



# St. George Fire Protection District

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

June 30, 2019

### **St. George Fire Department Graduates its 11<sup>th</sup> Academy Class**

The St. George Fire Department grew by 18 members today. Graduation and swearing ceremonies were held this morning at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

The ceremony began with the SGFD Honor Guard presenting the colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a beautiful performance of our Nation Anthem by St. George Firefighter/Operator Margaret Kling.

The Invocation was delivered by Deacon Don Musso of Most Blessed Sacrament Church.

The event's Keynote Speaker was Sheriff Sid Gautreaux. In his remarks, he alluded to the friendly rivalry that exists almost everywhere between Fire and Police. But, he stressed there is no rivalry when it comes to public service; that police officers and firefighters are always linked by their having answered a calling to devote their lives to public service, even at the risk of their own lives.

Training Officer Matt Ard presented class awards to four graduates. They were:

Most Improved – Melvin Taylor

Best All Around – Jason Alexander

EMT Valedictorian – Alyssa Arn

Firefighting Valedictorian – Blake Thompson

Fire Cadet Ronald Hughes delivered the Academy Address.

Each graduate was handed their badge which was pinned on their uniform by a family member or other special person of their choosing. Two of the firefighters were "pinned" by their young children (with assistance from their spouse). Then each graduate was presented their diploma and certifications by Sheriff Gautreaux.

The oath of office was then administered by Fire Chief Gerard Tarleton. Class 11's members were then welcomed into the Department with a standing ovation from those attending.

The members of St. George Fire Department Fire Academy Class 11 and now St. George Firefighters are:

Matthew Adams, Jason Alexander, Adam Alleman, Alyssa Arn, Collin Blanchard, Ian Braun, Seth Dreux, Zack Emick, Ronald Hughes, Kurt Landry, Lyle Lejeune, Collin Loyacono, Armand Pitre, Joshua Stafford, Melvin Taylor, Blake Thompson, Alex West, and Robert Wicker.

In closing, the Benediction was given by Reverend Ken Spivey of Healing Place Church and SGFD Chaplain.

BY Eldon Ledoux, Public Information Officer, SGFPD

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