

Saint George Parish Community

Under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

22 E. Cooke Avenue, Glenolden, PA 19036 - 610-237-1633 - www.stgeorgeparish.org

Sunday of Divine Mercy April 11, 2021



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He sowed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the

Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “we have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later His disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.

~John 20~19-31

Prayer to Saint Joseph

Beginning this weekend, we will be praying the following *Prayer to Saint Joseph* at the conclusion of Mass and continue throughout the remainder of this Year of Saint Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

*To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.

~Amen.



Contact Us!

New Parishioners

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Parish Community. Please call the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to make an appointment to register and to learn more about our parish, or visit www.stgeorgeparish.org. *Note: Students must be registered in the Parish before registering in the Parish Religious Education Program.*

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the *second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM*. Parents seeking baptism for their child are asked to please call the rectory. Pre-Jordan is required for parents with a first-born child or parents with additional children who have not attended within a two-year period. Pre-registration is required for Pre-Jordan and Baptism. Please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at the Rectory Office for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning a wedding are asked to call Father Oswald at the Rectory Office at least one year in advance of the wedding date. Couples are required to attend the Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life Preparation Program.

Sick or Homebound

In case of serious illness or advanced age, please call the Rectory Office. Arrangements will be made for the Sacrament of the Sick and for Holy Communion. If you are going into the hospital and you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Rectory. Also, when you are hospitalized, please contact the hospital Chaplain and the Rectory Office.

Tree of Life Memorial

If you would like to have a leaf (\$150) or a boulder (\$600) permanently inscribed in memory of a loved one on the Tree of Life, which is located in the vestibule at the main entrance of the church, please contact Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller at 610-237-1633.

Vigil Candles

Vigil Candles, which are located in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues in the front of the church, are available for your intentions. Small candles are \$2 and will burn for two days. These can be purchased by placing your donation in an envelope and dropping it in the slot provided by the candles. Large candles are \$100 and will burn for an entire year. Large candles can be purchased by contacting Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller at 610-237-1633. A gold label with your loved ones name will be placed on the candle and it will remain there throughout the year.

Godparents

Only one godparent is required for Baptism. If two are chosen, one must be male and one must be female. A godparent must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist), at least 16 years of age, if married, must be married in the Church, and in good standing with the Church. A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be chosen as a "Christian Witness" provided there is one Catholic godparent. A former Catholic may not serve as either a godparent or Christian witness.

R.C.I.A.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or if you were baptized Catholic but did not complete your sacraments, please contact Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ at the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to learn more about our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Program.

Mass Cards

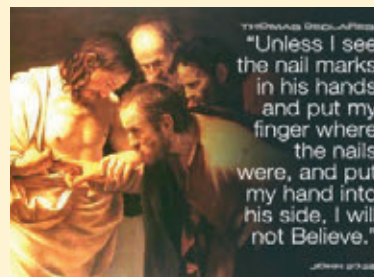
Mass cards are available at the Rectory Office. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or for special intentions, please contact the Rectory Office *Monday, Wednesday or Friday, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (temporary hours)*. Standard cards are available for a \$10 stipend and booklets are available for a \$20 stipend.

Food Pantry

Our Parish Food Pantry is available for parishioners and friends who are in need of a meal but cannot provide one for themselves. If you or a friend needs temporary food assistance, please contact Mrs. Batten at 610-237-1633. All calls are confidential. Donations of non-perishable food items, in addition to turkeys and hams during the holidays, are always welcome. Gift cards to local supermarkets are also welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Church *every Friday from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by daily Mass*, unless otherwise announced.



Quote of the Week

Doubting Thomas

Parish Staff

Rev. Leo P. Oswald, Pastor

Rev. Martin E. Woodeshick, Pastor Emeritus - Holy Spirit - Rev. Ignatius Marneni, Retired in Residence
Rev. James McBurney, OSA and Rev. James McCartney, O.S.A., Weekend Assistants

Mrs. Lynda Batten, Administrative Assistant and
Coordinator of Religious Education, Ext. 101
Mrs. Pat Dinan, Receptionist, Ext. 113 (Wednesdays)
Mrs. Gloria Greene, Data Entry, Ext. 104
Mrs. Kathleen Lerro, Director of Music, Ext. 101
Mr. Patrick McCullough, Maintenance, Ext. 104

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SS, Director of Adult Faith Formation and
Pastoral Care, Ext. 103
Mr. Keith Tomson, Financial Accountant, Ext. 104
Mr. Al Zeller, Hall Manager - Et. 104
Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller, Business Manager, Ext. 104
Mrs. Barbara Fister and Mrs. Teresa Murray - Housekeeping for
Rectory/Convent/Church

Parish Information

Rectory Hours

Monday thru Thursday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Summer Hours: 9AM to 4 PM daily
For more details, see page 5.
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
Fax Number: 610-237-9626
Email: st.georgesecc@rcn.com
Receptionist: Mrs. Marie Dunleavy
Mrs. Patricia Dinan
Secretary: Mrs. Lynda J. Batten
Parish Business Manager:
Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller

Convent

11 E. Lamont Avenue
Glenolden, PA 19036
Phone Number: 610-237-1633

Office of Religious Education

Director of Adult Faith Formation
Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
Fax Number: 610-237-9626

PREP Coordinator

Mrs. Lynda Batten: 610-237-1633
Mondays Only 4-6 PM: PREP Office
484-425-7390 (Temporarily suspended)

Bereavement Ministry

Mrs. Mimi Ednie

Bingo Program

Mr. Al Zeller

Holy Name Society

Mr. Al Zeller

Legion of Mary

Mrs. Theresa Murray

Ministry Outreach Program

Mrs. Lynda Batten

Choir Director and Music Ministry

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro

R.C.I.A.

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ

Youth Group

Mrs. Christine Guidetti

Join us on Twitter!



Rite of Reconciliation

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Saturday afternoons

Care of the Sick

Please contact the Rectory Office in the event of sickness or hospitalization.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Thursday 6:30 PM - Sept. to Easter

Baptism

Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM

Please call the Rectory Office for an appointment to schedule a Baptism and Baptism Preparation (Pre-Jordan)



Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Fridays 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Miraculous Medal Devotion - Following the 8:00 AM Mass on Saturdays
Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet - Thursdays 7:00 PM

Daily Readings & Mass Intentions

Sunday, April 11: Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31 - Sunday of Divine Mercy

8:00 AM Those who have died from Covid-19

Requested by: St. George Parish

10:30 AM Marcella Maxwell and Pro Populo

Requested by: St. George Parish

Monday, April 12: Acts 4: 23-31; John 3: 1-8

4:00 PM George Cordes

Requested by: Family

Tuesday, April 13: Acts 4: 32-37; John 3: 7b-15

4:00 PM George Cordes

Requested by: Family

Wednesday, April 14: Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21

4:00 PM Bill O'Brien

Requested by: Family

Thursday, April 15: Acts 5: 2-33; John 3: 31-36

4:00 PM David Battagliese

Requested by: Bill Battagliese

Friday, April 16: Acts 5: 34-42; John 6: 1-15

4:00 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory

Requested by: St. George Parish

Saturday, April 17: Acts 6: 1-7; John 6: 16-21

8:00 AM Pro Populo

4:30 PM Jerry Dinan

Requested by: Pat Dinan

Sunday, April 18: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2: 1-5a; Luke 24: 35-48

8:00 AM Pro Populo

10:30 AM Edmund Ferguson

Requested by: MaryAnn Ferguson

Note: The term Pro Populo in Latin means **“For the People”** and Canon Law, the code of law which governs the Catholic Church, calls for the pastor of a parish to celebrate one Mass each week for the intention of the parishioners. This is an ancient tradition of the Church and of the priesthood, which is required to pray for the people in their charge.

Daily Mass

4:00 PM Monday thru Friday

8:00 AM Saturday

Weekend Mass

4:30 PM Saturday

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday

Holy Days

As Announced

Legal Holidays: 9:00 AM

Contributions

Sunday, March 28	\$5,629
Solidarity Fund/Africa	\$1,130
Sunday, April 4	\$5,029
Easter, April 4	\$10,656
Holy Places in Palestine	\$1,013
Catholic Charities	\$7,320

We are at 54% of our goal of \$13,647

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson and Parish

During this prolonged national and worldwide bout with a virus whose name none of us will ever forget, there has been some welcome comic relief. I have enjoyed that which has been provided by signs. These delights were posted on social media.

I learned of a small restaurant in Texas called “El Arroyo” whose fame for good margaritas has been topped by its ever-changing outdoor signs. They have attracted worldwide attention because of worldwide exposure. One of my favorites displayed this past Winter was this: “My trash goes out more than I do.”

This happening led me to think about all kinds of signs. In St. John’s gospel, signs play a major role, because that is how Our Lord’s miracles are labelled. Beginning with the event at Cana, the author presents six other “signs”. You and I reading about them are ineluctably drawn to the only possible conclusion: Jesus is God. The Resurrection of Jesus, the greatest sign, and leaves no doubt of that.

For a skeptic like the Apostle Thomas, who is after all, a saint in heaven, he has been given that unfortunate nickname of “The Doubter.” Admittedly, he does react with doubt to the breathless account of his brother Apostles about the risen Lord’s appearance among them. He sets conditions for his personal faith. A week later, there is great drama in the room when Jesus reappears and meets all of Thomas’ “requirements.”

I have always imagined that scene this way. A stunned and tearful Thomas, embarrassed and feeling alone, instantly falls down on his knees before Jesus, and in a burst of beautiful humility, makes that profound act of faith: “My Lord and my God.”

Especially helpful for us, who have doubts from time to time, is the response of Our Lord. He looks lovingly into Thomas’ eyes, as the poor man gets back up, and says those words that echo down the centuries with comfort and hope: “Blessed are those who have not seen Me but have believed.”

Dr. John Vannorsdall, former chaplain at Yale University, brought up a question about all this when He wrote in striking words: “If God raised Jesus from the dead, why didn’t God fix Him up? Why scars? Why the print of nails that you could feel with your fingers? Can it be that the gospel is saying: ‘You will not see Jesus Christ unless you see the wounds?’ Somehow we must understand that the resurrected Christ is forever the wounded Christ. Living, but never fixed up.”

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may our wounded God show you His mercy every day, and give you His peace.



Divine Mercy Sunday

The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans when in Poland a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the Index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other “pale” (symbolizing water), with the words “Jesus, I trust in you” at the bottom. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.” When she was canonized in 2000 under the direction of fellow countryman Pope John Paul II, he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday, thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina’s visions, already popular in many communities.

St. Faustina, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions she claimed continued for years. Her entries focus on God’s mercy, the call to accept God’s mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus’ own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: “I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls. . . . I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy.”

Among the practices associated with the devotion are its novena, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy (a series of prayers organized similarly to a rosary), the Hour of Great Mercy (a time of prayer traditionally celebrated at 3:00 PM), and the plenary indulgence granted to those who receive the Eucharist and celebrate reconciliation on Divine Mercy Sunday.

For more details, visit www.uscatholic.org.

Pray for Our Beloved Deceased

As we pray for our own families and friends, we ask you to please remember *all those who have died from the coronavirus*. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Rosary Group

The Rosary Group meets on *Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM* in the Church. We recite the Rosary and conclude with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy for your intentions. All are welcome!

Pray for Our Sick

Angela Bair, Al Beck, Helen Belcher, Helen Betzler, Kay Bittle, Michele Boebert, Ryan Bostedo, Irene Burns, Helena Butler, Suzie Carboni, Rose Celia, Augustine Cercas, John Cianciarulo, Bill Clarkson, Fred Cuccinello, Lenora Cuccinello, Msgr. Gregory Akata-Daniels, Betty DiGrasso, Leonard DiGrasso, Richard Dinan, Terry Dolores, Sr. Eileen Eden, SSND, Mark Ednie, Christine Huf, Mark Gallagher, Robert Gamboy, Bruce Gordan, Connie Gross, Wayne Ingling, Patricia Johnson, Doris Kerker, Fran Lightcap, Sr. Ann Marie Loftus, Madeline Loftus, Margie Loftus, Karen Lyons, Angela Mahoney, Peg McCann, Bethann McCormick, Kathleen McCreey, Larry McCusker, David McFarland, Julia McGlenn, Anna Marie McIntyre, Joseph Murtha, Rev. Leo P. Oswald, Barbara Partridge, Anthony Perdue, Christopher Perdue, Madeline Pfaff, George Phillips, Marie Prince, Joan Ratch, Edward Specht, Harry Sperone, Ted Stevens, Richard Sullivan, Michael Talent, Matthew Trageser, Mary Wizda and Carmella Young.

Parish and Local



A Message from Fr. Oswald

Please check out my weekly video reflections at www.stgeorgeparish.org or on our Facebook page at St. George Church, Glenolden, PA. God bless you, one and all!

~Father Oswald, Pastor

Year of St. Joseph

Evening of Reflection

Saturday, May 2, 2021

5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Malvern Retreat House

\$40 attending in person

\$25 Attend Virtually



5:00 PM	Arrival and Check in
5:30 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Session One - Spiritual Wonders
7:45 PM	Break
8:00 PM	Mass with Consecration to St. Joseph
8:45 PM	Wrap Up
9:00 PM	Departure

Father Jim McGuinn is the author and founder of Connections, which is a new process that inspires and equips Catholics to grow in their faith and to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. Space is limited so register early. Visit www.malvernretreat.com/register.

Please see the Prayer to St. Joseph on the front cover of today's Parish Bulletin. We will begin praying this at the conclusion of Mass this weekend and throughout the remainder of this Year of St. Joseph.

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir will resume practice on *Wednesday evening, April 14th at 7:00 PM in the church.*

New members are always welcome. We could use some tenors!

Please contact Kathy Lerro at 610-237-1633 for details.



Priest Schedule

April 17-18, 2021

4:30 PM	Father Oswald
8:00 AM	Father Marneni with Deacon Gary Guy
10:30 AM	Father McBurney



Legion of Mary 24th Annual Report

This report covers *March 23, 2020 through March 22, 2021.* Meetings are held on **Mondays at 6:30 PM** in St. George Church.

Pastor	Rev. Leo P. Oswald
Spiritual Directors	Rev. Ignatius Marneni
President	Sr. Gloria Greene
Vice President	Sr. Theresa Murray
Secretary	Sr. Zelma Barrett
Treasurer	Sr. Theresa DiBiase
Other Members	Srs. Rayette Boyer, Nancy Canady, Gay McKernan, Sharon Murter and Br. Anthony Gerace

Active Membership = 9 Auxiliary Membership = 46 Probation membership = 0

3 Praetorians; 1 Adjutorian; 4 members regularly attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 1 member has continued to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive during the pandemic.

Consolation: During the time period of this report, members were unable to make visits due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Functions: Due to COVID-19, member activities were restricted. Several members attended the delayed 2020 Acies on December 6, 2020 at St. Madeleine Church. Several members attended the funeral Mass for Father Orth, the Pastor of St. Gabriel Parish. All praesidia members attended the funeral service of John Murray on July 9, 2020 at St. George Church, husband of our Vice President, Theresa Murray. Four members delivered packages to the parish shut-ins from the Youth Group in December 2020. Zelma Barrett was able to continue her works with the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, increasing her services to 3-4 days per week to assist with the needs of families during the pandemic.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance: \$26.25; Secret Bag Balance: \$30.75; Curia Donations: \$57.00; Ending Balance: \$0.

The Sponsa Spiritus Sancti Praesidium would like to thank Father Oswald and Father Marneni for their full support during the period covered in this report.

For more information about the Legion of Mary and their good works, please contact Gloria Greene or Theresa Murray at the Rectory Office or visit www.legionofmary.org.





Giving Food to Those in Need is “What We Christians Do.”

Dozens of Archdiocesan staff and volunteers joined Archbishop Nelson Perez at a March 20th emergency food giveaway, part of an ongoing outreach as the pandemic enters its second year.

Latino Seniors Receive COVID Vaccines at ‘Second Home.’

A March 19 clinic organized by Catholic Housing and Community Services brought relief and even a few tears of joy to more than 100 Spanish-speaking older adults in Philadelphia.

For All Catholic Musical Ensembles, the Show Goes On (line)

With the annual “Concert of Excellence” sidelined by COVID, top Archdiocesan performers shared their talents via technology in a series of livestreams.

At Passover, Archbishop Prays for Hope, Vitality for Jewish Community

Archbishop Nelson Perez sent a letter of warm greetings on behalf of Philadelphia’s Catholics on the occasion of Passover, which began March 27th.

Religious Sister Helps Troubles Teens See ‘They Are God’s Children.’

For some 30 years, Sister of St. Joseph Jean Santarone has counseled youth at a Catholic Social Services residence, opening their minds and hearts to “dreams that can come true.”

Finding Joy Through Suffering

Randy Kraft, a seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, shares with Inside CatholicPhilly.com how embracing the cross with Jesus lifts us into eternal life.

Catholic Colleges Caring for Students’ Mental Health

Students describe “dark times” of isolation and depression, so schools offered mental health days featuring fun activities and asked teachers not to give assignments due the next day.

Life on Earth Depends on Healthy Oceans, Vatican Panelists Say

Scientific knowledge and contemplative spirituality are important to get people to change their behavior and take responsibility for pollution, overfishing and mineral extraction of the oceans and their role in regulating the earth’s climate.

Vienna Cardinal ‘Not Happy’ With Vatican Same-Sex Statement

Austria’s Cardinal Christoph Schonborn has said he cannot deny same-sex couples a blessing if they request one. Other Austrian and German bishops shared his concerns over such blessings.

Social Workers Are Glue For Families, Communities

James Amato, head of Catholic Social Services knows personally how social workers defend the dignity of vulnerable people, and hold everything together in an often tumultuous landscape.

Mother of Murdered Son Cites Reason for Deadly Violence: Racism

During a prison visit with survivors of Philadelphia’s wave of fatal shootings, Father Paul Morrissey recounts the insights of Victoria, who speaks so that other families will not also mourn.

One Year Later, Measuring Our Gain and Losses

It’s natural to rush back into the busyness of our old normal, but the lives lost and changed by the COVID pandemic will be a waste if we don’t learn from what we gained, writes Greg Erlandson.

The Present Tense of That Long-Ago Crucifixion

The reality of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, which we heard in Palm Sunday’s Gospel, permeates through time so that his healing and mercy are accomplished for us, writes Monsignor Joseph Prior.

Drama, Class Make a Fitting End to Hallahan, McDevitt Basketball

In the last game between the schools, both of which will close this June, a three-pointer at the buzzer gave Hallahan a 52-49 victory, which was shared with dignity by both teams.

Resurrection Movie Offers Fine Treatment of Sacred Subject

Viewers will get an Easter treat with the latest project from Roma Downey and Mark Burnett: a handsome dramatization of the most essential period in human history.

Visit www.CatholicPhilly.com for these and many more interesting articles each week.

Saint Eugene Pre-School & Pre-Kindergarten

Reserve your child’s spot for Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten. Our program is a foundational time for children because it provides exposure to school and sets the tone for their educational career. Our curriculum will provide children with the needed foundation for Kindergarten and beyond! For details or to enroll, contact Sharon Soper at 610-622-2909 or ssoper@sainteugeneschool.org

Parish Religious Education and Local



St. George Parish Religious Education Program to Merge with St. Gabriel Parish Religious Education Program Fall 2021

Religious education can provide many benefits well beyond a faith-based experience, including helping students to develop a strong sense of community and instilling moral values that will carry them through life. But we all know that the experience is not quite the same when learning at home. And so, after much prayer and consideration, and with the anonymous concurrence of our Pastoral and Finance Councils, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering in-person lessons, once again, for students registered in the Parish Religious Education Program beginning with the **2021-2022** school year. Our program is merging with St. Gabriel Parish in Norwood, which will allow for live instruction for Levels 1-6. Father Hand, Pastor at St. Gabriel Parish, and Kathy McGovern, DRE at St. Gabriel Parish, have graciously opened their doors to our students so that we can continue to offer the same quality religious education our students so deserve. Lessons will be offered at St. Gabriel Parish. For our parishioners, all sacraments will be celebrated at St. George. For the time being, Levels 7 & 8 will still be offered at St. George Parish, with lessons being held in our church on **Monday evenings from 6:45 PM to 8:00 PM.**

Parents who are currently registered in our PREP have been sent official notification of this change, along with a Registration Form for the Fall of 2021. If your child will be joining us to complete his or her religious education and the Sacraments of Initiation, (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) we need you to let us know now so that we can forward your registration to St. Gabriel Parish in advance, thus allowing them to properly prepare for this transition. More details will be communicated with parents over the summer months and a gathering will be held for parents prior to the start of classes.

We are most grateful to Father Hand and Mrs. McGovern for their kind welcome and we look forward to working together with them and with your children.

First Holy Communion Retreat

The First Holy Communion Retreat will be held next **Sunday, April 18, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM** in the church. Both PREP and Catholic school students preparing for First Holy Communion are expected to attend. Dioramas and photographs are also due on this day. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at the Rectory Office.



Community Outdoor Flea/Craft Market and Takeout Slavic Food Festival

Saturday June 12th 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm.
(Rain or Shine)

Holy Myrrh-Bearers Church
900 Fairview Road
Swarthmore, PA

Sell your stuff for only \$20 per space!
Call (610) 544-1215 or email
HMBChurch@verizon.net
to reserve your space by 06/01/2021.
Sorry no food vendors.

Pandemic 2020

2020. The year that taught us to minimize. To improvise. To compromise.

2020. The year we monitored, not the stock market. But rather open time slots.

2020. The year we slowed down. We paused. We realized what we could do without. Our celebrations. Were muted. Understated. But no less joyous.

2020. The year we cried. We mourned. For the unnecessary deaths. For job losses. For social justice.

2020. The year injustices were even more pronounced. Economic disparity. Social disparity. Racial disparity. Age disparity. Immune system disparity.

We worried about the aged. Alone and isolated. We worried about the youth. Count their young minds handle all that was being thrown at them?

And then we collect ourselves. We adjusted. We empathized. We sympathized. We stepped up. And stepped in where needed. We reached out.

2020 is behind us. And we stepped into 2021. With hopes and some trepidation.

As we transition through this time we pray:

One day a time sweet Jesus.

That's all that I ask of you.

Lord help me today.

Show me the way.

One day at a time.

As we transition through these times, we keep our faith as Bhagad Gita, the Hindu Holy Scripture, written more than 2000 years ago, says: '*Dharmo Rakshito Rakshita*'...those who keep their faith strong during trying times are blessed with their faith carrying them through these times.

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