

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 15, 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

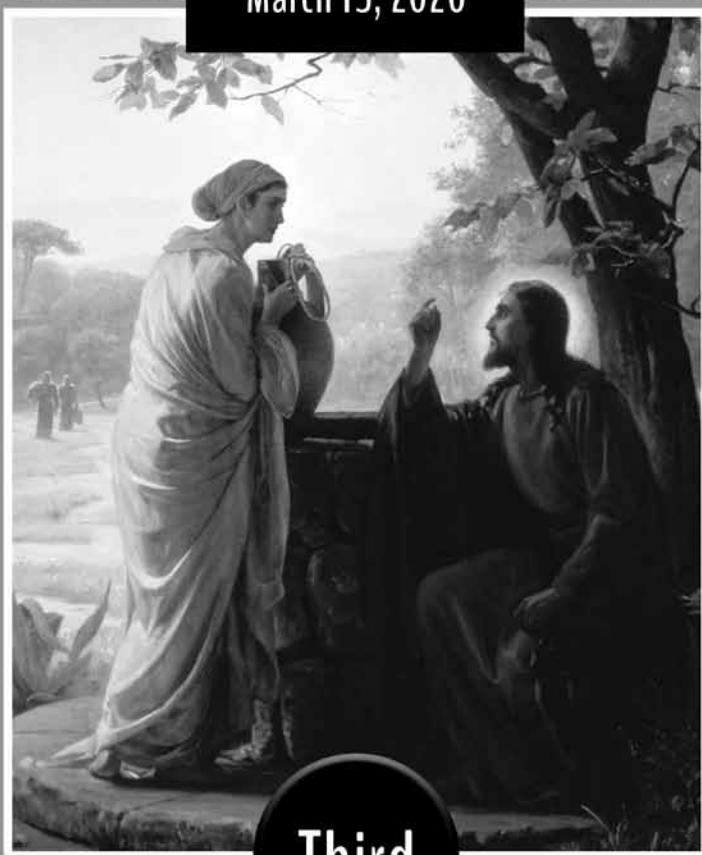
Rosary 7:00 PM Tuesday

Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday
7:45-8:45 AM
Rosary at beginning

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.

March 15, 2020



Third

Sunday of Lent

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.
Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

John 4:7

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, March 14

8:30 AM For the people of the parish
4:00 PM John A. Schappler
by His Wife Jane

Sunday, March 15

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Maureen C. Canny
by Her Husband Bill

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, March 16

7:15 AM The intentions of
Bishop Peter Libasci
by St. Christopher Parish

Tuesday, March 17

7:15 AM Deceased Members of the
Matthew Ennis Family
by Caroline & Kathy

Wednesday, March 18

7:15 AM Valentino Oliver
by His daughter, Sandra

Thursday, March 19

7:15 AM Antonio Gonzalez
by St. Christopher Parish

Friday, March 20

No morning mass on Friday

Saturday, March 21

8:30 AM For the people of the parish
4:00 PM Hector LeBlanc
by Fran & John LeBlanc

Sunday, March 22

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Charles Merrigan
by The Merrigan Family

The Corriveau Family
by Rev. David Harris

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For the people of the parish

Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread, which will become the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during March, will be offered for John Schappler by his wife, Jane.

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.



The Christian Response to Fear and Diseases

It's safe to say that we live in an age of anxiety. Mankind's reliance upon himself instead of God has filled people with confusion, panic, and fear when things go wrong. Throw in a public health scare and you have an epidemic of anxiety.

I was recently thinking about how calling upon the intercession of the Blessed Mother is a time-tested response to crises and trials in the world. In her apparitions, she has implored us to seek her aid and guidance amidst worldly turmoil. I also noticed that a 'corona', which is Spanish for 'crown', is one of the ways we honor Mary's motherhood and perhaps she wants us to seek her help especially during this moment in time.

Dr. Mark Miraville, an expert on Mariology (the study of Mary) and a professor at Franciscan University, recently wrote an outstanding article about Mary and the coronavirus. It can be found at www.motherofallpeoples.com. I would like to summarize his recommendations below.

1. Pray More

Jesus said that some things can only be overcome by prayer and fasting. In this season of Lent, I'd ask you to increase your prayer, devotion, and even consider offering something up for this intention. Christians pray with trust, consistency, and perseverance.

2. The value of suffering

Our Lord also teaches us that when we unite our sufferings to the cross they bring us closer to Him and merit grace for the salvation of ourselves and others. While we should seek to avoid illness and injury, they are realities present in our world that should not spiritually overwhelm God's people. The threat of illness and death should not only motivate us to ensure proper health precautions but we should also make sure that our spiritual health is in order.

3. Turn to Mary

I can't encourage enough the daily recitation of the rosary. It unlocks powerful graces that are obtained through Mary's unequivocal relationship to her Son. Dr. Miraville also recommends reciting the Prayer of the Lady of All Nations. According to him, "This powerfully anointed prayer was directly revealed by Our Lady during her locally Church-approved Amsterdam apparitions (1945-1959) to respond to global dangers of 'degeneration, disasters, and war.' And surely, the present Coronavirus epidemic is manifesting itself as a legitimate disaster. The Prayer of the Lady of All Nations, 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.'"

**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.**

In Christ,
Fr. David

St. Christopher Parish



Lenten Schedule

Eucharistic Adoration

- Tuesday evenings 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- Wednesday mornings 7:45 - 8:45 AM
- April 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Lenten Mini-Retreat and Breakfast, March 28

- Mini-retreat, "Growing Strong in Prayer, 8:30 am to noon, including Mass, breakfast, small group discussion and prayer time. Please RSVP to lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org by March 25 with number of adults and number of children.

Stations of the Cross

- February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 3 at 6:00 PM
- Good Friday, April 10 at 3:00 PM

Lenten Stations and Soup Suppers March 20 & April 3

- Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM, followed by a soup supper and speaker in the parish hall. Supper hosted by Knights of Columbus. Free will offering.

Reconciliation

- Tuesday evenings 6:00 – 7:00
- Following daily Mass at 7:45 AM
- Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM
- April 6 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Deanery Penance Service March 22

- Immaculate Conception Church, Nashua, NH at 2 pm

Rosary

- Every Tuesday at 7:00 PM and following daily Mass on Wednesday morning.

Saturday Morning Mass

- Saturday mornings during Lent at 8:30 AM

Blessing of Easter Baskets

- Fr. David will bless family Easter baskets, Holy Saturday, April 11, noon, in the church.

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.

LENTEN

MINI RETREAT

"Growing Strong in Prayer"

March 28

8:30 AM to Noon

All are invited! This inspiring morning will include Mass, breakfast, small group discussion and prayer time. Please RSVP to Linda Sanborn at lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org by March 25 with number of adults and number of children.



Like St. Chris Parish
on Facebook!



Join our Parish
Email List!



March 8, 2020 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$4,320.00
Loose Offertory	\$705.00
Faith Direct	\$1,378.50
Total	\$6,403.50
Easter	\$50.00
(total to date \$200.00)	
Easter Flowers	\$5.00
(total to date \$75.00)	
Church in Eastern Europe	\$50.00
(total to date \$328.00)	
Snow Removal	\$10.00
(total to date \$655.00)	

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

For Vocations

“But whoever drinks the water I give, will never be thirsty.”
Are you thirsting for an understanding of your vocation? If you think Jesus may be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life, write Father Matthew Mason at mmason@rcbm.org.

Knights of Columbus

1.9 Million members, \$185 Million donated to charity, 73 Million volunteer hours. Who does all of that? Go to KofC.org/Joinus for more information. We’d love to have you be part of the council at St Chris. Help grow in your faith while being charitable in your church and community.

Corpus Christi Corner

Food collected for the Pantry during the month of February totaled 384.9 pounds, this amount is worth \$642.78. Thank you all for your continued generosity, you help us keep our doors open.

Suggested items for the month of March include: chicken noodle soup, canned carrots, canned one pound hams, pineapple, scalloped potatoes, jelly, baked beans, sloppy joe mix, Graham crackers and bar soap. There are baskets located at each of the church entrances for your donations. Thank you!



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!

From the Families of Nazareth

**Being Open To Spiritual Healing
Like The Samaritan Woman**

“When the Samaritan woman discovered someone who did not spurn her, did not reject her, and did not throw stones at her, she began opening herself to God’s light that ever so delicately and humbly knocked on the door of her heart.”

S.C. Biela, Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005, page 70.

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.

The Servite Rosary for Lent

“As we all continue our journeys through the Holy season of Lent, let us consider the sorrow experienced by Our Blessed Mother as she lived the ignominy of Her Son’s Passion and Death. It seems particularly appropriate to pray to Her now. Please consider praying the Servite Rosary dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother. You may access instructions about how to pray this awesome rosary at www.osmm.org/devotion-our-lady-sorrows and/or you may purchase a Servite rosary at the same site. May the love of Our Blessed Mother keep us all safely in Her care and may our prayers console Her as we join in Her sorrows during this Lenten season.”



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 23

I am the size of a small butternut squash, about 9 inches from head to bottom and weigh about a pound and a half. Touch was one of my first senses to mature. I’m having fun with these awesome hands of mine, exploring my face and body and feeling the walls that surround me. I can even make a fist and might be seen through a fetoscope video grasping this lifeline to my mother, better known as the umbilical cord.

*For I am the Lord, your God, who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you, “Fear not, I will help you.”*

Sacrament Preparation Program

Confirmation grades 5-7+

Email: Caitlin Sica...csica@stchrisparishnh.org

Confirmation Mass for this class will be Tuesday June 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM at St Christopher.

- **March 15**
Regular Class
- **March 22**
Regular Class
- **March 29**
Regular Class

First Eucharist- (grade 3 and up)

Email: Chris Mercurio...cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org.

Confirmation and First Eucharist will be received in one celebration on Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 PM at St Christopher.

Parents: 1. Sponsor forms are due April 19th (must be signed by their pastor)
2. Start gathering photos and poster additions.

- **March 15**
Regular Class - Chapter 2 Due
- **March 22**
Regular Class - Chapter 3 Due
- **March 29**
Regular Class - Chapter 4 Due

Faith Formation

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

- **March 15**
Regular Class
- **March 22**
Regular Class
- **March 29**
Regular Class

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

- **March 16**
Regular Class
- **March 23**
Regular Class
- **March 30**
Regular Class

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.

Please note changes in the upcoming Senior Yoga Monday class schedule:

- March 16 – No Class
- March 23 – 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.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM

Followed by Soup Supper
and Special Speaker

March 20:

Tom McCarthy will share
"Apparitions of Mary
throughout the World"

April 3:

Sr. Mary Joseph will share
"Unlocking the Power
of Forgiveness"



**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. Louise de Marillac

Born near Meux, France, Louise lost her mother when she was still a child, her beloved father when she was but 15. Her desire to become a nun was discouraged by her confessor, and a marriage was arranged. One son was born of this union. But Louise soon found herself nursing her beloved husband through a long illness that finally led to his death.

Louise was fortunate to have a wise and sympathetic counselor, Francis de Sales, and then his friend, the bishop of Belley, France. Both of these men were available to her only periodically. But from an interior illumination she understood that she was to undertake a great work under the guidance of another person she had not yet met. This was the holy priest Monsieur Vincent, later to be known as Saint Vincent de Paul.

At first, he was reluctant to be her confessor, busy as he was with his "Confraternities of Charity." Members were aristocratic ladies of charity who were helping him nurse the poor and look after neglected children, a real need of the day. But the ladies were busy with many of their own concerns and duties. His work needed many more helpers, especially ones who were peasants themselves and therefore, close to the poor and able to win their hearts. He also needed someone who could teach them and organize them.

Only over a long period of time, as Vincent de Paul became more acquainted with Louise, did he come to realize that she was the answer to his prayers. She was intelligent, self-effacing, and had physical strength and endurance that belied her continuing feeble health. The missions he sent her on eventually led to four simple young women joining her. Her rented home in Paris became the training center for those accepted for the service of the sick and poor. Growth was rapid and soon there was the need for a so-called "rule of life," which Louise herself, under the guidance of Vincent, drew up for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Monsieur Vincent had always been slow and prudent in his dealings with Louise and the new group. He said that he had never had any idea of starting a new community, that it was God who did everything. "Your convent," he said, "will be the house of the sick; your cell, a hired room; your chapel, the parish church; your cloister, the streets of the city or the wards of the hospital." Their dress was to be that of the peasant women. It was not until years later that Vincent de Paul would finally permit four of the women to take annual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It was still more years before the company would be formally approved by Rome and placed under the direction of Vincent's own congregation of priests.

Many of the young women were illiterate. Still it was with reluctance that the new community undertook the care of neglected children. Louise was busy helping wherever needed despite her poor health. She traveled throughout France, establishing her community members in hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. At her death on March 15, 1660, the congregation had more than 40 houses in France. Six months later Vincent de Paul followed her in death. Louise de Marillac was canonized in 1934 and declared patroness of social workers in 1960.

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: John 4:5-42

Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season during which we are called to reflect upon and to live deeply the promises of Baptism. The well and the conversation about water immediately recall for us the Sacrament of Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was converted and sent on a mission because of the conversation about water, we too are converted and sent by our Baptism to preach the good news of Jesus to others.

Take this opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Baptism with your family. If you have photos or other mementos of your family's Baptisms, bring them out and take some time to recall the day of Baptism and its importance to you and your family. Create a prayer table that includes these mementos and a bowl of holy water. After you have spent some time talking about Baptism, invite everyone to listen carefully and prayerfully to today's Gospel. Read John 4:5-42 together. Ask how Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well is like Baptism. (Jesus knows the woman's sin and forgives her. The woman comes to know Jesus as the Messiah. The woman invites others to meet Jesus.) Pray a prayer of blessing for each member of the family that God will help each one live the promises of his or her Baptism. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

What is almsgiving?

Giving alms has always been an important part of Lent. For many people, it means giving money to Catholic charities or some other good cause. But the concept of almsgiving goes much deeper. It is our response to the teachings of Jesus that encourage us to reach out to people in need—not just with our money—but with our time and our talents. Today we might call it 'stewardship'.

Lent gives us the opportunity to cultivate a spirit of generosity. It gives us a chance to share what we have and who we are with other people. It puts us in communion with others and helps us understand that we are all members of the Body of Christ. Think carefully about how you will share your time, your talents and your treasure during Lent. Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said,

"It is more blessed to give than to receive"
(Acts 20:35).

Lenten Obligations

Abstinence - Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used.

Fast -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

Participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended.

Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the Christian concept of "mortification."

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

"May we allow ourselves to be reconciled, in order to live as beloved children, as forgiven and healed sinners, as wayfarers with him at our side."

Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
February 29, 2020