

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 8, 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
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Rosary	7:00 PM Tuesday
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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.

March 8, 2020



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (© 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCB).

Second

Sunday of Lent

From the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."

Matthew 17:5

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, March 7

8:30 AM For the people of the parish
4:00 PM Elaine & Roy Rigsby
by Cindy & Mike Bozek

Sunday, March 8

8:00 AM Bill Wood
by Elizabeth Cote
10:00 AM For the people of the parish
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, March 9

7:15 AM Rev. Henry Gagnon
by Hugh & Anne Moran

Tuesday, March 10

7:15 AM The priests of the Diocese of
Manchester

Wednesday, March 11

7:15 AM Fr. Jarek
by Sr. Teresa

Thursday, March 12

7:15 AM Men and Women discerning
religious vocations

Friday, March 13

No morning mass on Friday

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

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

Teresa Carroll
by Her daughter, Jane

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.

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.



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.

Spring Anniversary Mass

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating an anniversary in 2020 of 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55+ years, to attend the Spring Wedding Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 2:00 PM, at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. To register, please contact the parish office by March 20, 2020. The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. Couples celebrating anniversaries of 5, 25, or 50 years will be asked to register later for a fall celebration. To all other married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this spring's Wedding Anniversary Mass!



Congratulations to Brian Joseph Allard and Valentina Conway-Alonzo who were married on February 28 at St. Christopher Parish!

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."

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!



Join our Parish Email List!



February 23, 2020 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$2,649.00
Loose Offertory	\$790.00
Faith Direct	\$1,378.50
Total	\$4,817.50

Under Budget	\$1,282.50
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Fuel Collection	\$5.00
(total to date \$3,513.00)	
Church in Eastern Europe	\$3.00
(total to date \$38.00)	
Snow Removal	\$80.00
(total to date \$675.00)	

March 1, 2020 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$4,581.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,415.55
Faith Direct	\$1,378.50
Total	\$7,375.05

Fuel Collection	\$25.00
(total to date \$3,538.00)	
Church in Eastern Europe	\$240.00
(total to date \$278.00)	
Ash Wednesday	\$330.05
(total to date \$330.05)	
Seminarians	\$30.00
(total to date \$2,613.00)	
Catholic Relief Services	\$16.00
(total to date \$16.00)	
Holy Places	\$16.00
(total to date \$16.00)	
Easter Flowers	\$70.00
(total to date \$70.00)	
Easter	\$150.00
(total to date \$150.00)	

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

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!

It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans! Come join us for a rockin' good time aboard the Rocky Railways VBS train... where God's strength always 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

God Tells Us To Listen To His Beloved Son

"All his life, Jesus only descended: descending in his incarnation, descending in becoming a small child, descending in obedience, descending in becoming poor, abandoned, persecuted, tortured, descending in reaching the last place."

Andre Daigneault, The Way of Imperfection (Ft. Collins, CO. IAMF, 2016), 28.

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.

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:

- March 9 – 8:00 AM
- March 16 – 8:00 AM
- March 23 – 8:00 AM
- March 30 – No Class
- April 6 - No Class



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 22

Would you believe that I look almost exactly as I will at birth, only a lot smaller? My little world is really expanding and becoming more exciting because now I can hear sounds from the outside! Today I heard music and a dog barking. Last night I could hear Dad's deep voice even better when he was reading to Mom. This gift of hearing truly helps me begin to connect with God's creation. He thought of everything!

*Sacrifice or oblation you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I,
"Behold I come; in the written scroll it is prescribed for me.
To do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!"*

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 8**
Regular Class
- **March 15**
Regular Class
- **March 22**
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 8**
Regular Class - Chapter 1 Due
- **March 15**
Regular Class - Chapter 2 Due
- **March 22**
Regular Class - Chapter 3 Due

Faith Formation

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

- **March 8**
Regular Class
- **March 15**
Regular Class
- **March 22**
Regular Class

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

- **March 9**
Regular Class
- **March 16**
Regular Class
- **March 23**
Regular Class

For Vocations

"God has called us with a holy calling... according to His own purpose and grace." If you think God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, write Father Matthew Mason at mmason@rcbm.org.



Knights of Columbus

Are you Catholic, charitable and looking to serve God? We are too! Go to KofC.org/

Join us for more information on how you and your family can become part of the largest, Catholic, fraternal organization in the world.



*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. Frances of Rome

Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannoza, set out together—with their husbands' blessings—to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household.

The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannoza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor.

Reflection

Looking at the exemplary life of fidelity to God and devotion to her fellow human beings which Frances of Rome was blessed to lead, one cannot help but be reminded of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, who loved Jesus Christ in prayer and also in the poor. The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows.

<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 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

Why do we abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent?

The USCCB gives a succinct explanation:

Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance by which they gladly suffer with Christ that they may one day be glorified with Him. This is the heart of the tradition of abstinence from meat on Friday where that tradition has been observed in the holy Catholic Church.

Since it is believed Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross on a Friday, Christians from the very beginning have set aside that day to unite their sufferings to Jesus. This led the Church to recognize every Friday as a "Good Friday" where Christians can remember Christ's passion by offering up a specific type of penance. For much of the Church's history, meat was singled out as a worthy sacrifice on account of its association with feasts and celebrations. In most ancient cultures meat was considered a delicacy and the "fattened calf" was not slaughtered unless there was something to celebrate. Since Fridays were thought of as a day of penance and mortification, eating meat on a Friday to "celebrate" the death of Christ didn't seem right.

But why is fish not considered "meat"? According to the USCCB, the laws of the Church classify the abstinence from "land animals."

Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs — all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat.

Fish, on the other hand, are not in that same classification.

Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

In Latin the word used to describe what kind of "meat" is not permitted on Fridays is *carnis*, and specifically relates to "animal flesh" and never included fish as part of the definition.

In the end, the Church's intention is to encourage the faithful to offer up a sacrifice to God that comes from the heart and unites one's suffering to that of Christ on the cross.

Reprinted in part from www.https://aleteia.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

"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