

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 1, 2019

St. Christopher Church

Fr. David Harris, Pastor
fr.david@stchrisparishnh.org

*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
cclarke@stchrisschoolnh.org

Grades PreK - 6
20 Cushing Ave.

Nashua, New Hampshire 03064
(603) 882-7442
www.stchrisschoolnh.org

Worship Schedule

Morning Prayer 7:00 AM Mon-Thurs
Daily Mass 7:15 AM Mon-Thurs
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass 8:00 & 10:00 AM
Vietnamese Mass 3:00 PM Sunday

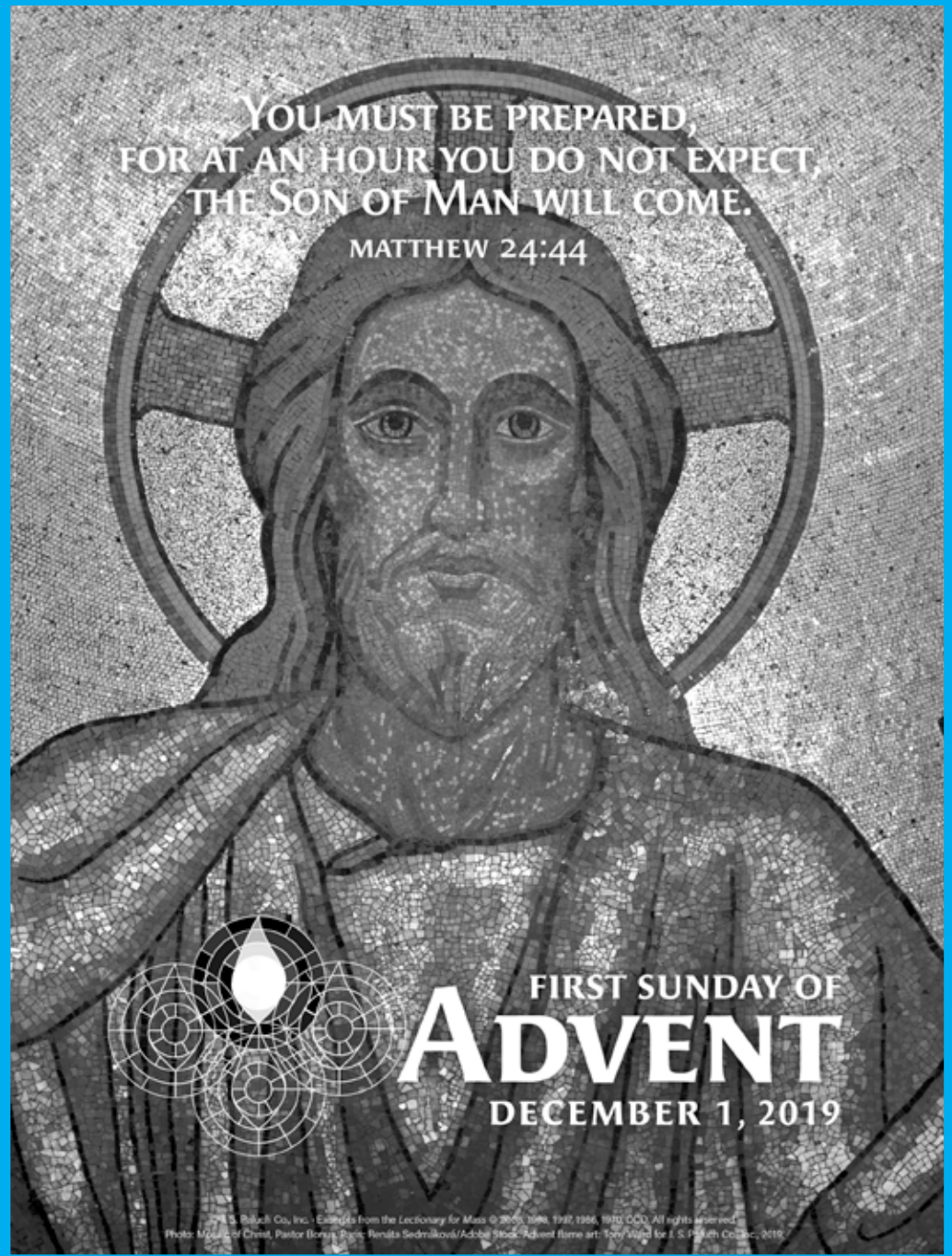
Confessions After Daily Mass,
approx. 7:45 AM
3:00-3:30 PM Saturday

Rosary 7:00 PM Tuesday
Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday
7:45-8:45 AM
Rosary at beginning

1st Friday of the Month
1:00-3:00 PM
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.



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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30

4:00 PM Rev. Henry Gagnon
by Hugh & Anne Moran

Mr. & Mrs. D. Alan Rock
by Laurie Coffey

Sunday, December 1

8:00 AM Arthur & Gladys Coll
by their daughter, Faith

10:00 AM For the people of the parish

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, December 2

7:15 AM Rita Mercurio, 5th Anniv.
by Her Family

9:15 AM School Mass:
For the students of
St. Christopher School

Tuesday, December 3

7:15 AM Marie Karg
by Chris Dunhom

Wednesday, December 4

7:15 AM Joseph LoMascolo
by His Family

Thursday, December 5

7:15 AM Marzia & Luciano Lo Savio
by their friends

Friday, December 6

No morning mass on Friday

Saturday, December 7

4:00 PM Martin Bernard
by the Bernard Family

Sunday, December 8

8:00 AM For the people of the parish

10:00 AM Norbert Higgins
by John & Mary Mann

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Tyler Coffey
by his mother, Laurie Coffey

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 in memory of Pete & Peter Cadwell. In December, it will be offered for family members who have gone before us by Michael & Susan Glenn.

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.



Advent is for Preparing Our Heart

The beginning of December kicks off a fun and exciting season of the year - preparing for Christmas. We start to think about the perfect gifts, decorate our homes with festive trimmings, gather with family and friends for parties, and get ready for some time off from work or school. These are good things that I believe God wants us to enjoy - in moderation of course!

However, Advent is really meant to be a time where we prepare our hearts. The liturgical season focuses on directing our minds and our hearts towards our greatest hope - the coming of our Messiah. Between now and Christmas, we're not called to just get ready for the holiday itself, but to prepare ourselves so that God can enter our lives in a deeper way. This helps us to experience a true and abiding joy that lasts far longer than the happiness of opening a new gift.

As Advent begins ask God how He wants you to make room for Him in your heart.

Maybe you can spend more time in prayer each day, follow the readings and reflections in the Magnificat booklets, or come to Mass a little earlier and spend some time with the Lord. Perhaps God wants us to temper our involvement with Christmas festivities lest they pull us away from what God truly wants for us.

May we not let the spiritual power of this season go to waste! I pray that through Mary's intercession each of us will prepare the way for Jesus to enter our hearts and we will experience the peace and joy that abides when we place all our hope in Him.

I wish you a very joyous Advent Season.

In Christ,
Fr. David

Have the Best Advent Ever

Join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST ADVENT EVER—a free email program that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic holidays! Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at BestAdventEver.com

Has Something Changed?

Have you moved or changed your phone number or email address? Help us stay in touch by calling the parish office at 603-882-0632 to update your parish record!

Wanted: One Hour of Your Time

He gives you 168 hours in a week, 672 hours in a month. Can you spend ONE HOUR with your friend Jesus this month?

Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, December 6
1:00-3:00 PM**



Annual Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is full of ornaments and sitting in the alcove in the front of the church anxiously waiting your visit. This year our beautiful ornaments were crafted by the St. Christopher School 6th grade students. We appreciate the time and care put into each ornament and the beautiful array of pictures and color they add to the tree.

We have a few small changes to our Giving Tree this year. Gifts will be donated St. Gianna's Place, Hudson, NH, which provides shelter, job and life skills training and emotional support to homeless pregnant women and their babies. **As opposed to physical gifts in years past, St. Gianna's has requested gift cards which are more useful to their clients.** There are several different places from which to purchase the gift cards. The usual donation has been from \$5 thru \$20.

There is a Giving Tree Gift Box near the tree with one big slot in the top for depositing the gift cards. While it is certainly tempting to wrap gifts, please simply attach the gift card to the ornament or just drop the gift card into the Gift Box. This simplifies both your donation and the distribution of the cards at St. Gianna's Place.

Please have all gift cards returned to the tree by December 17 as the Gift Box will be delivered to St. Gianna's on December 18th or 19th. Thank you for your generosity!



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 9

God and I have more secrets...My fingers are separated now, and I will even have my own unique fingerprints. My toes are no longer webbed either, which makes it easier to practice my new steps! Bet you didn't know I could dance! Well, not like you do, but I am wiggling, rolling, shifting around, and stretching, so it's my kind of dance. I call it the "Womba."

Let them praise his name in the festive dance, let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

Psalm 149:3

Spirited Theology

The next Spirited Theology will take place December 10th with guest speaker Fr. Michael Kerper of St. Patrick Parish in Nashua. Father will be presenting a talk entitled *Angels: From Warfare to Friendship*. Because angels are invisible, we tend to forget them as key elements in the balance of good and evil in the world. This presentation will include: 1) a review of what angels are 2) angels in Sacred Scripture; and 3) angels as active participants in the Sacred Liturgy.

Spirited Theology events are held at the Radisson Hotel located at 11 Tara Blvd. Look for the Shade Bar & Grille sign at the side entrance of the hotel. The gathering starts around 6:00 PM for food and fellowship. Dinner and drinks can be ordered from the restaurant menu, so come early to eat and socialize! (Catholic and non-Catholic friends are welcome!) The guest speaker will begin his presentation at 7:00 PM.

Senior Yoga

St. Christopher Yoga for Seniors meets 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 note that if school is cancelled or delayed due to weather, there will not be a class that day.

Upcoming Senior Yoga Monday class schedule:

December 2 – 8:00 AM
 December 9 – 8:00 AM
 December 16 – 8:00 AM
 December 23 – 8:00 AM

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

Rectory Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00

Rectory Phone:

882-0632

Rectory Email:

parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org

Fr. David Harris

fr.david@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

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!



An early bulletin deadline did not permit the offertory to be prepared in time for the bulletin deadline this week. Please check back here to review offertory totals in upcoming bulletins! Thanks!

Thank you
for supporting
your Spiritual Home!

Sacrament Preparation Program

Grade 2 Reconciliation -- Sunday, 4:00-5:00 PM

December 1 - No Class - Thanksgiving weekend

December 7 - 10:00 AM Reconciliation service. Please arrive no later than 9:40 AM

Grade 3 Confirmation --

December 1 - No Class - Thanksgiving weekend

All classes for Grade 3 Confirmation are complete- please make sure you have registered your student for First Eucharist beginning late January 2020!

Register Now -- Class begins January 26! Forms for Sacrament Prep 2019/2020 are available for download on the Parish website. Visit stchrisparishnh.org, print your registration and return with the required certificates/fee to the parish office. Note: Students who wish to enroll in sacrament classes must also be registered for Faith Formation either at the parish or a Catholic school.

Email: cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org (Reconciliation/First Eucharist)
deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org. (Confirmation)

First Eucharist- (grade 3 and up) :

Email: cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org

Students who received Reconciliation in the Fall of 2018 should register for this class and the Fall 2019 Grade 3 Confirmation class. Students must have received instruction for Confirmation prior to this class. Class will run January 26 - May 2020. Confirmation and First Eucharist will be received in one celebration in the Spring of 2020. We are awaiting date confirmation from the Diocesan office but we anticipate a mid/late June date.

Confirmation grades 5-7+

Email: deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org

Students who have received baptism, reconciliation and first communion but have not been confirmed should register for this class. Class will run January 26 - May 2020. Confirmation Mass for this class will be Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Class size will be limited to 40 students.

Seeing is believing!

Enroll Now!



Apply online at
StChrisSchoolNH.org

From the Families of Nazareth

Packing Our Spiritual Bags

"God desires that we be more united to Him, and that we lead fuller lives of faith, relying solely on His power and His love."

*S.C. Biela, God Alone Suffices, 3rd. ed.
(Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2011), 60.*

A faith sharing meeting takes place each Thursday at 94 Walden Pond Drive in Nashua. All are welcome!

Did You Know..

Francis of Assisi assembled the first Christmas crib in 1223 on an Italian mountainside. The Christ Child, placed on an altar of stone, and two live animals -- an ox and a donkey -- were its only occupants.

Faith Formation

Pre-K to 6th grade-

Sunday Mornings from 8:30-9:45 AM

- December 1 - No Class/Thanksgiving
- December 8 - Regular Class
- December 16- Christmas Card Service project!! All classes! Check email!

Grade 7/8 program-

Monday Evening from 6:30-7:45 PM

- December 2 - Regular Class
- December 9 - Regular Class
- December 17

Corpus Christi Corner

The Pantry put together 200 Thanksgiving meals for our clients and their families. Thank you to all who have donated food to us during the month of November. Your donations helped us to fill all those dinners. We couldn't do this without your help.

Suggested food items for the month of December include: canned pasta, graham crackers, saltine crackers, white rice, mustard, ketchup, mayo, canned corn, canned mixed vegetables, dish detergent, deodorant, bar soap and Kleenex. There are baskets located at each of the church entrances for your donations. Thanks again for all that you do!!

Knights of Columbus News

The Knights will be doing their annual *Keep Christ in Christmas* Card Sale on Saturday, November 30 at the Holiday Stroll at the St. Patrick Parish Center Craft Fair. On Sunday, December 1, they will be also be selling cards after mass at both St. Christopher and St. Patrick parishes. On December 7/8, they will also be selling cards after mass at both parishes while supplies last. They will have a nice selection of reasonably priced religious Christmas cards that are becoming hard to find in several languages as well.

Kids aged 5-14 are invited to participate in the Knights' *Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest*. Posters must be 11x14 and are due by December 15. Contact Rob Everett at Rje7@hotmail.com for an entry form.

The annual *Knights Pot Luck Christmas Party* is Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 PM in the Pennell Center and is open to all Knights and guest.

Boys and girls aged 9-14 interested in participating in the *K of C Basketball Free Throw Contest* should contact Rob Everett by Decembr 22 at Rje7@hotmail.com as the contests are run in January. He can find the closest one for students to participate in.

Lastly ,there will be no regular monthly membership meeting in December but after the new year we will start the Lenten Fish Dinner planning process If interested in helping this year, please email Rob Everett at rje7@hotmail.com.

Why Does Our Parish Need Your Gift?

None of us likes to give a gift that is not needed. So it is understandable that you might question, "Does the parish really need my gift? Does my weekly financial contribution make a difference?" Yes! Your gift is needed and makes a difference every day! Your contributions to St. Christopher Parish help:

- *Pay staff salaries so that Fr. David has more time to visit the sick and comfort those who truly need to feel Jesus in their lives at this time.*
- *Support our religious education program so that we can help parents educate their children in the Catholic faith.*
- *Pay the utility bills that keep the lights on and the rooms warm for all those who gather here for prayer, education or social ministry.*
- *Purchase the many supplies that are needed for our liturgies and sacraments, including hosts, wine, candles, prayer books and hymnals.*
- *Landscape our grounds, remove snow, and maintain our facilities, so that we always present a welcoming image to all who may pass by this House of God.*

If you do not currently receive parish envelopes for your weekly gift but would like to, please contact the rectory office at 882-0632. You can also register for our safe and secure online giving program through FaithDirect at www.faithdirect.net. Sign in using our parish code NH10.

Gloves, Hat and Sock Drive

Zis-Sweeney & St. Laurent Funeral Home is sharing the warmth this Christmas season through their Gloves, Hat, and Sock Drive. Donations are welcome for the drive and all items will be distributed to the less fortunate in the Nashua community. The drive runs through December 20. Donations may be dropped off at Zis-Sweeney & St. Laurent Funeral Home at 26 Kinsley St. in Nashua any time before December 20. Thank you for helping to keep all those in Nashua warm and dry!



*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:
LTC Brian Berthelotte (Army);
LtCol Mark Berthelotte (USAF);
LCDR Brad Berthelotte (Navy)

Grandson of William & Yvette Berthelotte:
Cpl. Matthew Berthelotte (USMC)

Son of John & Alana Kocsis:
SSG. John Kocsis III (Army)

Son of Joseph & Sue Strob:
Maj. Rob Strob

Grandsons of Pat & Kaye Heffernan:
Sgt. Eamonn Garber (USMC)

Son of David & Patricia Taylor:
SFC James Taylor (Army)

Grandson of Lorraine St. Pierre
PFC Alexander St. Pierre (Army)

Sons of Laurie Kopka and
Grandsons of Madeleine Kopka:
AT2 Michael Allard (Navy)
AME2 Joseph Allard (Navy)

Daughter of John Soltis:
Lt.Col. Kristen Soltis (USAF)

Grandchildren of Dan & Sue Tracy:
1Lt Brittany DesLauriers (Army)

Grandson of Betty Batey:
Captain Nick Batey USAF

Nephew of Karen Narkis:
AMT3 David P. Narkis (Coast
Guard)

*To add to our military prayer list,
email bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org or
call the Rectory at 882-0632.*

**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.

Saint Ambrose

One of Ambrose's biographers observed that at the Last Judgment, people would still be divided between those who admired Ambrose and those who heartily disliked him. He emerges as the man of action who cut a furrow through the lives of his contemporaries. Even royal personages were numbered among those who were to suffer crushing divine punishments for standing in Ambrose's way.

When the Empress Justina attempted to wrest two basilicas from Ambrose's Catholics and give them to the Arians, he dared the eunuchs of the court to execute him. His own people rallied behind him in the face of imperial troops. In the midst of riots, he both spurred and calmed his people with bewitching new hymns set to exciting Eastern melodies.

In his disputes with the Emperor Auxentius, he coined the principle: "The emperor is in the Church, not above the Church." He publicly admonished Emperor Theodosius for the massacre of 7,000 innocent people. The emperor did public penance for his crime. This was Ambrose, the fighter sent to Milan as Roman governor, and chosen while yet a catechumen to be the people's bishop.

There is yet another side of Ambrose—one which influenced Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose converted. Ambrose was a passionate little man with a high forehead, a long melancholy face, and great eyes. We can picture him as a frail figure clasping the codex of sacred Scripture. This was the Ambrose of aristocratic heritage and learning.

Augustine found the oratory of Ambrose less soothing and entertaining but far more learned than that of other contemporaries. Ambrose's sermons were often modeled on Cicero, and his ideas betrayed the influence of contemporary thinkers and philosophers. He had no scruples in borrowing at length from pagan authors. He gloried in the pulpit in his ability to parade his spoils—"gold of the Egyptians"—taken over from the pagan philosophers.

His sermons, his writings, and his personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day. Humanity for Ambrose was, above all, spirit. In order to think rightly of God and the human soul, the closest thing to God, no material reality at all was to be dwelt upon. He was an enthusiastic champion of consecrated virginity.

The influence of Ambrose on Augustine will always be open for discussion. The Confessions reveal some manly, brusque encounters between Ambrose and Augustine, but there can be no doubt of Augustine's profound esteem for the learned bishop.

Welcome! Please use this form to register!

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 _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

Phone _____



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**



Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

What Are Advent's Origins?

Easter is the Church's principal liturgical feast, and Easter celebrations set the pattern for every other feast during the liturgical year. Although we cannot determine exactly when the Church began to celebrate Advent, the Church's celebration of the Advent season goes back at least 14 centuries. We have Advent sermons from Gregory the Great (who died in 604) and evidence shows the Church in Spain celebrated the Advent season by the middle of the seventh century.

Fifty years earlier, a Church synod (a meeting of Church leaders to discuss questions of Church discipline, faith or morals) determined that during the days from Nov. 11 to Dec. 25 should be observed like the days of Lent. When November 11 came to be observed as the feast of St. Martin of Tours, this preparatory time became known as "St. Martin's Lent."

As this name suggests, Advent was initially far more penitential than it is today. After the Second Vatican Council, emphasis shifted from penance to spiritual preparation for Jesus' birth. Thus although we adopt violet vestments and forego the Gloria at Mass, our liturgical readings call us to anticipate Jesus' birth, sharing the joy of John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary.

Reprinted from <https://www.simplycatholic.com>

Prayer to Saint Michael

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about 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.

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your Divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

In the Words of
Pope Francis

"Let us pray for the grace to be able to listen to the cry of the poor: it is the cry of hope of the Church."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
November 16, 2019**