

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 22, 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

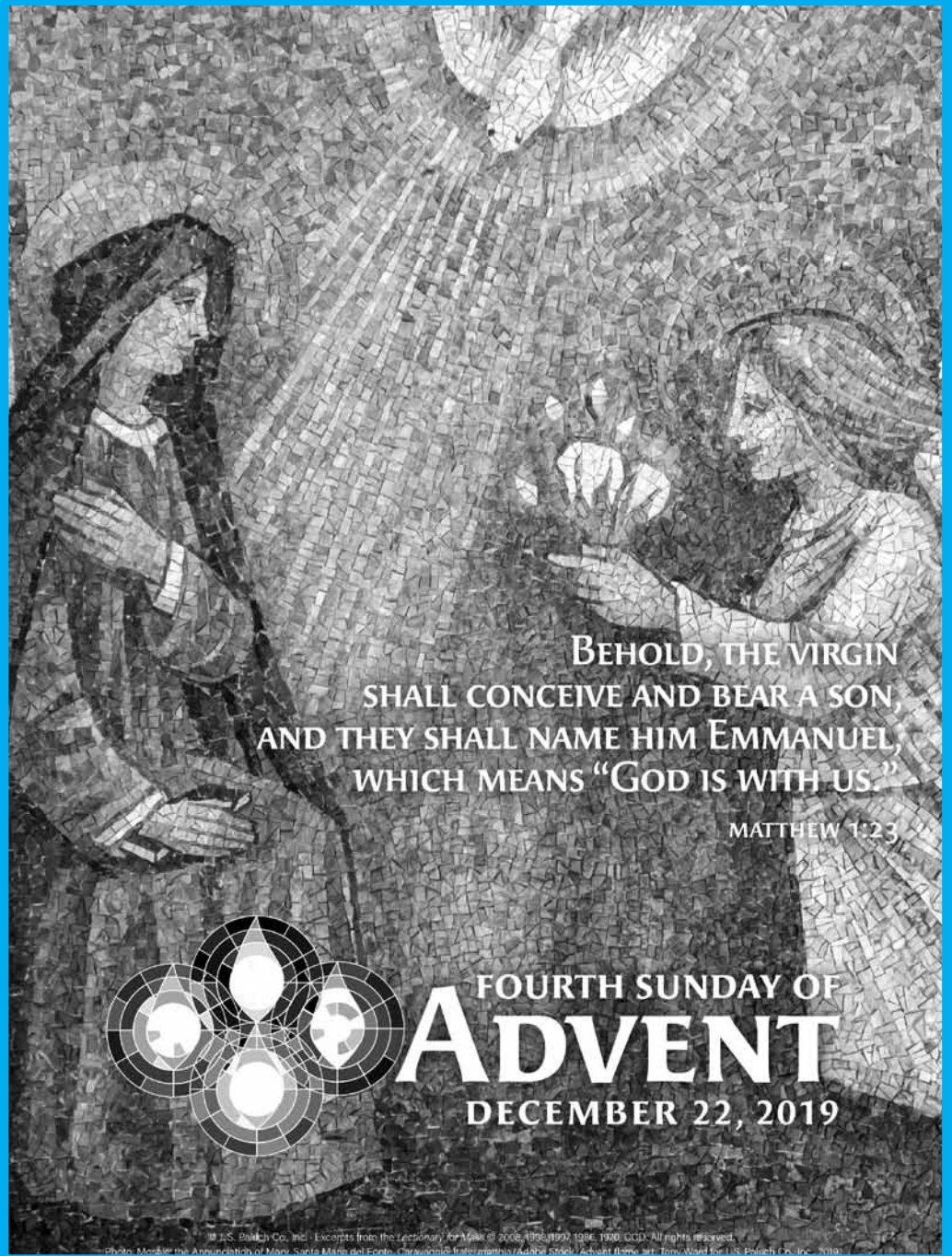
Confessions After Daily Mass,
approx. 7:45 AM
3:00-3:30 PM Saturday

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, December 21

4:00 PM Peter Cadwell, II
by His Mother, Jane

Tyler Coffey
by His mother, Laurie Coffey

Sunday, December 22

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Honorable David J. Gleneck
by His Wife and Children

Debbie Maher
by Michael & Andrea Richards

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, December 23

7:15 AM David A. Rock, II, 3rd Anniv.
by His Sister, Laurie Coffey

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM *Upstairs*
Peter Cadwell, Peter Cadwell, II
& Stephanie Cadwell Walsh
by Jane

Downstairs
Nicholas Eckstein
by His Mom, Jeanmarie

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas

Midnight Albert Soucy, 8th Anniv.
by Andrea Tighe

Robert Dupuis
by Michael & Andrea Richards

9:30 AM For the people of the parish

Thursday, December 26

7:15 AM No Mass today

Friday, December 27

No morning mass on Friday

Saturday, December 28

4:00 PM David Timothy Allen
by Michael & Andrea Richards

The Klun Family
by Tom and Zo Long

Sunday, December 29

8:00 AM Jeannette Goyette, 9th Anniv.
by Her daughter, Jean

10:00 AM For the people of the parish

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Albert Soucy, 8th Anniversary
by Andrea Tighe

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 December, will be offered for family members who have gone before us by Michael & Susan Glenn.



"God is with us."

Science and philosophy can prove the existence of God. The fact that a divine Creator exists does not require faith to confirm. Even fallen angels believe in the existence of God! Sometimes we can be tempted to think of God as a mighty being floating up in the sky somewhere, while we're stuck here below, hoping to get His attention if we're good enough. We wonder if He is really with us.

Christmas shatters that lie as God enters right into the depths of humanity, literally taking on our human flesh and entering a world full of confusion, suffering, and sin. He knows what life is like on this side of heaven. God doesn't take a distant view of us - He gets right into the mess of our lives!

Living a Catholic life means that we are embracing God's presence in our lives and we are seeking to receive the guidance and graces He wishes to share with us. Our lived faith isn't simply an acknowledgement of God's presence, but it is an opening of our hearts to the deep friendship He wants for us to experience with Him each day. When we seek this friendship above all other things, we finally find what we are truly looking for - love, fulfillment, hope, peace, and joy. Christmas makes these things hopeful in our lives.

God wants us to truly believe in the gift of His friendship and to trust that we are never alone. Such confidence in His unconquerable presence melts away any fear, despair, or doubt that lives in our hearts. We know that He chooses each of us not because we are perfect, but rather because He is. In His heart, we are lovable, important, and irreplaceable.

May this Christmas be a time when you feel in the depths of your heart that God is truly with you, and I hope that you will say yes to His loving friendship again and again.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessings throughout the New Year. May Our Blessed Mother intercede for you and your loved ones.

In Christ,

Fr. David

Reconciliation Congratulations

Congratulations to the students who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on December 7th!

Michael Boisvert
Brielle Cora
Patrick Haley
Jacob Jones
John Leahy
Madison Lorden
Colby Osinski
Lily Provost

Jake Chasseur
Norah Francis
Abigail Henderson
Samuel Ladner
Giada Leonard
Kayla McCorry
Grace Provost
Abigail Viveiros



First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

January 3
1:00-3:00 PM

*Give the Lord his favorite birthday present...
time with you!*

Corpus Christi Corner

During the month of November, 239.1 pounds of food was donated to the Pantry. We put together 200 Thanksgiving meals for our clients and their families. Thank you to all who have donated food to us during this month. 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!!

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 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 inclement weather, there will not be a yoga class that day.

Upcoming Senior Yoga Monday class schedule:

December 23 – 8:00 AM
December 30 – NO CLASS
January 6 – 8:00 AM



Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays in Advent
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday - Thursday
7:45 AM following mass

Tuesdays in Advent
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Saturdays
3:00-3:30 PM

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 PM in the Church and Church Hall
Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25
9:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31
4:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1
10:00 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!

Seeing is believing!

Enroll Now!



**Apply online at
StChrisSchoolNH.org**

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.

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!

From the Families of Nazareth

Mary's "Yes" Brings Peace To The World

"In every situation Mary realized the will of God with full inner peace, because she accepted everything with childlike trust."

S.C. Biela, In The Arms of Mary, 2nd. ed, rev. (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005), 128.

Please note that there will be no Thursday night meeting here the day after Christmas, Dec. 26th. Instead, everyone is invited to participate in the annual FNM Open House in honor of Mary, the Mother of God which takes place at 94 Walden Pond Dr. in Nashua on January 1st between noon and six pm. During this time refreshments are served and one decade of the twenty decade Rosary is prayed aloud together every 15 minutes.

For Vocations

"When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him," Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Father Matthew Mason 663-0132, or write: mmason@rcbm.org.

Parish Website Helps You Stay Connected

Advent and Christmas are wonderful for us a parish. In addition to the special meaning of the liturgical celebrations, we are always happy to see so many parishioners whose schedules may not allow them to attend Mass at our parish on a regular basis. If you are one of those who cannot visit our parish as much as you like, you might want to check out our parish website at www.StChrisParishNH.org. You will find the weekly bulletin, as well as a calendar of upcoming parish events, and more!



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 12

Guess what! If you could see me now, you would know whether I am a boy or a girl. Also, my vocal chords are starting to form for the day when I will sing Christmas carols with Mommy and Daddy during this joyful season. Another bit of news is that I can grasp and hold things thanks to my amazing thumbs. Before you know it, I will use them to open Christmas presents under the tree.

"Do you hear what they are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; and have you never read the text, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise?'"

Matthew 21:16

Sacrament Preparation Program

NEW! Spring Sacrament dates are set!
See programs below for details!

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 from January 26 through May 2020. *Confirmation and First Eucharist will be received in one celebration on Saturday, June 20, 2020.*

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.

Grade 3 Confirmation --

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

St. Christopher School Open Houses in January

Sunday, January 26
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Thursday, January 30
9:30 - 11:00 AM

Seeing is believing! St. Christopher School invites families to see for themselves all that St. Chris offers during its upcoming Open Houses for prospective students! 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. For more information, visit the school's website at www.StChrisSchoolNH.org.

Faith Formation

Pre-K to 6th grade-
Sunday Mornings from 8:30-9:45 AM

- **December 22**
No Class, Christmas Break
- **December 29**
No Class, Christmas Break
- **January 5**
Regular Class

Grade 7/8 program-
Monday Evening from 6:30-7:45 PM

- **December 23**
No Class, Christmas Break
- **December 30**
No Class, Christmas Break
- **January 6**
Regular Class



*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.

St. Stephen

"As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greek-speaking Christians complained about the Hebrew-speaking Christians, saying that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 6:1-5).

Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "...you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b).

Stephen's speech brought anger from the crowd. "But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ...They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. ...As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ...'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

Reflection

Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. A "happy" death is one that finds us in the same spirit, whether our dying is as quiet as Joseph's or as violent as Stephen's: dying with courage, total trust and forgiving love.

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 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another.

Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

Who was St. Joseph?

St. Joseph has two feast days on the liturgical calendar. The first is March 19—Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is May 1—Joseph, the Worker.

"Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God," Pope John Paul II once said.

There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but still, we know that he was the chaste husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, a carpenter and a man who was not wealthy. We also know that he came from the royal lineage of King David.

We can see from his actions in scripture that Joseph was a compassionate man, and obedient to the will of God. He also loved Mary and Jesus and wanted to protect and provide for them.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, some historians believe Joseph had probably died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, fathers, the dying and social justice.



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

"When we learn to live in forgiveness, we grow in our capacity to become men and women of #peace."

Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
December 12, 2019