

From the Pastors Desk - 3rd Sunday of Advent **What Shall We Do?**

In today's Gospel, there is a question posed three times: "What shall we do?" It is raised to John the Baptist by three categories of people: first the crowd in general, second, the publicans or tax collectors, and third, some soldiers. They want to know what must be done to implement the conversions that he is preaching. John's reply to the question of the crowd is sharing essential goods. He told them to share basic necessities, and therefore says: "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none, and he who has food, let him do likewise." Then, he tells the tax collectors to collect no more than the amount owed. What does this mean? No taking bribes, John the Baptist is clear. And he tells the soldiers not to extort anything from anyone and to be content with their wages. There are three answers to the three questions of these groups. Three answers for an identical path of repentance, which is manifested in concrete commitments to justice and solidarity. It is the path that Jesus points to in all his preaching: the path of diligent love for neighbor. We feel that this question is ours also. In the words of John, it is necessary to repent, to change direction and take the path of justice, solidarity, sobriety: these are the essential values of a fully human and genuinely Christian life.

Thank you so very much for the overwhelming Christmas Spirit and generosity of our talented bakers, here at St. Christopher. Along with Assumption Parish in Morristown, we packed thousands of cookies and sent 10 shipping boxes of almost 250 lbs. of cookies to our service men and women serving out country overseas.

20 Week Club

Our 20 Week Club has been going great! We presently have 210 participants with a total of \$ 21,000.00 collected. Thank you for participating.

Carol Service

*Please join the **Contemporary Choir** in celebrating the Birthday of the King! The celebration begins on December 24th with a carol service at 11:30 p.m. and is immediately followed by Midnight Mass. The carol service prepares us to celebrate the Lord's birth through reading and carols depicting the birth of Jesus.*

Weekly Collections

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| First Collection | \$11,378.25 |
| (including online giving \$ 1,208.00) | |
| Retired Religious | \$ 3,957.00 |
| Last Year | \$10,429.25 |



Attendance for the week 782- Thank you for your generosity

3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 15th

8:30 am Sr. Brigid Kelly
5:00 pm Sean Maughan
James Bunk
Patricia Werra

Sunday, December 16th

7:00 am Anne Price
8:00 am Rose Moore
9:15 am Santiago Iglesias
John S. Chmielewski, Jr.
10:45 am Angela Maria Imbergamo
Laurino & Antonio Brunetto
12:15 pm Millie Cook

Monday, December 17th

7:00 am Special Intentions - James DiStasio
12:05 pm Special Intentions - Maria Falgowski
Frank Skladany

Tuesday, December 18th

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
12:05 pm Santiago Iglesias
Vinancio Lascano

Wednesday, December 19th

7:00 am Special Intentions - James DiStasio
12:05 pm Frank Skladany
Marie Cancilliere
Petra Orani

Thursday, December 20th

7:00 am Special Intentions - James DiStasio
12:05 pm Santiago Iglesias
Santos, Maria Lourdes & Raymunda
Ruguian

Friday, December 21st

7:00 am Dominick Cecere
12:05 pm Stefania Jarosz
Special Intentions - James DiStasio

Saturday, December 22nd

8:30 am Santiago Iglesias
Special Intentions - James DiStasio
5:00 pm James W. Moss, Jr.
Charles Ehrenfeld

Sunday, December 23rd

7:00 am Anne Price
8:00 am Santiago Iglesias
9:15 am Robert Haynes
Rita & Mickey D'Ambrosa
10:45 am John Mola
12:15 pm Peter Marotte
Special Intentions -
James DiStasio



*The Living Flame for the Sanctuary
Light will be in memory of:
Jean Marie & Jerry Petrino
for the month of December, 2018*

Rest in Peace

*Please remember in your prayers those
who entered into their new and eternal
life in Christ recently.*



The Advent Candles for 2018 will be in Memory for the Deceased Members of the Madonna Prayer Group:

*Kitty Marvin, Pauline Moran, Arlene
Hak, Mary Lucibello, Mary Quinn,
Ada Cezak, Mary Ellen Clemente,
Tessie Gajdek, Esther Treuting,
Jeanne Chmura, Nancy DeLue, Betty
Rydyfski, Phyllis Burns, Agnes Ho-
gan, Tania Monteith, Ruth Vasta*



Religious Education

If you have any questions concerning religious education please contact Mary Ann Jacisin at 973-539-6208, Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Baptism preparation meeting: *The meeting will be on **January 14th** at 7:00 pm in room 101 of the school. Please call the rectory to enroll or if you have any other questions.*

*Lets us welcome into our family of faith **Rylan Wan Santillan**, who received the sacrament of Baptism.*

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap".

Sunday Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18, **Monday** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17, **Tuesday** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25, **Wednesday** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25, **Thursday** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38, **Friday** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45, **Saturday** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56.

Let us pray for the safety of the following members of St. Christopher Parish who are actively serving in the military:



2LT. Sean Arcilla, PVT. Shane Arcilla, LCPL. Cormac Bradley, CPT. Liam Connor, LTJG Megan Costello, PFC. Patrick DeBenedette, Airman Danny De La Esperia, LCPL. Michael Del Russo, J. Fortes, OP. SPEC. S. Gross II, PVT. Ryan Jandora SGT. Lauren L. Ferrel, Capt. Luis Marti, Capt. Michael A. Piccini, Michael Simoni, SPEC. Cory Therriault.

If you know of any St. Christopher's parishioner who is currently serving in the military and would like them added to this list please contact the rectory (973) 539-7050.

Advent Services

December 20th at 7:00 pm *Simbang Gabi*
December 19th at 7:00 pm *Advent Penance Service*

Upcoming dates to remember:

2019

January 18th Family Movie Night @ 6:30 pm
February 8th Family Sports Night @ 6:30 pm
March 30th Breakfast w/ Easter Bunny @ 9:00 am
April 7th Mayo Theatre, Play @ 4:30 pm
May 24th Mega Game Night @ 6:30 pm
June 14th Movie & Ice Cream @ 6:30 pm



Religious give thanks. "This money is pure gift", writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement fund for the Religious. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters". Your gift to last weeks collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the people of God. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Activities

Men's Group - Issac Jogues Society

Meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, in room 101 in the school.

Our Mission Statement is: "Life as a Catholic Man – A Truly Catholic and Spiritual Way of Life".

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Monday morning adult education at 10:30 am room 110. **Topic: The Acts of the Apostle.**

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St. Christopher's has a Pre-Cana Program, for more information please call the rectory at 973-539-7050.

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St. Christopher's Prayer Group

Will meet every Tuesday, after 12:05 pm Mass.

Pray the Rosary every Monday – Friday after the 12:05 pm Mass.

Miraculous Medal Novena & Rosary will be at 12:30 pm every Monday at St. Christopher.

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St. Christopher is hosting the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion, to our Blessed Virgin Mary, every First Saturday of every month. Please join us on **January 5th**, at the first floor of the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop; stop by for an hour or the day, you are all most needed and welcomed anytime between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. For details call Josie Mendez (973) 887-7835 or Jeanette East (973) 334-8766.

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Jr. Choir practices every **Thursday** from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and they will sing the 2nd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am Mass. Contact Therese Steinel at 973-299-7977 or Karen Blunt at 973-887-1989 for more information.

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Martha & Mary Society - This is a group of dedicated women who maintain and decorate the Church throughout the year.

Saints Peter & Paul Society – As a companion to our Martha & Mary Society, this group handles all the handy man activities both inside & outside of the Church.

These two groups meet every Saturday at 9:00 am in the Church. All are welcome.

The Pope Francis Society - Our program helps Hope House Food Pantry, a program of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Paterson, which in turn helps those in need. The food box will be in the entrance of the Church.

Mission statement: "If you love me, feed me".

Food List: Peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, juice, canned corn, baking mixes, mustard, ketchup, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, deodorant, cold cereal, granola bars, cookies, crackers, tuna, Chef Boyardee, canned chicken meat, canned fruit, shelf stable milk, bath tissue, facial tissue, paper towels.

Pancake mix, pancake syrup, tea, coffee (ground or instant), soup, rice, canned beans (any variety), jelly, macaroni & cheese, side dishes (rice-a-roni, pasta sides, etc).

For more information contact the rectory and speak to Fr. Joe.

St. Christopher's Senior Social Club is a club to have fun and socialize. The meeting will be at the Community Center, at 1130 Knoll Road, Lake Hiawatha, N.J. Dates: **December 21st.**

Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:15 am. Date: **to be announced.** If you wish to learn more about the St. Christopher's Senior Social Club, please call Anne Purcaro at 973-887-5186 or Lorene Poje at 973-887-5645.

Catholic War Veterans of America - Parsippany Chapter - Named: Chaplain (Major) Charles Joseph Watters, USA Post 1967 –CWV will meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in room 101 at the school.

*St. Christopher Women's Book Club

Our next meeting will be January 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm in room 110. Refreshments will be served, and they are delicious!!

January book selection: Glory over Everything by Kathleen Grissom.

February book selection: The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Hope to see you there, give it a try, I am sure you will want to join, new members are always welcome. **

Soft yoga for hard times at St. Christopher

Every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm in room 110. Come and experience for yourself the wonderful range of healthy benefits that yoga and meditation can offer you.

For more information including price, contact Penny Proseri, who is the yoga instructor at pproseri51@gmail.com.

Come play **Bingo** with one of the best groups in town. Great food, great prizes (\$1000 worth of prizes with two 50/50). You are sure to want to return

and play.

Wednesdays at 11:30 am in the St. Christopher All Purpose Room.

There will be no bingo on December 26th



SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH 20-WEEK CLUB MAINTENANCE & REPAIR FUND 2019

Raffle License #RL1464
ID #375-01-0914

Location: 1050 Littleton Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Time: 12:00 noon

- A. Each participant pays \$100 once or \$20 a month for 5 months, starting January and ending in May.
- B. There is a winner selected each week, two winners on week 10 (\$500/each) two winners on week 17 (\$400/each) and five winners on week 20 (\$1000/each).

| <u>January 2019</u> | | <u>February 2019</u> | | <u>March 2019</u> | | <u>April 2019</u> | | <u>May 2019</u> | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1/5 | \$150 | 2/2 | \$200 | 3/2 | \$250 | 4/6 | \$350 | 5/4 | \$375 |
| 1/12 | \$150 | 2/9 | \$200 | 3/9 | \$500, \$500 | 4/13 | \$350 | 5/11 | \$400 |
| 1/19 | \$175 | 2/16 | \$200 | 3/16 | \$300 | 4/20 | \$375 | 5/18 | \$1000 |
| 1/26 | \$175 | 2/23 | \$250 | 3/23 | \$300 | 4/27 | \$400, \$400 | | \$1000 |
| | | | | 3/30 | \$300 | | | | \$1000 |

- C. A person can win more than once. Your name is put back in so you can win again.
- D. We are planning on having our first drawing on January 5, 2019. Drawings will be held each SATURDAY. A list of winners will be posted in the vestibule of the Church and in the bulletin.
- E. If a participant fails to pay the monthly dues, he/she will be disqualified for the remainder of the drawing.
- F. If gambling is a problem for you or someone in your family, DIAL 1-800-GAMBLER.
- G. The aggregate value of all prizes **\$11,300**. No substitution of the offered prizes may be made.

PLEASE PRINT – FILL OUT FORM AND RETURN TO: St. Christopher Rectory
All forms must be returned no later than January 4, 2019.

20-week club# _____
Raffle License #RL1464
ID #375-1-914

Saint Christopher Church
Calendar Raffle – 20-week club
January, February, March, April, May 2019

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

_____ \$100 payment in full

_____ \$20 partial payment



Simbang Gabi

*A Filipino tradition of a
nine-day novena of Masses during Advent
(December 15 - 23, 2018) in preparation for the
Nativity of our Savior, Jesus.*



You are cordially invited to join our Diocesan and parish-sponsored *Simbang Gabi* (Filipino for “Mass of the Night or Evening”) celebration:

St. Christopher Parish

1050 Littleton Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Eucharistic Celebration at 7:00PM

Rev. Joseph Buffardi, Pastor

Main Celebrant

**This nine-day novena is coordinated by the
Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino
Ministries (DCCFM) of the Diocese of Paterson**

*Note: we will also celebrate the blessings of the statues of 2 Filipino
Saints: San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod*

Refreshment immediately follows Mass.

For more information please contact

Jeanette East, 973-334-8766 or

eastjeanette1946@gmail.com