

# SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

**December 8, 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

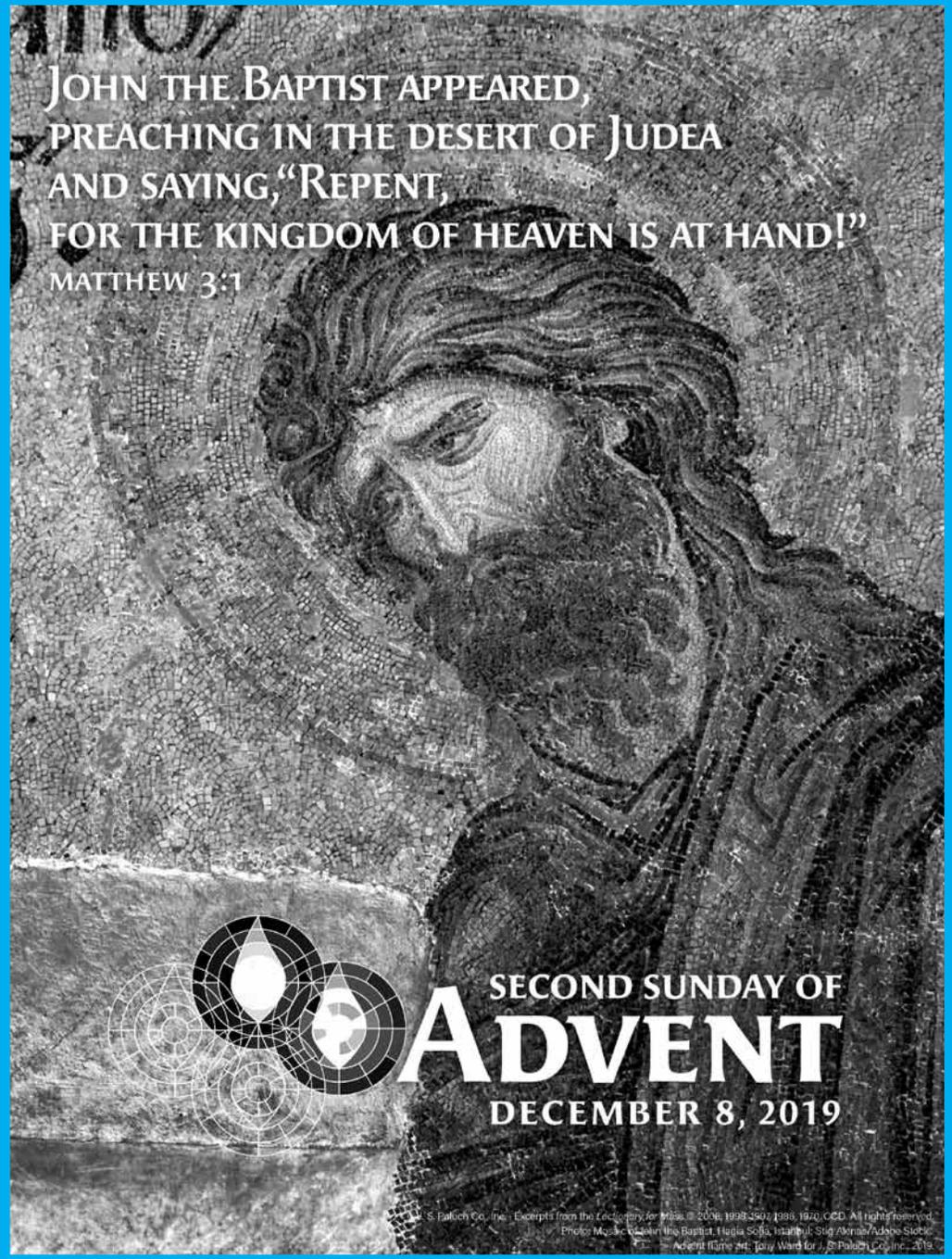
Confessions After Daily Mass,  
approx. 7:45 AM  
3:00-3:30 PM Saturday

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 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

### Monday, December 9

7:15 AM For the people of the parish

### Tuesday, December 10

7:15 AM Barbara L. Brown  
by St. Christopher Parish

### Wednesday, December 11

7:15 AM Barbara L. Brown  
by the St. Christopher Parish  
Rosary Group

### Thursday, December 12

7:15 AM Riccardo Parisi  
by Friends

### Friday, December 13

No morning mass on Friday

### Saturday, December 14

4:00 PM James Skowron, 8th Anniv.  
by His Father, Anthony

### Sunday, December 15

8:00 AM For the people of the parish  
10:00 AM Jeffrey R. Levesque  
by Margaret Schmit

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Patrick Fitzgerald  
by his wife April and his Family

### 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.

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

Thank you for respecting God's Holy Presence by keeping cell phones and other electronic devices outside of this Sacred Space.



## A Temporary Change for the Winter Months..

The center of our belief in the great mystery of the Mass is that Jesus Christ becomes present to us in the Holy Eucharist, where He shares with us the fullness of His divinity under the forms of bread and wine. Based on Jesus' own words about His true presence in the Eucharist, we do not believe the Eucharist to be symbol. It is truly Jesus who is present Himself, although the physical form of bread and wine remains. Even the smallest particle of the Eucharist contains the infinite love and power of God - what an awesome truth to ponder!

**Beginning this weekend, we will be suspending the distribution of the Precious Blood of Jesus at all parish Masses until Lent in order to help prevent the spread of influenza and other illnesses.** I want to preserve both your health and my own, especially as obtaining a last minute 'fill in' priest becomes more and more difficult. The exact date when the distribution of the Precious Blood will be restored will be announced at a later date. Please note that this decision only pertains to our parish - this was not a diocesan mandate.

**If you typically receive the Precious Blood at Mass, please do not fear that by only receiving the consecrated host you will receive 'less Jesus'.** While receiving under both species, bread and wine, is a fuller expression of the memorial Our Lord left us at the Last Supper, it does not mean that doing so brings us greater presence of Jesus in our souls.

As my seminary Christology professor once wisely stated - it would have only taken a single drop of Christ's blood to save the entire world. Yet in His gratuitous love He shares with us so much more through His total sacrifice on the Cross - the innumerable graces of which are shared with us each time we receive the Eucharist.

Thank you for your devotion and reverence towards Our Eucharistic Lord and I thank you for your understanding during these winter months.

**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](http://BestAdventEver.com)

St. Christopher's would like to welcome the following parishioners to our parish and their new spiritual home:

- Sean and Nadia Calden and their children Mekhi, Natalya, Amaya & Seriya
- James and Kimberly Fleming and their children Sophia, Vivian and Isaac
- William and Nancy Dubois
- Heather Couturier



## 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 10

Guess what! I am just over 2 inches long! My tooth buds are appearing, my bones are getting stronger, my fingernails and toenails are growing, and I can even put my thumb in my mouth. But the most exciting part of all is that, with the help of the doctor's special instrument, Mom and Dad heard my heartbeat for the first time. It's a miracle!

*A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.*

Psalm 51:12

## Catholic Daughters of the Americas Raffle

This weekend, The Catholic Daughters will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win \$200 worth of scratch tickets. (\$5 for 1 ticket, \$10 for 3, and \$20 for 10 tickets.) Money raised will help CDA to make donations to such charities as Catholic Seminaries, SOAR (Save Our Aging Religious,) Catholic Relief Services, and Mother Theresa Missions, to name a few. Last year's winner was a former graduate of St. Christopher's School, Jim Prieto! Take a chance, and good luck!

## 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 9 – 8:00 AM  
December 16 – 8:00 AM



With great joy, St. Christopher Parish welcomed the newly baptized into His church on November 24:

- William Maurice Collard, son of Nicholas and Catherine Collard

## 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**

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

### **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!

**Register Now -- Class begins January 26!** Forms for Sacrament Prep 2019/2020 are available for download on the Parish website. Visit [stchrisparishnh.org](http://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](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org) (Reconciliation/First Eucharist)  
[deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org). (Confirmation)

### **First Eucharist- (grade 3 and up) :**

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

## From the Families of Nazareth

### **God Looked Upon Mary's Lowliness**

"Mary was free from every evil not only by the grace of God but also by her cooperation with grace. Her cooperation consisted, above all, in remaining humble."

*S.C. Biela, In The Arms of Mary, 2nd. ed, rev.  
(Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005), 151.*

*A faith sharing meeting takes place each Thursday at 94 Walden Pond Drive in Nashua.*

### **For Vocations**

Are you called to be "A herald's voice in the desert" preparing the way of the Lord in the hearts of His people? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, Call Father Matthew Mason 663-0132, or write: [mmason@rcbm.org](mailto:mmason@rcbm.org).

## Faith Formation

### **Pre-K to 6th grade-**

#### **Sunday Mornings from 8:30-9:45 AM**

- December 8 - Regular Class
- December 16- Christmas Card Service project!! All classes! Check email!
- December 22-No Class- Christmas Break!

### **Grade 7/8 program-**

#### **Monday Evening from 6:30-7:45 PM**

- December 9 - Regular Class
- December 17
- Dec 23-NO Class-Christmas Break!

*Seeing is believing!*

**Enroll Now!**



**Apply online at  
[StChrisSchoolNH.org](http://StChrisSchoolNH.org)**

### 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!!

### Knights of Columbus News

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.

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.



*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.*



## 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

**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](http://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.

**Immaculate Conception of Mary**

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

**Reflection**

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

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

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**



## Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12**

**John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.**

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

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

## About Our Catholic Faith:

### **Where did some of our Christmas traditions come from?**

**Christmas trees** began with the eighth-century St. Boniface, who converted the pagan Germans. They saw their great evergreens as sacred because the trees did not shed their needles or appear to die in winter like other trees. St. Boniface — his Latin name means "one doing good" — taught them to worship, not the evergreen tree, but Christ who died on a tree, and who thereby offers us eternal life. Eventually, he was martyred, but meanwhile an evergreen decorated with candles became the Christmas tree. Many centuries later Prince Albert, who was of German descent and married Britain's Queen Victoria, brought the custom to England, and from there it went to other lands.

Many cultures celebrate the Christmas season until Feb. 2, which is **Candlemas**, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. Before the revisions of the liturgical calendar following the Second Vatican Council, that's when the season ended. Many homes retain some Christmas decorations — certainly the manger — all through that time. **Creches**, in churches and homes, are said to have begun with St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. While the manger is empty all through Advent, many places are known to have faithful bring the Christ Child to be blessed at Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent — Bambino Sunday — before traditionally placing him in the manger on Christmas morning.

Many cultures traditionally mark Christmas Eve by **abstaining from meat**. Italian-Americans are known for celebrating the "**Feast of Seven Fishes**" on that day. Roast beef or pork used to be standard in English-speaking countries on Christmas Day, but now turkey or ham is commonplace.

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*

"The closeness to the Lord invites our heart to approach our brothers and sisters with love, to show compassion towards everyone."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex**  
**December 2, 2019**