



St. Christopher Parish

January 14, 2018

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Christopher Church

Fr. Richard Kelley, Pastor

Rev. Thien Nguyen,

Vietnamese Ministry

62 Manchester St.

Nashua, New Hampshire 03064

(603) 882-0632

parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org

www.stchrisparishnh.org

St. Christopher School

Mrs. Cindy Clarke, Principal

Grades PreK - 6

20 Cushing Ave.

Nashua, New Hampshire 03064

(603) 882-7442

(603)594-9253 fax

www.stchrischoolnh.org

Worship Schedule

Morning Prayer	7:00 AM Weekdays
Daily Mass	7:15 AM Weekdays
Saturday Vigil	4:00 PM
Sunday Mass	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Vietnamese Mass	3:00 PM Sunday
Confessions	3:00-3:30 PM Saturday
Rosary	7:00 PM Tuesday
Eucharistic Adoration	1:00-4:00 PM
	1st Friday of the Month
	September - June

Welcome New Parishioners! If you would like to register or you have changed your address, please fill out the form on page 5. Those moving from the parish are also asked to contact the rectory. Thank you!

Just before our first reading it says that "the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions." (1Sam 3:1) I imagine most people today would think that was true. Haven't you ever wished you lived in biblical times, to see some of the miracles you read about? Wouldn't it be cool to hear the LORD speaking in a vision? Do you think God has stopped talking? People apparently felt that way in Samuel's time. Let's look at the reading to see what Samuel's experience can teach us.

At first Samuel thinks it is Eli calling him. It is not unusual for people to miss a sign from God. If you have a talent that you are proud of, perhaps it is a sign that God wants you to use that talent to help others. Or if a friend tells you she is concerned about your health, it could be God's way of telling you to get help. Try to see God speaking in whatever happens to you and you may hear a lot more than you think.

Samuel also gets help from Eli. Eli began to recognize that the LORD was speaking to Samuel. Sometimes we need help discerning what the Lord is telling us. A good spiritual director can lead you to understand what God is saying to you. Your pastor may be able to do that, or at least able to refer you to someone.

Warning: A spiritual director will probably ask how often you pray. In our reading Samuel finally speaks directly to God, instead of going back to Eli. Then God tells him what God's plan was. So if you wonder what God plans for your life, try spending more time in prayer with him. I bet we have all had times where we didn't know if we are doing God's will because we didn't take time to pray. But don't do all the talking. Give God some quiet time to hear his response. For God hasn't stopped talking; we just stopped listening.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Our Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all of the people and programs of St. Christopher Parish. Unite us as a community of believers and grant us the wisdom, grace, and strength to do your will. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

Our Mission

We are a Roman Catholic parish whose members live and proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

St. Christopher Church serves as a spiritual home where all are welcome to share in its ongoing commitment to providing opportunities for

- Worship through the celebration of the Sacraments,
- Service through active and compassionate participation in the community,
- Education in God's Word and the Catholic faith, and
- Fellowship through parish events that nurture and support family life.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 13

4:00 PM David A. Rock II, 1st Anniv.
by Mr. & Mrs. Jay Coffey
& Family

Sunday, January 14

8:00 AM Pearl Oliver
by Her Daughter, Sandra
10:00 AM Thomas F. Koitzsch
by His Wife, Dorothy
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, January 15

7:15 AM Rebecca Lamont,
16th Anniversary
by Elizabeth Cote

Tuesday, January 16

7:15 AM For Parish Intentions

Wednesday, January 17

7:15 AM Deceased members of the
Mattheew Ennis Family
by Caroline & Kathy

Thursday, January 18

7:15 AM Audrey Loughane
by Family & Friends

Friday, January 19

7:15 AM David & Ellen Mack
by James & Mary Mack

Saturday, January 20

4:00 PM Robert Dupuis
by Peter & Jane Cadwell

Sunday, January 21

8:00 AM Denise Patnaude
by Dan & Sue Tracy
10:00 AM Ronald Paul Stephen
by Susan Bullock & Family
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Henry & Rebecca Lamont
by Elizabeth Cote

Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread and Wine, which will become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during January, will be offered for Parish Intentions.

Arrangements can be made to donate the monthly Altar bread and wine in honor of a loved one by contacting the rectory at 882-0632 during business hours. Mass intentions can also be scheduled by calling the rectory.



THANK YOU - During the recent freezing cold weather plus the snow storms, there has been one person who has been here continually in order to make sure that the property is shoveled, clear, and safe. That one person is our Maintenance man – John Levesque. Thank you John for all that you do here at Saint Christopher Parish and School.

MARCH FOR LIFE - The annual March for Life in Washington, DC will take place this coming Friday, January 19th. I have participated in these marches 17 times in the past. They have been fabulous experiences. By participating in them over these many years, they have deepened my faith and they have helped to make me more committed to the cause of life. I have met many remarkable people. I have no regrets at all and I thank the Lord that I have been able to participate.

At this stage in my life, I realize that I can no longer participate due to the physical demand that it entails. By attending, I would probably hinder and slow down the participation of the younger people and I will simply not do that. There comes a time when we simply have to step back and let other people step up. My prayers and support will continue for all of those people who participate in the March for Life.

The various events of the March for Life in Washington, DC will be televised on EWTN. You can watch the Opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception beginning at 5:30 PM on Thursday evening, January 18th. The March itself on the 19th will be televised as well.

Locally, I would encourage you to participate in the following:

- New Hampshire Mass for Life - Friday, January 19th at noon at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester.

- **Holy Hour for Life** - Friday evening, January 19th at 7:00 PM here at Saint Christopher Church.

Please come and participate as we strive to do our part for the cause of life.

SEMINARIAN COLLECTION - The annual collection for the seminarians of our diocese will take place next weekend, January 20-21. Please be as generous as possible. I will have more information about our seminarians in next week's edition of the bulletin.

PRAYERS - Please remember in your prayers, Alice Monahan of Lowell, Massachusetts. For many years she was a participant in our Special Friends program. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord!

PASTORAL COUNCIL - will meet on Tuesday evening, January 16th at 6:30 PM in the Pennell Center.

For Your Calendar: Upcoming Parish Events

February 2 -- Eucharistic Adoration, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, with the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 PM. All are welcome.

February 3 and 4 -- Blessing of the Throats, in honor of St. Blaise, after all weekend Masses.

February 10 and 11 -- World Marriage Weekend, with Father Kelley renewing marriage vows after all weekend Masses.

February 14 -- Ash Wednesday, with ashes distributed at 7:15 AM, 9:15 AM, and 7:00 PM Masses.

February 16 and 23 and March 2, 9, 16, and 23, -- Knights of Columbus Fish Dinners in the parish hall.

February 19 -- Parish Office will be closed for the holiday.

St. Christopher School Open Houses in January

*Sunday, January 28
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM*

*Tuesday, January 30
9:30 - 11:00 AM*

Interested in a St. Christopher School education for your child or grandchild? Stop by our January Open Houses for prospective students and their families! The first will take place on Sunday, January 28 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, immediately following school/parish Coffee Hour! A second Open House will be held during Catholic Schools Week on Tuesday, January 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Meet the teachers and staff, tour the school and get all your questions answered!

Parents of PreKindergarten to grade 6 students will appreciate the emphasis on outstanding academics built on a strong Catholic moral and spiritual foundation. Classrooms and school facilities are light and bright and feature the latest in educational technology. Service and extracurricular opportunities are an integral part of a St. Chris education and parents (and grandparents!) are always welcome.

For more information, visit the school's website at www.StChrisSchoolNH.org.

Corpus Christi Corner

Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance, located at 43 Franklin Street, will soon be moving to their new location at 3 Crown Street, the former Infant Jesus Convent. The last full day of services at the Franklin Street address was Thursday, January 4th. The pantry will open at the Crown Street location on Monday, January 22nd. Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance is forever grateful to everyone for their generosity and donations which enable us to help those in need of our services in the Nashua community. For more information about Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance, please go to our website: corpuschristifoodpantry.org.

Your St Vincent de Paul Society

The purpose of this group is to assist those in need of temporary help.

Perhaps someone has been laid off, and cannot afford an expensive medicine that is needed. Maybe with our recent exceptionally cold weather, you cannot pay your entire fuel bill. These are just a couple of examples.

If you, or someone you know is in need, please call the rectory at 882-0632 and ask to be in touch with a member of this group, to see if we can help. Your business will remain confidential.

God bless you.

Christmas Flower Donations

Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Nguyen and Joseph Hoang for your donations.

This Week's Parish Activities

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Confessions @3:00pm
Vigil Mass @4:00pm

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Sunday Mass @8:00am
Sunday Mass @10:00am
Carmelite Meeting @12:00pm
Vietnamese Mass @3:00pm
Youth Group Meeting @6:00pm

Monday, January 15, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass
Senior Yoga @8:00am

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass
Rosary @7:00pm

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass

Thursday, January 18, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass
Boy Scout #773 @7:00pm

Friday, January 19, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Confessions @3:00pm
Vigil Mass @4:00pm

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Sunday Mass @8:00am
Sunday Mass @10:00am
Vietnamese Mass @3:00pm
Youth Group Meeting @6:00pm
St. Vincent de Paul Society Monthly Meeting @7:00pm

We're Here for YOU at St. Christopher Parish!

Rectory Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00

Rectory Phone:

882-0632

Email:

parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org

Parish Life - Linda Sanborn

lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org

Bookkeeper - Jean Dickson

bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org

Director of Music & Organist -

Carol Ann Skabo

music@stchrisparishnh.org

Religious Educ. - Christine Mercurio

cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org

Confirmation - Deacon Jim Daly

deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org

RCIA - Joe Mercurio

rcia@stchrisparishnh.org

Youth Ministry - Emily Murphy

youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org

Parish Council - Elizabeth Cote

ecote@stchrisparishnh.org

Finance Committee -- Tom Nardone

tnardone.work@gmail.com

Bulletin - Marta Nissen

bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org

Bulletin submissions are due one week before publication.



**Like St. Chris Parish
on Facebook!**



**Join our Parish
Email List!**



January 7, 2018 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$3,318.91
Loose Offertory	\$614.01
Children's Offertory	\$0.00
Faith Direct	\$1,149.00
Total	\$5,091.92
Under Budget	\$1,018.00
Retirement Religious (total to date \$1,970.52)	\$28.00
Christmas Offertory (total to date \$26,746.22)	\$1,050.00
Soleminity of Mary (total to date \$726.00)	\$135.00
Fuel Collection (total to date \$2,520.00)	\$461.00
Immaculate Conception (total to date \$437.00)	\$25.00

**Thank you
for supporting
your Spiritual Home!**

Religious Education News

Sunday Morning Class 8:30-9:45 AM

- January 14** - NO Class, MLK Day
- January 21** - Regular class
- January 28** - Regular class

Monday Evening Jr High Class 6:30-7:45 PM

- January 15** - NO Class, MLK Day
- January 22** - Regular class
- January 29** - Regular class

First Eucharist Class

Students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in December will begin their studies for First Communion this spring! Our parent meeting will be held on January 28th at 5:30 PM in the Church Hall. Class texts and materials will be handed out, and signup sheets for First Communion dates will be available. Contact Christine Mercurio at cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org for more information.

Restored Order of the Sacraments is coming FALL 2018!

The Diocese of Manchester is launching an initiative to strengthen faith formation in our parishes and schools. It is called "Restore, Renew, Proclaim the Hope that is Christ."

The goal of this initiative is to make lifelong faith formation a priority and a reality in all our parishes.

To accomplish this, the diocese is looking to strengthen both youth ministry and adult faith formation, as well as a new look to all the sacramental programs. At the heart of this process is a desire on the part of both the diocese and our parish to form disciples of all ages.

So... What does this mean here at St Christopher? The ages for receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist will begin changing in the Fall of 2018 with a three year plan to transition the new "restored order" into our parish education offerings. The age for First Reconciliation will remain at second grade, while the age for Confirmation and First Eucharist will transition to the third grade. Students will receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist in one celebration in the spring of their third grade year.

These changes will be phased in gradually over a three year period. Parish families with youth who have already received First Eucharist will be scheduled to attend Confirmation classes over the three year period. Please be patient as we gather information and class size numbers so that everyone has our most up to date information. Stay tuned for more information over the next several weeks. Please contact Christine Mercurio at cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org, Fr. Kelley at fr.kelley@stchrisparishnh.org, or Deacon Jim Daley at deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org with any additional questions.



**Nashua's
Diocesan Catholic Schools**

www.NashuaDiocesanSchools.org

St. Christopher School
Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 6
882-7442
www.stchrisschoolnh.org

Infant Jesus School
Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 6
889-2649
www.ijsschool.org

Nashua Catholic Regional
Junior High School
Grades 7 & 8
882-7011
www.ncrjhs.org

Winter Weather Worries

Winter weather is here and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. But parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating costs and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Check out our simple, safe and secure online Faith Direct giving program at www.faithdirect.net. Sign in using our parish code NH10. Currently 46 families are giving online. We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget.

JESUS aCROSS the Border

January 19

**St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in Lowell, MA
7:30 PM - 11 PM**

Join JESUS aCROSS the Border, the umbrella organization uniting 17 young adult Catholic groups, at their next monthly event! The evening begins at 7:30 PM with Eucharistic Adoration and Praise & Worship led by Brandon Fitts of LIFT Ministries. Fr. Richard Clancy will be the main Mass celebrant at 9:00 PM followed by a pizza networking social. Please email Billy Beauchesne at JESUSaCROSStheBorder@gmail.com or visit our Facebook Page at [facebook.com/JESUSaCROSStheBorder](https://www.facebook.com/JESUSaCROSStheBorder) for more information.

Yoga for Seniors on Monday!

Have you thought about becoming a little more active to improve your overall health? Consider joining the St. Christopher Yoga for Seniors class on Monday mornings at 8:00 am in the Church Hall. Yoga for Seniors is a class that moves the whole body through a series of seated and standing yoga poses to increase flexibility and range of motion, improve balance and core strength, and help promote stress reduction and mental clarity. Classes are provided free of charge to St. Christopher's seniors. Please regularly check the bulletin or the www.stchrisparishnh.org web site for the up-to-date schedule. If school is cancelled or delayed due to weather, there will not be a class that day.

Upcoming class schedule:

January 15 – Yoga Class 8:00 am
 January 22 – Yoga Class 8:00 am
 January 29 – NO CLASS
 February 5 – NO CLASS

Youth Group News

This Week: Come join us for a movie night! We'll be watching and discussing Tomorrowland, about a futuristic conflict in a mysterious time and place. Pizza and popcorn will be provided. Mark your calendars for the Pennell Center, Sunday, January 14th, from 5:00 -8:00 PM. Hope to see you there! For any questions, email Emily Murphy at youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org.

Steubenville East - Are you searching for more in your life than the monotony of high school? Why not look for it in Jesus? Join thousands of other teens who are searching for just the same thing at an electrifying weekend called Steubenville East. Experience engaging speakers, the power of God in adoration, and the joy of the Gospel in song. Come to an informational meeting on January 21st at 6:30 PM in the Pennell Center for more information, or contact Emily Murphy at youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org. Also be sure to grab a flyer from the alcove!



From the Families of Nazareth

Speak - Lord - For Your Servant Is Listening

"Listening intently to the Word of God will cause you to meditate on the words, which will be engraved deeply into your heart."

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, 3rd. ed. (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2012), 216.

Join our regular Thursday night schedule of meetings at 94 Walden Pond Dr., Nashua to pray and share together our experiences of God's love, and support our responses to that. We begin at 7:00 PM, and look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend.

Diocesan Camps Accepting Applications

Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2018 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes Region of NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children, ages 6-15. To request a brochure contact Michael Drumm at 603-364-5851 or e-mail mdrumm@bfcamp.com, or visit us on the web at www.bfcamp.com. Please don't wait as sessions fill up quickly.

Holy Family Academy Open House

Holy Family Academy is holding an Open House on Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM for prospective students, parents, and anyone interested in learning about the Academy. Holy Family Academy is an affordable Catholic school teaching grades 7-12 in the classical tradition. Holy Family is located at 281 Cartier Street Manchester, NH 03102.

For more information, please visit the website at www.holyfamilyacademy.org or call 644-7247.

Low Gluten Hosts Available

Low gluten hosts are available at any mass for those who cannot eat wheat. To receive a low gluten host during communion, please arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass, come to the Sacristy and tell Fr. Kelley of your need for the low gluten host.



*Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
 Protect them as they protect us.
 Bless them and their families,
 For the selfless acts they perform,
 For us in our time of need.
 And give us peace.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 Our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

Please pray for the following service people from our parish:

Children of William & Yvette

Berthelotte:

Maj. Brian Berthelotte (Army);
 Maj. Mark Berthelotte (Air Force);
 LCDR Brad Berthelotte (Navy)

Grandson of William & Yvette

Berthelotte:

PFC Matthew Berthelotte
 (Marine)

Son of John & Alana Kocsis:

Sgt. John Kocsis III (Army)

Son of Joseph & Sue Strob:

Maj. Rob Strob

Grandsons of Pat & Kaye

Heffernan:

Sgt. Eamonn Garber (USMC)
 LCPL Nicholas Garber (USMC)

Son of David & Patricia Taylor:

SFC James Taylor (Army)

Grandson of Lorraine St. Pierre

PFC Alexander St. Pierre (Army)

Sons of Laurie Allard and

Grandsons of Madeleine Kopka:

AT2 Michael Allard (Navy)
 AME2 Joseph Allard (Navy)

Daughter of John Soltis:

Lt.Col. Kristen Soltis (USAF)

Son-in-law of John Soltis:

Lt.Co.I James Habeck(USAF)

Grandchildren of Dan & Sue Tracy:

2Lt Brittany DesLauriers (Army)
 PV2 Gavin Tracy (US Army)

January 17
(died 356)

**St. Christopher Parish
Community Outreach**

Parish Prayer Line
*Overwhelmed by life, by care?
May we help with our prayer?*

St. Christopher's Prayer Line --
24/7 from us to Heaven!

Call the Prayer Line
(Coordinator Maureen Brown)
882-8634

Go online to
www.stchrisparishnh.org

Send email to
prayerhotline@
stchrisparishnh.org

Prayer Shawls

Our prayer shawl ministry, Creating for our Community, gathers once a month to knit, crochet, and pray as they create beautiful prayer shawls. If you know of someone who could benefit from the gift of a Prayer Shawl, whether they are having difficult time, or simply need the comfort of Prayer wrapped around their shoulders, please contact the rectory at 882-0632.

Outreach Ministry

If you are homebound and cannot attend Mass and would like to receive communion, please call the Rectory 882-0632.

Senior Companions

Are you homebound? Would you enjoy a visit? Your parish wants to stay connected with you! If St. Christopher is your spiritual home, how about a visit from one of your fellow parishioners? To arrange a visit, please call the Rectory at 882-0632.

St. Anthony of Egypt

St. Anthony was born at Heracleus in Egypt. When he was twenty years old, his parents died. They left him a large estate and placed him in charge of the care of his young sister. Anthony felt overwhelmed and turned to God in prayer.

He soon became more and more aware of the power of God in his life. About six months later, he heard this quotation of Jesus from the Gospel: "Go, sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven" (Mark 10:21).

He took the words as a personal message in answer to his prayer for guidance. He made sure that his sister completed her education, then sold his house, furniture, and the land he owned and gave the money to the poor and to the people who needed it.

Anthony's sister joined a group of women living a life of prayer and contemplation. Anthony decided to become a hermit. He begged an elderly hermit to teach him the spiritual life. Anthony also visited other hermits so he could learn each one's most outstanding virtue.

Then, at the age of thirty-five, he moved alone to the desert, living in an abandoned fort and began his own life of prayer and penance alone with God. By the time he was fifty-five, people found out where he was and began coming to him for healing and for spiritual counseling. Finally, Anthony built two monasteries on the Nile, one at Pispir and one at Arsinoe. The monks and people who lived around him supported themselves by making and selling baskets and brushes.

Many people heard of him and came to him looking for advice. He would give them practical advice such as: "The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. He runs away when we make the Sign of the Cross."

St. Anthony visited Paul the hermit shortly before he died and helped dig a grave to bury him. He felt enriched by the example of Paul's holy life.

Anthony died after a long, prayerful life in 356. He was 105. St. Athanasius wrote a well known biography of St. Anthony of Egypt.

<http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/>

Welcome!

St. Christopher Parish welcomes all visitors to our Spiritual Home! If you are interested in joining the parish, please complete the form below and either drop it in the Offertory Basket or mail it to the Rectory. One of our Parish staff members will be in touch. Registration forms are also available online at www.StChrisParishNH.org.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Family Connection to this Week's Gospel



Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus receives his first followers.

In today's Gospel we learn about one of at least two family relations that appear among Jesus' first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. In next week's Gospel, we will learn about the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We know from the letters of Paul and other witnesses to the early Church that it was a common occurrence for an entire household to be baptized together. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus. We hope and pray that this continues to be true in our family life.

Before your family gathers, look around your house and gather some items that your family might have that remind you of your faith. Perhaps you have a cross or crucifix displayed in your home, a statue of Mary, or statues or other art depicting saints. In today's Gospel we learn about how Andrew led his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Read today's Gospel.

In our family life, we also help to lead one another to Jesus. Talk together about the items that you gathered, discussing what these items mean to you and how you might use them during the day for prayer. Pray that your family will continue to help one another grow in faith.

Reprinted from <http://www.loyolapress.com>

About Our Catholic Faith:

The Significance of Candles in the Liturgy

The word "candle" comes from the Latin verb *candeo* meaning "to shine, glow, or burn." As early as the eighth century, the word "candle" was introduced into the English language specifically in relation to liturgical practices.

Throughout Church history, the candle has represented Christ: the perfect candle, THE Light of the World. The first book of John gives a poetic description of this reality:

"What has come into being in [Christ] was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it..."

[John] came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, he was to bear witness to the light.

The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone; he was coming into the world."
(Jn. 1: 4-9)

Traditionally, liturgical candles are made of beeswax, and this is no accident or coincidence. The worker bees who gather the pure nectar of flowers don't participate in the reproduction of the species. They are solely responsible for gathering the nectar and feeding the baby bees. Reproduction is left to the queen bee and drone bees.

Because virgin worker bees dedicate their lives to the creation of the wax and the nourishment of the hive, these bees have come to represent Our Lady, the Virgin mother who gave birth to the pure flesh of Christ, with Christ's pure flesh being symbolized by the pure beeswax. What a detailed, beautiful symbol of this reality!

Reprinted from www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/catholic-candles-liturgy/

Prayer to Saint Michael

With so many challenges confronting us these days, we need help and strength to meet them head on. Please join us in praying daily that through the intercession of Saint Michael, we will remain faithful and strong in the Lord's service and in defending the Truth which resides in the Church!

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.

In the Words of
Pope Francis

"A joyful soul is like healthy soil in which life can thrive and produce good fruit."

Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
January 9, 2018