

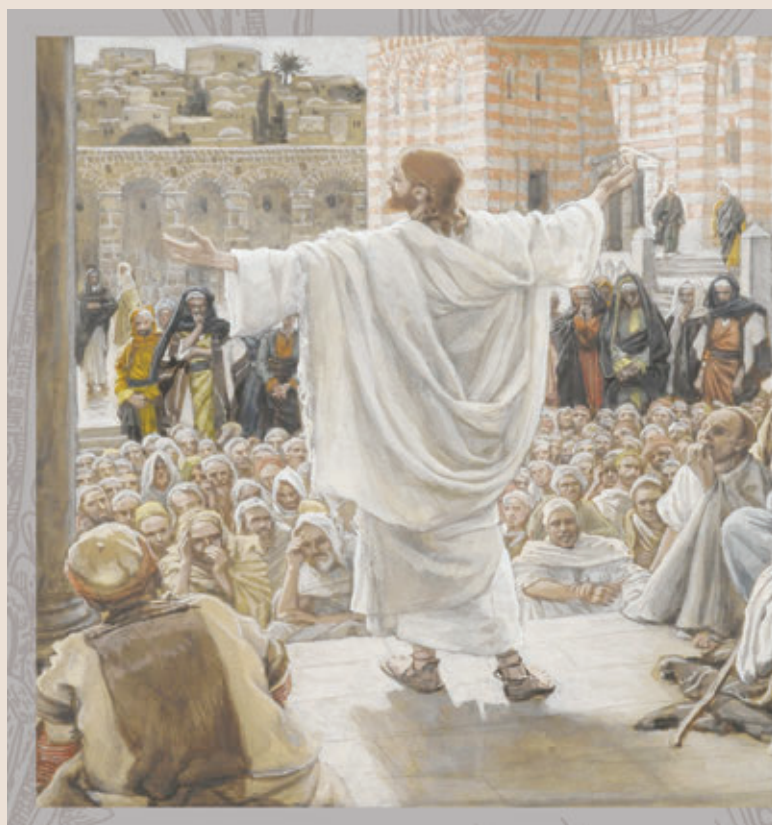
Saint George Parish Community

Under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

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

5th Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021



*Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground
and dies, it remains
JUST A
GRAIN OF
WHEAT.*

JOHN 12:24

©JPPC

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, there also will be servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves Me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your Name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” The crowd there heard it and said it was hunger; but others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to Myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death He would die. ~ John 12: 20-33

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.

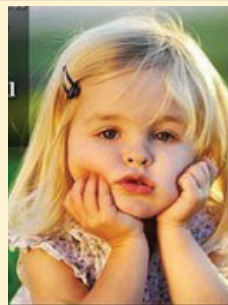
Food Pantry

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.

Quotes of the Week



If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

~Derived from Proverbs 22: 6

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, Parish, Secretary/PREP Coordinator Ext. 101

Mrs. Pat Dinan, Receptionist, Ext. 113 (Wednesdays)

Mrs. Gloria Greene, Assistant Bookkeeper, Ext. 104

Mrs. Chris Guidetti, Youth Minister, Ext. 125

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro, Director of Music, Ext. 101

Mr. Patrick McCullough, Maintenance, Ext. 104

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SS, Dir. of Adult Faith and Pastoral Care, Ext. 103

Mr. Keith Tomson, Accountant, Ext. 104

Mr. Al Zeller, Hall Manager - 610-237-1633

Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller, Business Manager, Ext. 104

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, March 21: Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Hebrews 5: 7-9; John 12: 20-33 - 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Larry Gilchrist
Requested by: Guidetti Family

10:30 AM Pro Populo

Monday, March 22: Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8: 1-11

4:00 PM Jack Finnegan
Requested by: Marie Lightcap

Tuesday, March 23: Numbers 21: 4-9; John 8: 21-30

4:00 PM Barbara Orr
Requested by: Fran Deeney

Wednesday, March 24: Dan 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8: 31-42

4:00 PM Larry Gilchrist
Requested by: Anna Notte

Thursday, March 25: Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8-10; Hebrews 10: 4-10; Luke 1: 26-38 - The Annunciation of the Lord

4:00 PM Jack Finnegan
Requested by: Anonymous

Friday, March 26: Jeremiah 20: 10-13; John 10: 31-42

4:00 PM Deceased members of the Oswald and the Moran Families
Requested by: Father Oswald

Saturday, March 27: Ezekiel 3&: 21-28; John 11: 45-56

8:00 AM Rev. Daniel J. Dougherty
Requested by: St. George Parish

4:30 PM Jessie & Marie Previte and Pro Populo
Requested by: Bill Battagliese

Sunday, March 28: Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14: 1-15:47 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sunday continued...

8:00 AM Arthur Bryant
Requested by: Zelma Barrett

10:30 AM Larry Gilchrist
Requested by: Bill Battagliese

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 and Mass Count

Sunday, March 14	\$4,755
Churches in Latin America	\$1,102
4:30 PM=60 8:00 AM=47 10:30 AM=72	
Total=179 Percentage of attendance=9%	



St. George Parish has online giving. You can donate simply by visiting <https://www.osvhub.com/stgeorgeparish/funds/offertory> and then click the icon that reads "Give Now." This allows for electronic contributions to be transferred without the need of writing a check or dropping off your envelope at the Rectory Office.

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Spring officially arrived yesterday morning. I think of that as reassuring, positive and hopeful. Let's decide to leave behind the darkness of Winter and the pressure of the pandemic on our optimism. Our souls, like our bodies, welcome a kind of "morning stretch." Someday soon we will be able to resume a more normal way of life and be more alive than we have been for a long while.

It seems to me that what the Holy Spirit wants to remind us of through this weekend's Scripture Readings is the cost of our salvation and who paid the price. The "hour" Our Lord speaks of so dramatically is no mere measure of clock time. Rather is it the history making setting of His great victory over the wintry realities of sin and death. St. John makes the cost of it apparent Christ's mention of judgment in the passage reminds us that we will each have our time in the docket.

This Sunday marks the latter part of Lent. I believe it calls each of us more urgently to "drop everything" to think and pray. Time to make a more concerted effort to do penance and increase our time for prayer. Suggestions abound on how to accomplish this. Fasting and almsgiving top of the list prescribed by Jesus Himself. May I humbly suggest two modern versions of "fasting?" One is to shut down your cell phone for a sufficient period each day just to sit and think. Another is to turn off the car radio while you are driving. Think of that as entering the desert to be with the Lord to console Him. Your private place and time to listen to God more than talk. Think about those.

We can ponder just what we depend on for steady comfort in all the seasons of our lives: the love of God for us that motivated Him to be born and live among us. Then, from His love for us, to die on the cross so that we might live.

Yes, it's suddenly Spring, even if Old Man Winter is slow to release his grip on the thermometer for awhile. Our God is with us in a whole new season in 2021 to give us precious hope. What is hope? The simple answer is: "Many things." Here is an answer from an anonymous thinker that I like. I believe it particularly applies to our current time: "*Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark.*" Think about that this week. Take the risk. Don't hold your hand back.

God love you and give you His peace.

Lenten Observances



Stations of the Cross

Stations for the Cross are being held on *Friday afternoons during Lent following the 4:00 PM Mass*. Please join us for this Lenten devotion.

Sacrament of Penance

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays during *Lent from 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM, on Mondays following the 4:00 PM Mass, on Saturday, March 27, from 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM, or by appointment*. Please check upcoming bulletins for other confession schedules in the area.



Lenten Fasting and Obligation

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on *all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday*. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.



Light Up Our Church for Lent

Candle's at our Blessed Mother's altar, St. Joseph altar, and our Jesus with the Children Shrine are available for your prayer intentions. As we pray for an end to the pandemic, for peace in our country and in our world, for our military, and for those who are sick and have died, we invite you to join us by lighting a candle this Lenten season for your personal intentions as well.

Weekly Events



Rosary Group

Our Rosary Group meets on *Thursdays at 7:00 PM*. To ensure social distancing, we gather in the church. All are welcome and invited to join us as we pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for your personal intentions. Masks are required.

How Can I Keep from Singing!!!

Choir practice will be held this *Wednesday March 31st from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM* in the church. Social distancing and masks are required, but this isn't going to keep us from singing! New members are always welcome. All voices blend together in song.

Parish and Local



Don't forget to watch Father Oswald's weekly reflection at www.stgeorgeparish.org or on our Facebook page at St. George Church, Glenolden, PA.

Priest Schedule

March 27-28, 2021

4:30 PM Father
8:00 AM Father
10:30 AM Father



Pray for Our Sick

Angela Bair, Helen Belcher, Helen Betzler, Kay Bittle, Michele Boebert, Ryan Bostedo, Irene Burns, Helena Butler, Rose Cella, 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 McCreety, 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.

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 all the faithful departed, through the mercy of god, they rest in peace.

A Message from Father Oswald

As stated in the my letter to parishioners, which was inserted in the March 8th, Parish Bulletin, I met with our Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils last Sunday to address some important concerns regarding necessary changes for the continued growth of our parish. During our meeting, we discussed the fact that St. George Parish has experienced a significant loss of income, which was evidenced in our Annual Report to Parishioners with the Stewardship mailing in November 2020. Much of this has been cumulative over the years, but has been even more greatly affected by the decline in contributions and the loss of our Bingo program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Bingo has generated approximately 20% of gross income.) Since we are dependent on these means to operate our parish, we have had to make some difficult yet necessary changes in order to secure our financial future.

Our Youth Program, which was faithfully managed by Mrs. Chris Guidetti, has been indefinitely suspended. Much of this happened slowly, on its own, as a result of a decline in participation over the past five years, and now compiled with the inability to use the parish school building for activities as a result of COVID-19. As noted in Chris's letter to the Parish Community, which can be found on page 7 of today's bulletin, opportunities for ministry, service, sacraments and faith formation will still be offered to our youth.

Mrs. Guidetti has welcomed a layoff so that she can spend more time with her family and new grandson! I am grateful to her for her many years of service to our Youth Program. Chris has been a wonderful example for our youth, our youth program, and indeed our entire parish, offering many opportunities for community involvement and enrichment. I am happy to say that Chris remains a faithful parishioner of St. George Parish and she will continue to be a part of our parish family.

Our Parish Religious Education Program has also been effected by declining numbers and the lack of use of the school building. With the exception of sacrament classes, students have not been able to enjoy in-person lessons this year. Community is so very important in the learning process. Although our students have been learning at home, it is not the same experience. And with the inability to offer lessons in the school building in the future, this presented us with quite a challenge.

Much the same as many Parishes throughout the Archdiocese have regionalized their elementary schools, many are also regionalizing their PREP Programs. Gratefully, this is now an option for us as well. And so, I am happy to announce that as of September 2021, our PREP classes for Levels 1-6 will be hosted by St. Gabriel Parish in Norwood. 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, with all sacraments still being celebrated at St. George. Levels 7 & 8 will still be offered at St. George Parish, with lessons being held in our church. I am most grateful to Father Hand and Mrs. McGovern for their kind welcome and I look forward to working together with them and Mrs. Batten to lead our students to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ! Notification has been sent to all PREP parents. Additional details will soon follow.

Last, but certainly not least, Mary Ann Zeller, our Business Manager, and her husband, Al, our Bingo and Hall Manager, will be retiring in June 2021. This has been a long-time coming and so very well-deserved! Mary Ann and Al are long-time staff members and faithful parishioners. They will remain active parishioners of Saint George Parish and they look forward to celebrating Mass with our parish family. I am happy to add however, that with the support of our Administrative staff, Mrs. Lynda Batten, Mrs. Pat Dinan, Mrs. Gloria Greene, and Mr. Keith Tomson, we will continue to provide our parishioners with the same professional, efficient and courteous service to which you are accustomed. It is our pleasure to serve you.

I thank you, our dear parishioners, for your continued support and prayers. Together we must remain strong in our faith, knowing and accepting the challenge that change is sometimes necessary to help us strengthen and build up the kingdom of God.

Parish and Local



School News

Our Lady of Angels

SPONSOR A STUDENT PROGRAM

Our Lady of Angels Regional Catholic School now has the *Sponsor A Student* tuition assistance program. This is a great opportunity for anyone to help a student receive a Catholic education at Our Lady of Angels Regional Catholic School. For complete information pick up one of the tri-fold brochures in the vestibule of the main church or contact Our Lady of Angels Regional Catholic School at 610-543-8350.

Our student council executive board published a newsletter to let everyone know what is going on at Our Lady of Angels School. Please check out the OLA website or Facebook page to find out what's been happening at OLA. Kudos to the executive board for the awesome job they did on the OLA Bulletin!

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year has begun. Please access the necessary forms on our website: www.ourladyofangelsmorton.org or by calling our school office at 610-543-8350.

First In Math is online computer program where the students compete nationally to use their Math skills to earn stickers. OLA is presently ranked 24th in the nation, 17th in the state, and 4th in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia!! Luca Merkle in Grade 7 is ranked 5th and Deryck Maniraho in Grade 3 is ranked 8th in the nation! Keep up the great work Angels!

The Second Trimester ended on *Friday, March 12*. Report cards were distributed on *Friday, March 19*.

St. James Regional

The month of March has been a busy one for the students and families of St. James Regional! On March 11th through March 19th, our 3rd-7th grade students took the annual Terra Nova standardized tests. These examinations are taken each year by students across schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We are grateful for a successful examination period thanks to the hard work and concentration of our students and the flexibility of our faculty.

St. James will begin publishing a bi-annual newsletter highlighting the achievements of our students and alumni and sharing updates about how our school is thriving. The first edition will be due out in late April. If you are interested in receiving this electronic publication, please visit this link to sign up: <https://www.stjamesregional.com/provide-us-your-email>. If you have alumni news you would like to share, please contact Eileen Somers at esomers@stjamesregional.com.

The Class of 2021 is running a March Madness fundraiser to help defray the costs of end of year graduation activities. Brackets are \$20.00 and \$10.00 for each additional bracket. Half the pot will be donated to the Class of 2021 and the remainder will be split among the winners: 1st place: 80%, 2nd place 20%. Visit this link to purchase a bracket: www.stjamesregional.com/march-madness.

St. James Regional is now accepting enrollments for the 2021-22 school year! We offer flexible PreK programs for 3 & 4 year olds, full day kindergarten, before and after school care, Spanish & Art classes for grades PreK-8, 1:1 Chromebooks for students in grades 1-8, an Honors Math program for grades 5-8, and tuition assistance is available! Our academically rigorous curriculum prepares students for high school and beyond. This year our 8th grade class has earned approximately \$125,000 in scholarships to continue their high school education. Please visit www.stjamesregional.com to register today!

For the 2021-2022 school year, St. James Regional is proud to offer Tuition Transfer grants for students entering grades 2-7 and transferring to our school from a public, charter, or homeschooling. The grant is worth \$1,000 in a student's first year and \$500 in a student's second year. Please visit <https://www.stjamesregional.com/scholarships> for more info.



Feast Day Celebrations

The Annunciation

On *March 25*, the Feast of the Annunciation, it is time for waffles. This Swedish tradition stems from the words Vaffelsdagen (Waffle Day) and Varfrudagen (Our Lady's Day) being so similar. In Germany,

Maundy Thursday became known as Green Thursday the same way. In addition to waffles, Marian feasts are always celebrated with fresh fruit. Whether you include fruit as a side or a topping, you'll be creating a delicious and traditional meal.

Visit www.feasday.co for more help celebrating the feasts and seasons.



The main aspect of Joseph's vocation was to be custodian of the Holy Family of Nazareth, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and legal father of Jesus.

So that all Christian families are encouraged to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that we lived in the Holy Family, the Plenary Indulgence is granted for the recitation of the Rosary in families and between the bride and groom.

On May 1, 1955, the Servant of God Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the worker, "with the intention that everyone recognize the dignity of work and that it inspire social life and the laws founded on the equitable distribution of rights and duties." Therefore, all those who entrust their work daily to the protection of Saint Joseph, and to all believers who invoke with their prayers and intercession of the worker of Nazareth, may obtain plenary indulgence, and those who are looking for work find it, and that everyone's work is dignified.

Vocation Corner

www.HeedTheCall.org

The priests of tomorrow are in our midst. Pray for vocations.

Parish Religious Education and Local



First Holy Communion 2021

Students in PREP and Catholic school will gather together this **Sunday, March 21**, for rehearsal for First Penance in St. George Church from **11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. All students are required to attend. First Penance is next **Saturday, March 27, at 1:00 PM** in the church. Please dress appropriately and plan to arrive at 12:45 PM.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Mrs. Lynda Batten at 610-237-1633 or st.georgesec@rcn.com.

Confirmation 2021

Lessons continue this **Monday, March 22, from 6:45 PM to 8:00 PM** in the church. **ALL** candidates for Confirmation are asked to be present, including Catholic school students. Students are asked to bring the *Confirmed in the Spirit* workbooks with them for lessons.

PREP

Please see Father Oswald's letter on page 4 of today's Parish Bulletin for an important announcement about changes in the Parish Religious Education Program beginning in **September 2021**. Letters regarding this announcement have also been mailed to each registered PREP household.

Mrs. Guidetti remains a faithful parishioner. So we are not saying farewell to Chris, but to the wonderful program we were able to provide as a result of her dedication, faithfulness and diligent efforts.

A Farewell to the End of an Era

Many of you know me as Mrs. G, Youth Minister for Saint George Parish. Over the last 30 years, I have worn many hats in support of our Parish community. When the elementary school was open, I volunteered in the Lunch Room Program, staffed the school Resource Room, taught Gym class, was the afternoon classroom aide in Kindergarten, Director of the Cares Afterschool Program, and I held positions on the P.T.O and C.Y.O Board. In 2000, I became the Saint George School Secretary and remained in that position until its closing in 2005. I have cooked and cleaned in the Convent and coordinated the Pot of Gold parent schedule while selling and checking tickets until the program ended. With the help of my friends, I coordinated the C.Y.O sponsored New Year's Eve party and helped to decorate the church for the holidays.

Given my love of our parish youth, my passion for service, and with the vision and blessing of Monsignor Michael McCormac, when our Parish school closed in 2005, I was then appointed Parish Youth Minister; a role I have proudly served in for over 16 years.

After attending classes at St. Charles Seminary for certification, I created a robust program for our youth group, focusing on the five-phases of ministry: *Spiritual, Social, Cultural, Athletic and Service*. It was a labor of love, but I firmly believe we had built one of the best youth programs around.

Over the years, we have packed our calendars with many activities for our youth to participate in - with time carved out for fun and service. From our annual C.Y.O. Play to our Family Bingo, we practiced inclusivity, ensuring that every child was able to get a part in the play and guaranteeing a prize for everyone at Bingo. Every season, we dedicated service time to our parish seniors and homebound parishioners with crafts, cards and homemade cookies for Christmas, along with many other parish activities, such as the Lenten Sandwich Outreach. We practiced our faith and garnered a stronger relationship with God through our activities in Summer Vacation Bible Camp, Living Stations of the Cross and the Live Nativity. We welcomed everyone to participate, parishioners and non-parishioners alike - no one was ever turned away. Even now, as we welcome new babies in to our community, we provide a handmade rosary as a remembrance of their Baptism.

As I fondly remember how our program once thrived, I am now brought to the sad realization of how much this past year has changed life for so many of us. The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a profound impact on our ability to gather together, thus adding to the already declining numbers in overall participation.

Sadly, our Parish Bingo Program (which I loved and was a faithful participant as a Sunday Bingo Lady) was also suspended this year due to COVID-19 and this, compiled with the decline in Mass attendance, has put a tremendous financial strain on our Parish coffers. And so, I have decided to accept a lay-off as of Friday, February 26, 2021. And although our parish will continue to offer opportunities for ministry, service, sacraments and faith formation, I am sad that the former era has ended. But it is bittersweet, as I will now be able to focus my attention to my beautiful new grandson, Jack.

I love each and every child involved in our program. I especially want to thank the many parents with whom I established a great friendship. As some of them would note, I am a hard person to say no to and, if you did, you would pleasantly change your mind. For that, and for all of the work that you have done to assist me and our parish youth, I thank you!

I want to thank, Father Oswald and all of our former pastors, our parish staff, "*The Dream Team*," and, most importantly, **YOU!** I loved my time with our parish families who were involved in youth activities, and I look forward to seeing you again as we gather together for Sunday Mass.

In the meantime, I pray that God will bless you with His Grace. Keep the faith! ~Mrs. Chris Guidetti

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