

Saint George Church
A Community of Ministries
Christmas /Holy Family 2009



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

January 3, 2010
 Dave Allen: 508-853-2862

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 A who will serve at our Masses next weekend. Thank you for sharing your time & talents with our Community of Ministries.

Financial Information

December 5/6 2009

4:00 PM: \$1818.25

101 envelopes

7:30 AM: \$1072.00

44 envelopes

9:00 AM: \$1249.20

55 envelopes

11:00 AM: \$1487.50

63 envelopes

Mail: \$1166.00

29 envelopes

Weekly Total:

\$6783.95

292 envelopes and cash

Fuel (to date)

\$3810.00

163 envelopes

Repair Fund

\$582.00

44 envelopes



Our Weekly Financial Goal is \$7,750

*This week we achieved 87.5% of our goal .
 Our shortfall is \$966.05.*



Mass Intention

Saturday, December 26: *Vigil*
 4:00 PM For the sick of our parish
Sunday, December 27: *Feast of the Holy Family*
 7:30 AM For the Community of St. George
 9:00 AM 1st Anniversary for Ligor Gusha by family
 11:00 AM Memorial for Dolores Pacek by the Pacek family
Monday, December 28: *Holy Innocents*
 8:00 AM Memorial for Ann Stazzone by Kavanagh Sales
Tuesday, December 29: *Thomas Becket*
 8:00 AM Memorial for Antonio Scappaticci by Ben & Nancy Scappaticci
Wednesday, December 30:
 8:00 AM For those grieving the loss of a loved one
Thursday, December 31: *Sylvester*
 8:00 AM Memorial for Ann Stazzone by the Toole Family
 4:00 PM For World Peace
Friday, January 1: *Mary Mother of God*
 10:00 AM For those serving our country
Saturday, January 2: *Vigil*
 4:00 PM For the Community of St. George
Sunday, January 3: *Epiphany of the Lord*
 7:30 AM For the Community of St. George
 9:00 AM 18th Anniversary for Robert Novia by wife & 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

Second Collection

Next weekend, collection for the Catholic University of America will be taken up at all Masses. Please be as generous as possible to this important collection.



Parish Calendar

Saturday, December 26:
 8:00 PM AA Hall
 Sunday, December 27:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Rm
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall
 Monday, December 28:
 7:00 PM Book Discussion Conf. Rm
 Tuesday, December 29:
 6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center
 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Church
 Wednesday, December 30:
 7:00 PM Widow/Widowers Center
 Thursday, December 31

Happy New Year!

Friday, January 1
 Saturday, January 2:
 8:00 PM AA Hall
 Sunday, January 3:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Rm
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall

Scripture for the week of December 27, 2009

27 Sun Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
 28 Mon 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 29 Tue 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 30 Wed 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
 31 Thu 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
 1 Fri Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 2 Sat 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
 3 Sun Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Father Ron, Father Michael, Deacon Archie and the parish staff wish you and your families a

Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year

Year End Giving

Please remember that we must receive donations that you want posted in 2009 by December 31 and the checks must be dated by December 31. All gifts to the Church are fully tax deductible. Requests for the use of your gift will be honored, just note it in on the envelope or the check. Thank you.



Religious Education

Peg Moynahan
508-852-1784

Religious Education classes grades 1 through 6 will resume the week of January 11.

Enjoy the Christmas Season!



Parish Outreach

Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183 x12
Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5
adoyle@saintgeo.com

Dear Friends,

This Advent our liturgy theme was "Christ's Light is Mercy and Peace". For me, looking at the altar filled with hundreds of gifts for those in need made that mercy very visible. The mercy of so many of you who brought a wonderful abundance of food for the hungry this year and the mercy of our Confirmation candidates who are serving the homeless and lonely is amazing to me. Christ's mercy abounds in the wonderful women who knit prayer shawls and pray for the sick and suffering. Mercy overflows in so many of you who baked, helped deliver food and gifts, visit the sick, teach our young people, serve on the Altar and sing at Mass. Daily I hear stories of your mercy and compassion to family, friends and strangers.

Christ's peace fills me each time I have the honor of working beside you. Do to Mary Gale's efforts, I know I will be touched with peace at the *Quiet Evening* of prayer. As I write this I look forward to joining parish families who have organized an evening of caroling at the Rose Manahan Hospice and Notre Dame Health Care – what a great way to share the peace of Christ! I felt the peace of Christ recently as I listened to our Confirmation Candidates share reflections on their service experiences.

Truly God is with us in your outreach to others. Thank you for making Christmas real for me. It continues to be my privilege and great joy to worship and serve with you.

Christ's Mercy and Peace be with you and those you love.

Annie Doyle

This Week...

Pray that those who are lonely or estranged from their families may find consolation and healing during this Christmas season.

Pastoral Reflections

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

The wonderful celebration of Christmas day has initiated our Christmas season. We Catholics have just begun our celebration of the birth of Jesus and will bask in the warmth of the Christ's light, mercy and peace, for the next two weeks. Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. It is the Sunday that immediately follows Christmas day. As we rejoice in the birth of Jesus we reflect on the holiness of his family. Mary and Joseph cultivated within their home certain standards and values which helped to form Jesus in his humanity. Their holiness found its source in the one who is holy, God. Their holiness was expressed in their mutual respect.

St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians, our second reading today, instructs us in the way of holiness for our families. It is not only good spirituality but as good spirituality it is foundational to all of our relationships, but most especially for that one environment where formation of character takes place essentially, our families. "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And what ever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him."

Now that is a source for our spiritual formation and sound advice by which to live.

Fr. Ron

Weekly Gospel Reflections

Starting January 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.



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

1. For mother's health and peace of mind.
2. For assistance through my temptations.

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.

Prayer for Our Troops

Lord, Hold our Troops in your Loving Hands.
 Protect them as they protect us.
 Bless them and their families
 For the selfless acts they perform
 For us in our time of need.
 And give us peace.
 I ask this in the Name of Jesus,
 Our Lord and Savior. Amen,



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.

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

Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to the parish</u>
January 9/10	Wednesday Dec. 29
January 16/17	Wednesday Jan. 6
January 23/24	Wednesday Jan. 13

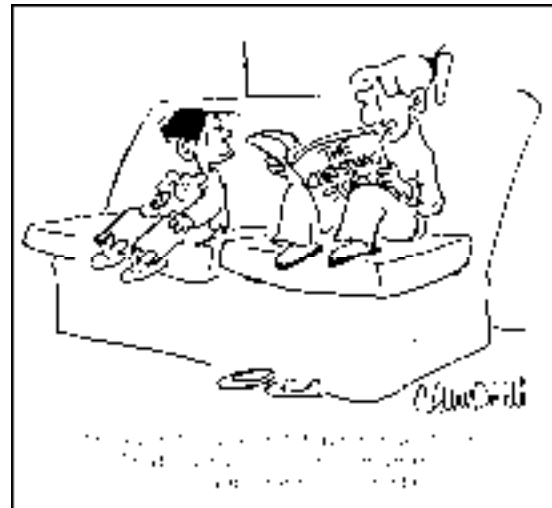
Please submit bulletin items by 5:00 PM on the due date. Items can be mailed or faxed to the Rectory or e-mailed to office@saintgeo.com. If you have any questions please call Joan Koppenal at the Rectory (508-853-0183).

Family Ministry


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

Family Connection

Today is Holy Family Sunday which is celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate your own "holy family". Plan a family activity, whether a visit to other family members, a game, a family movie, or something else your family particularly enjoys. Take time to explain to your children that this is a family day in your house because it is the day when the church celebrates the family of Jesus and all our families. Make it a traditional fun day, one the whole family will anticipate each year.



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!



A Letter from Our Bishop

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for the Catholic University of America, to be taken at the Lord's Day Masses in all the parishes throughout the Diocese of Worcester, next weekend, January 2nd and 3rd.

The Catholic University of America is a community of scholars, both faculty and students, set apart to discover, preserve and impart the truth in all its forms, with particular reference to the needs of the nation. As a university, it is essentially a center of study serving the needs of human society. It welcomes the collaboration of all scholars of good will who contribute to these aims in an atmosphere of academic competence.

As a Catholic university, it desires to impart an understanding of the Christian faith. It seeks to insure the proper intellectual witness to Christian life in individuals and in the community, and to provide a place for continuing reflection, in the light of our Catholic tradition, upon the growing treasure of human knowledge.

Although CUA is a university that is in some ways similar to many of the Catholic colleges and universities throughout the United States, it also has a unique role to play in the mission of the Catholic Church in our country. Through its programs, many of the educators and professionals who directly assist the Bishops of the United States receive their ongoing spiritual and academic formation there. The university is noted, for example, for its fine programs in Religious Education, Social Work, Liturgical and Biblical studies, Theology and Canon Law - all of which make a direct contribution to strengthening the ministries that are so important to the Church. In that sense, we are all beneficiaries of the excellence of Catholic University.

In addition, thousands of high school seniors from parishes across the country are offered annually renewable \$3,000 parish scholarships each year as well. Over 60 percent of incoming freshmen are recipients of parish scholarships.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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

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 decided on an individual basis.



Volunteer Cantors Needed

If you would like share your musical gift and be a cantor, please call Michael Lizotte at 978-563-1758 or see him in the choir loft after any weekend Mass. It would be helpful if you have a basic knowledge of reading music.

Office for Healing and Prevention

As a reminder, our parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse and find healing. If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the past, please contact Frances Nugent, Victim Services Coordinator for our diocese at 508-929-4363 (direct line & confidential voicemail). If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.

Toddler Sing Along!



For toddlers and preschoolers is cancelled for this **Sunday**. It will resume in January.

For more information call Sharon Krug 508-853-1660.

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.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

Sunday's reading provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

ST. GEORGE'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The next book discussion group will meet on Monday, December 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will start with pizza and then discuss the book *An Adult Christ at Christmas* by Raymond E. Brown. All are welcome. For more information please contact Eileen Charbonneau at 508-853-1739.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW SERVERS

Seven new servers have completed the November training and were installed over the past few weekends. Congratulation to our new servers: Mackenna Belton, Ryan Buckley, Clara Dewar, Joseph Haddad, Tyler Lindquist, Anatoly Moisan and Ben Post. May your service at the altar be rewarding to you and fruitful in the eyes of God.

Please Pray for Priests

Dear Lord,
we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

Children's Liturgy

Children are invited to hear God's Word on Sundays at the 9:00 AM Mass. Pre-school and school age children are encouraged to join us. Call Alicia Barry 508-829-3361 for more information.



Feast of the Holy Family

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see [2 Corinthians 6:16-18](#)). In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it.

The family advice we hear in today's readings - for mothers, fathers and children - is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their "familial" ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see [Ephesians 3:15](#)). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see [Luke 19:46](#)). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see [Ephesians 2:19-22](#); [Hebrews 3:3-6](#); [10:21](#)).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God. Until He reveals His new dwelling among us, and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see [Revelation 21:3,7](#)).

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

Legion of Mary

A lay Catholic organization invites men and women to join them. For detailed information please call Peggy Testarmata at 508-835-4857.