

# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS NEWSLETTER

Faith | Hope | Love

## Saint George Parish

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

## Mustard Seed



Please keep in mind our families in need that we serve meals to

at the Mustard Seed. Watch for announcement in the bulletin and web page for calls to volunteer or donate food or money to the cause. Any help in this important ministry is greatly appreciated. See Annie Doyle for more information.

## Hope for Housing

Please stop by after mass to purchase grocery cards for all the major grocery stores. Your purchase helps fund housing for families that are less fortunate in our area. This is a particularly difficult time of the year with the cold weather and there is no extra cost passed on to you.

## Preparation for Lent

When we think of Lent, the first thing that comes to mind might be giving something up.



Or if you are a foodie, you may

think of all those great fish recipes you have been dying to try. Or if you are into parties, you might think of that American tradition of Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday in New Orleans. Whatever it brings to mind, it is a clearly recognizable season usually starting in late winter as the days start to get longer and the sun shines a little bit warmer each day. As we enter into Lent however it is important to remember that it is a season of permanent change, not temporary effort. A little suffering in Lent prepares us for a more permanent change that will bring us closer to God, it breaks the grip that bad habits have on us. Giving up snacks is great when you are a kid, but what if as an adult, that break in our habits could be leveraged to make a lasting change in our lives? To give rationale to the sacrifice of snacks, put the money you would have spent on that snack into a snack jar that can be donated to the poor at the end of Lent. If at the end of Lent you find great peace in giving to the poor, start again with an empty jar each month and vote as a family where the money will go. If you don't want to give something up, try adding some positive spice to your life that doesn't cost any money. What if a pattern of prayer established as a Lenten vow is able to be sustained throughout the year? These are great times to try and establish a foundation for a permanent change in your life that helps move you deeper in faith. As you contemplate what you will do, please pray for our youth ministers here at St. Georges, that they will continue on in faith as they enter college and adulthood.



## St. Gilbert of Sempringham

St Gilbert of Sempringham, Feast Day February 16th. Gilbert was born in Sempringham, England, into a wealthy family, but he followed a path quite different from that expected of him as the son of a Norman knight. Sent to France for his higher education, he decided to pursue seminary studies. He returned to England not yet ordained a priest, and inherited several estates from his father. But Gilbert avoided the easy life he could have led under the circumstances. Instead he lived a simple life at a parish, sharing as much as possible with the poor. Following his ordination to the priesthood he served as parish priest at Sempringham. Gilbert had a house built for those interested in the religious life adjacent to the Church. The devotees numbers grew and eventually lay sisters and lay brothers were added to work the land. The religious order formed eventually became known as the Gilbertines. Throughout his life, Gilbert lived simply, consumed little food, and spent a good portion of many nights in prayer. Despite the rigors of such a life he died at well over age 100.

## *Young Adult Resources (Age 18-36)*

Tim Messenger of the Worcester Diocese has placed links from the various young adult groups on the diocesan website. This page is intended for adult level conversation and guidance and includes some mobile apps, books and websites you may find helpful. <http://www.neworchester.org/ya-resources>.

As always, if there are parish level suggestions or needs, or you wish to share your talents, please do not hesitate to contact [youthministry@saintgeorgesparish.org](mailto:youthministry@saintgeorgesparish.org).

## *Choices*

George Washington Carver (c. 1864 to January 5, 1943) was one of many children born to Mary and Giles, an enslaved couple owned by Moses Carver. A week after his birth, George was kidnapped along with his sister and mother from the Carver farm by raiders from the neighboring state of Arkansas. The three were sold in Kentucky. Among them only the infant George was located by an agent of Moses Carver and returned to Missouri. He went on to become a botanist and one of the most prominent scientists and inventors of his time as well as a teacher at the Tuskegee Institute. Carver devised over 100 products using one major crop — the peanut — including dyes, plastics and gasoline. George Washington Carver died on January 5, 1943, at the age of 78. His epitaph reads: "He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world." Reflect on this as you decide what to do with your life and the many gifts you have been given this Lenten Season.

## *Prayer for Young Adults*

We ask that you keep our college bound parishioners in your prayers this month as they decide on not only whether to go to college, but where to go and what to study there. Ask that God guide them to a place where their faith can continue to grow.