

YOUTH MINISTRY

Faith | Hope | Love

Patron Saints

St. Valentine- Feast day - February 14th - is a third-century Roman saint commonly associated with "courtly love." Not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known. St. Valentine was arrested for marrying Christian couples and converting people to Christianity. One common story about St. Valentine is that he restored the sight of a blind girl from the family of one of his jailers. He was eventually sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II) where he was jailed and eventually martyred in AD 269. The romantic nature of Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia. It is widely recognized as a day for love, devotion and romance. (catholic.org).

Mustard Seed

As always, please keep our many volunteers in mind and help out if you can this month by donating to this ministry.

Valentines Day

Just as Christmas is celebrated by Christians and non-Christians alike, Saint Valentines feast day has earned a spot in our culture. Part of the popularity is often associated with Hallmark Cards and this holiday is officially listed on Wikipedia as a "Hallmark Holiday" along with Mothers Day and Fathers Day for example. This is because they are perceived as having been created for commercial benefit.



Hallmark of course did not create Valentines Day as you can read on the left sidebar of this page. The feast day of St. Valentine is however widely recognized as a day for love. While it is odd to see the feast day of a saint commercialized for profit, just remember, imitation is the highest complement and in this case provides and opportunity to discuss your faith. That is, there is nothing wrong with sharing the history of the life of a saint with friends and reminding them of the purity of love as associated with St. Valentine. So if someone gives you a card, flowers or chocolates, kindly accept the gesture and use the opportunity to discuss the historical life of St. Valentine.

Enjoy this winter season and all this wonderful snow we are getting. Build some snowmen, go sledding with the kids, walk outside during the storm and experience the world in a way that allows our youngsters to witness God in their lives as they examine the shape of a snowflake and can find no two are alike. And if they get a day off from school - remind them to thank God for the gift!



Mustard Seed

Please let Annie Doyle know if you want to see faith in action on a personal level. Saint George parish is a regular provider of free meals at the Mustard Seed in Worcester. We added a new twist this Christmas, singing carols and Happy Birthday Jesus (with birthday day cake). If you volunteer, you will find yourself in the kitchen preparing a meal then serving the needy side by side with various youth from local schools, confirmation class, or our own Youth Ministry. If serving is not an option, simply take a card from the donations board and return the item to Annie as we gather food for each night we serve. This is a really great way to remind ourselves of all the blessings we have in our lives, no matter how hard they seem.

Thank you in advance for your kindness throughout the year.

Youth Mass this Sunday

For those of us that braved the Sunday morning snow, we were treated to another celebration from our youth choir. Gabby, Clara, Amanda, Rebecca and Christopher shared the music at the 9 am mass with Bill White and the contemporary music group. A big thanks goes out to Bill for allowing us to assist with the music for the day



and for trusting the kids to be prepared. While scheduling conflicts make it hard to practice together the youth work hard at their craft and it is always enjoyable to hear the final product. As Father said, it will be nice to get the musicians down into the congregation with the new space and new organ. Thank you all!

Youth Ministry and Religious Education

A special thanks to Kevin Browne for inviting the youth musicians into the religious education classes. This is a great service opportunity that the youth have recently participated in. The first night was very nice as Rebecca and Gabriela led us in song. We plan to join the class again at the end of February and are looking for additional opportunities that cross ministries here at St. George.

Upcoming Events in Worcester and Beyond

The Worcester Diocese 2017 basketball season is heading into playoffs this weekend! St. George is fielding a team under the direction of Greg Post. Greg is a Eucharistic Minister and member of our Men's club at St. George Parish. Be sure to wish him well when you see him at coffee club after Sunday mass then take the family out for some free basketball.

The schedule for the start of playoffs is below:

Basketball Playoffs
Saturday, February 18, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM