

ZION GATE
JERUSALEM

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!

MATTHEW 21:9

APRIL 5
2020

PALM
SUNDAY

OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 4

8:30 AM For the people of the parish
4:00 PM Richard Cote, 9th Anniversary
by His Family

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Lise Poulin
by Her husband Alzir Poulin
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, April 6

7:15 AM Eileen Allen
by Tom Allen

Tuesday, April 7

7:15 AM Tom Allen
by His Son, Tom Allen

Wednesday, April 8

7:15 AM Conversion of Family
Members
by Sr. Teresa

Thursday, April 9 -- Holy Thursday

7:00 PM For the people of the parish

Friday, April 10 -- Good Friday

7:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's
Passion

Saturday, April 11

7:30 PM Stephanie Cadwell Walsh,
Peter & Pete Cadwell

Sunday, April 12 -- Easter

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Bernice O'Connor
by Mike & Kathleen O'Connor
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For John Regan, Sr.
by Lisa Ross & Steve Regan

Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread, which will become the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during April, 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.



From Darkness to Light

The rapid spread of the the COVID-19 virus throughout the developed world has humbled human pride. No matter how powerful our military, how resilient our stock market, or how cutting-edge our technology, we weren't able to stop the spread of a microscopic organism that has brought much suffering, sacrifice, and fear. Maybe we are not in control of things as much as we had thought.

These last few weeks have been living in a type of darkness. Living in a land with so much material wealth and comfort, we are not used to the darkness of inconveniences, restrictions, and sacrifices. Listening to the news and pondering the unknown brings the darkness of fear and anxiety. Being separated from our Eucharistic Lord by receiving Him sacramentally at Mass each week brings a spiritual darkness which many of us have never felt before.

As we enter into Holy Week, we are reminded of the condemnation, humiliation, suffering, and death that Our Lord endured before His glorious Resurrection. Saving mankind came at a cosmic price - the death of the Son of God Himself. Yet, we know that by His Resurrection on Easter, Christ claims total and eternal power over all the forces of death and evil. His conquering of death means that Divine Love is the strongest force in the universe, and we have access to this power through the awesome gift of our baptism. No matter how dark the world seems, we know that God's love has the last say.

Holy Week reminds us that as we journey through a world of suffering and pain, we do so with Easter Sunday in sight - meaning that we know that if we follow Jesus Christ and love Him above all else, we will share one day in His Resurrection. This brings unshakable hope to our earthly journey and it means that there is always a light on the horizon for those who walk by faith.

May this Palm Sunday and Holy Week be an experience when you enter into Christ's Passion and death so that you may also experience the joy of Resurrection. May we embrace this mystery not just in our minds but more importantly in our hearts. I pray that each of us will be renewed in hope and that we will find our greatest comfort in the reality that Christ our Savior lives. There is no darkness which can overcome that light!

May God's grace fill you with many blessings this Palm Sunday and may Mary continue to intercede for each of us.

***In Christ,
Fr. David***

Until further notice...

St. Christopher Church

will be OPEN

for prayer

**Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

*Please use the
side door to
enter the church!*

Livestreamed Masses

Even though it's challenging to feel separated from Our Eucharistic Lord, we can still participate in the Mass from home via television or online broadcast. As you follow Mass from home, we encourage you to fully participate – by your vocal responses, standing, kneeling, sitting, listening, and most of all your prayer. The entire universal Church is spiritually present at every single Mass, so know that your praises, petitions, and sufferings are still being brought to the altar and lifted to heaven. During the time when you would normally receive the Eucharist, we invite you to make a Spiritual Communion with the Lord. This is a way to invite Jesus into your heart and speak with Him even without receiving Him in the sacrament.

Saint Christopher's will Live Stream the weekend Mass at 10:00 AM on Sundays on our public Facebook Page (A Facebook account is not required to access this) at <https://www.facebook.com/stchrisnh/>. After the live broadcast, it will remain on the page so you can watch the video at anytime.

Five Simple Ways to Celebrate Holy Week at Home

Create a simple prayer space in your home, and gather there to pray during the week.

- **Palm Sunday:** At your regular Mass time, read the first Palm Sunday Gospel (Mt 21:1–11) and meditate on or discuss what Jesus might be thinking as he enters Jerusalem for the last time.
- **Holy Thursday:** Bake bread for sharing at dinner; make a ritual of stripping the dinner table of all cloths and decorations after dinner.
- **Good Friday:** Pray the Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.
- **Holy Saturday:** In the morning, read Psalm 64 and break your Good Friday fast solemnly with a simple meal.
- **Easter Sunday:** Dress up the dinner table again. Include candles and crosses, so that the candy baskets aren't the only festive items present. Sing Alleluia and read the Easter Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10) with solemnity and joy.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35

Parish Giving During COVID-19

The operation of the parish continues to rely upon your generosity through the offertory collection. It is important that we continue our parish giving at this time. Please consider the following ways to support St. Chris during this challenging time:

- If you give by cash in the offertory collection, we highly encourage you to please sign up for online giving. This is the most efficient way for us to enable the parish to maintain its financial obligations uninterrupted. You can sign up for automated payment or make individual gifts online at <https://stchrisparishnh.org/giving/>
- If you typically put envelopes in the collection basket, please consider mailing them to us or dropping them in the mail slot of the office door.
- If you are in a position to give more, we would ask you to prayerfully increase your giving in the weeks ahead or consider making an additional gift.

Thank you!

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 - Caitlin Sica

csica@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!



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!

For Vocations

“Blessed are they who come in the Name of the Lord!” Are you being called to proclaim Jesus as a priest, religious brother or sister? If you think this may be so, Write Father Matthew Mason at mmason@rcbm.org.



Knights of Columbus

Babe Ruth, President John F Kennedy, Vince Lombardi, Venerable Fulton J. Sheen. What do these men have in common? They all were members of the Knights of Columbus! Feel called to explore your faith while doing good works of charity? Check out KofC.org/Joinus for more information.



Saint Christopher ACADEMY

Coming July 1, 2020

Families looking for a comprehensive authentically Catholic school for their PreK-3 through grade 8 children will have a new option in Fall 2020! St. Christopher School and Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School will be unified as one Catholic academy, named Saint Christopher Academy, as of July 1, 2020. The new school model, unique to the Diocese of Manchester, will blend both schools into one Catholic academy housed on two campuses.

PreK-3 to grade 6 students will attend class at the lower campus at 20 Cushing Avenue, the current location of St. Christopher School. Students in grades 7 and 8 will attend at the upper campus at 6 Bartlett Avenue, the current location of Nashua Catholic.

“Our new school will bring together the numerous gifts, strengths, and traditions of St. Christopher School, the former Infant Jesus School, and Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School, while also adding new advantages and opportunities made possible by the unified academy model. The Academy will be faith centered, academically excellent, and built upon a loving community where each child is cherished and challenged to grow,” explains Principal Cynthia Vita Clarke.

Saint Christopher Academy is enrolling students for the 2020-2021 school year. To apply, visit SaintChrisAcademy.org or contact Cindy Clarke at 603-882-7442.

From the Families of Nazareth

Jesus Shows Us Real Love Through His Passion

“In truth there is real love only in the one who lowers himself to reach the one he loves, who descends into the abyss to join those who are lost.”

Andre Daigneault, The Way of Imperfection (Ft. Collins, CO. IAMF, 2016) pg.67.

Please note that weekly sharing meetings will be in suspended during Lent, in order to enable everyone to participate more easily in the many special opportunities for conversion, grace, and spiritual growth being offered by various area parishes. To receive the usual weekly faith-sharing documents by email during Lent, anyone who wishes may send a request to emgallaher@comcast.net.

Turn to Mary

The present Coronavirus epidemic is manifesting itself as a legitimate disaster. The prayer below, with its over 50 imprimaturs from cardinals and bishops worldwide, was directly revealed by Our Lady with the promise that this prayer ‘holds great power before the throne of God.’” Please join us in asking for the Lord’s intervention in this time of great need:

**Lord, Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father,
send now your Spirit over the earth.
Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations,
that they may be preserved from degeneration, disasters, and war.
May the Lady of All Nations,
Mary Co-redemptrix and Mediatrix,
be our Advocate. Amen.**



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 26

Can you believe that I weigh about 2 pounds and am about 15½ inches long? Now that I am so big, I have been working on many new movements, like stretching and coughing. But a really exciting new thing for me is that I am beginning to have dreams. My favorite dream is the one where I see my parents.

For God does speak, perhaps once, or even twice, though one perceive it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, (when deep sleep falls upon men) as they slumber in their beds...

Corpus Christi Corner

The Pantry is trying to stay open on limited hours to feed those in Nashua who need food. However, writing this in advance for the bulletin, it is hard to say what will be the case when this is printed. If you need help, please call the Pantry, 882-6372. We will have up to the date info recorded for you.

If you are able to still drop food donations off at church, our supplies are low on the following foods: Two pound bags of flour, 64 ounce bottles of juice, pasta sauce, Hamburger Helper, canned 1 pound hams, scalloped potatoes, brownie mix, mustard, baked beans and Saltine crackers. Your donations can be placed in the baskets that are located at each of the church entrances. In this time of uncertainty, we can all pull together to help each other. Thank you.



Wedding Banns III

Cameron Gould & Kelsey Rhodes



VBS Coming Soon! Rocky Railways 2020!

July 27-July 31, 2020
8:30 AM -11:30 AM

Looking for volunteers to add to our crew and get this train rolling!

Come join us for a rockin' good time aboard the Rocky Railways VBS train... where God's strength always pulls us through! Dancing, music, crafts, snacks and games galore as we hear and learn how Jesus pulls us through! We will need lots of volunteers to make this event happen- please email cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org if you are age 18+ and want to help us make an amazing trek! Youth volunteer slots will be filled as soon as we have our 18+ crew assembled!



Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him. Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion.

We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to run from our pain, or to inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes.

A NEW KINGDOM

The Gospel of Matthew, using various symbols from scripture, presents Jesus as the true and victorious king who begins a new kingdom. After his royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus ascends his scandalous and paradoxical throne, the cross. The cross reveals the nature of his kingdom, based on God's forgiveness and sacrificial love. Evil forces thrive when violence stirs even more violence. By accepting his suffering and offering forgiveness, Jesus broke the primary cycle of violence. The Gospels proclaim that the powers of evil, though continuing their effects today, were decisively defeated on the cross.

The resurrection of Jesus launches the reign of God, which will be fully complete upon Jesus' return. We are now offered a new path for being human by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may partner with God to create new cycles of life and hope.

Today's Readings: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]



*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!

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. Crescentia Hoess (1682-1744)

Crescentia was born in 1682, the daughter of a poor weaver, in a little town near Augsburg. She spent play time praying in the parish church, assisted those even poorer than herself and had so mastered the truths of her religion that she was permitted to make her first Holy Communion at the then unusually early age of 7. In the town she was called "the little angel."

As she grew older, she desired to enter the convent of the Tertiaries of Saint Francis. But the convent was poor, and because Crescentia had no dowry, the superiors refused her admission. Her case was then pleaded by the Protestant mayor of the town to whom the convent owed a favor. The community felt it was forced into receiving her, and her new life was made miserable. She was considered a burden and assigned nothing other than menial tasks. Even her cheerful spirit was misinterpreted as flattery or hypocrisy.

Conditions improved four years later when a new superior was elected who realized her virtue. Crescentia herself was appointed mistress of novices. She so won the love and respect of the sisters that, upon the death of the superior, Crescentia was unanimously elected to that position. Under her, the financial state of the convent improved and her reputation in spiritual matters spread. She was soon being consulted by princes and princesses; bishops and cardinals too sought her advice. And yet, a true daughter of Francis, she remained ever humble.

Bodily afflictions and pain were always with her. First it was headaches and toothaches. Then she lost the ability to walk, her hands and feet gradually becoming so crippled that her body curled up into a fetal position. In the spirit of Francis she cried out, "Oh, you bodily members, praise God that he has given you the capacity to suffer." Despite her sufferings she was filled with peace and joy as she died on Easter Sunday in 1744.

She was beatified in 1900 and canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2001. The Liturgical Feast Day for Saint Crescentia Hoess is April 5.

Reflection

Although she grew up in poverty and willingly embraced it in her vocation, Crescentia had a good head for business. Under her able administration, her convent regained financial stability. Too often, we think of good money management as, at best, a less-than-holy gift. But Crescentia was wise enough to balance her worldly skills with such acumen in spiritual matters that heads of State and Church both sought her advice.

<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**



Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14—27:66

Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb.

Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

Common questions about the Paschal Triduum

When does the Triduum begin and end?

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

May another Mass besides the Mass of the Lord's Supper be celebrated on Holy Thursday?

Ordinarily, no other Mass may be celebrated on Holy Thursday. However, by way of exception, the local Ordinary may permit another Mass in churches and oratories to be celebrated in the evening, and, in the case of genuine necessity, even in the morning. Such Masses are provided for those who in no way are able to participate in the evening Mass.

When should the Easter Vigil take place?

The Vigil, by its very nature, must take place at night. It is not begun before nightfall and should end before daybreak on Easter Sunday. The celebration of the Easter Vigil takes the place of the Office of Readings of Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil begins and ends in darkness. It is a nocturnal vigil, retaining its ancient character of vigilance and expectation, as the Christian people await the Resurrection of the Lord during the night.

What considerations should be given for the paschal candle used at the Easter Vigil?

This candle should be made of wax, never be artificial, be replaced each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size that it may convey the truth that Christ is the light of the world. The paschal candle is the symbol of the light of Christ, rising in glory, scattering the darkness of our hearts and minds. Above all, the paschal candle should be a genuine candle, the pre-eminent symbol of the light of Christ. Choice of size, design, and color should be made in relationship to the sanctuary in which it will be placed.

Reprinted in part from www.https://simplycatholic.org

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, cast 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

"If you find it hard to pray, don't give up. Be still; make space for God to come in; let Him look at you, and He will fill you with His peace."

Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
March 26, 2020