

# SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

**September 20, 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 7:30 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.**

The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner  
who went out at dawn  
to hire laborers for his vineyard.

Matthew 20:1



Copyright © J.S. Paluch, Co. Inc. - Photos: © Rostislav Sedláček/Alamy Stock  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1988, 1997, 1988, 1970, CCD.

September 20, 2020

## Twenty-Fifth 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, September 19

4:00 PM Stephanie Cadwell Walsh  
by Connie & Tom McNulty

### Sunday, September 20

8:00 AM For the people of the parish

10:00 AM Laurence Holleran  
by Janet Murphy & Marie  
Theodhosi

Donald Rhodes  
by Combs Family

Helen Maioriello  
by Diane London

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### Monday, September 21

7:30 AM For the people of the parish

### Tuesday, September 22

7:30 AM For the people of the parish

### Wednesday, September 23

7:30 AM For the people of the parish

### Thursday, September 24

7:30 AM For the people of the parish

### Friday, September 25

No Mass on Fridays

### Saturday, September 26

4:00 PM Ellen Brine Mack & David Mack  
by their loving family

### Sunday, September 27

8:00 AM Basil MacDonald  
by Mike & Anne Feenan

10:00 AM For the people of the parish

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

Sanctuary Lamp - for William Carroll  
by his daughter, Jane

### Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread, which will become the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during September, will be offered in loving memory of Patrick John Fitzgerald from his wife April Geer Fitzgerald.

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.

## LET GO

In our daily lives, and in prayer and worship, we encounter a God whom we don't fully understand. We sometimes meet a mysterious and surprising God, whose actions and designs are beyond us, "as high as the heavens are above the earth." Our readings this week describe the confusion, the joy, and the challenge of this encounter. The readings invite us to "let go." Isaiah invites us to let go of trying to fit God into our own comfortable ways of thinking. Paul, knowing that he might face death at any time, describes his joy over having let go of trying to control his future. Jesus' parable in the Gospel of Matthew challenges us to let go of limiting God's generosity to others. May our encounters with our mysterious but trustworthy God transform our hearts and minds, and deepen our trust in God.

### A GENEROUS GOD

The parable in today's Gospel identifies a very strong human tendency to believe that everyone should get what they deserve. If we achieve more than others, we deserve to receive more: more money, more privilege, more honor. And so we anticipate that God will reward more liberally those who have done more for God.

Jesus says that God does things differently. The full day's wage in the story is like the gift of forgiveness and salvation, shared equally and abundantly with all. The full-day laborers complained that "you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden." They resented not being placed higher than the others, refusing to accept them as equals. Jesus is saying that, among God's people, there is no such pecking order. Regardless of background or achievements, we can accept everyone as brothers and sisters, and rejoice in God's generosity to everyone.

### THE FIRST AND LAST

In today's parable, had the laborers who worked all day been paid first, they likely never would have known that the late-starters had been paid the same wage, and would not have become jealous. In the way the story is told, though, both the justice and the mercy of God are revealed. The landowner gave a just wage to those who worked all day, and he was generously merciful to those who worked less.

When Jesus says that "the last will be first and the first will be last," he points to the kingdom of God. This is a kingdom where oppression is ended and divisions between people are healed. God brings justice and mercy to a world that sorely needs them. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is called "the first and the last," the Alpha and Omega. In Jesus, the first and the last are brought together to heal God's world. When we work for justice and show mercy, we join in Jesus' healing ministry.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:6-9  
Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18  
Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a  
Matthew 20:1-16a

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Tuesday:** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday:** Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday:** Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday:** Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

## NH Diocesan Priest Retirement Special Collection

This weekend is the annual collection to support the NH Diocesan Priest Retirement Trust Fund. This fund provides retirement benefits to retired NH diocesan priests, like Fr. Kelley. Please be as generous as possible in supporting this collection.

### For Vocations

"Seek the Lord while He may be found..." While seeking Him in prayer and the sacraments, listen to Him. Could it be you are being called by Jesus to serve as a priest, religious sister or brother? If you think He may be offering you this grace, write Fr. Matthew Mason at mmason@rcbm.org.

## Faith Formation NEWS

### **NEW INFORMATION!**

#### **Religious Education for grades pre-K to 8 will be an AT HOME program this year!**

Families registering their children for our Religious Ed program will pick up their AT HOME kits along with a schedule- students/families will participate with at home textbook and will have frequent check ins/email/additional content. We will reassess a return to in person learning for January.

Forms for Fall 2020/2021 are available for download on the Parish website. Visit [stchrisparishnh.org](http://stchrisparishnh.org), print your registration and return both forms and fees to the parish office to the attention of Religious Ed.

- **September 27 -- Pre-K to 6th grade**
- **September 28 - Grade 7/8 program**

Email Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org) for more information.

#### **Sacrament Preparation Programs -- Fall 2020 IN PERSON Classes Start October 4th. Register now!**

Forms for Fall 2020/2021 are available for download on the Parish website. Visit [stchrisparishnh.org](http://stchrisparishnh.org), print your registration and return with the required certificates/fee to the parish office. For more information, email Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org) (Reconciliation/First Eucharist) or Alex Sullivan at [asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org) (Confirmation) *All students registering for a sacrament class must also be enrolled in ongoing faith formation classes (Catholic parish or a Catholic school, Grades 2-8)*

#### **Reconciliation (Grade 2 and up) -- Starts IN PERSON on October 4**

Sunday afternoons from 4:30 - 5:30 PM. Students entering grade 2 and older who have been baptized but not yet received the sacrament of first confession may register for this class. Email Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org).

#### **Confirmation (Grade 3 and up) -- Starts IN PERSON on October 4**

Sunday mornings from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Students who attended Reconciliation in the Fall of 2019 should register for this class and the First Eucharist class offered in Spring 2021. Email Alex Sullivan at [asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org).

#### **Spring 2021 Classes: Register now!**

#### **First Eucharist (grade 3 and up)**

Students who received Reconciliation in the Fall of 2019 should register for this class and the Fall 2020 Grade 3 Confirmation class. Class will run January-May 2021. Confirmation and First Eucharist will be received in one celebration in the Spring of 2021. Email Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org).

#### **Confirmation (grades 5-7+)**

Students who have received baptism, reconciliation and first communion but have not been confirmed should register for this class. Class will run Jan-May 2021. Confirmation will be received in the Spring of 2020. Email Alex Sullivan at [asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org).

### **THANK YOU!!!**

A big thank you to all who selected a scroll last Fall and prayed for one of our Confirmation students. All the prayers you have said for our sacrament prep students were much appreciated!! Please keep praying! 14 students were confirmed last weekend and 31 students will be receiving the sacrament over the next 2 weekends!

## **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](mailto:parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org)

#### **Fr. David Harris**

[fr.david@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:fr.david@stchrisparishnh.org)

**Bookkeeper** - Jean Dickson

[bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org)

**Director of Music & Organist** -

Carol Ann Skabo  
[music@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:music@stchrisparishnh.org)

**Religious Educ.** - Christine Mercurio

[cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org)

**Confirmation** - Alex Sullivan

[asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:asullivan@stchrisparishnh.org)

**RCIA** - Joe Mercurio

[rcia@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:rcia@stchrisparishnh.org)

**Parish Council** - Elizabeth Cote

[ecote@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:ecote@stchrisparishnh.org)

**Finance Committee** -- Tom Nardone

[tnardone.work@gmail.com](mailto:tnardone.work@gmail.com)

**Bulletin** - Marta Nissen

[bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org)

Bulletin submissions are due one week before publication.



**Like St. Chris Parish  
on Facebook!**





**September 13, 2020 Offertory**

Offertory Envelopes	\$4,740.00
Loose Offertory	\$729.00
Faith Direct	\$1,883.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,352.00</b>

Assumption	\$40.00
(total to date \$804.00)	
Catholic University/USCCB	\$375.00
(total to date \$689.00)	
NH Priest Retirement	\$290.00
(total to date \$640.00)	
NH Missionaries/Missions	\$40.00
(total to date \$552.00)	
All Souls	\$10.00
(total to date \$10.00)	
All Saints	\$10.00
(total to date \$10.00)	

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

**Congratulations!!**

14 young people received the sacraments of Confirmation and first Eucharist on September 13th! We wish to congratulate the following students and their families:

Connor Caron	Carolina Ciotola
Ashton Gregoire	Ashley Koitzsch
Madison LaFleur	Samson Lamere
Aidan Luhtjarv	Madelynn MacDonald
Sean Mattson	Vanessa Nguyen
Liam Rol	Owen Torosian
Lana Uong	Gavin Wong

**Truly Thankful!**

Take a moment to view our parish Facebook page--so many beautiful photos from the day to see! View the recording of the livestreamed Mass as well. Many hands went into preparing the students, and many assisted at the Mass- Thank you to Father David for a beautiful celebration of the Mass on this special day. Thank you to Deacon Jim and our seminarian Peter who assisted on the altar. Thanks go out to all involved in the beautiful musical accompaniment, the video/photography production, our ushers, the lector, and the families who made the celebration special. It was a beautiful day!

**Worshipping Mary in October**

October brings another opportunity to honor Our Blessed Mother. Once again, rosaries dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother will be available for people interested in an additional devotion to Our Lady. On October 3rd and 4th, free, blessed rosaries will be available for the taking in a basket at the side entrance to the church, beginning with the 4:00 PM mass on Saturday. There are opening and closing prayers stapled to each rosary packet – these prayers are not included in the pamphlet that comes with the rosary. I recommend attending the 4:00 PM mass on Saturday to ensure you might obtain a rosary. Please take no more than 2 per family. Those remaining after the mass will be made available for the 8:00 and 10:00 AM masses on Sunday, October 4th.

If you are unable to obtain a rosary, please go to the following website to order one for your self ([www.ossm@sbcglobal.net](http://www.ossm@sbcglobal.net)). Find the shopping tab and scroll down until you find the rosary packet.

May Our lady bring you many blessings for praying her rosary of Reconciliation, Healing and Mercy. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [susannemtracy@gmail.com](mailto:susannemtracy@gmail.com). Blessings!



**Knights of Columbus**

Did you know, last year the Knights of Columbus donated more than \$185,000,000 to charities in our community and around the world? In addition, members used their time by donating more than 73,000,000 volunteer hours. Want to be a part of something bigger than yourself? Go to [KofC.org/joinus](http://KofC.org/joinus) for more information.

**Why Does Our Parish Need Your Gift?**

None of us likes to give a gift that is not needed. So it is understandable that you might question, "Does the parish really need my gift? Does my weekly financial contribution make a difference?" Yes! Your gift is needed and makes a difference every day! Your contributions to St. Christopher Parish help:

- *Pay staff salaries so that Fr. David has more time to visit the sick and comfort those who truly need to feel Jesus in their lives at this time.*
- *Support our religious education program so that we can help parents educate their children in the Catholic faith.*
- *Pay the utility bills that keep the lights on and the rooms warm for all those who gather here for prayer, education or social ministry.*
- *Purchase the many supplies that are needed for our liturgies and sacraments, including hosts, wine, candles, prayer books and hymnals.*
- *Landscape our grounds, remove snow, and maintain our facilities, so that we always present a welcoming image to all who may pass by this House of God.*

If you do not currently receive parish envelopes for your weekly gift but would like to, please contact the rectory office at 882-0632. You can also register for our safe and secure online giving program through FaithDirect at [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). Sign in using our parish code NH10.

## Corpus Christi Corner

The Sock and Underwear Drive for the Pantry will continue thru the end of September. We are collecting new packages of socks and underwear for school age children, in sizes for first graders to high schoolers. Donations can be placed in the baskets at the church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

During the summer months, thanks to your donations, and those of other churches in Nashua, the Pantry was able to pass out 130 fans to our clients. With the very hot summer that we had, our clients were very grateful.

In August, 293.8 pounds of food was collected at church, valued at \$490.65. Our shelves are low on the following items; syrup, mayo, ketchup, muffin mix, canned carrots, canned peas, pasta sides, instant potatoes, canned potatoes, Hamburger Helper, Spam, corned beef hash, deodorant, toothpaste, and paper towels. There are baskets located at each of the church entrances for your donations. Heartfelt thanks you to all!

## Carry the Cross Fundraiser

The Carry the Cross Fundraiser helps pay for the education of our holy seminarians. On Saturday, October 10th, the Knights of Columbus member Blaise O'Mara will be carrying a cross along the 8.4-mile Franconia Notch Ridge Trail to raise money for the seminarians. To donate to the cause, please pledge any donation amount and sponsor Blaise. If you'd like to pledge and be a sponsor, please submit your name, parish name, pledge amount, and e-mail to blaisexomara@gmail.com. This can also be done at carrythecrossfundraiser.org.

## From the Families of Nazareth

### **God's Generosity Is Neither Democratic Nor Just**

"From a human point of view, God is neither democratic nor just. 'Are you envious because I am generous?' (Mt 20:15). In this parable, those who came at the end of the day and worked for only one hour were also given a day's wage."

*S.C. Biela, The Two Pillars, (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2006), 101.*



*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.*

As high as the heavens  
are above the earth,  
so high are my ways  
above your ways  
and my thoughts  
above your thoughts.

ISAIAH 55:9

TWENTY-FIFTH  
SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 20  
2020

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2008, 1998, 1992, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: photosty99/Adobe Stock

Jesus' parable depicts workers who "punch the clock" at various times throughout the long day: dawn, nine, noon, three, and five o'clock. Regardless of when they began working in the vineyard, the laborers all receive the same reward. The reward seems lavish to the latecomers, of course, and shockingly unfair to the long-faithful workers. The landowner soothes his most dutiful laborers, however, delighting in them as friends and transforming their bitter confrontation into a reflection on generosity. The laborers who arrived at five o'clock might have been late to the job, but those who began at the crack of dawn were last to understand the extravagant bounty of the landowner. Seen in this way, the parable discusses not only God's generosity toward "unworthy" believers, but also the Lord's inexhaustible patience toward those who thought they had nothing more to learn.

### BEGINNING AGAIN

Today's readings provide sweet refreshment to all of us who know the bitterness of discouragement. No matter how stubbornly we determine to improve ourselves, the human

condition often leaves us in puddles of failure and regret. Jesus has a new plan for us. Today's Gospel parable demonstrates the mercy of God, mercy that rejoices in fresh beginnings. We take comfort in knowing that God accompanies us in our labors—and works for us—whether we struggle with caring for our bodies, striving for patience, avoiding gossip, making time for prayer, being generous, overcoming addiction, remaining in recovery, or simply attending to our daily work. Jesus shows us that he actively engages with us each time we fall short. From dawn to dusk, the Lord seeks us out, calling us to join him in the vineyard. Now, today, right this moment, is our dawn. Or our nine o'clock. Or noon? Ignore the clock! Jesus invites us to forget past failures; divine mercy wipes them away. Today's psalm insists that the "Lord is near to all who call upon him." In hope, then, we begin again.

Today's Readings: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18;  
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Copyright © 2020, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400,  
Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approval.

## 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](http://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.

# Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions

*(August 21, 1821 – September 16, 1846; Companions d. between 1839 – 1867)*

The first native Korean priest, Andrew Kim Taegon was the son of Christian converts. Following his baptism at the age of 15, Andrew traveled 1,300 miles to the seminary in Macao, China. After six years, he managed to return to his country through Manchuria. That same year he crossed the Yellow Sea to Shanghai and was ordained a priest. Back home again, he was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured, and finally beheaded at the Han River near Seoul, the capital.

Andrew's father Ignatius Kim, was martyred during the persecution of 1839, and was beatified in 1925. Paul Chong Hasang, a lay apostle and married man, also died in 1839 at age 45.

Among the other martyrs in 1839 was Columba Kim, an unmarried woman of 26. She was put in prison, pierced with hot tools and seared with burning coals. She and her sister Agnes were disrobed and kept for two days in a cell with condemned criminals, but were not molested. After Columba complained about the indignity, no more women were subjected to it. The two were beheaded. Peter Ryou, a boy of 13, had his flesh so badly torn that he could pull off pieces and throw them at the judges. He was killed by strangulation. Protase Chong, a 41-year-old nobleman, apostatized under torture and was freed. Later he came back, confessed his faith and was tortured to death.

Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptized, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. Evangelization was difficult because Korea refused all contact with the outside world except for taking taxes to Beijing annually. On one of these occasions, around 1777, Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China led educated Korean Christians to study. A home Church began. When a Chinese priest managed to enter secretly a dozen years later, he found 4,000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. Seven years later there were 10,000 Catholics. Religious freedom came to Korea in 1883.

Besides Andrew and Paul, Pope John Paul II canonized 98 Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867, when he visited Korea in 1984. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were lay persons: 47 women and 45 men.

## Reflection

We marvel at the fact that the Korean Church was strictly a lay Church for a dozen years after its birth. How did the people survive without the Eucharist? It is no belittling of this and other sacraments to realize that there must be a living faith before there can be a truly beneficial celebration of the Eucharist. The sacraments are signs of God's initiative and response to faith already present. The sacraments increase grace and faith, but only if there is something ready to be increased.

## 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](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 20-1-16**

***n the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.***

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier.

Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.

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

## About Our Catholic Faith:

### What do we see at Mass? Part 7

#### My Burden Is Light

The most conspicuous garment worn by the priest during Mass is the chasuble, or outer vestment, from the Latin *casuala*, meaning "small house." Msgr. Peter Elliot notes that "the beauty and dignity of this most visible Eucharistic vestment is essential in a properly ordered liturgy" (Elliot, *Ceremonies of the Modern Roman Rite*, Ignatius, 125). When a new priest receives the chasuble at his ordination, the bishop exclaims to him, "Receive the sacerdotal garment, for the Lord is powerful to increase in you charity and perfection." The chasuble literally and symbolically overlays all the other vestments—as all other virtues begin with and rely on the supreme virtue of charity.

The chasuble originally consisted of rather large circular cloths with a hole in the middle for the priest's head to fit through; they were so large, in fact, that it required two assistants to fold each side to allow the priest's hands to emerge for the celebration of Mass. In time, though, chasubles were tailored to accommodate easier movement. Throughout the Middle Ages and into the twentieth century, the back of the chasuble (viewed by the faithful during the eucharistic prayer) was normally embroidered with an image of the cross or a Y-shaped symbol that represented Christ's arms stretched upward in his final agony. As the priest places this last vestment over his shoulders he intones, "O Lord, who hast said, 'My yoke is sweet and my burden light,' grant that I may so carry it as to merit your grace."

Reprinted from [CatholicAnswers.com](http://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*

"The revelation of God's love for us seems madness. Every time that we look at the cross, we find this love. The crucifix is truly the great book of God's love."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex**  
**September 14, 2020**