

Saint George Church

A Community of Ministries

Second Sunday of Advent - December 6 and 7, 2008

Love



Parish Information

40 Brattle Street, Worcester, MA 01606

phone: 508-853-0183 fax: 508-854-0864 email: office@saintgeo.com Website: www.saintgeo.com

Eucharist Schedule: Vigil (Saturday): 4:00 PM Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM
Monday through Friday at 8:00 AM.

Baptism: Once a month at 12:30 PM. Call Ruth Viens, Baptism Coordinator at 508-852-5658 to make arrangements.

Penance: Saturday - 3:15 to 3:45 PM or by appointment.

Marriage: Saturday mornings or Sundays after 2:00 PM. Arrangements must be made one year in advance with a priest. One of the couple must have been a registered member of the Parish for at least six months.

Anointing of the Sick and Communion Calls: Members of the family should notify the Rectory whenever a parishioner becomes confined at home, in a nursing home, a hospice or in the hospital.

Registration: New parishioners are always welcome! Please call Annie Doyle at the Rectory to register.

Coffee Shop: Sunday after every Mass in the Church Hall.

Pastoral Staff: *Rev. Ronald G. Falco*, Pastor; *Norbert H. Archibald*, Deacon

Safe Environment Coordinator: *Margaret Moynahan*

Church Office: *Joan Koppenal*, Secretary

Parish Outreach: *Ann R. Doyle*, Coordinator

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, closed Fridays and holidays

Religious Education: 508-852-1784 - **Elementary:** *Margaret Moynahan*, Coordinator;

Junior High:

Senior High: Christopher O'Neill, Coordinator

Confirmation: *Susan Pacek*, Coordinator

CYC Youth Group:

Music Ministry: *Michael Lizotte*, Director 508-854-0459

Weekly Bulletin Editor: *Anne Good*, 508-869-9982

Newsletter Editor: *Ruth Viens*, 508-852-5658

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish community of Saint George, celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives.

Central to our identity and together with the universal Catholic Church, we are nourished and sustained through the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. We are inspired by the proclamation of the Word and guided by the Holy Spirit.

As Catholic Christians, we continually seek to grow in a deeper understanding of our faith, to respect the sanctity of human life, and to respond to what Jesus asks of us in our time by sharing our gifts and participating in parish activities.

Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Members of the family or friends are requested to either call the Rectory or add the name to the Prayer Basket, which is located in the Mary Chapel.

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 14, 2008: John Hughes - 508-829-9023

Please join us in the Hall after Mass on Sunday for coffee, donuts and fellowship!

Financial Information

November 15/16

4:00 PM: \$ 1615.00

97 envelopes

7:30 AM: \$1788.00

70 envelopes

9:00 AM: \$1923.45

92 envelopes

11:00 AM: \$1519.40

89 envelopes

Mail: \$2649.00

42 envelopes

Weekly Total:

\$9494.85

390 envelopes and cash

Repair Fund

\$223.00

18 envelopes

Is your family giving the first hour of your work week to God?

If you are, thank you. If not, please consider this as a way to support our Parish.



Our Weekly Financial Goal is \$7,750

This week we achieved 122.5% of our goal.

Thank you for your continued support



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6: *Vigil*
 4:00 PM Memorial for Henri and Marie Boivin by the Boivin family

Sunday, December 7: *Second Sunday of Advent*
 7:30 AM Memorial for William and Julia Sanders by Linda Paldino
 9:00 AM 18th Anniversary for Philip N. Good by Family
Grade 1 Mass
 11:00 AM Memorial for Nicholas and Elizabeth DiBenedetto and the deceased members of the Leahy family by Vin and Kathy DiBenedetto

Monday, December 8: *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 8:00 AM For the Community of Saint George
 12:10 PM For the Community of Saint George
 7:00 PM For the Community of Saint George

Tuesday, December 9: *Juan Diego*
 8:00 AM Birthday Memorial for Mary Cahill by family

Wednesday, December 10:
 8:00 AM Birthday Memorial for Frances White by family

Thursday, December 11: *Damasus I*
 8:30 AM Memorial for James Campbell by the Sanford Family

Thursday, December 12: *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
 8:00 AM Memorial for Gerry Duclos by the Morning Mass group

Saturday, December 13: *Vigil*
 4:00 PM Memorial for Betty Frew by Barbara Welch and Virginia Keith

Sunday, December 14: *Second Sunday of Advent*
 7:30 AM Memorial for Joseph Elias Lobo by family
 9:00 AM Memorial for Edward J. Peacott Jr. by the Donal Smith family and Gerald Galdauskas family
 11:00 AM 3rd Anniversary for Helen Shea by family
 12:30 PM Baptisms

Scripture for December 7- December 14, 2008

7	Sun	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
8	Mon	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
9	Tue	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
10	Wed	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
11	Thu	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
12	Fri	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
13	Sat	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
14	Sun	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Second Collection

Next weekend is the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious. Please read the Bishop's letter on page 7.

Parish Calendar

Stock the Pantries for Christmas Food Drive this Weekend!

Women's Guild Raffle Tickets on sale this weekend

Saturday, December 6:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 7:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall Alcove
 4:00 PM Children's Choir Church

Monday, December 8:
 4:00 PM Outreach Ministry Conf. Room
 4:00 PM Gr. 1 & 2 Religious Ed Center
 6:30 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Religious Ed Center
 7:00 PM Pieta Conf. Room

Tuesday, December 9:
 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Conf. Room
 4:00 PM Gr. 3 & 4 Religious Ed Center
 6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center (2nd)
 7:00 PM Choir Church
 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Conf. Room

Wednesday, December 10:
 4:00 PM Gr. 5 & 6 Religious Ed Center
 6:30 PM Daughters of Isabella Hall
 7:00 PM Baptism Preparation Conf. Room
 7:00 PM Widow/Widowers Center

Thursday, December 11:
 9:30 AM Parent Connection Hall
 5:30 PM Knights of Columbus Hall
 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Center (2nd)
 6:30 PM Family Prayer Night Church
 6:45 PM Boy Scouts Center (2nd)

Friday, December 12:
 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Center (2nd)

Saturday, December 13:
 8:00 AM Women's Day of Spirituality Church and Hall

6:00 PM Cub Scouts Center (2nd)
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 14:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall Alcove
 10:00 AM Men's Club Meeting Conf. Room
 12:00 PM Raffle Drawing Hall
 4:00 PM Children's Choir Church

We Commend to your Prayers

Edward Leary, father of our parishioner Sean and
 Esther Mancuso Pascucci, mother of our parishioner Marina Pascucci

May the Angels lead them into Paradise



Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program needs up-to-date sets of Bibles for each classroom; 12 sets are needed at \$75.00 per set. The current Bibles are out of date and have been well used for decades. Please call the Rectory if you are interested in donating a set(s).

Grade 9 and 10 Religious Education Classes for first semester are complete. There will be NO classes in December.

Parish Surveys

Thank you for sending in your completed surveys. We continue to welcome any surveys that you want to return to us. Thank you!

Women's Day of Spirituality

The Spiritual Life Committee and the Women's Guild invite you to join us for our Twelfth Day of Spirituality to be held on Saturday, December 13 in our parish hall. Susan Landry, Director of Religious Education for Saint Mary's Parish in Shrewsbury will be presenting the topic "The Word of God that Comes to Us in the Advent Season - Confronts Us, Converts Us and Consoles Us".

Sign-in will begin at 9:15 AM, Coffee and pastry will be available at that time. Our program will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude by 1:00 PM. Luncheon is included with the \$10 offering. Proceeds will be shared by Abby's House and our Parish Outreach Program. For registration, please contact Joan Talbot at 508-853-0654 between the dates of November 24 and December 8. Please join us.

Free Donut Tickets for Children's Liturgy

The Men's Club will be offering "Free Donut Tickets" to all participants to the "Children's Liturgy" during the 9:00 AM Mass *this* Sunday. The children will be given the tickets while at the Liturgy to be redeemed after Mass. Best Wishes to our young Catholics.

Toddler Sing Along!



To simplify and promote a gentle spirit this holiday season, the Toddler Sing Along is cancelled for November and December. The next meeting will be on January 25.

Feast of Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM.

The Pastor's Corner

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

Advent and Christmas are times for memory making. Between now and Christmas little children will most likely have visited Santa Claus at the mall, families will have decorated their homes, and Christmas shopping will have ensued. As we make new memories this Advent /Christmas season, especially capturing "moments in time" with our cameras, we join in the excitement (and exhaustion) of this happy season. Advent, as a spiritual season of grace, is about memories too. The Church invites us to recall to mind the event of the birth of Jesus. The Church, through Advent liturgy, ritual and prayer, aides us in recalling that "moment in time" when God became a human person at Bethlehem. Advent is a season in which we reflect again on the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, and in doing so abide in a purposeful way in the mystery of God's love for the human race.

The two fold nature of Advent, recalling the first coming of the Lord in history and anticipating his second coming at the end of history, has one connecting theme, "the coming of the Lord." We are encouraged by Holy Scripture to be on the watch, to be alert, for the coming of the Lord. We Christians see life and people differently. We view life, and life situations, as opportunities for encountering Christ Jesus in the every day circumstances of family, work, and school. Advent helps to attune our hearts to the voice of Jesus whatever you do to another you do to me. We encounter Christ "coming to us" when we are in situations which call forth a decision to be understanding, kind, helpful, forgiving, compassionate, patient, supportive. Advent helps to make us more aware of Christ's presence, of "Christ's coming" in all situations. We need to be on the watch for Christ. When we live this way, when we have cultivated a spirituality of the awareness of God's presence, then when Christ Jesus returns in glory, the Lord will find us ready, alert to His coming.

Advent is a four week reflection on God's generosity to us. Advent and Christmas, and the entire Christmas season, provide for us opportunities and ways for responding to this generous God who gave no less than Jesus, the fullness of God's being. Responding to God by giving our time, talent and treasure to our parish are appropriate ways to express in love our gratitude to God. It is so similar in response to what our Eucharistic lives are all about. We give to God what God has given to us, Jesus Christ, His Body and His Blood, and we are united with Jesus in love for God and others. Let us remove from our hearts this Advent that which is contrary to Christ in us so as to make room to receive Christ, and respond generously to Christ today, at Christmas and whenever and wherever Christ comes.

Fr. Ron



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

The Adorers of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel wish to thank Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for these favors:

1. For helping me with temperance.
2. For getting children and self to daily Mass.

The Chapel of the Perpetual Eucharist Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament needs additional adorers. Call Deacon Archie at 508-847-3710 or 508-853-8169. to sign up or if you have any questions.



Parish Outreach

Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183 x12
Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5

Dear friends,

As I reflect on where I see Christ born again in my life this Advent Season, so many of you come to mind. Those of you who bring food for the hungry surely have fed more than 5,000 this year. You comfort and heal as Jesus did each time you offer prayers and help to the sick. I know this because of your prayers and concern for my mom and so many others. Each word of encouragement and kindness is as uplifting as Christ's message that we are light for the world. In the faces of your children and listening to their thoughts during Children's Liturgy, it is easy to see and hear the hope that Christ brought to earth. As you present your children for Baptism and Eucharist you teach them about God as surely as Christ taught us about his Father. You help to make the presence of God real!

Peace and Joy,
Annie Doyle

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.

IMPORTANT: December Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to the parish office</u>
December 13/14 and December 20/21	Monday, December 8
December 27/28 and January 3/4	Monday, December 15

Note that the bulletin schedule is different for December, we will be having two-week bulletins. Materials for the bulletin **must be** submitted before 5:00 PM on the due date. . There can be NO EXCEPTIONS!!! Items can be e-mailed to agood@saintgeo.com or faxed to the Rectory. If you have any questions about the schedule, please give Anne Good a call: 508-869-9982

Family Ministry

Ruth Viens, Coordinator - 508-852-5658
Email : ruthviens@charter.net

Family Connection

Decorate your Christmas tree this year with a family flavor by asking every family member, at home or away, to create an ornament identifying their special gifts and talents. You can also decorate your tree with photos of all your extended family members, especially ones you will not see this Christmas season. After you decorate your tree pray together: *Gracious God, let your blessings come upon us as we light this tree. May all who stand in its light eagerly welcome Jesus, the true Light that never fades. Amen*

PARISH E-NEWSLETTER NEWS!

Our monthly Parish E-Newsletter can now be found on the parish website www.saintgeo.com. Check out the December issue! Two other new pages have been added to the parish website: *ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2008 RESOURCES* and *CAREGIVER RESOURCES*. Each of the three links are located on the left on the homepage. We now have 95 email addresses on the parish email list which includes a number of husband/wife/family addresses! To have your email address included send it to ruthviens@charter.net.



Daughters of Isabella

The monthly meeting of the Daughters of Isabella-St. Katharine Drexel Circle #1398 will be Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. After the meeting, there will be a potluck supper Christmas Party. In addition to food, we ask all the attendees to bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift.

We are pleased to announce the lucky winner of the Holiday Christmas Basket was Fran O'Brien! Also, the Daughters of Isabella wish to thank everyone who bought our meat pies and baked goods. This sale was a huge success. Many will benefit from your generosity.

"Wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord":

A Quiet Evening of Prayer and Reflection

Monday, December 22, 2008; 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Advent is a time to quiet our hearts and minds and reflect with anticipation upon the beauty of the coming of Christ this Christmas Season and all it holds for us. We are called to "gentleness of spirit" and hearts filled with hope and joy. To many of us, this peaceful image can sound so distant. We are living in challenging and trying times... a world in turmoil that is spiraling in many directions. Times like this can cause us to lose our focus, but God calls us to stay the course with our eyes on Him. We invite you to set this evening aside for private prayer and reflection. Come for the hour or for ten minutes, you are welcome. With candlelight and quiet music, the empty manger awaits the Christ child, Jesus, our Redeemer and our Healer... Come, let us pray. The healing Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. God bless.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you"
James 4:8.

Pietà

Is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend. Meetings will be held the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be December 9 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Brochures are available on the bulletin board at the parking lot entrance of the Church.

Children's Christmas Choir

Rehearsals for the annual Children's Christmas Choir will be held on 4 consecutive Sundays at 4:00 PM in the choir loft beginning on November 30. This choir will sing at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Anyone in grades 3 and up are welcome to join. Rehearsals will last for 45 minutes. Please contact Bill White @ (508) 829-3165 to sign-up.

Got Spirit!

A big thank you to all who helped make this year's Life in the Spirit a huge success. We had over 50 people participate in this year's seminar and we look forward to delivering Life in the Spirit 2009.

The Life in the Spirit Team will be holding an evening of charismatic prayer and praise in the Church on December 15 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome and all are welcome to bring a friend!

Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion

Sign-up sheets for Christmas and Mary, Mother of God (January 1) have been posted in the Sacristy.

Wish List

Liturgical Items for Mass and Sanctuary

As we work on plans to renew and restore our sanctuary, please consider assisting us.

HOLY WATER POT AND SPRINKLER: Our current pot and sprinkler is broken and tarnished. The set is \$525.00.

If you are interested in donating one of these items, please call Annie Doyle at the Rectory (508-853-0183). Consider making the purchase a family affair and dividing the cost with other members of your family. Any of these would make a wonderful Memorial Gift in honor of a loved one or a gift to commemorate a Baptism, Marriage or Anniversary.

Advent Outreach Activity Schedule

Weekend of December 6/7

"Stock the Pantries for Christmas" Food Drive

Weekend of December 13/14

Giving Tree Gifts returned

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

"It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on watch." - Mark 13:34 God has left us as His servants in charge here on earth. Each of us has our own special work that we can do for God. If we do not do it, who will?

Solemn Ecumenical Vespers in Observance of the Year of Saint Paul

During this Pauline Year, Orthodox and Roman Catholics are encouraged to work and pray together for the unity of all Christians in a united Church.

On Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM at St. Paul's Cathedral, Solemn Vespers for the Third Sunday of Advent will be celebrated. Bishop McManus will preside and his Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston will be the homilist. Music will be provided by the Saint Paul Cathedral Choir and a reception will follow in the Cennacle.

All are invited to join in this unique opportunity to gather with our brothers and sisters from Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

New (Year B) Lector Workbooks

Are available in the Sacristy. ALL Lectors - **PLEASE** stop and pick yours up after Mass today. If you need one and don't have one there, please give Anne Good a call (508-869-9982).



Giving Tree Ornament Reminders

If you were not here last weekend and wish to participate in the Giving Tree, there are ornaments available on the tree.

Plan to return your gift *NEXT* weekend. Please wrap and label your gift as a toy for a girl or boy (or unisex); clothing for all ages must be labeled with category (on the ornament you took), item, size and gender. *Please label your gift to identify what is inside.*

These labels are removed by the agency. If gifts are not labeled this way they have to be opened to see what is inside and re-wrapped..

All gifts need to be returned by the 11:00 AM Mass next Sunday so that they can be sorted, bagged and delivered to the agencies. This time is very important. We need to deliver all the gifts Sunday after the 11:00 AM Mass. If you are going to be away next weekend, please drop your gift off before you go -the Church is open every day. If you are able to help sort and deliver the gifts, please call Deb Fuller at (508) 869-2266. or John Labrecque at (508) 856-0515.

Saint George's Book Discussion Group

The next meeting of the St. George's Book Discussion Group will be on Monday, December 29, 2008 in the Conference Room. We will begin at 6:30 PM with pizza followed by a discussion of *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self* by Joyce Rupp. All are welcome. For more information contact Eileen Charbonneau at 508-853-1739.

Gifts of Hope

Hundreds of families in Worcester and the surrounding towns are at real risk of becoming homeless over this holiday season. As people of faith this is an unacceptable reality that we are called to address by acting on our faith. We can help transform the despair at-risk families are experiencing with the hope to move forward with their lives by using "homeless prevention cards." Remember, using "Hope for Housing" grocery cards will not add an extra cent to our grocery bill. Likewise, consider giving prevention gift cards to those on your list, the gift cards will be greatly appreciated and you will be helping your neighbors in need. Thank you for preventing family homelessness and providing hope. Thanks also to the members of our Women's Guild and Men's Club for making cards available to us after every Mass ... they are messengers of hope.

This Week

Pray that our families will wait with joyful anticipation the birth of our Lord and Savior on Christmas Day.

A Letters from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, December 13th and 14th, at all the Lord's Day Masses, our parishes will take the annual offering to support the Retirement Fund for the Religious. I encourage you to be generous in this special collection which assists our retired religious women and men who have offered their lives to the Lord in service to the Church.

The Retirement Fund for the Religious, with its theme, *Share in the Care*, supports tens of thousands of religious who are over the age of 70. These sisters, brothers and priests have shaped the lives and the faith of millions of Americans, and they still do, for many of these religious continue to be active in ministry across our nation.

Historically, younger members of religious institutes cared for elderly members themselves. The small stipends paid to religious were invested in ministry as well as in the education of their newest members. At the same time, religious communities often benefited from caring relationships with generous Catholic physicians and nurses. Today, the number of religious under age 50 is inadequate for the task of caring for the large number of elderly religious. In addition, the dramatically altered health care environment and escalating costs have had an enormous impact on religious institutes' ability to pay for the care.

Most members of the Church have been richly blessed by the presence of religious in our lives! We have experienced *a lifetime of service* offered by so many religious: in the classroom, or in a hospital, or at our parishes, or when our family had special needs. It is important that we offer *our thanks* to these religious who have influenced our lives so deeply.

Please be generous in this appeal which is an opportunity to bring together our diocesan family in support of the religious who have served the Church as well our local communities. I am very grateful for your support in the past. I ask you to bless our religious with your gift again next weekend.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester
December 5, 2008