

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **Holiday Stamps**

A Madonna and Child stamp has been part of the U.S. Post Office's seasonal tradition since 1978. In more recent years, the Post Office has also added stamps commemorating Kwanza, Hanukah, and Muslim festivals, in addition to holiday motifs like snowmen, deer and evergreens to name a few.

The first religious stamp actually was issued in 1966, following the successful lobbying of a Catholic parishioner from Waterbury, Connecticut. At first the Post Office concentrated on Renaissance paintings for its stamp series. In 1944, a postal service advisory committee suggested replacing the Madonna and Child stamp with a Victorian-era angel. But public opinion convinced them to forgo that idea. In 2007, the Post Office printed about 700 million Madonna and Child Stamps. Canada is said to have issued the first Christmas stamp in 1898.

### *Weekly Collection*

First Collection	\$ 7,399.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,051.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,132.00

*Attendance: 667*

*Thank you for your generosity!*



### **First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

In this beautiful passage, a messianic prophecy, Isaiah exults in the coming of the Lord, who will bring justice and peace for all.

### **Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9**

Paul reveals to us the necessity of living in peace and harmony. His words "Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the Glory of God" are as needed today as they were in Paul's own time.

### **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptizer prepares the way for Jesus. Clothed in a garment of camel's hair, he baptizes the people in the Jordan River, but warns the Pharisees in ringing tones that they must give evidence that they mean to reform.

**Sunday** Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12, **Monday** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38, **Tuesday** Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14, **Wednesday** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30, **Thursday** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Lectionary for Mass (vol. IV), the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712, **Friday** Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19, **Saturday** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Saturday, December 7th**

8:30 am David Palmiere  
 5:00 pm Frank Jackiewicz  
 In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
 Joseph Calabrese - 3rd Anniversary

**Sunday, December 8th**

7:00 am Edric Martinez  
 8:00 am Clarence, Mini & Craig Hall  
 Sal Neglia  
 9:15 am Peter & Rose Policastro, Bella Ricci  
 Concetta Azzizo  
 10:45 am Matthew Genk  
 Joan Hoffman  
 12:15 pm Antoinette Armero  
 Jennie & Anthony Scanella  
 Jesus Couto

**Monday, December 9th Immaculate Conception**

7:00 am Loreto Reyes  
 12:05 pm Rudy & Diane Valian

**Tuesday, December 10th**

7:00 am Angelo Vassallo  
 Loreto Reyes  
 12:05 pm John Zimmer  
 Louise C. Kelly

**Wednesday, December 11th**

7:00 am The Connor Family  
 12:05 pm Msgr. Frank B. Ferrioli  
 Joseph Walsh

**Thursday, December 12th**

7:00 am Sr. Brigid Kelly, O.P.  
 12:05 pm Thekla & Otto Trauth

**Friday, December 13th**

7:00 am Dominic Cecere  
 12:05 pm Joan Hoffman

**Saturday, December 14th**

8:30 am Nicholas J. Terantino  
 5:00 pm Paul Gerber, Jr.  
 Frank E. & Margaret Potenza

**Sunday, December 15th**

7:00 am Senator Anthony Bucco  
 8:00 am Jack Gartenberg  
 9:15 am Robert Strechay  
 10:45 am Angela Maria Imbergamo  
 Ray & Elizabeth Honsinger  
 12:15 pm Peter & Rose Policastro  
 Christopher Garcia  
 Jesus Couto



*The Living Flame for the Sanctuary Light will in memory of:  
**Anita & Anthony Natoli**  
 for the month of December, 2019.*

*Please remember in your prayers those who recently entered into their new  
 and eternal life in Christ, **Josephine Foehner & Julius LaMantia.***

## December 14th & 15th

**Altar Servers**

5:00 pm A. DeNino,  
T. & A. Pactwa  
 7:00 am Lalo Family  
 8:00 am A. Valle,  
A. & D. Guzzardo  
 9:15 am C. Berardo,  
C. Hilgendorff, A. To  
 10:45 am G. Harris, L. Mosiello  
J. Vaddakkedam  
 12:15 pm M., M. & J. Villanueva

**Eucharistic Ministers**

5:00 pm M. Gelosa,  
B. & M. Pactwa, L. Asea  
 7:00 am B. Carroll  
 8:00 am P. Luther, J. Mucerino,  
K. Nolan  
 9:15 am C. To, K. & P. Berardo,  
C. Callahan  
 10:45 am S. & L. Richards  
 Visit the sick: C. Dillon,  
A. Malsbury  
 12:15 pm J. & L. Schneidmuller,  
M. Pasuco, J. Alfonso

**Lectors**

5:00 pm L. Pascale  
 7:00 am M. Dumapit  
 8:00 am J. Valle  
 9:15 am  
 10:45 am K. Longo  
 12:15 pm J. East

## **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 **December 9th**, 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, Adriana M. Fresolone & Jackson W. Heintzelman, who received the sacrament of Baptism.***

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*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.*

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### ***2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal - For I was hungry...***

*As the year comes to a fast end, and many are planning on how to make a final year end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishops Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission, and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year end Philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or online at [www.2019appeal.org](http://www.2019appeal.org). If you are 70 1/2 or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please call the Bishop's Annual Appeal office at 973-777-8818, ext. 218 for addition details and also consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.*

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*For generations, people have often believed that the good prosper and when bad things happen to someone it is because they are being punished for their sins. Yet the very life of Jesus contradicts this notion. Who was more kind, compassionate, or just? Things that happen in our lives are not judgements against or for us. They are simply the realities we must deal with. If we seek God's help we will have the graces we need to use all things, the positive and the negative, for good.*

- *Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*  
-Romans 12:2

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### **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](http://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.

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**St. Paul Inside the Walls...**

**For programs and events and to register, visit [www.insidethewalls.org](http://www.insidethewalls.org) or call (973) 377-1004.**

# 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: Pope Leo XIII.**

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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 **December 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.

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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.*



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, 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 6th & 20th.**

**Bus trip to the Wind Creek Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa.**

Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:00 am. Date: **January 13, 2020.** 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

Next book club meeting will be on Tuesday, **January 7, 2020.**

**New book selection: "Falling" a love story by Jane Green.**



Hope to see you all there, new members always welcome.

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## 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.

## 20 Week Club News

The 20 Week Club proceeds will go to purchasing new stain glass doors in front of the Church. We can only do this with your help. Right now we have 199 participants with a total of \$19,900.00 collected. Thank you to the parishioners who joined this special fundraiser.

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### PRIESTHOOD FOR MEN DISCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD -

First Saturday of the Month 9:00 am—12:00 pm at Domus Bartimaeus, House of Discernment 913 Birch Street, Boonton, NJ 07005. Mass, Adoration, Talk, Lunch.

DIOCESE OF PATERSON Rev. Edward Rama Vocation Director 973-777-8818 Ext. 715 Email: [Vocations@PatersonDiocese.org](mailto:Vocations@PatersonDiocese.org) Website: [PatersonDiocese.org](http://PatersonDiocese.org)

### PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

“The Harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest.” Please join us in prayer for Vocations by offering up a Holy Hour and Rosary once a week.

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**Gather family, friends, or co-workers and give a gift to the work of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. ([www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org)) USCSAHT is a 501© 3 organization. 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.**

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## 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.

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“Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the Scriptures...the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding. A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord...”

How special are the words of scripture helping us to really live the advent season. The promises and prophecies of the first testament direct our attention to the coming messiah and ask two things of us: patience and encouragement. These are gifts already packaged to be wrapped during this holy season. What are the gifts? Because of Jesus’ coming we refer to them as gifts of the Holy Spirit offered to us at our Confirmation.

During this week, unwrap each one, opening your heart to a different gift each day. May wisdom direct you, understanding guide you to see the need of the Savior, counsel in giving care and support for someone in need, strength to focus on what really matters and respect for the Lord who comes to save us. These are steps to be taken this second week of advent.

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly



# **Christmas Schedule 2019**

## **Penance Service**

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm

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## **Christmas Eve Masses**

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 12:00 am (Midnight Mass)

## **Christmas Day Masses**

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am,

12:15 pm

## **Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

New Year's Eve Mass - Vigil

5:00 pm

## **Mary the Mother of God**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

10:00 am



*St. Christopher's  
Giving Tree*

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

*The Giving Tree will go up the weekend of November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. The gifts will go to local parish families and individual children and adults that have been selected by Hope House, the Catholic Community Day Care, Friends Corner Day Care, Straight and Narrow and inner-city Parishes.*

***Please take a tag and return the tag with the unwrapped gift on the weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>***

*If you would like to give the usual gifts listed below, we will be glad to accept those also, they will be distributed by Catholic Charities. Children and Adults are invited to bring a new, unwrapped gift to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Children are encouraged to earn the money and help in selection of the gift. The gifts may be placed on or around the Christmas tree before the beginning of Mass.*

*Items needed include: socks, mittens, wrist watches, pajamas, coloring books, crayons, magic markers, puzzles, cd's, mp3 players (inexpensive), games, new toys, adult & child toiletries, scarves, hats, sweaters, sweatshirts.*

*2x and 3x sizes are always needed.*

*Thank you in advance for your generosity, especially in these hard times.*

**SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH      20-WEEK CLUB      MAINTENANCE & REPAIR FUND 2020**

Raffle License #RL1578  
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 2020</u>		<u>February 2020</u>		<u>March 2020</u>		<u>April 2020</u>		<u>May 2020</u>	
1/4	\$150	2/1	\$200	3/7	<b>\$500/\$500</b>	4/4	\$350	5/2	\$375
1/11	\$150	2/8	\$200	3/14	\$300	4/11	\$350	5/9	\$400
1/18	\$175	2/15	\$200	3/21	\$300	4/18	\$375	5/16	<b>\$1000</b>
1/25	\$175	2/22	\$250	3/28	\$300	4/25	<b>\$400, \$400</b>		<b>\$1000</b>
		2/29	\$250						<b>\$1000</b>

- 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 4, 2020. 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 3, 2020.

20-week club# \_\_\_\_\_  
Raffle License #RL1578  
ID #375-01-0914

Saint Christopher Church  
Calendar Raffle – 20-week club  
January, February, March, April, May 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

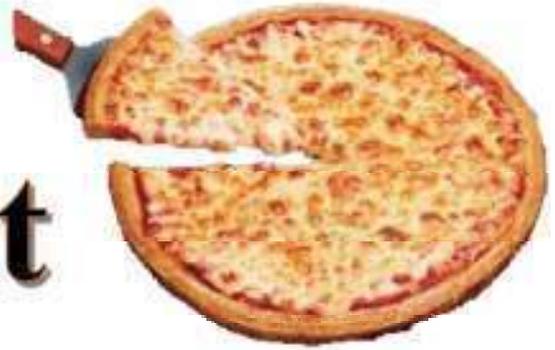
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 payment in full

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 partial payment

\_\_\_\_\_ number of raffles purchased

# Pizza Night



# with Bishop

**For young men in high school or college, or older.**

**Monday, February 3, 2020**

**DePaul H. S. in Wayne**

**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

**Pope St. John XXIII H.S. in Sparta**

**7 to 9 PM**

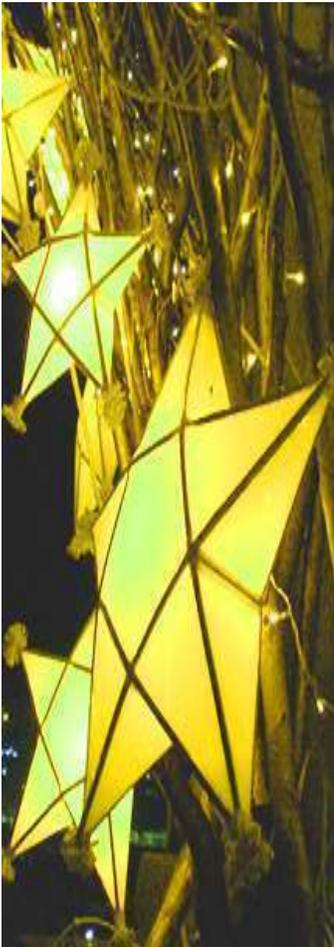
**Come join Bishop Serratelli and priests from the Diocese of Paterson for adoration, reflection, fellowship...and of course, pizza.**

For more information, please contact the Vocation Office  
at 973-777-8818 ext 715



# *Simbang Gabi*

*A Filipino tradition of a  
nine-day novena of Masses during Advent  
(December 15 - 23, 2019) 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 19, 2019**

**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**

**Refreshment immediately follows Mass.  
For more information please contact  
Jeanette East, 973-334-8766 or  
eastjeanette1946@gmail.com**