

Saint George Church

A Community of Ministries

Christmas Season 2008



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

The weekend of January 3/4, the Annual collection for the Catholic University of America will be taken up. Catholic University is the national university of the Catholic Church. Please see the Bishop's letter on page??? And be generous in your support.

We Commend to your Prayers

Kathleen McDavitt, mother of our parishioner
Thomas McDavitt

May the Angels lead her into Paradise

Coffee Shop Captain

January 4, 2009: Jim Sanford - 508-755-1268

January 11, 2009: Don Viens - 508-852-5658

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 decided on an individual basis.

Mass Intentions

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 Zibinskas by the
 Boylan family
 9:00 AM Memorial for Dolores T. Pacek by family
 11:00 AM For the Community of Saint George
Fuller Baptism

Monday, December 29:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Cheri LaPan by family

Tuesday, December 30:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Joan Houston by family

Wednesday, December 31: Vigil
 8:00 AM For recently married couples
 4:00 PM For World Peace

**Thursday, January 1: The Blessed Virgin Mary, the
 Mother of God**
 10:00 AM For World Peace

Friday, January 2:
 8:00 AM For the Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, January 3: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Mabel and Roland Lajoie
 by family

Sunday, January 4: The Epiphany of the Lord
 7:30 AM For the families of our Parish
 9:00 AM 17th Anniversary for Robert Novia by
 Wife and family
 11:00 AM Memorial for Cecelia Laconte and family
 by the children

Monday, January 5: John Neumann
 8:00 AM In thanksgiving for our Family Ministry

Tuesday, January 6: Blessed Andre Bessette
 8:00 AM Month's Mind for Jean Shannon by the
 St. George office staff

Wednesday, January 7: Raymond of Peñafort
 8:00 AM For the grandparents of our parish

Thursday, January 8:
 8:00 AM 21st Anniversary for Edward L. Peacott
 by family

Friday, January 9:
 8:00 AM For a greater Respect for Human Life

Saturday, January 10: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Clara Pescosolido Berard
 and Adelchi Pescosolido by family

Sunday, January 11: Baptism of the Lord
 7:30 AM For the Community of Saint George
 9:00 AM 43rd Anniversary for Peter J. White by
 George J. White
 11:00 AM Memorial for Esther Mancuso Pascucci
 by the Sanford family
 12:30 PM Baptisms

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

**Blessed Christmas and a
 Happy New Year**

Parish Calendar

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

Monday, December 29:
 4:00 PM Outreach Ministry Conf. Room
 6:30 PM Book Discussion Group Hall

Tuesday, December 30:
 6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center (2nd)

Wednesday, December 31:
No activities

Thursday, January 1:
Happy New Year

Friday, January 2:
No activities

Saturday, January 3:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, January 4:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall Alcove

Monday, January 5:
 4:00 PM Outreach Ministry Conf. Room

Tuesday, January 6:
 6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center (2nd)
 7:00 PM Choir Church
 7:00 PM Finance Ministry Rectory

Wednesday, January 7:
 7:00 PM Widows and Widowers Center (2nd)

Thursday, January 8:
 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)
 7:00 PM Women's Guild Conf. Room

Friday, January 9:
 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Center (2nd)

Saturday, January 10:
 9:00 AM Faith Into Action Conf. Room
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, January 11:
 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 Conf. Room
 7:00 PM Confirmation Class Hall

Holy Day Schedule

December 31; Vigil
 Mass at 4:00 PM

January 1, 2009

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
 10:00 AM

January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation



Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program needs up-to-date sets of Bibles for each classroom; 6 sets are still 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).

Religious Education

Classes for first semester are complete. Classes for Grades 1 - 10 resume at the end of January.

Scripture for December 28 - January 11, 2009

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
29	Mon	1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
30	Tue	1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
31	Wed	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
1	Thu	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
2	Fri	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
3	Sat	1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34
4	Sun	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
5	Mon	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
6	Tue	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
7	Wed	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
8	Thu	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
9	Fri	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
10	Sat	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
11	Sun	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11/ Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/ Mk 1:7-11, 2:22, 39-40

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to the parish office</u>
January 10/11	Monday, January 5
January 17/18	Wednesday, January 7

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

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.

The Pastor's Corner

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

Merry and blessed Christmas! Today we join the whole Church throughout the world in proclaiming the truth of this day, today is born the Savior, Christ the Lord! Isaiah the Prophet joins the refrain "A child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace..." We are assured by the voice of the Christmas Angel that the Savior is true to his name, Jesus, a name which means "God saves." Jesus truly is God's love made manifest in flesh. St. Luke announces in his gospel that we will have knowledge of our salvation by the forgiveness of our sins. The savior is also called Emmanuel, a name meaning "God is with us." So we find confidence in the assuring words of the angel of God to the Bethlehem shepherds "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord."

As this holy day dawns upon us it marks the beginning of a season of joy. For more than two weeks the Church will celebrate the good news of great joy that is for all the people. During this season of Christmas we will celebrate New Year's Day as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. We shall reflect on the bond that unites Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as we learn from them on the Feast of the Holy Family about what makes a family holy. The three Kings, the Magi, will announce to the world through their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh the identity of the Child of Bethlehem. He is born the priest king who has given his life on the cross for the world's salvation.

Christmas is a home coming feast. We celebrate love and togetherness with family and friends. Christmas is a coming home to Christ at Bethlehem celebration in which the Lord Jesus Christ beckons us "come to me all you who labor and find life burdensome and I will refresh you. In me you will find rest for your souls." Joy to the world, the Lord is come. And the weary world rejoices.

Fr. Ron

This Week

Pray for our parishioners, friends and neighbors who were affected by the ice storm. That through the support of their friends and family their lives will soon return to normal.

Next Week

Pray for our families, that they will be blessed during the coming year.



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

1. For normal ultrasound for high risk pregnancy.
2. For acceptance of things I cannot change.

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,

The coming of Christ our light holds special meaning for me this Christmas season. As I light candles and stoke fires for warmth after the recent ice storm, I am reminded of how I usually and easily ignore darkness with the flick of a light switch. I also reflect on other types of darkness; the darkness' of poverty, loneliness, grief and illness.

A few days ago Fr. John-Rita took me to meet four new refugee families (17 children in all!). They are Catholics from Burundi in East Africa. I was mindful of the darkness of war and the fear they have experienced. I was also aware of the light of Christ that you sent into their lives. The children brightened up when they found a package of cookies in a bag of groceries donated from our parish. Bright smiles filled the room when several warm coats fit perfectly. As I look forward to bringing them Giving Tree gifts I am confident that the Light of Christ will shine on their Christmas because of your generosity and kindness.

Thank you for the privilege of being your ambassador. It is an honor to serve you and them. The work is a constant source of light to my days. You have reflected the light of Christ into dark places. Truly Christ is with us.

May the Light of Christ continue to shine brightly upon you and those you love,

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.

Year End Giving

Please remember that we must receive donations that you want posted in 2008 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.

Family Ministry

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

Family Connection

Feast of the Holy Family - Lord, we gather today as members of a family with a past history and a future hope. With your family, we celebrate and proclaim the sacredness of our family, even in its brokenness. We recommit ourselves to be a family which is willing to pray, love, forgive and to share with one another and with all your people. May the Holy Family strengthen our resolve to contribute to the strengthening of our family. May the Holy Family reconcile any broken relationships in our family. May the Holy Family give us the courage to be committed to help our family become a community of life and love. And may the peace of Jesus Christ be with us always. Amen.

Congratulations to *Madeline Elizabeth Bentley*, daughter of David and Melissa Bentley, who was recently baptized into our Catholic community of faith. Let us offer our joy-filled prayers and congratulations as a sign of our support and welcome!



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.

A Special Thank You!!

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry sent a shawl to a gentleman who recently received a heart transplant. He was unable to have it immediately after surgery because he had to be in a sterile environment but his wife found comfort in it. She sent this note to "the women who knit in love and in prayer" –

On behalf of my husband and myself, it is with deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks that we send greetings to all of you who spend precious moments knitting in support of others. I personally cannot tell you how much this Prayer Shawl means to me. It is in the lonely hours of the evening when I return from the hospital that I wrap myself in its warmth. It even comes to bed with me, a reminder of how connected we are to others, friend or stranger. Your prayers have reached my bedside when my mind is ill at ease and I take comfort from them. Thank you for your beautiful gift. "May the Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace."

Bea and David Gustafson

Got Spirit!

The Life in the Spirit Team will be holding an evening of charismatic prayer and praise in the Church on January 19 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome and all are welcome to bring a friend!

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.

This Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

Holy Family

"Whatever you do," says Saint Paul to the Colossians, "...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to the Father through Him," And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist "through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

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,



Financial Information

December 6/7

4:00 PM: \$ 2010.13	Repair Fund
116 envelopes	\$960.00
7:30 AM: \$1789.00	63 envelopes
n/a envelopes	Immaculate Conception
9:00 AM: \$1803.67	\$761.70
76 envelopes	72 envelopes and cash
11:00 AM: \$1286.55	Christmas (to date)
53 envelopes	\$195.00
Mail: \$3463.00	13 envelopes
68 envelopes	Flowers (to date)
Weekly Total:	\$873.00
\$10,352.35	77 envelopes
281 envelopes and cash	

December 13/14

4:00 PM: Cancelled	Repair Fund
7:30 AM: \$540.00	\$132.00
14 envelopes	9 envelopes
9:00 AM: \$829.00	Christmas (to date)
29 envelopes	\$230.00
11:00 AM: \$1008.25	15 envelopes
41 envelopes	Flowers (to date)
Mail: \$1109.00	\$956.00
43 envelopes	
Weekly Total:	<i>Is your family giving the</i>
\$3486.25	<i>first hour of your work</i>
127 envelopes and cash	<i>week to God?</i>

Our Weekly Financial Goal is \$7,750

The week of December 6/7 we achieved 133.6% of our goal . Thank you for your continued support.

The week of December 13/14 (the ice storm) we achieved 45.0% of our goal . Our shortfall was \$4263.75 that week

A Note of Thanks

November 25, 2008

Dear Parishioners of Saint George's Church,

Thank you, very much for your very large food donation to the Saint Joan of Arc Food Pantry this holiday season. This year, as you know, there is a much greater need and your help was greatly appreciated.

I shall remember you all in my prayers.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. Anthony Mpagi

Associate Pastor

A Christmas Message from Bishop McManus

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by the whole people." (Luke 2:10)

The coming of Christ at Christmas should bring peace to our hearts and joy to our world. Jesus Christ, born of a virgin in Bethlehem's crib, is the fulfillment of God's promise that we can live in peace if we are united in His love. The Son of God reaches out to embrace all of us. In His birth we have learned that in every moment of time, God is breaking into our lives. In Him we can experience the birth of divine life in our own.

The Messiah and Lord was born into poverty and throughout His public ministry reached out to the poor. He would have us be attentive to their cry as well, and serve them in their need. When we do this we show our love for the Lord Himself.

This Christmas all of us are experiencing the burden of uncertain economic times. Many of us and many of those we love are encountering the loss of work, homes and savings. During this time, we must remember that our faith teaches us there is no trouble the Son of God cannot lift and no worry He cannot console. From the crib, the Christ Child calls us to leave behind the worries that cripple us, the loneliness that gnaws at us and the despair that imprisons us. At Christmas, we joyfully welcome the abundance of God's love and saving power, made manifest in the birth of Christ who is the Savior of the world.

Let us journey to Bethlehem together this Christmas season, and there let go of the sin that binds us and the burden that seeks to overpower us. Let us leave our prayers with Christ at the crib and come away refreshed and renewed, accepting God's love as if for the first time. May your Christmas be a truly spiritual and prayerful celebration.

My Christmas prayer for every one is that the simple, generous lesson of God's love may inspire us to greater love of God and one another.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Next Weekend's Stewardship Thought:

Epiphany

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of the part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer the newborn Savior?

A Letters from Bishop McManus

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 our diocese, next weekend, January 3rd and 4th.

As the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, founded and sponsored by the bishops of the country with the approval of the Holy See, CUA is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church. Dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason, the university seeks to discover and impart the truth through excellence in teaching and research, all in service to the Church, the nation and the world.

CUA has unique responsibilities to be of service to Christian thought and education in the Catholic community as well as to serve the nation and the world. 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. Its fine programs in canon law, religious education, social work, liturgical and biblical studies, and theology all make a direct contribution to strengthening the ministries that are so important to our Church.

Though many of us have been educated elsewhere, we are all beneficiaries of the excellence of CUA. This year thousands of high school seniors from parishes across the country were offered and guaranteed annually renewable \$3,000 parish scholarships as well. Over 60 percent of incoming freshmen are now recipients of parish scholarships.

Asking for your generous support for this collection and with every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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.

A wedding is a day . . . A Marriage is a Lifetime.