

From the Pastor's Desk - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 2019

Steps towards forgiveness

How do we forgive? How can we be set free from the power of our anger and not let ourselves become better persons?

To not forgive is like trying to get rid of a pesky rat by drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die. The rat will be just fine. We die.

As I see it, the three steps for forgiveness are:

- 1. We make an act of the will and choose it.*
- 2. We surrender it to God.*
- 3. We do steps one and two again and again.*

The reason Jesus said we must forgive 70 x 7 times is not necessarily because there are that many transgressions, but because we often feel anger again and again over the same wrong. Forgiveness is essential to our souls. The process is not easy, but it is the path to a meaningful and joy filled life. Forgiveness will truly set us free.

Merciful God, you call me to forgive, but you will not force me. You made me free. Help me surrender to your wisdom. Give me a heart like yours.

The 7:00 am daily Mass will resume on September 9, 2019.

Prayer of the Day

The Prayer, Christ Our Morning Star (by Bede the Venerable)

*O Christ, our Morning Star,
Splendor of Light Eternal,
shining with the glory of the rainbow,
come and waken us
from the greyness of our apathy,
and renew in us your gift of hope.*

Amen.

Weekly Collection

<i>First Collection</i>	<i>\$ 7,885.25</i>
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$ 2,166.00</i>
<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	<i>\$ 898.00</i>

Attendance: 604

Thank you for your generosity!

10th Annual Mega 50/50 Raffle

We are off to a great start with 388 participants already. We have collected \$11,640. The 3 winning numbers will be picked on Sunday, September 15th. Thank you for all who have joined this very important fundraiser.

Saturday, August 3rd

8:30 am Mary Ellen Gallagher
 5:00 pm Lisa Calabrese

Sunday, August 4th

7:00 am Joseph Garant & Ruben Dumapit
 8:00 am Brian Osterhaut
 Maurice & Frances Callahan
 9:15 am Juan Rojas
 10:45 am Henry Bansemmer
 12:15 pm Juan Sotomayor

Monday, August 5th

12:05 pm Frank Calabria

Tuesday, August 6th

12:05 pm Connie Walsh

Wednesday, August 7th

12:05 pm Msgr. Frank B. Ferraioli

Thursday, August 8th

12:05 pm Thomas Farrell

Friday, August 9th

12:05 pm Bill Taylor

Saturday, August 10th

8:30 am Ceferina Lascano
 5:00 pm Marion Gregory

Sunday, August 11th

7:00 am Kathleen Istok
 8:00 am Michael Bonomo
 9:15 am James Lott
 10:45 am Helen Skrok
 Lisa Calabrese
 12:15 pm Eleanor & Eugene Garzone
 Nicholas Parisi



*The Living Flame for the Sanctuary Light will in memory of:
John Mola
 for the month of August, 2019.*

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

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23

"Vanity of vanities." Sometimes we may work for wealth, wisdom and knowledge only to discover that it has been left for some one who did not toil for it. The offering of our work, fatigue and pain, if not for God, can also be a kind of vanity.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Paul urges us to seek what is good and from God, encouraging us to put our minds on the spiritual. He reminds us that, as Christians, we have died with Christ and are hidden with Christ until his glory is once again revealed. We are all one in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

On being requested to settle a question of inheritance, Jesus heeds us to beware of all covetousness because our life does not consist on the wealth of possessions. Through the lesson of a parable Jesus reinforces this teaching, explaining that those who store up the treasures of wealth and possessions are not the richest in God's eyes.

Sunday Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21, **Monday** Nm 11:4b-15; Mt 14:13-21, **Tuesday** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36, **Wednesday** Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Mt 15:21-28, **Thursday** Nm 20:1-13; Mt 16:13-23, **Friday** Dt 4:32-40; Mt 16:24-28, **Saturday** 2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26.

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 next meeting will be on **August 12th**, 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 welcome into our family of faith: **Anthony R. Long**, who received the sacrament of Baptism.

God of all goodness, look with love on those who wait for the safe return of their loved ones who serve in the armed forces of their country. In faith and hope, we turn to you for comfort. Grant that we may trust in your mercy and send an angel to sustain us as we await their safe return. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

1LT. Sean Arcilla, SPEC. 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.



August 10th & 11th

Altar Servers

5:00 pm A. & D. Guzzard
7:00 am I. & S. Lalo
8:00 am A. Mogan, J. Lance
9:15 am T. Wyka, L. Nolan
10:45 am J. Vadakkedam, L. Taylor
12:15 pm M., M., & J. Villanueva

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm S. Kobeszko, M. & J. Davies, S. DeMaio
7:00 am B. Carroll
8:00 am J. Mucerino, P. Gatti, L. Scangarella
9:15 am R. DiMaggio, L. & R. Polanski, B. Wyka
10:45 am J. & L. Schneidmuller
Visit the sick: C. Uy, L. Copeland
12:15 pm J. & B. East, M. Vitale, S. Capozzi

Lectors

5:00 pm C. Haney
7:00 am
8:00 am M. Appio
9:15 am K. Lucibello
10:45 am J. Cannaveno
12:15 pm J. Lucibello

Reflections

The Our Father is a prayer we say often that we seldom stop to think about what we are saying. Take some time to say this prayer slowly out loud and reflect on each phrase. You may want to focus on one phrase at a time and take several days to go through prayer. Notice what is asked for in the prayer: what is needed for today, forgiveness as we forgive others, and avoiding temptation. Reflect on what you need for the day. Consider how you have forgiven someone who has offended you - is this how you want to be forgiven? What are the temptations in your life? Do you take any active steps to avoid them?

**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; thy steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
-Psalm 138**

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.

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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 **September 7th**, 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.

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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: **To be advised.**

Bus trip to the Wind Creek Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:00 am. Date: **August 12th.** 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

Book Club is out for summer, enjoy the warm weather and happy reading :)

Summer reading list:

Summer book list: (read as many as you like)

Beach book selection – "Summer at Firefly Beach" by Jenny Hale.

Mystery book selection – "Once Gone" (A Riley Paige mystery) by Blake Pierce.

Nonfiction book selection – "Say Nothing: a true story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland" by Patrick Radden Keefe.

Fiction book selection – "My dear Hamilton : a novel of Eliza Hamilton" by Stephanie Dray.

We will resume in September! See you then!

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 Properi, who is the yoga instructor at

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.



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 –CWW will meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in room 101 at the school.

Online Giving

Sign up for Online Giving and stop using offering envelopes!

It is convenient, secure and eco-friendly. You will also be saving the parish the cost of printing and mailing your envelopes. You will not have to remember to write checks or stop by the ATM on Sunday. To start, log into www.osvonlinegiving.com to create your online account. Call the rectory and they can answer any questions you may have, they can even sign up for you. Thanking all the parishioners who are participating with online giving at this time.

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, August 8th, at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30PM in room 101. Program: "Sharing good deeds and good memories". For more information please call Lily Capriglione at: 973-568-4164.

"Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.' He replied to him, 'Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?' Then he said to the crowd, 'Take care to guard against all greed, for though a man may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.'"

Without being fully aware, it is easy to fall into the trap of greed or avarice. Like the tiny squirrel, we gather and collect, thinking we are in need, cannot do without, and even forget what we have accumulated. The gospel teaching is a gentle reminder. Consider all possessions as gift. I was not born with them and when the Lord calls me, they will be left behind. Our consumer society measures and praises what one possesses.

A good lesson for us is to look at the gift of health, of family, of service, as the riches I have. It is not what I have that counts, but what I do with the gifts I have been given. To see my children and grandchildren, their joy and accomplishments as treasures. Where my heart is, there is my treasure.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Saint of the Day



Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, known as John in English, was born May 8, 1786 in Dardilly, France and was baptized the same day. He was the fourth of six children born to Matthieu and Marie Vianney. John was raised in a Catholic home and the family often helped the poor and housed St. Benedict Joseph Labre when he made his pilgrimage to Rome. In 1790, when the anticlerical Terror phase of the French Revolution forced priests to work in secrecy or face execution, young Vianney believed the priests were heroes. He continued to believe in the bravery of priests and received his First Communion catechism instructions in private by two nuns who lost their convents to the Revolution. At 13-years-old, John made his first communion and prepared for his confirmation in secrecy. When he was 20-years-old, John was allowed to leave the family farm to learn at a "parish-school" in Écully. There he learned math, history, geography and Latin. As his education had been disrupted by the French Revolution, he struggled in his studies, particularly with Latin, but worked hard to learn. In 1802, the Catholic Church was reestablished in France and religious freedom and peace spread throughout the country. Unfortunately, in 1809, John was drafted into Napoleon Bonaparte's armies. He had been studying as an ecclesiastical student, which was a protected title and would normally have exempted him from military services, but Napoleon had withdrawn the exemption in some dioceses as he required more soldiers. Two days into his service, John fell ill and required hospitalization. As his troop continued, he stopped in at a church where he prayed. There he met a young man who volunteered to return him to his group, but instead led him deep into the mountains where military deserters met. John lived with them for one year and two months. He used the name Jerome Vincent and opened a school for the nearby village of Les Noes' children. John remained in Les Noes and hid when gendarmes came in search of deserters until 1810, when deserters were granted amnesty. Now free, John returned to Écully and resumed his ecclesiastic studies. He attended a minor seminary, Abbe Balley, in 1812 and was eventually ordained a deacon in June 1815. He joined his heroes as a priest August 12, 1815 in the Couvent des Minimés de Grenoble. His first Mass was celebrated the next day and he was appointed assistant to Balley in Écully. Three years later, when Balley passed away, Fr. John Vianney was appointed parish priest of the Ars parish. With help from Catherine Lassagne and Benedicta Lerdet, *La Providence*, a home for girls, was established in Ars. When he began his priestly duties, Fr. Vianney realized many were either ignorant or indifferent to religion as a result of the French Revolution. Many danced and drank on Sundays or worked in their fields. Fr. Vianney spent much time in confession and often delivered homilies against blasphemy and dancing. Finally, if parishioners did not give up dancing, he refused them absolution. He spent 11 to 12 hours each day working to reconcile people with God. In the summer months, he often worked 16-hour days and refused to retire. His fame spread until people began to travel to him in 1827. Within thirty years, it is said he received up to 20,000 pilgrims each year. He was deeply devoted to St. Philomena and erected a chapel and shrine in her honor. When he later became deathly ill but miraculously recovered, he attributed his health to St. Philomena's intercession. By 1853, Fr. Vianney had attempted to run away from Ars four times, each attempt with the intention of becoming a monk but decided after the final time that it was not to be. Six years later, he passed away and left behind a legacy of faith and was viewed as the champion of the poor. On October 3, 1873, Pope Pius IX proclaimed Fr. Vianney as "venerable" and on January 8, 1905 Pope Pius X beatified him. St. John Vianney was canonized on May 31, 1925. His feast day was declared August 9 but it was changed twice before it fell to August 4th. St. John Vianney would often say: "Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: If you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that."

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CHURCH

10TH ANNUAL MEGA 50/50 RAFFLE

\$30.00 PER SHARE

CASH DISTRIBUTED LAST YEAR \$7325.00

THREE (3) WINNERS

1ST WINNER – 25% OF GROSS PROCEEDS

2ND WINNER – 20% OF GROSS PROCEEDS

3RD WINNER – 5% OF GROSS PROCEEDS

Please join us for the drawing on September 15th @ 2:00 pm in the all-purpose room.
Refreshments will be served. Winners do not need to be present.

The entire profit from the 50/50 mega raffle will be used for a complete reconstruction
of the church stairs.

“NO SUBSTITUTION OF THE OFFERED PRIZES MAY BE MADE”

PLEASE PRINT WHEN FILLING OUT FORM

MEGA 50/50 TICKET # _____
(to be filled out by office)

SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH
number of shares _____

NJ LGCCC IDENTIFICATION #375-01-0914

MUNICIPAL #RL1546

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____



God Made the Universe

St. Christopher Church Vacation Bible School 2019

August 12th thru 16th
from 9:00 am to 11:30 am
CCD Office: 973-539-6208



God Promises a Savior

All children Pre-K 4 to 5th grade as of September 2019 are eligible to attend.

It is a week well spent learning about Jesus in a fun environment. It includes the life of Jesus for children, music, story time, arts and crafts, playtime and snacks.

Registration: One child \$50.00, two children \$65.00, three or more children \$75.00



Jesus the Savior is born

Please return registration forms by July 20, 2019 to:

**St. Christopher Parish
Vacation Bible School**
1050 Littleton Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054



Jesus the Savior is risen

Child's Name _____

Grade in September _____ Home Phone Number _____

Address _____

City & Zip-code _____



Jesus the Savior reigns

Emergency Contact Person & Number :

Allergies (Please list all including food allergies)

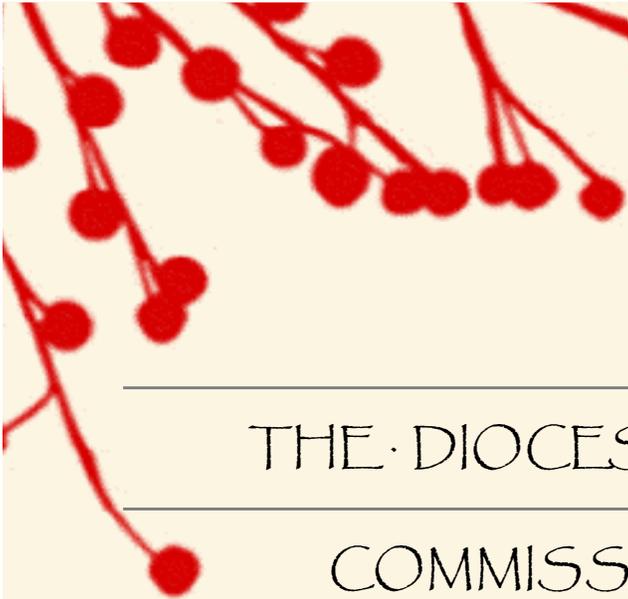
Parent Signature _____

I would like to volunteer to help out at VBS:

Adult _____ Student Gr. 7-12 _____



Jesus Saves the World



THE · DIOCESAN

COMMISSION

FOR · CATHOLIC

FILIPINO · MINISTRIES



Cordially Invite You to a Fundraising
Benefit Luncheon for
Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF)
and **Pontificio Collegio Filipino (PCF)**

Saturday, October 5, 2019
11:00 AM–2:30 PM

The Mansion at Mountain Lakes
90 US Highway 46,
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

Donation = \$100/person

For more details please contact:
Jeanette East at (973) 334-8766

Guest Speaker:
His Eminence

Luis Antonio Tagle, STD, DD
Cardinal, Archbishop of Manila

CBF is a fellowship of administratively distinct international and local organizations committed to Biblical-Pastoral ministry, created to carry out the recommendations of Vatican II Council regarding the Bible.

PCF is the “Home in Rome” of Filipino secular diocesan priests, carefully chosen and formally sent by their respective bishops to pursue further studies in the different ecclesiastical centers in Rome.