

From the Pastor's Desk

Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:17)

Jesus might ask each of us the same thing "What did you go to the Mass to see?" Did you go to be strengthened by the Eucharist, to hear the Good News? Or did you go out of obligation or habit, because it's what you're supposed to do? Or maybe you weren't expecting anything at all. Today, let's ask ourselves, what do we go to see at Mass? What does this sacrifice, memorial, and celebration mean for us? Incidentally, there's a lot to see at Mass today. Look for the rose color everywhere.

Light or color the third (rose colored) candle of your Advent Wreath. Today is Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete means rejoice.

Weekly Collection

First Collection	\$ 8,269.07
Online Giving	\$ 1,066.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 2,252.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 687.00



Attendance: 764

Thank you for your generosity!

Advent Anointing Mass will take place on Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 11:00 am.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

Sunday Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11, **Monday** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a, Mt 21:23-27, **Tuesday** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17, **Wednesday** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25, **Thursday** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25, **Friday** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38, **Saturday** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45.

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 Honsinger
 12:15 pm Peter & Rose Policastro
 Christopher Garcia
 Jesus Couto

Monday, December 16th

7:00 am Loreto Reyes
 12:05 pm Edward P. McMillan

Tuesday, December 17th

7:00 am James L. Leonard
 12:05 pm Joan Hoffman

Wednesday, December 18th

7:00 am Healing Mass for Joan Antonelli
 12:05 pm Elizabeth Honsinger
 Venancio Lascano

Thursday, December 19th

7:00 am Galdys Justo Parkes
 12:05 pm Joan Hoffman
 Ruth Mahoney
 Petra Orani

Friday, December 20th

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
 12:05 pm Joan Hoffman

Saturday, December 21st

8:30 am Joan Hoffman
 11:00 am *Advent Anointing Mass*
 5:00 pm Anne & Michael Bevilacqua
 Rose & Mike Egan
 Carol Carifi

Sunday, December 22nd

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
 8:00 am Charles Ehrenfeld
 9:15 am Thomas Arita, Sr. & Thomas Arita, Jr.
 10:45 am Mimi Letts
 Rosauro & Concepcion Ragos
 12:15 pm Peter Marotte
 Jesus Couto
 Maria Jarzebiak



*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.*

December 21st & 22nd

Altar Servers

5:00 pm D. Lipuma
 B. & B. Davies
 7:00 am A. Rozanitis
 8:00 am A. & D. Guzzardo
 CJ. Hilgendorff
 9:15 am J. Tran, R. & E. Marsh
 10:45 am L. Taylor
 E. & B. Hollinghurst
 12:15 pm T. Wyka, A. Justus
 N. Hardy

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm M. & J. Davies
 L. & M. Sostak
 7:00 am B. Carroll
 8:00 am S. Hilgendorff
 D. & S. Kaschalk
 9:15 am P. Gatti, R. DiMaggio
 S. Marsh, C. Metcalf
 10:45 am S. & L. Richards
 Visit the sick: M. & M. D'Ambrosa
 12:15 pm S. DeMaio, C. Ocker
 R. Vento, B. Wyka

Lectors

5:00 pm E. Montefusco
 7:00 am M. Appio
 8:00 am C. Haney
 9:15 am
 10:45 am A. Bilotti
 12:15 pm M. Reyes

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 **January 13th**, 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.

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.

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. 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.

Prayer is the key to a fruitful spirit. In prayer we open ourselves to the insights and inspiration of the Spirit. Everyday we are bombarded with messages (not just from marketing ads but from people and events in our lives) and it can be confusing and overwhelming. Taking a little time to step aside and reflect. It can help to calm the chaos within us and allow us to sift the wheat from the chaff so that we can hold on to what is good.

**Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks.
-1 Thessalonians 5:16*

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.

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-Can 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 4th**, 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 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.

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 209 participants with a total of \$20,900.00 collected. Thank you to the parishioners who joined this special fundraiser.

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 Website: 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.

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

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.

REUNION OF HEARTS support group for families dealing with issues of estrangement. Tuesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Jan 9th - Mar. 12th at St Thomas Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Rd. Oak Ridge, NJ. To register or for more info, call or text Janet @ 201-213-8499; email Janet@PfeifferPowerSeminars.com.

“Be patient my brothers until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. He looks forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and spring rains. You too must be patient. Ready your hearts because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

We have met the prophet Isaiah, listened to the announcement of John the Baptist and joined with Mary as the third figure of advent. All have reminded us to prepare, ready our hearts, and reflect on what the coming of the Savior means for us today. A restless world pays little attention to the need for and presence of a Savior. Many good people pay only lip service to the Bethlehem birth as a fond memory. Hurting people are looking for the presence and mercy of Jesus, which we are able to bring, but somehow, we forget our role. We do not seek a blown reed, someone luxuriously dressed, but a prophet calling us to make the Lord's presence known and felt.

Let's use the example given to us by James. The stores and florists are filled with poinsettias, bright reds, whites and some hybrids. The farmer must prune, water, and then cover them for specific hours to have them bloom at the proper moment. When you see a plant, remember the patient care of the farmer preparing, and then prepare yourself.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER— Third Week of Advent Candle Lighting

To honor the third week of Advent, this week, our students will light the pink candle of our Advent wreath. This candle represents *joy* - - the joy that Jesus is almost here. When parents get ready to bring a new baby home, they typically prepare the baby's room and furnishings with great anticipation. They do this out of joy for to baby's arrival. In the same way, the priest wears pink, and we light a pink candle to represent the joy we feel to welcome Jesus in Christmas. Each day, following morning prayers, our students share their joy as they sing a religious Christmas song, preparing for the Christ child's arrival in their hearts and minds.

We are so very blessed, each day, to be able to celebrate the true meaning of the beautiful Advent Season. We are grateful to our Parsippany parishes for their spiritual guidance, presence and leadership in the life of our school. Please contact our school office at 973-334-4704 for more information about your child's faith-based education at All Saints Academy.

Christmas Schedule 2019

Penance Service

Wednesday, December 18th

7:00 pm

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Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24th

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

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25th

7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am,
12:15 pm

Tuesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve Mass - Vigil

5:00 pm

Mary the Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

10:00 am

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	\$500/\$500	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	\$1000
1/25	\$175	2/22	\$250	3/28	\$300	4/25	\$400, \$400		\$1000
		2/29	\$250						\$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 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 _____

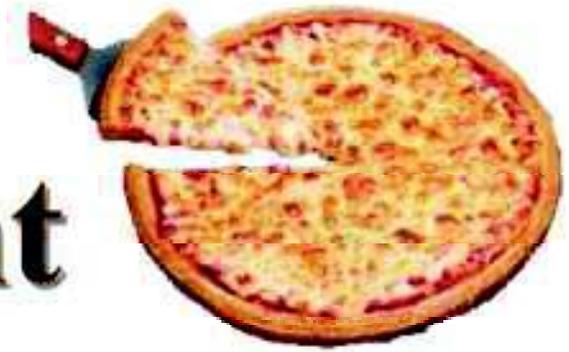
Phone Number _____

_____ \$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**