

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 29, 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@stchrischoolnh.org

**Grades PreK - 6
20 Cushing Ave.
Nashua, New Hampshire 03064
(603) 882-7442
www.stchrischoolnh.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

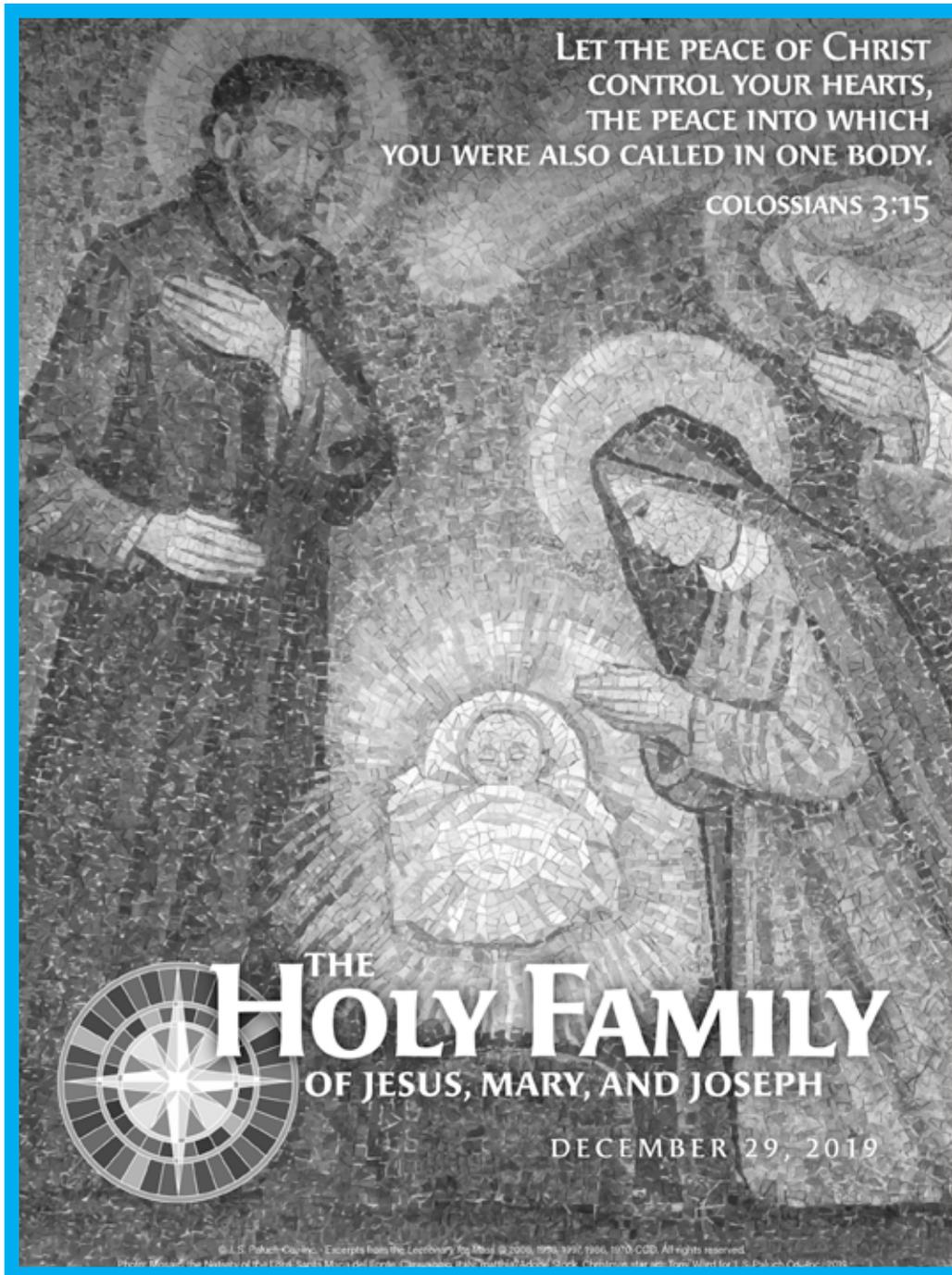
Confessions After Daily Mass,
approx. 7:45 AM
3:00-3:30 PM Saturday

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 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

Monday, December 30

7:15 AM Jeanne Paquette, 5th Anniv.
by Jean Berube

Tuesday, December 31

7:15 AM Stephanie Cadwell Walsh
by St. Christopher Parish

Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass

4:00 PM For the people of the parish

Wednesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary Mass

10:00 AM Henry & Rebecca Lamont
by Elizabeth Cote

Thursday, January 2

7:15 AM The staff and volunteers of
the parish and school.
by St. Christopher Parish

Friday, January 3

No morning mass on Friday

Saturday, January 4

4:00 PM Rachel Descoteau
by Harold & Theresa Hoy

Sunday, January 5

8:00 AM For the people of the parish

10:00 AM Anthony J. Cieri, Sr.
by The Izzo 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, which will become the Body 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. It will be offered for the people of the parish in January.

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.



Christmas Season Has Begun!

The trees, lights, and wreaths are staying for a little while longer at Saint Christopher's as we celebrate the season of Christmas. Isn't it sad that in our American culture, which rushes to cover everything in Christmas cheer the day after Thanksgiving (or earlier), barely waits hours after Christmas ends to strip everything down. They've turned out the lights just as the party is supposed to really get going!

Did you know that the Church's Christmas season actually begins on Christmas Eve and continues through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 13th)?

Prior to the liturgical reforms following the Second Vatican Council, the Christmas liturgical season actually continued all the way until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Additionally, like Easter, Christmas is celebrated in the Church as an octave, which means Christmas day and the following seven days are celebrated with the same solemnity as Christmas day. While Advent is meant to be a time of spiritual purification and preparation, Christmas is meant to be the time where the real celebrating commences.

This means that we can continue to rejoice in the birth of our Savior, enjoy the festive cheer which accompanies joyful celebration, and continue to share with others the miracle of Christ's birth. As always, we remain constant in prayer as we seek the face of God and ask for the grace to follow in the footsteps He has shown us.

May the joy of the Infant Jesus and the Holy Family remain with you and your family this Christmas season!

In Christ,
Fr. David

*Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God*



Monday, December 31
4:00 PM

Tuesday, January 1
10:00 AM Mass



**First Friday
Eucharistic Adoration**

**January 3
1:00-3:00 PM**

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

Ministry Volunteer Schedule

The next schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers will cover February 1, 2020 through May 3, 2020.

If you have any changes for this period of time, please notify Linda Sanborn by January 8, 2020. Please note any changes after this date will not be included in this schedule. Notification can be done by phone at 882-0632; by email at lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org; or by mail at 62 Manchester Street, Nashua, NH 03064.

This schedule will be distributed through email around January 15, 2020. If you do not have an email address, copies of the schedule will be available in the sacristy near the refrigerator January 18. Thank you.

For Vocations

"He gave power to become children of God." If you think you may be called to share the Father's love as a priest, or in the consecrated life, call Father Matthew Mason 663-0132, or write: mmason@rcbm.org.

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 let Fr. David of your need for the low gluten host.

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!!

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.

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 30 – NO CLASS
January 6 – 8:00 AM
January 13 – 8:00 AM
January 20 – 8:00 AM
January 27 – NO CLASS

St. Christopher's would like to welcome Liam Bellows and Leslie Worthington to the parish and their new spiritual home.



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!



December 15, 2019 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$3,351.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,238.10
Faith Direct	\$1,191.00
Total	\$5,780.10
Under Budget	\$319.00
Christmas Flowers (total to date \$1,712.00)	\$505.00
Fuel Collection (total to date \$1,893.00)	\$60.00
Immaculate Conception (total to date \$1,098.00)	\$85.00
Retirement Religious (total to date \$957.00)	\$255.00
Christmas Offering (total to date \$2,790.00)	\$2,040.00

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

**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.

From the Families of Nazareth

Family As Our Reliance

"Although we know that our family in marriage should be our road to holiness, in practice we view our family purely through human eyes instead of looking at our family in the light of faith."

S.C. Biela, God Alone Suffices, 3rd. ed. (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2011), 35.

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 6:00 PM. During this time, refreshments are served and one decade of the twenty decade Rosary is prayed aloud together every 15 minutes.

Calling All Alumni!

Are you an graduate, or parent of a graduate, from St. Christopher or Infant Jesus Schools? The Advancement Office at St. Chris is looking to update its alumni records and stay in touch with our friends! Alumni and their parents from both St. Chris and Infant Jesus are invited to complete the information form on the school's website at <https://www.stchrisschoolnh.org/apps/form/StayInTouch>. Alumni and parents will receive the News and Notes newsletter twice each year, as well as special event invitations. We can't wait to hear from you!

Mass Intentions

Parishioners may request memorial masses for loved ones, as well as sponsoring the Sanctuary Lamp for a week, by contacting the rectory at 882-0632, Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Suggested donation is \$10 and mass cards are available. Arrangements can also be made to donate the Altar bread and wine for a month.

Did You Know..

The Tridentine rite, also now known as the "traditional Latin mass," was promulgated in 1570.



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 13

I've had a real growth spurt! I'm about the size of a large orange. My thumb finds its way to my mouth more and more now. Perhaps I may continue with this habit after I'm born, depending on my unique personality. Another one of God's amazing secrets is that already some of my movements, as well as my temperament, are similar to Mom's and Dad's even though I won't see them for another five months!
So, Merry Christmas family!

*For 'In him we live and move and have our being,' as even some of your poets have said,
'For we too are his offspring.'*

Seeing is believing!
Enroll Now!



**Apply online at
StChrisSchoolNH.org**

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 at 1:00 PM at St Christopher Parish.*

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 at St. Christopher Parish.* Class size will be limited to 40 students.

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!

Are You Registered?

Welcome to St. Christopher Parish! If you are not registered at St. Christopher, please consider doing so! Registering is important so we know who is in our parish community and how best to serve you! We look forward to getting to know you!

Registering is easy and can be done in several ways:

- Complete the form located on page 6 of this bulletin and either drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the rectory.
- Fill out the online registration at <https://stchrisparishnh.org/join-us/registration/>.
- Call the Rectory at 603-882-0632

Faith Formation

Pre-K to 6th grade-

Sunday Mornings from 8:30-9:45 AM

• December 29

No Class, Christmas Break

• January 5

Regular Class

Grade 7/8 program-

Monday Evening from 6:30-7:45 PM

• December 30

No Class, Christmas Break

• January 6

Regular Class

How to Report Suspected Child Abuse

If you know of or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (a person under 18), you must report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families at 1-800-894-5533 or 603-271-6556.



*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. Basil the Great

Basil was on his way to becoming a famous teacher when he decided to begin a religious life of gospel poverty. After studying various modes of religious life, he founded what was probably the first monastery in Asia Minor. He is to monks of the East what Saint Benedict is to the West, and Basil's principles influence Eastern monasticism today.

He was ordained a priest, assisted the archbishop of Caesarea—now southeastern Turkey—and ultimately became archbishop himself, in spite of opposition from some of the bishops under him, probably because they foresaw coming reforms.

Arianism, one of the most damaging heresies in the history of the Church which denied the divinity of Christ, was at its height. Emperor Valens persecuted orthodox believers, and put great pressure on Basil to remain silent and admit the heretics to communion. Basil remained firm, and Valens backed down. But trouble remained. When the great Saint Athanasius died, the mantle of defender of the faith against Arianism fell upon Basil. He strove mightily to unite and rally his fellow Catholics who were crushed by tyranny and torn by internal dissension. He was misunderstood, misrepresented, accused of heresy and ambition. Even appeals to the pope brought no response. "For my sins I seem to be unsuccessful in everything."

Basil was tireless in pastoral care. He preached twice a day to huge crowds, built a hospital that was called a wonder of the world—as a youth he had organized famine relief and worked in a soup kitchen himself—and fought the prostitution business.

Basil was best known as an orator. Though not recognized greatly in his lifetime, his writings rightly place him among the great teachers of the Church. Seventy-two years after his death, the Council of Chalcedon described him as "the great Basil, minister of grace who has expounded the truth to the whole earth."

Reflection

As the French say, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." Basil faced the same problems as modern Christians. Sainthood meant trying to preserve the spirit of Christ in such perplexing and painful problems as reform, organization, fighting for the poor, maintaining balance and peace in misunderstanding.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org>

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**

St. Christopher Church

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Rev. Thien Nguyen,
Vietnamese Ministry

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1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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Our Mission

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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.



Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod.

In the midst of the Christmas season, it is quite appropriate that our liturgy asks us to pause to consider the Holy Family. In today's Gospel, we hear about how Joseph protected Jesus from danger by relocating the family to Egypt in obedience to God. Following the model of the Holy Family, we might use this feast to recall the responsibility that each family member has to contribute to the good of the family and recommit ourselves to one another.

Gather together as a family to work on a common project. You might prepare a meal together, prepare a special dessert, or perhaps do a craft together. When you finish, talk about how each family member contributed to the common project. Remind one another that each member of the family contributes to the good of the whole family. Recall that Jesus was also part of a family and that this Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary, and Joseph. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. Pray together that your family will continue to protect and care for one another as Mary and Joseph protected and cared for Jesus.

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

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

A. people B. soul
C. heart D. children

Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV)

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