

Saint Christopher
("Who Bears Christ")
Martyr.

Feast Day: July 25

Patron Saint: Travelers, Children, Bus Drivers, Bachelors, Motorists, Truck Drivers, Hazards of Traveling

Saint Christopher is one of the most popular Catholic Christian heroes of the Faith. He is a saint, indeed listed as a martyr. He may have also been named Reprobus. He apparently died under the Roman Emperor Decius, in 251 AD. Most Catholics refer to him as Saint Christopher anyway, and his medals and the popular devotions to him are among the most common in Catholic piety.

Other than his listing as a martyr, there are no primary sources referring to St. Christopher, only stories and traditions which have been passed down.

According to these accounts, St. Christopher was extremely tall, and by some accounts he was even a giant! He was surely a man of significant physical stature. But, more importantly, he was a spiritual giant and a sure model and inspiration for the Christian faithful.

Christopher decided one day that he wanted to serve the greatest king he could. He presented himself before his local ruler and entered service, until he noticed the king cross himself at the mention of the devil, revealing that the king believed the Devil to have more power.

St. Christopher then decided to serve the Devil. During his search, he encountered a band of thieves, whose leader referred to himself as the Devil. But when this leader avoided a Christian cross out of fear, St. Christopher learned there was someone even more powerful than the Devil.

St. Christopher found a hermit who taught him all about Christ, the King of Kings. The hermit suggested that he spend his life in prayer and fasting, a thing which St. Christopher, a large and probably often hungry man found difficult, he objected.

The hermit suggested he then find something else that would please Christ. St. Christopher offered to work at a nearby river, and help travelers across. The fording was dangerous and many with less strength people had drowned. The hermit advised St. Christopher this would please Christ.



One day, a child approached St. Christopher by the river and asked to be helped across. St. Christopher obliged. However, as he entered midstream, the river rose and the child's weight grew and became extremely heavy. It was only by great exertion that St. Christopher safely delivered the child to the other side.

When St. Christopher asked the child why he was so heavy, the child explained that He was the Christ and when St. Christopher carried Him, he also carried the weight of the whole world on his shoulders. The child then vanished.

Other legends state that St. Christopher traveled after this experience and evangelized thousands of people. Arriving in Lycia in Asia Minor, and witnessing to Christians there who were being martyred. At that time, St. Christopher was detained and ordered to offer a sacrifice to the emperor. When he refused, it was decided to attempt to persuade him with money and women. Two women were sent to seduce him, but instead he converted them to Christianity.

After this, it was decided to have him killed, but various attempts to assassinate him failed. Eventually, he was arrested and beheaded.

The name "Christopher" means Christ-bearer, and may allude to the legend of the man carrying the Christ Child across the river. Saint Christopher also did not become popularized in the Church until the 7th century, about three centuries after his supposed death. We know of his popularity because around the 7th century, churches and monasteries began to be named after him.

St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers and of children. His feast day is July 25. Because he is not officially recognized by the Church, he has no date of beatification or canonization. Despite these technicalities, it is widely thought that he was real and that he continues to intercede on behalf of Christians, especially children, today.

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=36



How to Pray His Chaplet (Auto Chaplet of St. Christopher)

Opening Prayer on the Medal:

Grant me, O Lord, a steady hand and watchful eye. That no one shall be hurt as I pass by. Thou gavest life. I pray no act of mine may take away or mar that gift of thine. Shelter those, dear Lord, who bear me company from the evils of fire and all calamity. Teach me to use my car for others need; nor miss through love of undue speed the beauty of the world—that thus I may with joy and courtesy go on my way. St. Christopher, holy patron of travelers, protect me and lead me safely to my destiny. Amen.

On the next three beads, recite an Our Father Prayer, followed by:

St. Christopher, patron of travelers, pray for me.

On the next twelve beads, recite a Hail Mary Prayer, followed by:

St. Christopher, lead me safely along pathways of life until I reach the Kingdom of Heaven.

Closing Prayer on the Centerpiece or Medal:

Dear St. Christopher, you have inherited a beautiful name, Christ bearer, as a result of a wonderful tradition that while carrying people across a raging stream you also carried the child Jesus. Teach us to be true Christ bearers to those who do not know Him. Since you have been chosen to be the Patron Saint of all travelers and in particular those who travel in automobiles, we humbly implore your powerful intercession for the blessing of safe journeys. Protect all drivers who often transport those who bear Christ within them. Intercede for us to Jesus and guard us with your prayers. May we travel safely the highways on earth and carefully follow the pathways of life until we reach our goal in heaven. May we then join you and all the Saints in praising God forever and ever. Amen.

<https://www.heavenlydivinecustomrosary.com/how-to-pray-the-saint-christopher-auto-chaplet.html>