

Light of the World



3
Sunday in Advent

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: Arrangements, including date and time, 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 Falco, Pastor; Rev. Michael Lavallee, Associate; Norbert 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

Bulletin Editor: Joan Koppenal, 508-853-0183

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.

Coffee Shop Captain

December 20, 2009
 Mark Viens: 774-262-0309

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



Altar Ministries

We are thankful to the Altar Servers and Ministers of Holy Communion from TEAM C who will serve at our Masses next weekend. Thank you for sharing your time & talents with our Community of Ministries.

Financial Information

November 21/22 2009

4:00 PM: \$1651.00

108 envelopes

7:30 AM: \$1305.00

66 envelopes

9:00 AM: \$1622.00

66 envelopes

11:00 AM: \$1398.00

82 envelopes

Mail: \$1376.00

41 envelopes

Weekly Total:

\$7715.00

Fuel (to date)

\$3610.00

152 envelopes

Repair Fund

\$134.00

13 envelopes

Campaign for Human Dev.

\$753.85

69 envelopes and cash



Our Weekly Financial Goal is \$7,750

*This week we achieved 99.5% of our goal .
 Our shortfall is \$35.00.*



Mass Intention

Saturday, December 12: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Betty Frew by Barbara Welch & Virginia Keith

Sunday, December 13: Third Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM Memorial for Muriel & George Doyle
 9:00 AM Memorial for Josephine & Samuel Lapriore by family
 11:00 AM Memorial for Robert O'Neill by Jim & Melba Sanford
 12:30 PM Baptism

Monday, December 14: John of the Cross
 8:00 AM Memorial for Daniel & Agnes McAuliffe by family

Tuesday, December 15:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Rita Barry by the Toole family

Wednesday, December 16:
 8:00 AM For the health of Michael Barber

Thursday, December 17:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Robert O'Neill by Mary & Edward Manahan

Friday, December 18:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Joan A. Houston by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hanlon

Saturday, December 19: Vigil
 4:00 PM For the sick of our parish

Sunday, December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM Memorial for Aurore & Earle Avery by family
 9:00 AM Memorial for Michelle Good by family
 11:00 AM Memorial for Katelyn, Erin, & Lori Maloney by the Paulin Family

Holiday Schedule

December 24
 Vigil
 Mass at 4:00 PM
 Mass at 10:30 PM
 Choir Concert at 10:00 PM

December 25
 Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
 Mass at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

December 31
 Vigil
 Mass at 4:00 PM

January 1, 2010
 Feast of Mary, Mother of God
 10:00 AM

Christmas Pageant



On Saturday, December 19, the children from our CCD program will present a brief Christmas Pageant immediately after the 4:00 PM Mass. Please join us!

Parish Calendar

*Raffle Tickets on sale after all Masses
 Please return Giving Tree Gifts*

Saturday, December 12:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 13:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Rm
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall
 10:00 AM Men's Club Conf. Rm
 4:00 PM Youth Group Gathering Center
 6:00 PM Gr.9 &10 Rel. Ed. Center
 7:00 PM Confirmation Class Hall

Monday, December 14:
 4:00 PM Gr. 1 & 2 Rel. Ed. Center
 6:30 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Rel. Ed. Center
 7:00 PM Pieta Hall

Tuesday, December 15:
 4:00 PM Gr. 3 & 4 Rel. Ed. Center
 6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center
 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Church
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Center

Wednesday, December 16:
 4:00 PM Gr. 5 & 6 Rel. Ed. Center
 7:00 PM Widow/Widowers Center
 7:00 PM Catholics Going Green Hall

Thursday, December 17:
 6:30 PM Family Prayer Night Church
 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study Hall

Friday, December 18:
 11:00 AM Grandparents Group Church

Saturday, December 19:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 20:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Rm
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall

Youth Group Gift Wrapping after All Masses in Hall

Scripture for the week of December 13, 2009

13	Sun	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
14	Mon	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
15	Tue	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
16	Wed	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
17	Thu	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
18	Fri	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
19	Sat	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
20	Sun	Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Second Collection

This weekend the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will be taken up. Monies collected are used to support the religious priests, brothers and sisters who dedicated their lives to serving our Faith. Please be generous to this important cause.



Religious Education

Peg Moynahan
508-852-1784

Pastoral Reflections

Religious Education

Religious Education Homeschoolers meeting will be December 13 at 12:30 PM upstairs in the Religious Education Building.

This is the last week for Religious Education classes for all grades in 2009. We will resume classes the week of January 10, 2010.

Have a Merry Christmas!

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

“Shout for joy” the opening words of our first reading proclaims! “Sing joyfully,” the Prophet Zephaniah continues in our first reading today, “be glad and exult with all your heart...The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.” Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. It is traditionally called “Gaudete Sunday” in Latin. Gaudete (gau day tay) means rejoice! The overarching theme of this weekend’s Mass is rejoicing in the presence of the Lord because the Lord is God who has come to us.

Women’s Guild Basket Raffle

Raffle tickets will be sold after *all Masses* December 12 & 13. Several “Theme” baskets will be offered. Drawing will be held December 13 after the 11:00 AM Mass. The Parish benefits from the efforts of the Guild, please support this project. Thank You!

Although in the midst of life’s challenges it is difficult to be happy at times, rejoicing is a fundamental stance of the heart. It is a way of living in the world with the sure faith that God is present too. St. Paul in our second reading from his Letter to the Philippians says, “The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” So, St. Paul proclaims, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!”

Saint George’s
Top 10 Benefits of



#9 Your Gift is Very Important to Us and God Every dollar makes a difference to our church community and allows our ministry to continue.

#10 Giving is Good Stewardship. Online Giving empowers you to easily give of your treasure while providing your parish with regular, consistent financial support..

Our Responsorial Psalm today continues this theme, “God in deed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior...for great in your midst is the Holy One...” Advent prepares us for the coming of the Lord with the acknowledgement that Jesus, whose birthday we prepare to celebrate in a few weeks, is our life’s light. Christ’s light is mercy for our lives and our peace.

Advent Bible Study
Preparing for Christmas

Fr. Ron will conduct a 3 week bible study on the birth accounts of Jesus. The bible study will be held on Thursday evenings 7 PM to 8:30 PM in St. George Parish church hall December 3,10, and 17. Please bring your bible as we explore the biblical accounts of the birth of Jesus.

Fr. Ron

Weekly Gospel Reflections

Starting Jan. 6 on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM in the Parish Center.

Please join us as we gather to read the Gospel of the upcoming Sunday, share faith and prayer. Fr. Michael Lavallee will lead these sessions.

Members of St. George and other Catholic parishes are welcome to attend. To register please call Fr. Lavallee at St. George 508-853-0183 x 16.

St. George Recycles

Please help us recycle paper, cardboard, cans and plastic by using the new recycle bins in the Parish Hall Kitchen and in the Parish Center Resource Room.

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.



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

1. Gift of a beautiful granddaughter & a safe delivery for daughter-in-law.
2. In finding a new job for my husband.

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.

Men's Club Meeting

The Men's Club will meet this Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass in the Conference Room. All men of the parish and staff are invited to attend.

Toys for Tots

The Boy Scouts of our parish along with the Marines of Detachment 911 are hosting the annual Toys for Tots drive now through Christmas. Our drop off location is inside the Brattle Stop Market, 1 Brattle Street, Worcester. Please help us make this a wonderful Christmas for as many families in need as possible. Thank you for your generosity!

Saint George's is the Cat's Meow!!!

A replica of the church has been created by the Cat's Meow Company. The "church" is available for sale for \$25.00 in the Rectory during regular hours. All proceeds will benefit the parish.

This would make a great Christmas gift for a Cat's Meow collector - please call the Rectory if you are interested stop by or call Joan at 508-853-0183

This Week...

Pray that all physicians and healers may fulfill their obligations to patients with a sense of sacredness and dignity of human life.

Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to the parish</u>
December 26/27	Monday Dec. 14
January 2/3	Monday Dec. 21
January 9/10	Wednesday Dec. 29

Please submit bulletin items by 5:00 PM on the due date. Items can be mailed or faxed to the Rectory or e-mailed to office@saintgeo.com. If you have any questions please call Joan Koppenal at the Rectory (508-853-0183).

Family Ministry

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

Family Connection

Tis the season to be generous. Advertisements tell us what to give and where to buy it. Mailings tell us what to send and where to send it. Outreach projects tell us what to give and where to give it. During the holidays, generosity doesn't need a lot of definition. But how about a little reflection? December is a busy month, but remember generosity isn't seasonal. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to be generous. Plan to look for them.



ADVENT RESOURCES are available on the Family Ministry bulletin board in the church hall and on the parish website www.saintgeo.com.

Grandparent Prayer Group: Friday, December 18 at 11:00 am in the church. All grandparents are welcome to come and pray for the safety and well-being of their grandchildren. If there is a funeral that day the group meets in the Conference Room or Parish Center. During the winter season if the weather is icy or snowy please call Ruth Viens, Family Ministry Coordinator, 508-852-5658 to find out if the group has been cancelled. Anyone who would like to pray from home is welcome to call for a copy of the prayers that are used.

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.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Why not dedicate the first hour of your families' work week to God?



Parish Outreach

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

Outreach at Thanksgiving

This past Thanksgiving our parish continued to generously feed and care for those in need: Carloads of food and 30 Turkeys donated by parishioners were delivered to Our Lady of Fatima/St. Bernard's parish and St. John's Food Pantry at the Unitarian Church. Deliveries were made with the help of Kitty Bradshaw, David Carlson, Bill White and the Mangiacotti Family.

Ten Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets with Turkey Gift Cards were donated to parishioners in need via the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The food was collected and packed by Confirmation Candidates Luke Matz and Adam Pacenka in collaboration with Religious Education families and they were delivered by Michael Mastrototaro.

A Religious Education family made a complete Dinner basket for a refugee family from Burundi. Sadly I have forgotten their name and I apologize. But I want them to know this little story.

When I delivered that basket I saw that the baby in the family was sick. The mom had brought her to the health center by bus. In the rain she had walked to the Pharmacy to pick up the prescriptions that were ordered for the child but she was told that they did not have the medicine. Thinking that there was a language difficulty I went to the pharmacy to try to figure out the problem. Sure enough the med was out of stock and would not be available for 2 days due to the holiday. I asked if they could track down a pharmacy where this important medication was available and they did. So late that Wednesday night I drove to another pharmacy across town to pick up the medicine. The baby slept peacefully that night and Thanksgiving day was happier for their little family. All because a family from St. George reached out with kindness and cared for others.

Thank You all so much,

Annie Doyle

Have you signed up for Online Giving Yet?



If you have..Thank You! If not - why not consider it. Just go to www.saintgeo.com and click the Online Giving icon. If you have any questions or concerns e-mail office@saintgeo.com or call Anne at 508-869-9982. It takes less than 15 minutes to sign up!

Junior Youth Group

Sunday December 13: The Jr. Youth Group will have a Secret Santa and go Christmas Caroling. The Secret Santa is for Jr. Youth Group members at 4:00 PM in the CCD Center (\$5.00 secret gift needed to participate). We then will travel down to Colony for Christmas Caroling

All parishioners are invited to the Christmas Caroling and pizza party at Colony Retirement Home at 5:00 PM. Come and join the fun.

December 19-20: Free gift wrapping after all Masses for all parishioners. Just bring your gifts down to the church hall before or after all masses Dec 19-20 we will wrap them for you. Donations of Christmas wrapping paper and bows will be accepted. Donations can be left in the Youth Group Box by the bulletin board in the church hall.

Advent Quiet Evening of Prayer and Reflection

Monday, December 21, 2009
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Advent is a time to quiet our hearts and minds and reflect upon the coming of Christ in our lives. We are living in difficult, challenging times, but Christ never changes course. His light shines upon us, bringing mercy, hope and peace.

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. Come, let us pray.

The healing Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Come, experience His mercy and peace. God bless.

"God's light is mercy and peace"
St. George Church, Advent theme, 2009

St George's Gala DVD

The slide show can be played on a dvd player or MAC or PC computer. The 108 individual pictures can be loaded on any MAC or PC to print and/or edit in any fashion.

The DVD is available on Sundays after Mass in the coffee shop or by contacting me. The DVD is free but I'm requesting a free will offering for Visitation House, a home in Worcester for pregnant women in crisis (www.visitationhouse.org).

Please list you contact info when you take a DVD. Contact: MaryEllen Giasi, 508 829 3375, maryellengiasi@mac.com.

Consider Joining Our Community of Ministries

call or e-mail the Parish Office today to check out the many possibilities.



Giving Tree Gift Collection Weekend

Return your gift this 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, item, size and gender on the ornament you took. If it is not clothing or a toy, please label your gift to identify what it is. 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 11:00 a.m. on Sunday so that they can be sorted and bagged after Mass and delivered to the agencies. This time is very important; we need to deliver all the gifts either Sunday or on Monday.

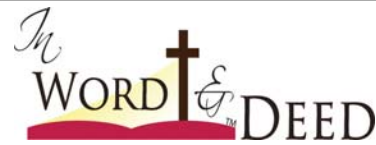
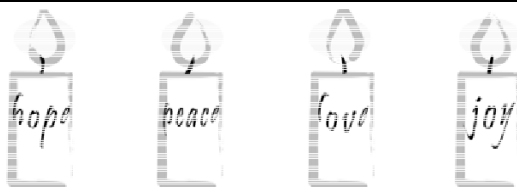
If you are going to be away this weekend please drop your gift off before you go.

Still Seeking A Room

As we experience the season of Advent, we are reminded of the story of a young yet weary Mary and Joseph searching for shelter. If they had appeared at our door what would our answer have been? That search continues today, as hundreds of children and their families seek shelter, some moving from church hall to church hall for a meal and night's sleep, or remaining doubled up with families willing to take them in until a home of their own can be found. Still other families live on the brink of homelessness daily. For many of us busy with preparations for Christmas, even in the present economy, it's difficult to fully comprehend the effects of homelessness on family members. Together we can help end family homelessness now and throughout the year and we can do so *without extra cost* to any of us. Just by stopping downstairs after Mass and purchasing a "Hope for Housing" grocery card we help needy families among us put an end to their long search and to hearing what Mary and Joseph heard, "Sorry, there's no room in the inn!" Please make a decision to participate in the Hope for Housing homeless prevention program and help open a door to a family in need. Thanks.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."



The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the Messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?" The Messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose - to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see [Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47](#)).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a two-fold "turning" - away from sin (see [Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30](#)) and toward God (see [Sirach 17:20-21; Hosea 6:1](#)).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life-change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see [Luke 3:8](#)). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, ask from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring, not from our fear of coming wrath (see [Luke 3:7-9](#)), but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice!...The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare [Luke 1:28-31](#)). Mary is the Daughter Zion - the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Savior."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com*

Pietà

Is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on December 14 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Please join us.