

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 10, 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@stchrischoolnh.org

Grades PreK - 6
20 Cushing Ave.
Nashua, New Hampshire 03064
(603) 882-7442
www.stchrischoolnh.org

Worship Schedule

Morning Prayer 7:00 AM Mon-Thurs
Daily Mass 7:15 AM Mon-Thurs
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass 8:00 & 10:00 AM
Vietnamese Mass 3:00 PM Sunday

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

Rosary 7:00 PM Tuesday
Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday
7:45-8:45 AM
Rosary at beginning

1st Friday of the Month
1:00-3:00 PM
September - June

Welcome New Parishioners! If you would like to register or you have changed your address, please fill out the form on page 5.



Our Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all of the people and programs of St. Christopher Parish. Unite us as a community of believers and grant us the wisdom, grace, and strength to do your will. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

Our Mission

We are a Roman Catholic parish whose members live and proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 9

4:00 PM Sheila Neverett, 1st Anniv. & William Neverett by Her family

Sunday, May 10

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
 10:00 AM Lorraine St. Pierre by A Friend

 Ruth Elizabeth Lane by Her daughter, Linda
 3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, May 11

7:15 AM Samantha Price by Cindy Clarke

Tuesday, May 12

7:15 AM The intentions of Bishop Peter Libasci

Wednesday, May 13

7:15 AM Men and Women discerning religious vocations by St. Christopher Parish

Thursday, May 14

7:15 AM The priests of the Diocese of Manchester by St. Christopher Parish

Friday, May 15

No Mass on Fridays

Saturday, May 16

4:00 PM Rachel Descoteau, 1st Anniv. by Her Sons and their families

 Nelson Heroux by his sister Jeanne

Sunday, May 17

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

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Patrick Fitzgerald by His wife April

Altar Bread and Wine:

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



Separation makes the heart grow fonder

The suspension of public Masses has presented a great spiritual trial for bishops, priests, religious, and lay people who yearn to receive our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist. Perhaps this temporary separation has given us a greater appreciation for how much we need the Eucharist to strengthen us on our journey and bring healing and comfort to our souls. Maybe this suspension has also given us a wake-up call to better cherish our religious freedoms and our easy access to the sacraments - in many parts of the world it can be an arduous challenge to make it to a Sunday Mass and some places it is not possible at all.

I invite you to please read Bishop Libasci's recent letter to the faithful in regards to the reintroduction of public Masses. It is on the next page of this bulletin. His writing makes clear his ardent desire to have us back together at the altar as soon as possible. Please pray for him and his ministry, that he may continue to lead our diocese with a shepherd's heart and remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

With great eagerness I look forward to when we will all be physically together again as God's holy and chosen people at the liturgy.

*In Christ,
Fr. David*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18 or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or Jn 17:1-11a

Vita et Caritas Award Nominations

Know an inspiring and dedicated volunteer? Nominate them for the Vita et Caritas Award! The Diocese of Manchester is currently seeking nominations for the Vita et Caritas Award, given to a volunteer at a non-profit organization who makes significant contributions that help transform the lives of women, children and families. The recipient will be honored on September 10th at the annual Bishop's Summer Reception, and the non-profit organization will receive a \$2,500 grant. For more information: www.catholicnh.org/vca.

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!

Until further notice...

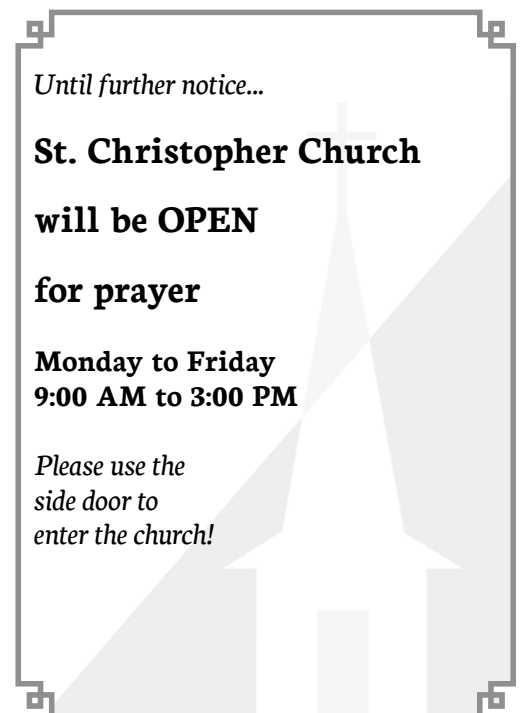
St. Christopher Church

will be OPEN

for prayer

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

Please use the side door to enter the church!





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to update you on the COVID-19 situation as it applies to the liturgical life of our Diocese.

There have been many developments in New Hampshire since I wrote to you on March 17 and announced that the public celebration of the Mass would be suspended due to the increasing presence of the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. In New Hampshire as of this writing, 81 of our citizens have died due to the virus. Families have had to leave a loved-one at the door of an emergency room because of the necessary safety precautions at hospitals. Healthcare workers are under enormous pressure as they seek to avoid this virus, provide the highest levels of care, and also comfort patients at the end of life when family cannot be present.

The priests of our Diocese continue to celebrate Mass for you and for your intentions every day. I am grateful to our priests who have so quickly adapted the manner in which they offer pastoral care in these difficult times. And I am grateful to you for your continued dedication to your pastors and your parishes, and for turning to your faith in a time of uncertainty.

As we have been doing since the beginning of the pandemic in New Hampshire, we have utilized all available information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to guide our decisions in the Diocese of Manchester.

Yesterday, Governor Chris Sununu extended the State Stay-at-Home Order until May 31, 2020. Though positive signs indicate the virus has not spread to the same level as it could have if a stay-at-home order not been in place, the data shows that significant numbers of our fellow citizens continue to test positive for, and die from, COVID-19. Our neighbors in Massachusetts also are experiencing a greater impact as the virus spreads far faster in our more populous bordering state.

Given this information, for the time being I am keeping in place the decisions already implemented in this Diocese, specifically those pertaining to public celebrations of the Mass. I make this decision knowing how difficult it is to continuously be separated from the Eucharist. The decision to suspend the public celebration of the Mass was very difficult, and I am still in pain alongside you today.

As Catholics, however, we must have a heightened sense of responsibility to act prudently and to be mindful of the safety of others, especially those who are most vulnerable. Though some among us may feel they can participate in the Mass because they do not have symptoms of the virus, the medical evidence is clear that even a person who appears healthy may carry and spread the virus and put others at risk perhaps days later. I speak several times each week with the team directing our Catholic Charities nursing homes and I am proud of the work they are doing to provide the highest level of protection for residents. I know we must remain vigilant, especially to safeguard the most vulnerable who are entrusted to our care, as well as all those who are working 24 hours per day to keep our brothers and sisters safe and well.

The Eucharist is the sacrament of the enduring love of God. Were we to gather together because of how much we ourselves want to share in this sacrament, even though we knew that we might be putting other people at risk, we would be serving as a *counter-sign* to what the Eucharist is about. The early Christians were willing to die to receive the Bread of Life, but they would not have been willing to send innocent people to their deaths in the process.

While I am not prepared to resume public celebration of Mass at this time, we are actively planning for that day in the future, for it will come. Together with the priests of the Diocese and my staff, I have been considering when and how Catholic churches in the Diocese will begin public gatherings again. The preparations include how to maintain social distancing in pews, how to limit capacity as we gradually gather back together again (such as adding additional Masses, as needed), and the procedures for the distribution of Holy Communion. These are preparations for a gradual re-entry attentive to public health, but I also envision a call to re-enter into the Mystery of Faith with a renewed fervor. Not unlike Advent's active "waiting," I have commissioned our priests to re-read the General Instruction of the Roman Missal so that they can engage you, our Faithful, in a deeper reverence, a spiritual rather than emotional fulfillment, a true Holy Communion of the soul's deepest awareness of the Divine Presence for when we do return. So while the time is not yet right, and I cannot tell you the hour or the day, please know that I am planning for when we will join together once more and the glorious reunion we will have.

Seeking the intercession of Christ, the Divine Physician, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester

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

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fr.david@stchrisparishnh.org

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Finance Committee -- Tom Nardone

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bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org

Bulletin submissions are due one week before publication.



Like St. Chris Parish
on Facebook!



**May 3, 2020 Offertory
(No public masses)**

Offertory Envelopes	\$3,223.00
Loose Offertory	\$150.00
Faith Direct	\$1,836.00
Total	\$5,219.00

Easter	\$325.00
(total to date \$20,419.00)	
Easter Flowers	\$10.00
(total to date \$1,080.00)	
Ascension	\$20.00
(total to date \$20.00)	
Catholic Communications	\$10.00
(total to date \$10.00)	
Works of the Holy Father	\$10.00
(total to date \$10.00)	

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



Knights of Columbus

Are you Catholic, charitable and looking to serve God? We are too! Go to KofC.org/Joinus for more information on how you and your family can become part of the largest, Catholic, fraternal organization in the world.

From the Families of Nazareth

**Communion of Life
With Our Heavenly Mother**

"With His testament from the Cross, Jesus calls each one of us to build a communion of life with Mary. The Savior wills that we may introduce His mother into our interior life, so that she can form us."

S.C. Biela, In The Arms of Mary, 2nd. ed. rev. (Ft.Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005), 158.

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 it's 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!

Corpus Christi Corner

The Pantry continues to be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you are in need of food or assistance, please call us at 882-6372.

We are giving out pre-made grocery bags of food. We have been quite busy and have a dedicated group of volunteers to serve our clients.

We are blessed to have the support of the Catholic parishes in Nashua. Even though the churches are closed, we continue to receive food from them, including St Christopher Church. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support. With help from all of you, we are able to keep our doors open. During the month of April, 205.1 pounds of food were donated from St Chris, with a value of \$343.00.

If you are able to donate food, it can be dropped off at the church during the hours the church is open for prayers. Our supplies are low on the following items: chicken noodle soup, canned carrots, mixed vegetables, juice boxes, jelly, toilet paper, deodorant, popcorn, pop tarts, granola bars, gravy, Hamburger Helper, and bar soap. If you would prefer to send us money, there are envelopes tucked under one corner of the collection basket. Thank you all so much!!

For Vocations

"Who has faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these." Are you being called to do the work of the Lord as a priest, sister or brother? If you are considering this possibility, write Father Matthew Mason at mmason@rcbm.org.



Diary of a Little Soul — WEEK 31

I am about 4½ pounds and over 19 inches long and it's getting more crowded than ever in here! Looks like my "water ballet" days are over, but I can still give Mom a good poke with my hand or a jab with my foot. I made my last turn today and I'm in my birth position. Our big day will be here before you know it!

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."

NEXT SUNDAY!**Saint Christopher Academy
Virtual Open House**

Families looking for an authentically Catholic, academically excellent school for their PreK-3 through grade 8 children in southern New Hampshire are invited to attend a Virtual Open House at the new Saint Christopher Academy on Sunday, May 17. The virtual event at the lower campus, which will house grades PreKindergarten through 6, will take place at 11:30 AM. The virtual event for grades 7 & 8 at the upper campus will take place at 1:30 PM.

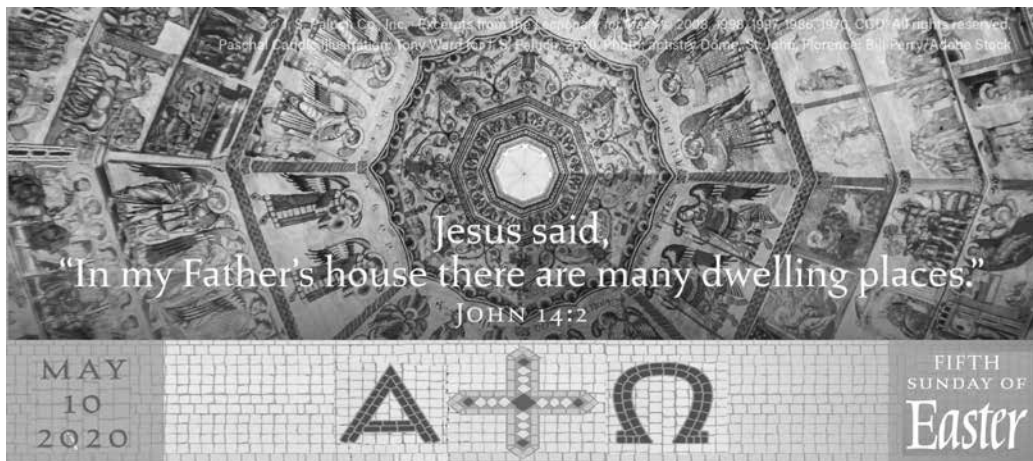
Parents may register for the Open House at <https://tinyurl.com/SCAMayOpenHouse>. Once registered, parents will be sent a direct link to the online Open House. The Open House will include an introduction to the Academy by Principal Cindy Clarke, breakout sessions with teachers, and assistance in applying remotely to the new academy.

**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!



During Lent, we participated in penitential practices and focused on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in order to turn our lives more fully to the Lord. However, the fruit of our Lenten practices is not supposed to end on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. Lent is our annual time to embrace spiritual renewal, which is intended to last. The change of mind and heart that we embraced in the weeks preceding Easter are to be our spiritual foundation, shaping our lives now and into the future. Pause for a moment and ask yourself what difference Lent made for you this year. If you can point to some particular change of mind, heart, or behavior, promise yourself that you will continue to live in this new way in the months and years to come. If Lent did not have a special impact on your life this year, now is the time to invite the Lord to show you the way to more meaningful and faith-filled living in the future.

**DON'T BE AFRAID. DO THE
WORKS OF CHRIST.**

In the Gospel passage we heard today, Jesus was preparing the apostles for a time when he would not be with them physically. Jesus wanted to reassure the apostles, even though he knew they were having a difficult time understanding. We sometimes struggle to grasp the Lord's ways, too. We know that God is with us in Christ through the Holy Spirit, and yet, when we really have to act in accord with our faith, we sometimes falter. Jesus tells us to not be afraid. Have faith in Christ and do his works. We may be surprised at what we are able to do when we trust and follow Jesus' way. And we are assured that God will be with us through it all.

Today's readings: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
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*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.

Saint Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i

(1840-1899)

When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, few people in Europe had any firsthand knowledge of leprosy, Hansen's disease. By the time he died at the age of 49, people all over the world knew about this disease because of him. They knew that human compassion could soften the ravages of this disease.

Forced to quit school at age 13 to work on the family farm, Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother Pamphile, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien quickly volunteered in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained a priest in Honolulu and assigned to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Moloka'i, set up seven years earlier. Part of a team of four chaplains taking that assignment for three months each year, Damien soon volunteered to remain permanently, caring for the people's physical, medical, and spiritual needs. In time, he became their most effective advocate to obtain promised government support.

Soon the settlement had new houses and a new church, school and orphanage. Morale improved considerably. A few years later, he succeeded in getting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, led by Mother Marianne Cope, to help staff this colony in Kalaupapa.

Damien contracted Hansen's disease and died of its complications. As requested, he was buried in Kalaupapa, but in 1936 the Belgian government succeeded in having his body moved to Belgium. Part of Damien's body was returned to his beloved Hawaiian brothers and sisters after his beatification in 1995.

When Hawaii became a state in 1959, it selected Damien as one of its two representatives in the Statuary Hall at the US Capitol. Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

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 14:1-12

Jesus tells his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioral characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

"Blessed Be God For Ever"

Linguistically, the response "Blessed be God for ever" used at Mass translates the Latin *Benedictus Deus in saecula*. *Benedictus*, in Latin, literally means to speak well or favorably about some one or something (*bene*: well; *dictus*: say or speak). Hence, what we mean by "blessed" and the phrase "Blessed be God forever" is that "It is well that God should be forever praised." We are not claiming to confer some sort of grace or favor upon God, as is often the meaning of the word "blessing" in English.

Theologically though we can distinguish between God's intrinsic glory and his external glory. There is not one thing we can add or take from God's intrinsic glory. He is glorious and blessed all by himself and has no need of our praise.

However, we can help to spread God's external glory by our praise and acknowledgment of Him before others, as well as by reflecting His glory through lives of holiness, generosity and conformity to the truth. In this sense we can also understand the phrase "Blessed be God forever" to mean: "May God's external glory and blessedness be extended and experienced in all places and times. May God be blessed (praised) everywhere and unto the age of ages."

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, 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

"Let us #PrayTogether today for #vocations, asking the Lord for the gift of good workers for His Kingdom, whose hearts and hands are open to His love."

Pope Francis I @ Pontifex

May 3, 2020