

FROM THE PASTORS DESK - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Steps to Forgiveness

The first step is the refusal to seek revenge. No more “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”. The second step is the genuine, heartfelt hope that the oppressor be liberated. The victim cannot change the heart that is filled with fear and hate, but one may hope and pray that one day the oppressor's heart of stone may become a heart of flesh. The third step is the desire to understand the oppressors; how and why their indifference or hardness of heart has developed, and how they might be liberated. The fourth step is the recognition of our darkness. We, too, have hurt people and perhaps have contributed to the hardness of the oppressors. The fifth step is patience. It takes time for a victim to be freed from blockage and hatred; it takes time for an oppressor to evolve and to change. Reconciliation is a bilateral affair, it is the completion of the forgiveness process, the coming together of the oppressed and the oppressor, each one accepting the other, each acknowledging their fears and hatreds, each accepting that the path of mutual love is the only way out of a world of conflict. Read Luke 6:27-28. With whom do I most need to be reconciled and how might I go about today?

20 Week Club For the next coming weeks until May 18th, we will be pulling numbers every Saturday of the winners for the 20 Week Club.

7th winner: #155 Catherine Kelly.

Congratulations and thank you all who participated.

“But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful...Stop judging...stop condemning, forgive and you will be forgiven.”

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Weekly Collections

First Collection	\$ 7,613.75
(including online giving \$ 958.00)	
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,024.00
Last Year	\$ 9,221.00

Attendance 706

Thank you for your generosity

Saturday, February 23rd

8:30 am Special Intentions - James Distasio
 5:00 pm Mothi Saroja Pillay

Sunday, February 24th

7:00 am Mickey Markson
 8:00 am Michael Bonomo
 9:15 am Jane Foster
 David Miller
 Scott Freeman
 10:45 am Bill Taylor
 Louise C.Z. Kelly
 12:15 pm Sean Maughan
 Anthony & Jeannie Scannella

Monday, February 25th

7:00 am Special Intentions - James Distasio
 12:05 pm Frank Skladany

Tuesday, February 26th

7:00 am Special Intentions - Matilde Morros
 12:05 pm George Bain

Wednesday, February 27th

7:00 am Hedwig Falgowski
 12:05 pm Col. Paul A. Kelly

Thursday, February 28th

7:00 am Nick & Diana Lisi
 12:05 pm Louise Kelly
 John Mola

Friday, March 1st

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Ubiera Family
 12:05 pm Richard Suarez

Saturday, March 2nd

8:30 am Joseph Uy
 5:00 pm Bill Taylor
 Therese McGinty

Sunday, March 3rd

7:00 am Jeff Stolfi
 8:00 am John Mucerino, Anthony DiFalco
 9:15 am Mary Cullinane
 10:45 am Bill Taylor
 12:15 pm Barbara Potenzzone
 Grace Anne Scannella



The Living Flame for the Sanctuary Light will be in memory of: Anthony Bilotti & Barbara Bilotti McCann For the month of February, 2019

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

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Saul wanted to harm David and went into the desert to locate him. David and his companion Abishai visited Saul and his troops while they slept. Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David would not allow it, as he refused to kill the Lord's anointed.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Paul portrays Adam as the first physical man and Jesus as the first man to give us our spirituality. One man was formed from dust, the other sent down from heaven. Just as we resemble the first being physically, we should model ourselves after Jesus spiritually.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus explains that loving only people who love us is no great achievement. He also reminds us that doing a favor for someone while expecting something in return is not what he asks of us. Instead, we should emulate God by being compassionate and non-judgmental, even towards individuals who hate and mistreat us.

Sunday 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38, **Monday** Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29, **Tuesday** Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37, **Wednesday** Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40, **Thursday** Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50, **First Friday** Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12, **First Saturday** Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16

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 March 11th at 7:00 pm in room 101 of the school. Please call the rectory to enroll or if you have any other questions.

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, LCPL. Patrick DeBenedette, Airman Danny De La Esperia, 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, Sgt. Philip Schlegel.

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.

March 2nd & 3rd

<u>Altar Servers</u>	<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
5:00 pm A. & A. DeNino, C. Ocker	5:00 pm L. Bain, M. Gelosa, M. Long. C. Ocker	5:00 pm E. Shabet
7:00 am A. Rozanitis	7:00 am B. Carroll	7:00 am C. Ramancionis
8:00 am A. Zecena, B. & E. Hollinghurst	8:00 am C. Callahan, J. Mucerino, K. Holling hurst	8:00 am M. Dumapit
9:15 am J. Tran, A. To, C. Hilgendorff	9:15 am M. Cupo, P. Gatti, E. Haynes, C. To	9:15 am
10:45 am M. & M. Rankel, L. Taylor	10:45 am V. & R. Arcilla, Visit the sick: M. & M. D'Ambrosa	10:45 am K. Lucibello
12:15 pm The Imperati Family	12:15 pm W. Koeller, M. Pasuco, L. & R. Polanski	12:15 pm J. East

Reflections

This Sunday's Gospel has the most challenging teaching of Jesus. He is very clear and direct. If we would be his disciple, then we are to love our enemies, and bless those who mistreat us. In short, we are to treat others as we would like to be treated. We are to be compassionate, not judgmental; we are to forgive, not condemn. Jesus does not say that there are any exceptions. He urges us to be generous towards friends and enemies alike. WE like to rationalize why some should not be forgiven, why some do not deserve our help and compassion but Jesus does not give us any "out". Who do you pass judgment on or exclude from your charity? Pray for the grace to become a better disciple.

*Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Psalm 103.8*

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".

*

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

*

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

*

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.

*

St. Christopher is hosting the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion, to our Blessed Virgin Mary, every First Saturday of every month. Please join us on **March 2nd**, on 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.

*

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.

*

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.

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.

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.

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, dish-washing 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: **March 1st & 15th.**

Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:00 am. Date: **March 11th.** 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.

St. Christopher Women's Book Club Our next meeting will be March 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm in room 110. Refreshments will be served, and they are delicious!!

March book – "*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*" by *Mary Ann Shaffer*

April - Tuning in by *Richard Roberts.*

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.

St. Christopher prayer shawl ministry welcomes current and would be knit and crochet artists to join us. We meet every other Monday at 1:00 pm in the old principal's office of the school at St. Christopher. Supplies are provided. Work at home or with our group. Prayer shawls and lap robes are now available to be given to someone going through a difficult time. For more information call Karen Longo 973 267-3321 for more information.

Journey through Lent 2019

“Together in His footsteps”

I. Stations of the Cross

Every Friday night during Lent – 7:00 pm

II. Monday Evening Lent Series – 7:00 pm

-The Seven Last Words of Christ

a. March 11th – Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing (Lk 23:34)

b. March 18th – Jesus said to his Mother, “ woman, here is your Son,” then He said to the disciple, “ Here is your mother,” (John 19:28)

c. March 25th – I am thirsty (John 19:28)

d. April 1st – Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Lk 23:43)

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
(Mk 15:34)

e. April 8th– It is finished (John 19:30)

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit
(Lk 23:46)

III. Welcome Home Sacrament of Reconciliation –

Monday evenings during Lent at 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.

IV. Lenten Dinner & Movie - March 15th

Dinner 6:30 pm

Movie 7:00 pm (I am David)

V. Lenten Penance Service – April 10th at 7:00 pm

VI. Lenten Anointing Mass – April 13th at 11:00 am

Prayers of the day ...

Prayer for Courage

Dear God, give me courage, for perhaps I lack it more than anything else. I need courage before men against their threats and against their seductions. I need courage to bear unkindness, mockery, contradiction. I need courage to fight against the devil, against terrors and troubles, temptations, attractions, darkness and false lights, against tears, depression, and above all fear. I need Your help, dear God. Strengthen me with Your love and Your grace. Console me with Your blessed Presence and grant me the courage to persevere until I am with You forever in heaven.

Amen.

Christian Conversion

St. Ann Church invites you to join us for our Lenten Mission Sunday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m. Our presenter, Rev. Jared Brogan, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Mt. Lakes, will speak at all weekend masses giving us a sneak preview to Sunday night's program "Conversion: Called, Nourished, Sent." All are Welcome.

Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop..

Due to the death of our dear friend Bill Taylor (who ran the thrift shop along with his wife Pat), the thrift shop will be closed. It will be reopening in the future, as soon as we know an exact date we shall post it here.

Sacred Relics Of The Saints: Treasures Of The Church.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Rockaway, NJ, presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Tuesday March 12th at 7:00 pm. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with a very special Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St.

Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to **bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.**

St. Paul Inside the Walls...
For programs and events and to register
visit www.insidethewalls.org or call
(973) 377-1004.

The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents will be meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30PM in room 101. **Program: "Managing Stress During Grief"**. For more information please call Lily Capriglione at: 973-568-4164.

Come Pray with Us for the Unborn Children who are being lost through abortion. We also peacefully pray for all those harmed by the loss of these precious gifts – our children. **When: March 6th to April 13th, 7AM to 7PM.** Duration: Volunteers usually pray an hour (or more) a week. **Where: 196 Speedwell Ave, Morristown NJ, in front of Planned Parenthood.** Sign up by sending an email to 44lifeus@gmail.com or going to the 40 Days for Life website <https://40daysforlife.com>. If you have any questions, please call Frances Spilman at 973-627-1654.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The Samaritans of St. Ann Church invite you to their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at 781 Smith Road, Parsippany. Tickets will be sold after all Masses or at the church office on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tickets must be purchased in advance.** Cost: adults \$7 and children (up to 10 yrs.) \$3. Price of the meal includes pancakes, sausage, tea, coffee, juice and dessert. Call 973-884-1986.

FISH AND CHIPS DINNER

CATERED BY THE FAMOUS ARGYLE'S RESTAURANT, Kearny, NJ



WHEN: Friday, March 8, 2019

WHERE: Saint Christopher's All Purpose Room

TIME:

5:30pm-7:00pm **EAT-IN ONLY**

(No Seating until 5:30)

5:00pm-7:00pm **TAKE-OUT ONLY**

PRICE: Adult **\$18.00**/Senior Citizen **\$16.00**/Child **\$9.00** (*Children may choose Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Fingers, or Fish, all served with fries.*)

Come join us for a delicious dinner of fish and chips in the All Purpose Room, or, if you prefer, you can place an order for "take out". Either way, you will receive a generous portion of fresh fish, french fries, and cole slaw.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of dinners (please specify below):

\$18.00 (Adult) Fish _____

\$16.00 (Senior) Fish _____

\$9.00 (Child) Fish _____ Chicken _____ Mozz Stix _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Eat In: _____ Take Out (pick-up time): _____

Checks can be made payable to: Saint Christopher Church

Questions?? Feel free to contact the rectory at 973-539-7050 between 10am / 4pm daily or email Jean at jekev3@yahoo.com.



**** Please place order with payment in advance (payments no later than 12 noon on March 8th). Drop in Sunday Collection or mail to the rectory. Walk-ins are not guaranteed & will be at a higher price.****

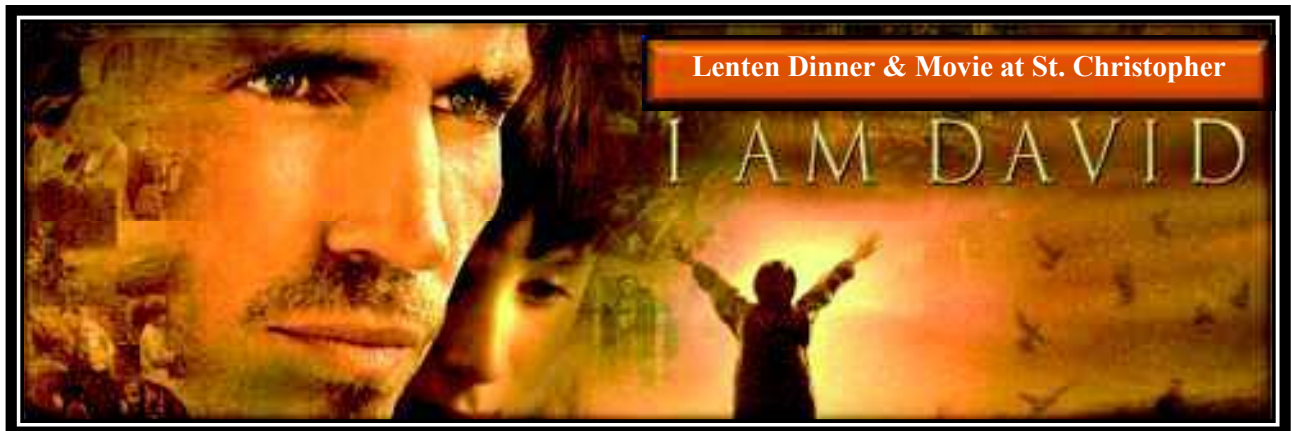
Lenten Dinner and Movie at St. Christopher

When: Thursday, Friday March 15th

Time: Dinner will be at 6:30 pm, Movie will begin promptly at 7:00 pm


Where: St. Christopher's All-Purpose Room

Come and enjoy a simple Lenten meal of tomato soup and bread and the wonderful movie:



David's entire twelve-year life has been spent in a grisly prison camp in Eastern Europe. He knows nothing of the outside world. But when he is given the chance to escape, he seizes it. With his vengeful enemies hot on his heels, David struggles to cope in this strange new world, where his only resources are a compass, a few crusts of bread, his two aching feet, and some vague advice to seek refuge in Denmark. Is that enough to survive?

David's extraordinary odyssey is dramatically chronicled in Anne Holm's classic about the meaning of freedom and the power of hope.



Come join us for the annual
Family Easter Egg Hunt at
St. Christopher
on Saturday, March 30th,
at 9:00 am in the
All-Purpose Room.

- 3 to 8 year old children
- Meet and take pictures with the Easter Bunny
 - Enjoy a short Easter film
 - There will be refreshments and snacks

St. Christopher's Family Theatre Sunday

Our annual theatre outing this year will take us to the Mayo performing Arts Center, where we will to see:



We have secured a number of seats for this delightful performance, which is based on the Emmy award winning PBS Kids Show Peg & Cat. This totally awesome musical features wild comedy, countless favorite songs from the show, and Peg's super coolest pal Ramone.

Date: April 7, 2019

Time: 4:30 pm (**Please be at theatre by 4:00 pm**)

Place: Mayo Performing Arts Center

100 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960

Price: \$12.00 per person

To purchase tickets and for more information call Eva at the rectory 973-539-7050 (Do not leave a message, speak to someone directly please).

We have 50 seats reserved, so please make sure you purchase your tickets early.





LIVING IN PRAYER AND JOY LENTEN RETREAT

Presenter: Sister Patricia Dotzauer, SC

Come let us journey together seeking the One who loves us unconditionally and invites us into ever deepening joy. Opening ourselves to God's grace in every moment of life is living in prayer and joy. This grace leads us to take delight in the presence of God and people in all the events of our lives.

This presence is the fruit of contemplative prayer.

Saturday, March 30, 2019

8 a.m. Mass in Holy Family Chapel (Optional)
Coffee at 8:45 a.m. – Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity
Retreat begins at 9:15 a.m. – Ends at 2:30 p.m.
Free will offering.

RSVP to mtracey@scnj.org by March 25, 2019