

Saint George Church

A Community of Ministries

Third and Fourth Sunday of Advent - 2008

JOY



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. 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.

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..

We Commend to your Prayers

Jean Shannon, dear friend of our parishioner Joan Talbot

May the Angels lead her into Paradise

Coffee Shop Captain

December 21, 2008: Dave Allen - 508-829-9023
December 28, 2008: Robert Gray - 508-755-1268

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

Let it Snow. . . .

Daily Mass will not be cancelled due to weather. We ask that you consider the road and sidewalk conditions before leaving your homes. Your safety is our utmost concern. Remember that daily Mass is offered on Charter each morning at 9:00 AM.

Cancellation of afternoon and evening events will be on an individual basis.

*Mass Intentions***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

Monday, December 15:

8:00 AM For vocations in our Diocese and Parish

Tuesday, December 16:

8:00 AM Memorial for Joan Houston by family

Wednesday, December 17:

8:00 AM 23rd Anniversary for James O'Connor by wife and family

Thursday, December 18:

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for the Welcoming Atmosphere of St. George Parish by a friend of St. George

Friday, December 19:

8:00 AM For the sick of our Parish

Saturday, December 20: Vigil

4:00 PM 5th Anniversary for Betty Courtney by Family

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Memorial for Martha Trayah by family

9:00 AM 11th Anniversary for Marian Butcher by family

11:00 AM Memorial for Lori, Katelyn and Erin Maloney by the Paulin Family

Monday, December 22:

8:00 AM Memorial for Antonio Scappaticci by Ben and Nancy Scappaticci

Tuesday, December 23: Juan Diego

8:00 AM Memorial for Mary Howard by William and Betsy Banister

Wednesday, December 24: Vigil of Christmas

8:00 AM For the expectant families of our Parish

4:00 PM For our Parishioners and their Families

10:30 PM For our Parishioners and their Families

Thursday, December 25: Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM For our Parishioners and their Families

11:00 AM For our Parishioners and their Families

Friday, December 26: Stephen

8:00 AM

Saturday, December 27: Vigil

4:00 PM Memorial for Robert J. Salocks by Fr. Ron and Fr. Steve

Sunday, December 28: Holy Family

7:30 AM Memorial for Albert Zibinskis by the Boylan family

9:00 AM Memorial for Delores T. Pacek by family

11:00 AM For the Community of Saint George
Fuller Baptism

Parish Calendar

Women's Guild Raffle Tickets on sale this weekend

Saturday, December 13:

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

Monday, December 15:

4:00 PM Outreach Ministry Conf. Room
7:00 PM Travel to Italy Conf. Room
7:00 PM Life in the Spirit Church

Tuesday, December 16:

2:00 PM Liturgy Committee Conf. Room
4:00 PM Christmas Pageant Reh. Church
6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center (2nd)
7:00 PM Choir Church
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Hall

Wednesday, December 17:

4:00 PM Christmas Pageant Reh. Church
7:00 PM Widow/Widowers Center

Thursday, December 18:

9:30 AM Parent Connection Hall
6:30 PM Cub Scouts Center (2nd)
6:30 PM Family Prayer Night Church
6:45 PM Boy Scouts Center (2nd)

Friday, December 19:

11:00 AM Grandparents Prayer Church
6:30 PM Cub Scouts Center (2nd)

Saturday, December 20:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 21:

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 22:

4:00 PM Outreach Ministry Conf. Room
7:00 PM Evening of Prayer Church

Tuesday, December 23:

6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center (2nd)
7:00 PM Choir Church

Wednesday, December 24:

No activities

Thursday, December 25:

Merry Christmas

Friday, December 26:

No activities

Saturday, December 27:

8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, December 28:

8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Room
9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall Alcove



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.

Scripture for December 14- December 28, 2008

14	Sun	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
15	Mon	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
16	Tue	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
17	Wed	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
18	Thu	Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
19	Fri	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
20	Sat	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
21	Sun	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
22	Mon	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
23	Tue	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
24	Wed	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
25	Thu	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Midnight: Is9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is52:7-10/Heb1:1-6/Jn1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14
26	Fri	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
27	Sat	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
28	Sun	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 /Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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 there are only 3 left!.

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.

The Pastor's Corner

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

It has been said that "times flies," but can it be that Christmas is going to be celebrated in a few days! We rejoice at the coming of the birth of the Lord. In these last days of the Season of Advent, we hear the voice of Prophet Isaiah speak jubilantly of the coming of the Lord, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; we hear St. Paul call us to rejoicing without ceasing, "Rejoice always. In all circumstances give thanks; and St. Luke tells us of the Virgin Mary's proclamation "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." As Christmas approaches we join in their refrain. We hear the distant voices of angels announcing good news from God, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people... a savior has been born to you who is Christ and Lord."

In all of the situations described above, the message of the Lord came to people at a specific time and in difficult circumstances. The message that God is with God's people in the midst of their particular suffering and in their hope for a better future was and is good news. God is true to God's self. God's words, God's promises, are one with God's action. The glad tidings of great joy are meant for us in our day, too. God is the same God of salvation, strength, compassion, understanding, and forgiveness, in whom we trust.

We proclaim Jesus to be Emmanuel. It is a name meaning "God is with us." Christmas, and the entire Christmas season, is a celebration of this reality. God has so loved us, individually, personally and the whole human race that God became one like us in all things, except sin, so that we might become God like. St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians enjoins us, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Fr. Ron

IMPORTANT: December Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to the parish office</u>
December 27/28 and January 3/4	Monday, December 15
January 10/11	Monday, January 5

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



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

1. For husband's successful surgery and recovery.
2. For father's marriage to a good Catholic woman.

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 Parishioners,

On these last weeks of Advent I didn't want to write here and ask you for more. You have given so much already! So many needs have been met! I wanted to thank you for all you've done – but words seem inadequate. Perhaps I could say that you have been wonderful stewards, faithful disciples, and light for the world – but then I think you have heard all of this before and I hope you know and believe it very well by now. So I am left with a simple wish and prayer for you – that you be filled with happiness and peace as Christmas approaches. May you be as gentle and generous and kind to yourself as you have been to others.

God's Peace,
Annie Doyle

Catholic Engaged Encounter

Are you getting married soon? Consider joining us on January 9-11, 2009 at the Marist House, Framingham, MA. Catholic Engaged Encounter is a special weekend designed to give couples planning marriage an opportunity to dialogue honestly about their prospective lives together.. An Engaged Encounter weekend fulfills the instructional requirements of the Diocese for marriage preparation. Please contact Joe or Barbara O'Connor at 978-422-6612 or by e-mail at engaged_encounter@yahoo.com with any questions.

Not Yet Confirmed?

Are you a baptized, catechized Roman Catholic adult (18 or older) who has not been confirmed? The Diocese of Worcester will celebrate a diocesan-wide adult Confirmation on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester. The Office of Religious Education is offering a one-day retreat on January 25 at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Northborough for adults preparing for Confirmation. If interested, contact the pastor for more information.

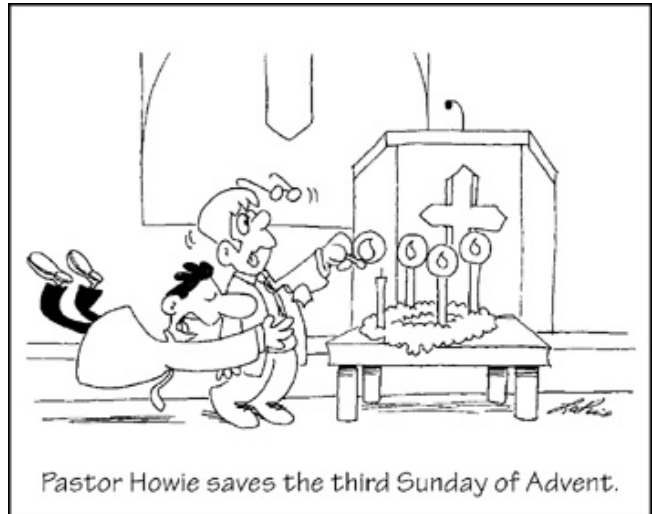
Family Ministry

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

Family Connection

Let your light shine! As the Advent wreath gets brighter, we move closer to the day we celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Light. After it turns dark this evening, light your Advent wreath again, light some other special candles, or light up your Christmas tree. As a family, enjoy the wonder that the light brings to the darkness. Then share stories about Jesus. In what ways has Jesus been a light for you? In what ways have you been a light to each other?

Parish Website Additions: Check out the new pages on the parish website! Advent Resources, December E-Newsletter and Caregiver Resources. The links are all located on the left side of the homepage www.saintgeo.com



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.

Holiday Basket Raffle

Beautiful gift baskets will be raffled on Sunday. Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend. Sponsored by Saint George Women's Guild, the proceeds will benefit the Parish. Take a chance and maybe you'll win a gift for that hard to buy for person!

Christmas Pageant

On Saturday, December 20, the children from our CCD program will present a brief Christmas Pageant immediately after the 4:00 PM Mass. Please join us!



"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 p.m.

Advent it is a time to quiet our hearts and minds and reflect upon the beauty of the coming of Christ and all the Christmas Season will hold for us. We are called to "gentleness of spirit" and hearts filled with hope and joyful expectation. 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, the source of our Hope... Come, let us pray. The healing Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. God bless.

Volunteer Cantors Needed

We are looking for a few individuals with pleasant singing voices to cantor at the 4 pm Masses starting in January. Our Music Director, Michael, will be happy to work with people of all abilities, but it would be helpful if you have a basic knowledge of reading music. Please call Michael at 978-563-1758 to start rehearsing, or see him in the loft after any weekend Mass.

Got Spirit!

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!

Many thanks

The following parishioners have volunteered to assist us with counting the weekly collections:

Amy Brandes, Julie Dalton, Christine Galica, Kathy Hessel, Cheryl Labrecque, Mary Ellen Mastrotaro, Barbara Pirani, Margaret Pridotkas, Cathy Robbins, Dianne Young and Patricai Walsh,

Our sincere thanks for their willingness to share their time and talent with us. They have formed the second and third teams of the four that we need to meet the Finance Ministry's goal to have different groups count once a month. The fourth team will be trained in January. After their training is completed, the teams will be on a rotating four week schedule.



*Jesus is the Reason
 for the Season*

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.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaiden of the Lord, Let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfillment.

Holiday Schedule

Evening of Quiet Reflection and Meditation
 with Reconciliation
 Monday, December 22
 7:00 – 8:00 PM
 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, 2009
 Feast of Mary, Mother of God
 10:00 AM

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

Third Sunday of Advent

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted..." (Isaiah 61:1) The Lord God has anointed all of us through Baptism and He has sent each of us on a mission. Each of us has been given unique gifts and talents so that we can help fulfill God's mission here on earth. Are you doing the things Jesus sent you here to do? Who will?



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 the end of the 11:00 AM Mass 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. If you have any questions, 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.

Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion

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

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 for our parishioners, friends and neighbors who have been affected by the economy. .

Financial Information

November 22/23

4:00 PM: \$ 1908.75	Repair Fund
121 envelopes	\$83.00
7:30 AM: \$1399.25	8 envelopes
60 envelopes	Campaign for Human
9:00 AM: \$1926.50	Development
75 envelopes	\$1342.70
11:00 AM: \$1372.84	134 envelopes and cash
62 envelopes	Christmas (to date)
Mail: \$432.00	\$30.00
25 envelopes	2 envelopes
Weekly Total:	
\$5085.50	
281 envelopes and cash	



November 29/30

4:00 PM: \$ 1822.91	Repair Fund
103 envelopes	\$157.00
7:30 AM: \$1140.00	11 envelopes
66 envelopes	Christmas (to date)
9:00 AM: \$1712.245	\$120.00
79 envelopes	9 envelopes
11:00 AM: \$1668.40	Christmas Flowers
71 envelopes	\$10.00
Mail: \$948.00	1 envelopes
35 envelopes	
Weekly Total:	<i>Is your family giving the</i>
\$7291.56	<i>first hour of your work</i>
354 envelopes and cash	<i>week to God?</i>

Our Weekly Financial Goal is \$7,750

This week of November 22/23 we achieved 65.6 of our goal . Our shortfall was \$2664.50 that week

This week of November 29/30 we achieved 94.1% of our goal .Our shortfall was \$458.44 that week

Congratulations New Servers

A new class of servers went through training classes the month of November and were installed at weekend Masses in December. Our new servers you will be seeing at weekend Masses are Connor Flynn serving at the 7:30 AM Mass, Nick Matys and Owen Ryan who will attend to the 9:00 AM Mass, and Erin Serafin, who is serving at the 11:00 AM Mass. Brian O'Neill has faithfully served at the 11:00 AM Mass for many years now, Brian was installed as a Master Server during the ceremony. Congratulations to you all! Many thanks go out to those who assisted Michael in the training, Sean Connor, Johanna Pacek, Molly White and to all the parents who helped. May your children's new ministry be fruitful to them and pleasing to God