



# St. Christopher Parish

**November 12, 2017**

## 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!**

## 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

At the end of today's Gospel, when the foolish virgins return from the quick shop with the oil, they are locked out of the wedding. The groom answers their pleas, not with a question, "Why weren't you ready?" but with the statement, "I don't know you" (Mt 25:12). Now that sounds kind of odd, if the bridegroom represents the LORD, because God knows everything, and everybody. In Matthew's Gospel, this phrase seems to imply that "because you made no effort to know me, I don't know you." In other words, the oil in the parable stands for knowing the LORD. Or at least making an effort to know him.

So what am I doing to get to know Jesus? One way to know someone is to act like them. Actors who portray a real person try to watch videos of that person to see how they talk, walk, relate to people, what kind of posture they have, how they dress, etc. We can act like Jesus by following his example of care for the poor and the sick, forgiving people who have done wrong, teaching people about God's love, feeding the hungry, and giving God the credit for what we do.

Another way to get to know someone is to talk to them. The more we pray, the more we get close to Jesus. We can praise God for Creation, we can thank God for all the giving (and forgiving!) We can ask for help for those we love and for God's strength in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9). But we don't get to know someone if we do all the talking. Our prayer can include time to be quiet and listen to the LORD. We also listen to God by reading God's words in the Bible. And God can speak to some people in art, song, or poetry. The advice and wisdom of friends and relatives can also be God speaking to us. Hopefully, we can all find ways of getting to know the Lord, so that God can "recognize" us as friends.

*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, November 11

4:00 PM All Deceased Veterans

### Sunday, November 12

8:00 AM Tony Courounis, 10th Ann.  
by His Wife, Marlene

10:00 AM Edward Courtemanche,  
7th Ann.  
by His Daughter Julie  
& Her Family

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### Monday, November 13

7:15 AM The Daniels & Donohue  
Families  
by the Daniels Family

### Tuesday, November 14

7:15 AM For Parish Intentions

### Wednesday, November 15

7:15 AM For Parish Intentions

### Thursday, November 16

7:15 AM Alan Mendel  
by Dennis, Janet, Emily,  
Theresa & Luch Murphy

### Friday, November 17

7:15 AM Jeanne Paquette  
by Jeanne Berube

### Saturday, November 18

4:00 PM Christopher Coll, 2nd Ann.  
by His Sister, Faith

### Sunday, November 19

8:00 AM Craig Levesque  
by Doris Mann

10:00 AM Alan Mendel  
by the Nissen Family

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Robert Desjarlais, 24th Ann. &  
the Desjarlais Family  
by John & Claire Hebert

### 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 November, will be offered for Robert Desjarlais, 24th Anniversary and the Desjarlais Family by John & Claire Hebert.

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.



**WELCOME TO THE VETERANS** - We welcome our veterans who are here for our annual Veterans Day Mass on Saturday, November 11. We also thank you for your service to our nation. It is good to have you here. Welcome!

**BEATIFICATION** - For the second time in two months, an America priest will be beatified by the church. Fr. Solanus Casey (1870-1957) will be beatified on Sunday, November 18th at Ford Field Stadium in Detroit, Michigan. More than 60,000 people are expected to be there. Whenever a person is beatified, this is an official declaration that this person is in Heaven and that he or she lived a life worthy of imitation. Churches and shrines can also be named for that person.

Interestingly enough, there are two other American priests whose causes for beatification are underway. They are the following

1) Fr. Emil Kapaun (1916-1951). He was a priest from Kansas who served as a Military Chaplain in the Korean War. He was captured and very cruelly put to death in a North Korean Prisoner of War Camp. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2013 by President Barack Obama.

2) Fr. Vincent Capodano (1929-1967). He was from Staten Island, New York and was Maryknoll priest who lost his life in Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1969 by President Richard Nixon.

Fr. Solanus Casey was born in Oak Grove, Wisconsin. He was of Irish background, his parents met and married in Salem, Massachusetts before settling in Wisconsin. They later had sixteen children, Solanus was the sixth. Two of his brothers also later became priests.

He had a happy childhood but there was an incident when he was a young

man which caused him to evaluate his life. He witnessed a brutal murder. A drunken sailor stabbed a woman to death which caused him to think about the meaning of life. He felt drawn to the Priesthood and he later joined the Capuchin Franciscans. During his years in seminary, he struggled academically, so he was ordained a "simplex priest" in 1904 (This is a title that no longer exists). That meant that even though he was a priest and functioned as a priest, he was not granted faculties to preach doctrinal sermons or hear confessions. However, that did not stop him from doing the work of the Lord. He was recognized as an inspiring speaker, he conducted services for the sick and through these services, he became known for his great compassion. People considered him instrumental in cures and other blessings and he loved to kneel before the Eucharist especially in the quiet of the night.

**From the Pastor, continued on page 4**

### From the Organ Bench

Soon and very soon the season of Advent and Christmas will be upon us. For those who wish to take part in the Music Ministry but are unable to commit to the choir throughout the year, we invite you to consider joining our Adult Choir for Advent and Christmas or only Christmas. The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday evening in church from 7:00-8:30 PM. Please consider joining us throughout this season of Joyous expectation. Speaking of Joyous Expectation, it is during the Advent season that we omit the *Gloria*. Advent is a season of expectation, so it has a minor penitential feeling. Because the *Gloria* is a prayer of joy, it is suppressed during Advent and is not heard until the vigil Mass of Christmas Eve. "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth" from the words the angels sang when Christ was born.

Soli Deo Gloria!!!

Carol Ann  
Director of Music

## Early Childhood Open House at St. Christopher School

Have a child who will be ready for PreKindergarten or Kindergarten next year? Attend our Early Childhood Open House on November 17 at 9:30 AM to see all that St. Chris offers early learners! The early childhood program at St. Chris offers:

- a solid moral foundation based on self-discipline and service to others;
- a long established program with experienced and loving teachers;
- a curriculum based on traditional, proven methods coupled with innovative, fun activities;
- dynamic teachers and aides, with a maximum 10-1 student-to-teacher ratio in Pre-Kindergarten and 12-1 student-to-teacher ratio in Kindergarten;
- opportunities for both academic and social growth, including structured learning activities and stations, creative play, and outdoor play;
- assessment of academic and developmental skills.

Reservations are not necessary for the Open House. For more information about the school, please visit St. Christopher School's website at [www.StChrisSchoolNH.org](http://www.StChrisSchoolNH.org) or call Jackie Langenfeld at 603-882-7442, ext. 114.

## St. Patrick's Christmas Craft Fair

St. Patrick Parish is hosting its annual Christmas Craft Fair in our Parish Center at 12 Main St. Pelham, NH. We have many local crafters who amaze us every year! We will also have food, a Home Made Baked Goods Table, a coloring contest and raffles. Please join us on December 2nd from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and get great gifts for your holiday shopping.

### **This Week's Parish Activities**

An early bulletin deadline did not allow us to list events for this coming week. Please check the event calendar on the parish website at [www.StChrisParishNH.org](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org) for the current schedule of events for the week.

## Knights of Columbus News

The next business meeting of the St. Boniface Knights of Columbus Council will be Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center at St. Patrick Parish. We will conduct the Rosary at 7:00 PM.

We will be conducting CPR/AED training on Wednesday, November 29 beginning at 7:00 PM at the St. Patrick Parish Center. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited, so priority will be given to Knights and Parish Staff. Please contact Grand Knight to reserve your spot at (603) 229-7319 (leave message) or [rje7@hotmail.com](mailto:rje7@hotmail.com) before November 26.

We will also be selling Keep Christ in Christmas cards at both parishes and hopefully the Holiday Stroll at the end of this month and beginning of December while supplies last. Stay tuned for updates.

## Respect Life Essay Contest

The NH Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a Student Respect Life Essay contest, open to Junior High (grades 6,7,8) and Senior High (grades 9,10,11,12) students in NH. The NH Knights of Columbus will make up to six cash awards of \$100. The theme is: "How would you respond to claims that Pro-Life denies a woman's 'choice'?" The deadline is midnight on December, 15, 2017

Essays may not be longer than 500 words; typed, and submitted as a PDF or Word Document and emailed to [matu19@comcast.net](mailto:matu19@comcast.net). Include student name, age, grade, school, parent name and address, phone, parish and email. Students may obtain help and information from parents, teachers, friends, and the internet, but the essay itself must be their own work. Further contest details may be obtained from KofC NH contest chairman John P. Matuszewski (434-4098) or KofC NH State Pro-Life Chairman Ron Distasio (595-7837).

## Catholic Daughters Meeting

Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 14th in St. Christopher Parish Hall at 6:30 pm. You are cordially invited to come and get acquainted with us. For further information please call Anne Carruth at 888-6459.

## 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](mailto:parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Parish Life - Linda Sanborn

[lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Bookkeeper - Jean Dickson

[bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Director of Music & Organist -

Carol Ann Skabo

[music@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:music@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Religious Educ. - Christine Mercurio

[cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Confirmation - Deacon Jim Daly

[deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org)

### RCIA - Joe Mercurio

[rcia@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:rcia@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Youth Ministry - Emily Murphy

[youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Parish Council - Elizabeth Cote

[ecote@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:ecote@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Finance Committee -- Tom Nardone

[tnardone.work@gmail.com](mailto:tnardone.work@gmail.com)

### Bulletin - Marta Nissen

[bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org)

Bulletin submissions are due one week before publication.



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on Facebook!**



**Join our Parish  
Email List!**



**Due to an early bulletin deadline, we are unable to report last week's Offertory at this time. Please check back here to get caught up!**

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

## FROM THE PASTOR **cont'd.**

For the first two decades of his priesthood, he served at Sacred Heart Friary in Yonkers, NY. He was later transferred to New York City, where he first served at Saint John Church next to Penn Station and later to Our Lady Queen of Angels in Harlem. In 1924 he was transferred to Saint Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he served until 1945. For several years after that, he was at the Capuchin novitiate in Huntington, Indiana until 1957 when he died at Saint John's Hospital in Detroit. His last words were reportedly: "I give my soul to Jesus Christ". An estimated 20,000 people filed past his coffin prior to his funeral and burial. He is buried at the Father Solanus Casey Center at Saint Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit.

Fr. Solanus Casey was also a violinist and he loved to play Irish song especially for his fellow friars during recreation time. Until his late seventies, he was able to join the younger religious in games of tennis, volleyball and he even went jogging on occasion. He loved the simple things in life and he was a good example of doing the simple things – well.

Some of his favorite expressions are the following:

*"Gratitude is the first sign of a thinking, rational creature."*

*"Gratitude is one of the surest indications of intelligence, and atheism is the blackest ingratitude possible."*

*"If the enemy of our soul is pleased at anything in us, it is ingratitude of any kind. Why? Ingratitude leads to so many breaks with God and our neighbor".*

*"Thank God ahead of time,"* which he often advised to people he counseled.

I am glad that he is being beatified on November 18th. Blessed Solanus Casey – pray for us!

**PRAYERS** - Please remember in your prayers Alexander Gurskis. His Funeral Mass was held here recently.

**PARISH COUNCIL** – will meet on Tuesday evening, November 14th at 6:30 PM in the Pennell Center.



### **Nashua's Diocesan Catholic Schools**

[www.NashuaDiocesanSchools.org](http://www.NashuaDiocesanSchools.org)

St. Christopher School  
Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 6  
882-7442

[www.stchrisschoolnh.org](http://www.stchrisschoolnh.org)

Infant Jesus School  
Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 6  
889-2649

[www.ijschool.org](http://www.ijschool.org)

Nashua Catholic Regional  
Junior High School  
Grades 7 & 8  
882-7011  
[www.ncrjhs.org](http://www.ncrjhs.org)

### **St. Christopher Online Giving**

Winter weather will be here very soon and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. Unfortunately, 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 giving program at [www.StChrisParishNH.org](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org). 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!

### **Religious Education News**

#### **Sunday Morning Class 8:30-9:45 AM**

November 5 -- Regular Class  
(Time change! Turn clocks back 1 hour!)  
November 12 -- Regular Class  
November 19 -- Regular Class

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

November 6 -- Regular Class  
November 13 -- Regular Class  
November 20 -- NO CLASS

#### **Sacrament Preparation Class dates:**

November 5, 12, 19 -- Both student and parent attend from 5:30-6:30 PM



## Yoga for Seniors on Monday!

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. Join the St. Christopher Yoga for Seniors class on Monday mornings at 8:00 AM in the Church Hall. It's a wonderful way to start your week and your day. Classes are provided free of charge to St. Christopher's seniors. All are welcome to stop by, observe or join in.

### Upcoming class schedule:

November 13 - Regular Class at 8:00 AM  
 November 20 - Regular Class at 8:00 AM  
 November 27 - Regular Class at 8:00 AM

## Corpus Christi Corner

Thank you to all who donated groceries and money to the Corpus Christi Food Pantry Brown Bag Appeal. It was a big success! Here are the numbers: The St Chris School Brown Bag Appeal in late September had a few bags come in after the initial pick up at the school. They added another 58.7 pounds to their overall total, bringing it to 948.6 pounds. The Parish Brown bag brought in 1,328.6 pounds. The total from the money envelopes came to \$1,020. We are truly blessed to have such generous donations, thank you all so much for your continued support.

Suggested items for the month of November are: Stuffing, gravy, canned carrots, canned peas, muffing mix, canned pasta, graham crackers and white rice. There are baskets at each of the church entrances for your donations.

## 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.



## From the Families of Nazareth

### What Kind Of Oil To Put In Your Lamp?

"It would be good if you could live with an awareness that your last trial may arrive at any time. It is necessary to be vigilant and prepared, like the wise virgins who kept oil reserves for their lamps. Your 'oil' should be the childlike trust in God."

*S.C. Biela, In The Arms of Mary, 2nd. ed, rev. (Ft.Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005), 106.*

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.

## Open House at Nashua Catholic Jr. High

Nashua Catholic Jr High will hold an Open House on Wednesday, November 15, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Open House starts in our gym at 6 Bartlett Ave., Nashua, NH, Opportunities to meet our teachers, coaches, and parents, discuss curriculum, see student activity, and tour our facility will follow. Nashua Catholic offers 7th and 8th graders a rigorous, Catholic based curriculum and is a 2017 Blue Ribbon Award recipient. Our commitment to student service activity, a full contingent of extracurricular activities, and three seasons of Tri-County League athletic participation round out each student's day at Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School.

## Youth Group News

If you liked the Praise, Worship, and Adore event we held in August, Ste. Marie's Parish in Manchester is hosting a similar eXaLT event – Eucharistic adoration, powerful testimonies, and live music. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 12th from 6:30-7:30 PM. Youth group will meet from 6:30-8:30 PM at Ste. Marie's that night. If you're interested in attending, please email Emily Murphy at youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org.



*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:  
 AT3 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)

## 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.

November 16  
(died 1093)

## St. Margaret of Scotland

Margaret was an English princess who was born in Hungary and was the great-niece of St. Stephen of Hungary. She and her mother sailed to Scotland to escape from the king who had conquered their land.

They got ship wrecked on the Scottish coast and King Malcolm of Scotland welcomed them. He fell in love with the beautiful princess and Margaret and Malcolm were soon married. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters and they loved their children very much.

Margaret changed her husband and the country for the better. Malcolm was good, but he and his court were very rough. When he saw how wise his wife was, he willingly listened to her good advice.

Margaret helped him control his temper and practice the Christian virtues. She made the court beautiful and civilized. The king and queen were wonderful examples because of the way they prayed together and treated each other. They fed crowds of poor people. They tried very hard to imitate Jesus in their own lives.

Margaret was a blessing for all the people of Scotland. Many people had bad habits that kept them from growing closer to God. Margaret worked hard to find good teachers to help the people correct their evil ways.

She and Malcolm had new churches built. She loved to make the churches beautiful to honor God. In fact, Queen Margaret embroidered some of the priests' robes herself.

Their youngest son became St. David and one of their daughters St. Maud. But Margaret had sorrows, too. She was very ill, and she learned that both her husband and her son, Edward, had been killed in battle. They died just four days before Margaret's death. She died on November 16, 1093.

<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](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_





## Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:1-13

**Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.**

In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

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

## About Our Catholic Faith:

### 9 Tips to Curb Distractions During Mass

*(Part Two)*

#### 4. Keep your hands folded in prayer.

Posture is important to prayer. Let your body remind you of what your heart and mind should be doing by keeping your hands reverently folded. There is a reason why we teach this to kids! Try it, and you'll probably find that it helps lessen your distractions.

#### 5. Fully Participate in the Mass.

Mass is not an event for spectators. Participate! Say all the prayers and sing all the songs. If it helps, follow along with each part of the Mass using a Roman Missal. Where does this Sunday fall in the liturgical calendar? How is the Old Testament reading connected to the New Testament reading? How does the Responsorial Psalm connect both? If you are engaging in all of this, it is a rewarding occupation for the mind, and God will undoubtedly assist you to better grasp and understand His sacred truths.

#### 6. Bring back those wandering thoughts.

Mass is the place where heaven meets earth. Each time you are distracted, always bring your mind back to where you are, even if you have to do this 100 times from start to finish. As instructed by St. Francis de Sales:

*"If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master's presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole of your hour but bring your heart back and place it again in Our Lord's presence, though it went away every time you brought it back, your hour would be very well employed."*

---Reprinted from [www.catholiccompany.com/getfed](http://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed).

## 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*

"I invite you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ in order to learn from Him how to love with all your heart."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex**  
**October 29, 2017**