

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 16, 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

Saint Christopher Academy

Mrs. Cindy Clarke, Principal
cclarke@saintchrisacademy.org

Grades PreK - 8
20 Cushing Ave. &
6 Bartlett Ave

Nashua, New Hampshire 03064
(603) 882-7442
www.saintchrisacademy.org

Worship Schedule

Daily Mass 8:00 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. 8:00 AM
3:00-3:30 PM Saturday

Rosary 7:00 PM Tuesday
Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday
8:30 - 9:30 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.

AUGUST 16, 2020

*O woman,
great is
your faith!*

MATTHEW 15:28



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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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, August 15

4:00 PM Bob Dexter
by Jeanne Berube

Peter Ruseski, 5th Anniversary
by His friend Faith

Sunday, August 16

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Michael Canny, 16th Anniv.
by His Wife, Florence

Justine Pelosi Musto
by Andrea Izzo

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, August 17

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the
Matthew Ennis Family
by Caroline & Kathy

Tuesday, August 18

8:00 AM The Klun Family
by Tom and Zo Long

Wednesday, August 19

8:00 AM Gary Moore
by St. Christopher's Parish

Thursday, August 20

8:00 AM For the people of the parish

Friday, August 21

No Mass on Fridays

Saturday, August 22

4:00 PM Nicholas W. Eckstein, 11th
Anniversary
by his mom and family

Sunday, August 23

8:00 AM For the people of the parish
10:00 AM Giuseppe Failla & Ottaviano
Liberatore
by their children, Franco and
Francesca
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Randy Lamont
by Elizabeth Cote

Altar Bread and Wine:

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



*O woman,
great is
your faith!*

MATTHEW 15:28

AUGUST 16, 2020
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE LORD WELCOMES ALL

All of us who ache to be accepted find lavish comfort in today's readings. Rich in mercy, the Lord welcomes all of us—no exceptions. Isaiah extends God's invitation to all nations, even to foreigners who often arouse suspicion from the "in crowd." Saint Paul takes advantage of these fearful suspicions by provoking the Israelites' jealousy: if even Gentiles can offer acceptable worship to the one true God, then God's chosen people should surely do the same. In a similar way, Jesus provokes his disciples in today's Gospel from Matthew. Bantering with a Canaanite woman, Jesus draws out her tremendous faith, which endures despite the typical rejection she faces from scornful Israelites. Whether we identify more with the privileged disciples or the marginalized Canaanite woman, we cannot mistake God's universal invitation to believe in the One who saves us.

REJECTED

At one time or another, we have all been rejected or ridiculed, left out of a conversation, or not invited to a party. It hurts to be excluded. God makes all things new, though, and our scriptures today invite us to turn over our aching hearts to the Lord. Some of us might feel reluctant to give our hearts to the Lord, especially if our suffering somehow involves God or the Church. Why pour out hearts to God, after all, if God seems to be the cause of our troubles? A tragic loss, a painful death, or an unavoidable catastrophe can disrupt or destroy our life plans. When people clumsily console us then, saying, "It's God's will," we can easily become suspicious of God and the almighty will. If we suffer from the sinful structures or actions of God's representatives and ministers in the Church, we might look with skepticism at the prayers of that same Church.

Even so, our Canaanite woman today persuades us not to lose hope. The disciples scorn her, complaining that she "keeps calling" out for help. Like irritable children, the disciples ask Jesus to "send her away." And just when we might expect Jesus to take her side, to scold the disciples and reward the woman's persistence, he shocks us by implying she is a dog. Undaunted, the woman accepts Jesus' remark and parlays its aggression into her own forceful plea: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

ACCEPTED

The woman's faith is irresistible—to Jesus, and to us. Jesus grants her heart's desire, healing her daughter from that very moment. We too are won over by her indomitable confidence in the Lord. Truly, this woman is one of the heroes of the New Testament. When difficulties suffocate us and we feel turned away like a stray dog, we can recall the Canaanite woman's simple words: "Lord, help me."

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ez 24:15-24; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

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2020 NE Faith Forum

The 2020 New England Faith Forum goes virtual! Originally scheduled for August 7-8, 2020 in Nashua, NH, the Faith Forum has moved to an online format. Presentations will be offered throughout the year and we are starting on August 18, 2020 with our keynote presenter, Julianne Stanz. Please join us from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM for the first in a series of exciting presentations. There is no cost to participate, but registration is required.

Storyteller, author, retreat leader, beach glass hunter, Julianne Stanz is the Director of Parish Life and Evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. She is passionate about parish life and living a joyful Catholic faith, and is a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Catechesis and Evangelization. Julianne has been profoundly influenced by her life growing up in Ireland. She is the author of the book "Developing Disciples of Christ" and co-author with Joe Paprocki of the book "The Catechist's Backpack- Spiritual Essentials for the Journey" by Loyola Press and blogs monthly for the website "The Catechist's Journey". She is happily married to Wayne and they have three children, two sons and a daughter.

Julianne will speak on "START WITH JESUS : WE THE MISSIONARY PEOPLE." Becoming a vibrant parish community is the result of small, intentional steps initiated at the parish leadership level but also accepted by each disciple personally. If our people are renewed, our parishes and ministries will be renewed. "We the people" are the ones who will renew our parishes but only if we have been renewed by the Lord Jesus Christ himself who wants us to grow as his disciples. People are always our best resource in the disciple making process. With joy, humor and practical insights, Julianne will help you to set forth a vision for reaching all people and practical ways by which we can become a community of missionary disciples that set the world on fire.

For reservation questions, contact Alyse Hlasny at ahlasny@rcbm.org or visit catholicnh.org.

Engaged Couple Courses

Engaged couple formation courses in the Diocese of Manchester are available online. The courses are based on Ascension Press' Joy-Filled Marriage program and run online for five consecutive Tuesday or Thursday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 PM. They are facilitated by a pair of Catholic couples experienced in leading marriage formation. Registration in a course also includes a save-worthy marriage formation box (think, subscription box for your relationship!) containing a number of helpful and enriching resources. All interested couples should speak to Fr. David to register for the following course dates:

Thursdays: July 30 – August 27

Tuesdays: August 25 – September 22

Voting Resources on Diocesan Website

The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do." -- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 13. In the face of the "throwaway culture" which judges a person's worth through things like wealth or celebrity or power, baptism gives each of us the mission of working for the good of other people, especially the poor and the vulnerable. Our job is to show that all human beings, at every moment of life, possess a God-given dignity that can never be eliminated or diminished. Since the political world is where society makes its most significant decisions concerning human dignity and the common good, we have a serious moral obligation to participate in the public square and to vote. Check out our new Voting page at <https://www.catholicnh.org/community/public-issues/voting> for information on how to register and how to vote.

St. Christopher's would like to welcome Christopher and Megan Palatino and their daughter Alyssa to the parish and their new spiritual home.



We're Here for YOU at St. Christopher Parish!

Rectory Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00-3:00
Friday 9:00-12:00

Rectory Phone: 882-0632

Rectory Email: parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org

Fr. David Harris

fr.david@stchrisparishnh.org

Bookkeeper - Jean Dickson

bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org

Director of Music & Organist -

Carol Ann Skabo
music@stchrisparishnh.org

Religious Educ. - Christine Mercurio

cmurcurio@stchrisparishnh.org

Confirmation - Alex Sullivan

asullivan@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!



August 9, 2020 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$3,744.00
Loose Offertory	\$880.00
Faith Direct	\$1,853.00
Total	\$6,477.00
Assumption (total to date \$155.00)	\$40.00
Parish to Parish Support (total to date \$666.00)	\$10.00

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



Knights of Columbus

Called "The strong right arm of the Church" by Saint John Paul II, the Knights of Columbus has more than 1.9 million members and families who support the church and charitable causes around the globe. Go to KofC.org/Joinus for more information on how you and your family can transform the world.

40th Annual High Adventure Scout Retreat

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, and their Leaders have been gathering every year for the past 40 years on the 3rd weekend in September to give a meaningful, spirit-filled beginning to a new year of Scouting.

All Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts & American Heritage Girls in grades 6-12, and Adult Leaders, are invited to the 40th Annual High Adventure Scout Retreat from Friday, September 17 through Sunday September 19, 2021 at Camp Fatima in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH. The cost is \$13 per scout and \$10 per adult.

This retreat is very active - like a Camporee - involving the scouts in a number of fun, interesting, challenging, thought provoking and faith filled activities.

For more information, contact the Catholic Scouting Committee at nhcatholicscouting@gmail.com.

Corpus Christi Corner

The Pantry is now open three days a week. Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10am to noon and on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30pm. We are looking for some more volunteers to help prepare client orders. Could you come and work one day a week for us? The hours are as follows: Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 to noon and Tuesdays from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. If you are interested, please call Maryellen at 882-6372.

During July, 243.5 pounds of food was donated to the Pantry from St Chris, with a total value of \$407. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Suggested items for the month of August are: rice, pasta sides, ketchup, mayo, peanut butter, jelly, tea, coffee, taco kits, Vienna sausage, pasta sauce, canned carrots, shampoo, flour, sugar, canned beans and cookie mix. There are baskets located at each of the church entrances for your donations. Thank you for your continued support.

Why choose Saint Christopher Academy for your PreK 3 to Grade 8 child?

Reason #7: Ease of mind for parents is a high priority.

Being a parent isn't always easy. We listen to the challenges facing our parents and quickly respond to their needs and concerns. Our Before and After Care programs offer flexible scheduling, and secure bus transportation is available throughout the city of Nashua. Student safety always remains a priority, with regular staff training, consultation with local law enforcement, and security enhancements on each campus.

Visit SaintChrisAcademy.org to learn more!



**Saint Christopher
ACADEMY**

From the Families of Nazareth

Jesus Seemingly Refuses The Canaanite Woman

"If God refuses, even in a categorical way, He does so for your salvation; He wants your faith to be at a point of folly and unlimited trust."

S.C. Biela, In The Arms of Mary, 2nd. ed, rev. (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005), 99.

For Vocations

"Woman, you have great faith." It takes faith to hear God's call in our lives. And His call takes us on unexpected paths of deeper trust and love. Is God calling you to life as sister, brother, or priest? Write Fr. Matthew Mason at mmason@rcbm.org.

Register to Receive Catholic Citizenship News

Are you looking for an easy way to stay informed about public issues in New Hampshire? The Diocese of Manchester offers an e-mail newsletter with updates on important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Register at catholicnh.org/ccn.

Virtual Young Adult Retreat

Are you a young adult living in New Hampshire or Maine? Do you ever wonder what it would be like to set aside all of society's pressures for a while and feel perfect just as you are? Would you like to get to know other Catholic young adults in a relaxed and spirited setting? Then have we got a weekend for you! Join us for a Virtual Retreat on September 11-13.

The Living in God's time virtual retreat will dive deep into what it means to live on God's time. We will cover topics such as Kairos and Chronos, Identity, Connection, and Letting Go, and Going Down the Mountain (living our faith in the season of Young Adulthood). The schedule for the weekend will include a mix of real-time interactions via video conference and off-line time for personal reflection. The retreat will conclude with a livestreamed Mass in southern Maine that, if conditions allow, registrants will have the option to attend in person.

For more information, visit www.catholicnh.org/ya-retreat-2020.



*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)

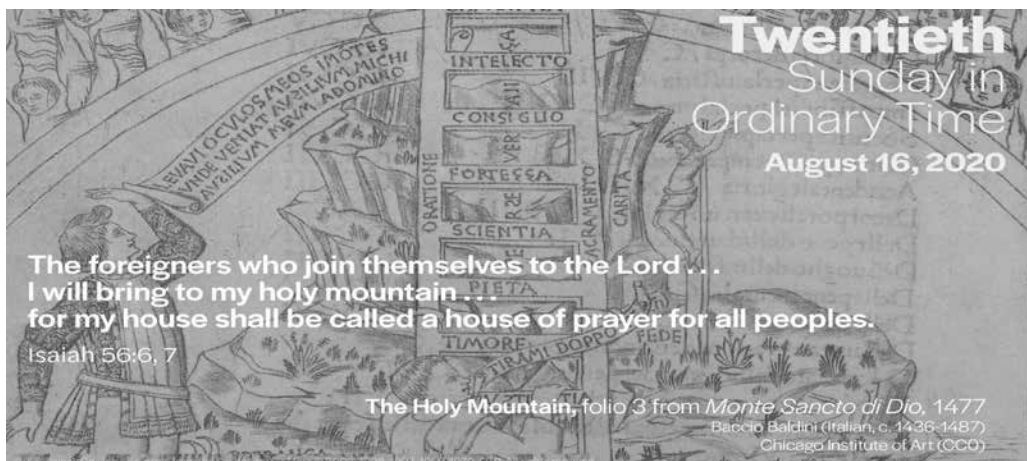
Daughter of John Soltis:
Lt.Col. Kristen Soltis (USAF)

Granddaughter of Dan & Sue Tracy:
1Lt Brittany DesLauriers (Army)

Grandson of Betty Batey:
Major 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.*



Matthew opens the scene in today's Gospel by setting up a conflict. Unlike the parallel story in Mark (7:24), the woman is described as "a Canaanite." This label serves to evoke the ancient animosity between Jews and other peoples in the region. The woman, who is never named, begs for help for her daughter. The disciples are actively dismissive of her, as a woman and a foreigner, and deem her to be unworthy of their attention. The text suggests that Jesus initially sided with the disciples. But then he recognized the strength of her faith.

Many women, foreigners, or marginalized persons might identify with this woman's story. Sometimes faith means standing fast, in care for others or in fidelity to truth, even when it seems that no one supports you. Somehow, the woman recognized God's power and God's care within Jesus. And Jesus recognized that God was active within her, manifested in her commitment to her daughter. Jesus saw his Father's larger horizon of care for everyone, Jew and Gentile, within this faith-filled woman.

A NEW TEMPLE

Isaiah articulates the vision that it is God's deep desire that all human beings will respond to God in prayer and thanksgiving. God will summon everyone to "my holy mountain," that is, the temple Mount. The temple was the primary symbol of God's presence among the people. The Temple was where communal worship and sacrifice took place. Worship served to give thanks for God's blessings on the people. Sacrifice served to help heal relationships between God and Israel, and within the community, when sin had damaged or broken them.

The early church reflected upon this vision and saw Jesus as a new temple. The person of Jesus is to be worshiped as God's active presence within human life. Jesus is to be worshiped in prayer and thanksgiving, and Jesus is where relationships are healed and renewed. In Jesus, God invites the whole world into God's loving care.

Today's Readings: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

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 John Eudes

(November 14, 1601 – August 19, 1680)

How little we know where God's grace will lead. Born on a farm in northern France, John died at 79 in the next "county" or department. In that time, he was a religious, a parish missionary, founder of two religious communities, and a great promoter of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

John joined the religious community of the Oratorians and was ordained a priest at 24. During severe plagues in 1627 and 1631, he volunteered to care for the stricken in his own diocese. Lest he infect his fellow religious, during the plague he lived in a huge cask in the middle of a field.

At age 32, John became a parish missionary. His gifts as a preacher and confessor won him great popularity. He preached over 100 parish missions, some lasting from several weeks to several months.

In his concern with the spiritual improvement of the clergy, John realized that the greatest need was for seminaries. He had permission from his general superior, the bishop, and even Cardinal Richelieu to begin this work, but the succeeding general superior disapproved. After prayer and counsel, John decided it was best to leave the religious community.

That same year John founded a new community, ultimately called the Eudists—the Congregation of Jesus and Mary—devoted to the formation of the clergy by conducting diocesan seminaries. The new venture, while approved by individual bishops, met with immediate opposition, especially from Jansenists and some of his former associates. John founded several seminaries in Normandy, but was unable to get approval from Rome—partly, it was said, because he did not use the most tactful approach.

In his parish mission work, John was disturbed by the sad condition of prostitutes who sought to escape their miserable life. Temporary shelters were found, but arrangements were not satisfactory. A certain Madeleine Lamy, who had cared for several of the women, one day said to him, "Where are you off to now? To some church, I suppose, where you'll gaze at the images and think yourself pious. And all the time what is really wanted of you is a decent house for these poor creatures." The words, and the laughter of those present, struck deeply within him. The result was another new religious community, called the Sisters of Charity of the Refuge.

John Eudes is probably best known for the central theme of his writings: Jesus as the source of holiness; Mary as the model of the Christian life. His devotion to the Sacred Heart and to the Immaculate Heart led Pope Pius XI to declare him the father of the liturgical cult of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

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 _____



Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15-21-28

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer.

As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 15:21-28. Was anyone surprised by Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.

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

About Our Catholic Faith:

What do we see at Mass? Part 2

The Altar Is the Cornerstone

St. Padre Pio inscribed these words in Madame Katherina Tangari's missal: "If you want to assist at Holy Mass with devotion and fruitfully, keep company with the sorrowful Virgin at the foot of the cross on Calvary" (Tangari, *Stories of Padre Pio*, TAN, 133). In other words, approach the altar as if you are approaching the very place Jesus was crucified.

The first altar was the simple wooden table used by Christ at the Last Supper. The early Christians, when they were safe from their persecutors, most likely celebrated the Eucharist in the same way. After Christianity was legalized under Constantine, Christians began to use stone altars, recalling the Gospel of Matthew, when Christ reveals that he is the "stone that the builders rejected [that] has become the cornerstone" (Matt. 21:42, English Standard Version). Through the ages, the altar-table (mensa) has represented the imperishable Church.

Altars today contain a small altar stone representing both Calvary—the rock on which our Lord was sacrificed—and Christ himself, "the spiritual rock" (1 Cor. 10.4, NIV). The altar stone is consecrated by a bishop in one of the most solemn liturgical events in the Church. Wine, salt, and ashes—representing the divine and human nature of Christ—are blessed and mixed in holy water to form a chrism. Using the chrism, the bishop traces five crosses upon the altar stone, symbolizing Christ's five wounds from which the grace of our salvation springs. Relics of saints, frequently martyrs, are placed beneath the altar-stone, recalling the image in Revelation: "When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne" (Rev. 6:9). The altar is installed in an elevated place to represent Calvary. When the priest approaches the altar to celebrate Mass, he is, in persona Christi, ascending to reenact Christ's sacrifice.

Reprinted from CatholicAnswers.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

"God does not choose us because of our "goodness", but precisely because we are and we feel small."

Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
August 11, 2020