January 7	Tuesday, Dec. 19
January 14	Wednesday, Jan. 4
January 21	Wednesday, Jan. 10

Items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the due date.
Email items to stgeooffice@gmail.com, or fax to the Rectory.

Altar Ministries

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

Attention Parents of Young Children

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

Parish Calendar

Saturday, December 16:
8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 17:
8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

Monday, December 18:
5:45 PM Yoga Hall
7:00PM St. George Book Discussion Group Confr Rm

Tuesday, December 19:

Wednesday, December 20:
7:00 PM Faith Sharing Group Confr Rm

Thursday, December 21:
6:30 PM Family Prayer Church

Friday, December 22:

Saturday, December 23:
8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 24:
8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy St. George Rm
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Confr Rm

Scripture for the week of December 17, 2017

17 **SUN** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8,19-28
18 **Mon** Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
19 **Tue** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
20 **Wed** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
21 **Thu** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
22 **Fri** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
23 **Sat** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
24 **SUN** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



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.

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 bimonthly meetings or at home. Please call Annie Doyle at the Rectory for more information 508-853-0183.

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This Week ..

Pray for those who are nearing the end of their lives, that they may be surrounded by the love of family and compassion of care-givers.



From Your Pastor

Coffee Shop Captain



December 24, 2017
Dave Walsh: 508-854-1332

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.

Thank You!!!!

The Daughters of Isabella wish to thank everyone who purchased our French Meat pies. You certainly helped make our major fund raiser a huge success and we appreciate your participation!

St. George Book Discussion Group

The next meeting of the St. George Book Discussion Group will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will watch and discuss a video, "The Nativity Story." If you would like to join the group or for more information, please contact Joyce Purcell at [508-852-3304](tel:508-852-3304).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at [800-710-9963](tel:800-710-9963) or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.



I say very simply to God what I wish to say, without composing beautiful sentences, and He always understands me.

... St. Therese of Lisieux

A parishioner mentioned to me that attendance at Holy Mass this year may need some clarification as we approach the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas. This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent is celebrated by the Church on the afternoon of December 23rd and the morning of the 24th. Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent are at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday and 7:30 & 9:00 A.M. on Sunday. There is NO 11:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, December 24th, so as to allow us to change our environment in the church - and in our hearts - from Advent to Christmas. The celebration of Christmas begins on the afternoon of December 24th and continues into the morning of the 25th. As good disciples of the Lord, we are called upon to be good stewards of all good gifts that God gives to us, and this is true of our gift of time. We need to bring our journey through Advent to its conclusion by attending Mass before we begin our celebration of Christmas at Mass. Attendance at Mass is not just an obligation but something we should want to do because of who we are as God's people - Catholic Christians. Therefore, we will be attending Mass once between the afternoon of December 23rd and the morning of December 24th and once again on either the afternoon of December 24th or the morning of December 25th.

Like last year, 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 Mr. Christopher Cummings, the President of St. Peter-Marian, and the rest of the high school staff 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:

Sunday, December 24th:

4:00 P.M. - Church

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

Monday, December 25th:

8:00 A.M. - Church

10:00 A.M. - Church

Calendars for the year 2018 are available here in church.

Fr. Niccolls

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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

Religious Education

Important Dates for Grade Two

This is a very exciting year for our religious education students in grade two. They will have the opportunity to receive TWO sacraments. First Reconciliation will take place in January and First Communion will take place in April. There will be a retreat for the students and their parents to help prepare for each of these sacraments.

1st Reconciliation

First Reconciliation Retreat- Saturday, January 20, 2018 2:30-4:00pm

(Families will have the opportunity to choose 1 of the 2 First Communion dates at this retreat)

First Reconciliation Ceremony- Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:00am

1st Communion

First Communion Retreat and Potluck dinner- Saturday, April 7, 2018 2:30-6:00pm

First Communion #1 Sunday, April 22, 2018 1:00pm

First Communion #2 Saturday, April 28, 2018 10:00am

"Father Riley Holy Land Tour in April, 2018"

Fr. Walter Riley, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, will be hosting a trip to Israel from April 11-19, 2018 called "A Journey for the Believer." The tour will include sites such as Caesarea and Galilee in the north of Israel, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada in the south, visiting many holy sites connected to our Christian faith and ancient Israel. Come on this unforgettable and very affordable trip to the places where Jesus carried out his ministry and message of salvation. The cost for the trip is \$2479.00, which includes airfare on British Airlines, first class hotels, land tour, 7 breakfasts, 7 dinners, and 1 lunch. THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNUP IS JANUARY 1, 2018. Booking reservations can be made on the website <http://gate1travel.com/customgroups/IL1357361>. This website contains all information for the trip needed. Any questions, feel free to call Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419. This trip is limited to 30 people, with 22 signed up at this time.

Online Giving Raffle – Join Us! Win A \$50 Gift Card

Have you considered online giving as a way of making your contributions systematically and without envelopes? For anyone who joins Online Giving during the period of November 15-January 31, your name will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Target Gift Card. Online Giving is a simple and secure method of fulfilling your stewardship even when you cannot attend Mass. Your contribution is debited automatically from your checking, savings, or credit card account on a monthly basis. You determine the day of the month. Giving electronically helps the church save money on printing and processing of envelopes. It saves you from writing checks or having cash available for envelopes. It's easy – log into www.saintgeorgesparish.org and get started. Directions are also printed and available in the church at the entrances.

Eucharistic Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your Body and Blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Chapel Hours



Open 4:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Closed - Sunday from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Closed - Monday & Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

All of the people in today's readings-the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist-seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

St. George Confirmation

Confirmation classes are well under way! The candidates have had three classes, covering social justice, prayer and the global church. All 25 candidates have attended a retreat at Assumption College led by college students. The first weekend in January the student's Confirmation sponsors will join us for class to find out more about their important role in the lives of the candidates.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Over the last year or more, interest and speculation about the presidential election headlined the news almost every day. As candidates debated the issues and frontrunners emerged, people's excitement grew. They waited for the announcements of running mates, winners, new appointments and big changes. The anticipation of big ideas and new leaders got everyone's attention and interest.

Out of the depths of oppression and slavery was born the hope and longing for a Savior. The Israelites looked for the day that God's promise of salvation would restore their status as the Chosen People. When John the Baptist arrived, there was much speculation that he might be the One. He created a lot of interest and excitement that prepared the way of the Lord.

We've heard the Advent message so often that it might seem old to us and Advent may become just another time of year. Perhaps we are not sure what it means to prepare the way of the Lord. But preparing for the Lord is like spring-cleaning. We need to take a good look at ourselves, change the bad habits of the past, and renew ourselves with grace, hope and the promise of life and peace. We announce His coming by our words and deeds. Live the message of the Gospel and you will generate some interest of your own.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

During the month of December, Pope Francis has asked that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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.

Many Thanks for Giving Tree Generosity

Once again the joy of the season came to life through the generosity of gift giving and service. Hundreds of gifts were donated, sorted, bagged, and delivered to:



- * Crescent Manor Nursing Home
- * St. Francis Home
- * The Mustard Seed
- * Winter Hill Rest Home
- * Miranda House
- * The Bridge of Central Mass
- * Aides Project Worcester
- * St. Mary's Nursing Home

The Spirit of the season was very evident when a parishioner found a Giving Tree Tag on the ground in the parking lot. Concerned that the recipient might be missing a gift, the thoughtful parishioner went out and bought the items, wrapped the gift and brought it for special delivery on Monday Morning!

Many thanks to all, especially Ann Lauring as well as Andy and Cheryl Labrecque for their leadership.

Your donations were Gratefully Received

Several weeks ago I mentioned here in the bulletin that I had met a young woman at the Mustard Seed who was trying to wash up in the restroom and we had no supplies to help her out. Since then, many of you donated an amazing amount of hotel samples, towels and kits with everything anyone would need to clean up in a public place.

This past Friday night it was cold out when another young girl came to the door late in the evening. With her head down, she shyly asked for something to eat. She seemed happy to accept the bananas and bread that were leftover after the meal.

She wore only a sweatshirt and a pair of light jeans. We offered what we now had in the supply room; a lovely warm coat, a clean shirt and jeans, new socks, a warm hat and gloves as well as a hand knit scarf. She was delighted by each item. When asked if she could use a small hand towel, soap, shampoo and tooth brush she responded with an enthusiastic, "Sure, thanks!".

After a short while in the restroom she came out with her new outfit on, brighter eyes and her head held a little higher. "Thanks so much!" she said, and asked if she could give me a hug. I accepted it humbly on your behalf. Without your donations that filled the supply room, there would have been nothing to give. Many thanks to you all.

Annie Doyle

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

Dear Friends of Outreach Ministry at St. George,

In just the last few weeks you have given the sick, homebound, homeless, and children in need, so many gifts:

- * Car loads of groceries
- * Countless hand knit scarves, shawls and hats
- * Crates full of Turkeys
- * Hours and hours of your time; buying, carrying, loading, lifting, and delivering
- * Trays of Cole slaw
- * Boxes of bananas and clementine
- * Armfuls of coats and jackets
- * A case of gloves and a case of winter hats
- * 400 hot dogs in fresh buns
- * Bags full of hotel hygiene samples
- * Colorful hand sown fleece hats and scarves
- * Bicycles!
- * A carton of new shirts
- * At least a hundred pairs of socks
- * The gift of listening to the hopes, fears, worries and joys of all you serve
- * 173 "Reindeer Bags" of treats and goodies
- * Piles of blankets and sleeping bags
- * Sheets, towels and pillowcases
- * Incredibly generous monetary gifts and grocery cards
- * The Great Gift of the Eucharist to our homebound
- * Rooms full of Christmas gifts and so much more!

This list does not do justice to the kindness, effort, creativity, time, and sacrifice that accompanied the gifts that were given. I have included this list here so that you will know that you are part of a great community effort that brings Christ to life in the lives of thousands of people in need. May you and those you love be filled with Christmas joy,

Annie Doyle

ANTICIPATION is another familiar Advent theme. Who is not an expert in the fine art of waiting? We wait for the repair man to show up with the washing machine part that was due last Tuesday, for the children to come in for supper, for the baby to grow out of diapers, for traffic lights to change, for the line in the grocery store to move. Waiting is never easy. Give your Advent waiting a purpose: make a Advent wreath or calendar to pray the days to Christmas. (It's not too late). Read a short piece from the Bible every day. Encourage children to do things for others...help with shopping for a neighbor...make decorations together. Make a list of people to pray for each time you get stuck in line or on hold during Advent.



Pastor Howie saves the third Sunday of Advent.

Mustard Seed Family Christmas Party December 17th, Finger Sandwiches Welcome

We would like to serve healthy food along with the wonderful sweets and treats of Christmas. If you would like to contribute, simply leave the sandwiches in the Church Hall kitchen or fridge before 11AM this Sunday September 17th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, especially during this busy time of year!

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

Faith Into Action Ministry



Faith Into Action Ministry continues to work to prevent family homelessness every weekend!

Please visit the home page of our parish website to see the inspiring story of our parishioner Matt Ryan who began the "Hope for Housing" project! We invite you to begin today to join this effort. Use "Hope for Housing Cards" to buy your weekly groceries or prescriptions at CVS. Give a Dunkin Donut or Panera Bread Gift Card as a birthday gift to a friend.

You receive the full face value of the 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 the most vulnerable; children with families in crisis.



See Sue or Dave Genereux after Mass or contact them at 508-829-5776 or email Wayside-ATQ@aol.com for more information. They are happy to explain more about how "Hope for Housing Cards" help families on the brink of homelessness.

NO Toddler & Children's Liturgy of the Word On December 25

"Reindeer Bags"

Many thanks to Donna Alarie who led our Grade 6-9 Religious Education Students in a delightful outreach project. They made 173 "Reindeer Bags"! Each bag was filled with candy, pudding, juice, crackers and more! The bags will be donated to families and guests who come to the Mustard Seed. Many Thanks!



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Advent Evening of Reflection And Prayer Tuesday Evening , December 19, 2017 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Church

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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.

Start A New Tradition As Your Prepare For Christmas... Come As A Family

Young At Heart Women's Evening Of Gathering And Reflection

Thursday : January 25, 2018 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Speaker: Jamie Stuart Wolfe
Topic: Work-Life Balance

Stop by the Registration Table after the 9:00 AM Mass. Deadline For Registration is *this* Sunday, December 17



We invite you to learn more about the Catholic Faith Gatherings will begin in soon

There is always more for all of us to learn about our Catholic faith. Are you baptized Catholic or baptized into another religion but have never received any formal religious education? Perhaps God is calling you to learn more about the Catholic faith to explore the possibility of becoming Catholic? Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass but you are now possibly considering becoming Catholic? Are you an Adult Catholic who has not received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and/or Confirmation? If so, we invite you to join us to learn more about the Catholic faith.

Please see Fr. Nicolls after Mass or contact Annie Doyle 508-853-0183 x12 or annie@saintgeorgesparish.org.