

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 5, 2020

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

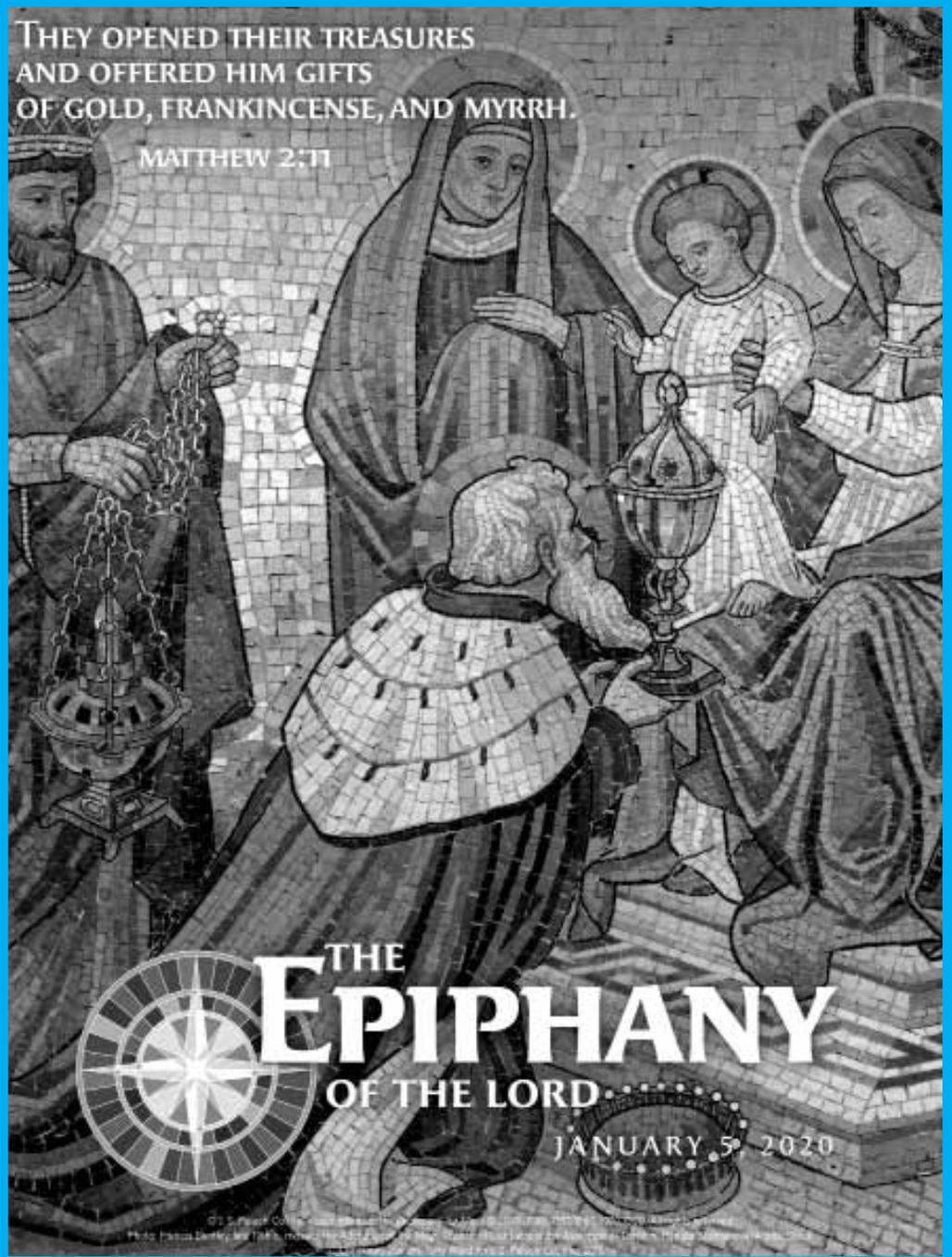
Eucharistic Adoration	Wednesday 7:45-8:45 AM Rosary at beginning
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	1st Friday of the Month 1:00-3:00 PM September-June
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Welcome New Parishioners! If you would like to register or you have changed your address, please fill out the form on page 5.

THEY OPENED THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11



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, 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

Monday, January 6

7:15 AM James F. Gallagher, Sr.,
9th Anniversary
by his Family

Tuesday, January 7

7:15 AM Stephanie Cadwell Walsh
by Creating for Our
Community

Wednesday, January 8

7:15 AM Pearl Oliver
by her daughter, Sandra

Thursday, January 9

7:15 AM Mary Beth Edgette
by Judy Stapleton

Friday, January 10

No morning mass on Friday

Saturday, January 11

4:00 PM Craig M. Levesque
by his Mother and Father

Sunday, January 12

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Alison Nardone
by Fr. David Harris & Staff

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Craig Levesque
by his mother and father

Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread, which will become the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during January, will be offered for the people of the parish.

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.



What do you want in 2020?

Human desires and wants are complicated - they exist on so many levels! We have things we want that give us pleasure, things we want that give us happiness, and things we want that give us lasting joy. Many times we even want things that really aren't good for us - which is usually why we are happy to bypass the bowl of fresh fruit to reach for the gigantic gooey donut!

As we begin the New Year, ask yourself what you truly want in 2020. It requires us to go deep into our hearts, and look at the desires that sometimes we're too afraid to acknowledge. However, if we have the courage to dig deep, it is there that we find the desires of the Holy Spirit. That voice is what God truly wants for us. As we begin the New Year, maybe these are some of the desires that God has placed on our hearts:

To grow stronger in prayer

To become a more forgiving person

To surrender fear and anxiety to God

To become less distracted

To better love the people God has placed in our lives

To let go of sinful habits and patterns

These desires are the ones that point us to abiding joy. They are more difficult to fulfill because they demand effort, patience, and discipline. However, by God's grace they are always attainable. I bet these are some of the things that God really wants for us in the New Year.

May Mary Our Mother, to whose patronage we consecrate the year ahead, help us to become the sons and daughters who our Heavenly Father desires us to be. Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Fr. David

For Vocations

"Nations shall walk by your light," If the Spirit of Jesus is prompting you to be part of the revelation of Christ to man as a priest, or in the consecrated life, call Father Matthew Mason, 663-0132 or write:

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.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual pro-life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Tuesday, January 21 through Wednesday, January 29. Pray for the respect of all human life with daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Download a free mobile app, or sign up to receive the novena through daily emails or text message. Sign up at www.9daysforlife.com!

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.

Suicide Prevention Workshop for Parents and Teachers

The Diocese of Manchester is pleased to partner with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – NH Chapter, in presenting the “More Than Sad” program on suicide prevention from 6:30-8:00 PM on three upcoming dates: January 6 at Immaculate Conception in Nashua, January 13 at Sacred Heart in Lebanon, and January 27 at St. Peter in Farmington.

The free program will assist parents, teachers, and youth ministers in recognizing signs of depression and other mental health problems, initiating conversations about mental health, and getting someone the help they need.

For more information, contact Kelly Goudreau, Director of Parish Faith Formation for the diocese, at 603-663-0145 or kgoudreau@rcbm.org.

Thank You to Our Bulletin Advertisers

A sincere “Thank You” to all of our loyal advertisers who continue to support our parish bulletin. The bulletin is one of our main communication tools with our parishioners. It provides inspirational words from Fr. David, Mass intentions, news, and events. We are thankful that this crucial communication piece is provided at no cost thanks to generous advertising support. Please say thanks to our sponsors!

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. St. Chris offers an outstanding and affordable Catholic education personalized to every prek through grade 6 student. Students excel academically through an innovative, creative curriculum supported by traditional, proven methods. St. Christopher School is not a Common Core school, allowing teachers to grow and change their teaching to address students’ specific needs. In addition, character, kindness, values, and personal accountability are nurtured in every child and reinforced by the school’s caring community.

For more information, visit the school’s website at www.StChrisSchoolNH.org.

March for Life in Washington DC

Every year, hundreds of New Hampshire residents travel together by chartered coaches on a pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The trip is a prayerful, powerful experience that contributes to the further establishment of a culture of life in our country. See the photo gallery below with pictures from previous New Hampshire pilgrimages to the march.

This year, the trip begins early Thursday morning, January 23, 2020. Busses begin their return to New Hampshire shortly after the march, arriving back in the state very early Saturday morning, January 25.

To register, please contact Nashua bus captain Fr. Von DeRosia at 603-635-3525 or fathervon@comcast.net.

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

Corpus Christi Corner

Thank you again for donations that came in from the Annual East/West Football Game on Thanksgiving Day at Neighbor's Field in Nashua. Attendees are asked to bring canned goods. 342 pounds of food was collected and donated to the Pantry. Thank you to all!

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! We truly appreciate your continued support. For the month of January, suggested donations are; 1 pound cans of coffee, 1 pound bags of all purpose flour, syrup, ketchup, mustard, mayo, rice, canned pasta, canned ham, 1 pound size, Vienna sausage, pie crust mix and juice. There are baskets located at each of the church entrances for your donations.

From the Families of Nazareth

Who Will Be King Of Your Heart?

"One must choose between descend or ascend, lowering oneself or elevating oneself; one must decide who will be king of our hearts: Jesus or Herod."

Andre Daigneault, The Way of Imperfection (Ft. Collins, CO. IAMF, 2016), 48.

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

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.

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:

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

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!

Did You Know..

The word catholic comes from the Greek word "katholicos", which means "universal." At the beginning of the second century, we find in the letters of Ignatius the first surviving use of the term "Catholic" in reference to the Church.



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 14:

I can hold my head straight now and practice some of my new facial expressions. You might think I'm acting a bit like a clown as I grimace, squint, blink, and smile. Newly formed eyebrows and eyelashes add sparkle to the faces I make. A closer look with an X-ray would show a clear picture of my wonderful and amazing bones, which are now knit together and becoming hardened.

A glad heart lights up the face...

Proverbs 15:13a

Sacrament Preparation Program

**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

Christmas Card Update: Many thanks to our Sunday morning Religious Ed students and families- a total of 275 Christmas cards were created and have been delivered to a local nursing home! Your Christmas blessings were well received by all of the residents!

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

- **January 5**
Regular Class
- **January 12**
Regular Class
- **January 19**
Regular Class

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

- **January 6**
Regular Class
- **January 13**
Regular Class
- **January 20**
NO 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

Grandson 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)

Granddaughter 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. Angela of Foligno

Some saints show marks of holiness very early. Not Angela! Born of a leading family in Foligno, Italy, she became immersed in the quest for wealth and social position. As a wife and mother, she continued this life of distraction.

Around the age of 40, she recognized the emptiness of her life and sought God's help in the Sacrament of Penance. Her Franciscan

confessor helped Angela to seek God's pardon for her previous life and to dedicate herself to prayer and the works of charity.

Shortly after her conversion, her husband and children died. Selling most of her possessions, she entered the Secular Franciscan Order. She was alternately absorbed by meditating on the crucified Christ and by serving the poor of Foligno as a nurse and beggar for their needs. Other women joined her in a religious community.

At her confessor's advice, Angela wrote her Book of Visions and Instructions. In it she recalls some of the temptations she suffered after her conversion; she also expresses her thanks to God for the Incarnation of Jesus. This book and her life earned for Angela the title "Teacher of Theologians." She was beatified in 1693, and canonized in 2013.

Reflection

People who live in the United States today can understand Saint Angela's temptation to increase her sense of self-worth by accumulating money, fame or power. Striving to possess more and more, she became more and more self-centered. When she realized she was priceless because she was created and loved by God, she became very penitential and very charitable to the poor. What had seemed foolish early in her life now became very important. The path of self-emptying she followed is the path all holy men and women must follow. The Liturgical Feast of Saint Angela of Foligno is January 7.

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 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

When did the Magi visit Jesus?

Luke mentions the circumcision of Jesus on the eighth day, in accordance with the Law. And though the place of the circumcision is not mentioned, it was likely in Bethlehem.

There is also the event of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The presentation of the firstborn generally took place about 40 days after birth (which Christian tradition recognizes). It seems likely that the Holy Family went to Jerusalem from Bethlehem for this. As you note, it would be unlikely that Mary, who was observing the usual period of convalescence for a woman after giving birth, would have gone all the way back to Nazareth, a round-trip journey of 140 miles.

After the Presentation we may presume that the Holy Family returned at least briefly to Bethlehem, and some time after their return the Magi made their appearance. This was followed shortly after by the flight to Egypt.

Some scholars put the visit of the Magi as late as two years after the birth of Jesus since Herod called for the death of all boys two and under. However, it is difficult to understand why the Holy Family would have stayed in Bethlehem that long, and we can reasonably assume that the Magi visited sooner than two years.

Some are troubled by the fact that Luke seems to say that they returned to Nazareth after the Presentation and that he makes no mention of the flight to Egypt, though Matthew does. But Luke's silence about the Holy Family's travels to Egypt does not amount to a denial of it, any more than the fact that Matthew makes no mention of the circumcision or the Presentation does not amount to a denial that they happened. Both Evangelists are merely selecting the material they deemed important.



Reprinted from 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

"Every conversion comes from a previous experience of mercy, from God's tenderness that captures the heart."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
December 17, 2019**