

# SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

**March 20, 2022**

## 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  
info@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  
8:00-9:00 AM  
Rosary at beginning

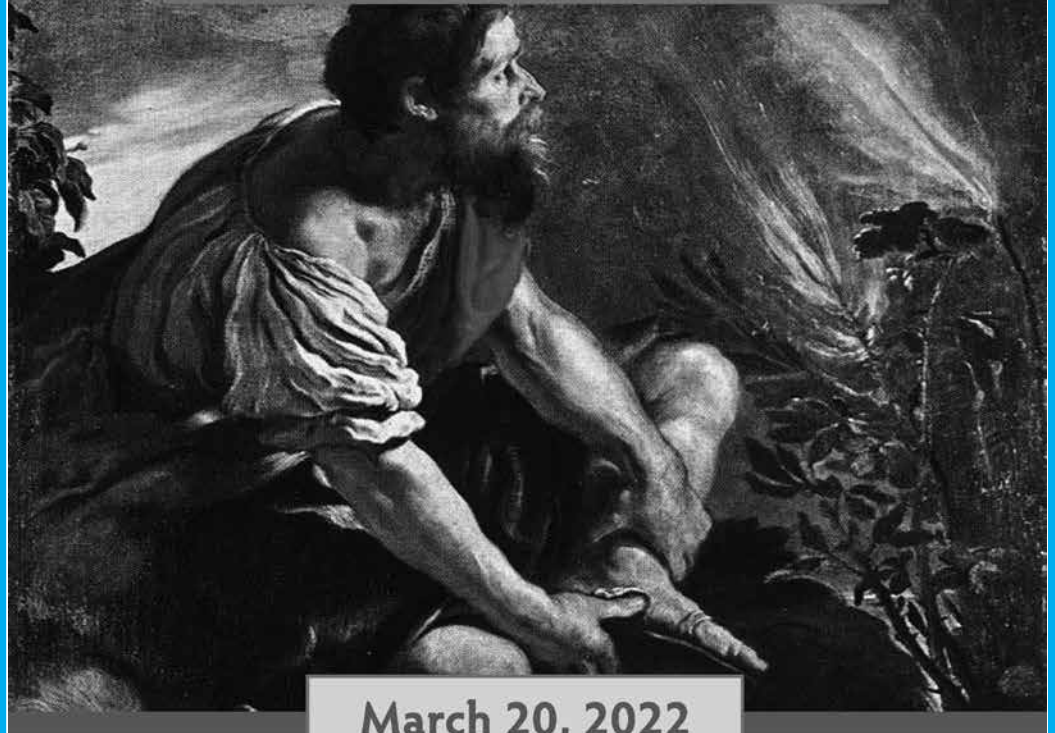
1st Friday of the Month  
1:00-3:00 PM  
September - June

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

Third Sunday  
of  
**LENT**

"Remove the sandals  
from your feet,  
for the place where you  
stand is holy ground."

Exodus 3:5



**March 20, 2022**

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## 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 19

- 8:00 AM Matthew Trombly  
by Phil and Denise Trombly
- 4:00 PM Donald Rhodes  
by Mary Rhodes
- Florence Wells  
by Cindy & Bill Kaminski
- Hector Leblanc  
by John and Fran Leblanc

### Sunday, March 20

- 8:00 AM For the people of the parish
- 10:00 AM Ann Vanwolveleere  
by the Harris Family
- 3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### Monday, March 21

- 7:30 AM Henry Migneault  
by Cindy

### Tuesday, March 22

- 7:30 AM All Souls Day Intentions  
by Parishioners

### Wednesday, March 23

- 7:30 AM Sean Costello  
by Clare Spurlock

### Thursday, March 24

- 7:30 AM Bill Wood  
by Elizabeth Cote

### Friday, March 25

- 5:30 PM Jim Nikitis  
by Kaye & Pat Heffernan

### Saturday, March 26

- 8:00 AM Phyllis Cline  
by Nancy Pelletier
- 4:00 PM Leona Marie Vacca  
by Michael Vacca
- Sean Costello  
by Connie McNulty

### Sunday, March 27

- 8:00 AM For the people of the parish
- 10:00 AM Matthew Trombly  
by Phil and Denise Trombly
- 3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass


### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

Sanctuary Lamp - In Memory of Joseph LoMascolo  
by His Family

### Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread, which will become the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during February and March, will be offered for the people of the parish

Third Sunday  
of  
**LENT**



**March 20, 2022**

“Remove the sandals from your feet,  
for the place where you stand  
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Exodus 3:5

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## TRUST IN GOD

Elizabeth Barret Browning wrote, “Earth’s crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God, But only he who sees, takes off his shoes; The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.” We are challenged today to experience the mystery of God with the image of Moses and the burning bush—a God who answers all questions in a simple, bold manner. Like an exasperated parent telling a child “Because I said so,” God tells Moses “I am who I am,” and “tell the Israelites I AM sent me to you.” God may as well have said, “Save all your questions, and trust in me. Quit being so stubborn.” The passage from First Corinthians reminds us what happened when the Israelites did not listen to God’s message. They grumbled and complained because manna from heaven was not enough! Lastly, an annoyed Jesus calls on his listeners to repent and uses a difficult parable to stress transformation.

## A CONTINUOUS LENT

In the Rule of Saint Benedict, the monks are told that their lives should be a “continuous Lent.” At first, this may sound like a negative, difficult thing, or entirely depressing. Rather, it is simply a call to be open and continue growing. In fact, one of the vows that Benedictines profess is *Conversatio Morum*, that is, “conversion of life.” In a nutshell, that is what Jesus is saying this week. We are being called to change our lives. Some people came to Jesus with gossip and a gruesome story about Pilate; Jesus challenged them with a couple of pointed questions, and then related the parable of the fig tree. To put it in context, usually figs blossom within two years, and then can be harvested twice a year. When a tree has been barren three years, it might be best just to remove it, but this is not the approach that Jesus suggested. Rather, the gardener in the parable chose to nurture the tree, fertilizing it with dung. He was not willing to give up on it.

## GROWTH

There are times when we may feel our lives are covered in dung, and we lie dormant through a plethora of difficult and painful moments. But Jesus is calling us to use this time, to draw strength from it, to use the dung in our lives as fertilizer, to begin a slow and steady transformation to a new and better place, until we too can bear fruit. Growth is always a process, and we have to start somewhere. While there is always a call to repentance and conversion, we are blessed with a God who is loving enough and patient enough to wait for us to come to our senses, however long that may take. This Lent we are being called to life. We are called to repent. We are called to be nurtured and fertilized and take the time and effort to grow.

## TODAY’S READINGS

Exodus 3:1–8a, 13–15  
Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8, 11  
1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12  
Luke 13:1–9

## Saint Christopher Academy Upper Campus Open House THIS Sunday, March 20

Saint Christopher Academy will hold an Open House at its upper campus location, 6 Bartlett Ave in Nashua, on March 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The upper campus serves students in grades 6 to 8 with an emphasis on outstanding academics built on a strong Catholic moral and spiritual foundation. Saint Christopher Academy enables students to grow academically and spiritually while in the embrace of a supportive, joy-filled community.

Financial aid for qualified families is available through both the school and other private and state supported programs.

## Corpus Christi Corner

As part of Catholic Schools week, Saint Chris Academy sponsored a Brown Bag Appeal for Corpus Christi Food Pantry. Between the two campuses, 769.1 pounds of food were collected, with a value of \$1,322.85. Heartfelt thanks to the students and families who participated. And a special thank you to all the students who helped fill the Pantry van.

During the month of February, 266.8 pounds of food were collected for the Pantry, with a value of \$458.90. Suggested food items for the month of March are: Quick bread mixes, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, cookie mix, 1 pound cans of coffee, mustard, ketchup, Saltine crackers, pancake syrup, canned chicken, corned beef hash, and children's toothpaste. There are baskets located at each of the church entrances for your donations, thank you.

St. Christopher's would like to welcome the following parishioners to our parish and their new spiritual home:

- Matthew and Katie Ward, and their children Jackson, Ava and Ashlyn

- Travis and Coraima Kulak and their son, Benjamin



## Deanery-wide Lenten Penance Service

A deanery-wide Lenten Penance Service will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish, 216 East Dunstable Road, Nashua on Sunday, March 27 at 2:00 PM. Many priests will be available for private confessions.

## How to Read the Bible Lenten Workshop with Fr. David

Are you a Catholic who wants to become more comfortable with the VERY BASICS of the Bible? Join Fr. David for this workshop to help you pray with the Bible, ask beginner questions, and better understand the readings at Mass. It will be informal and fun!

The workshop will take place Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Church Hall. The schedule of topics include:

**Monday 21 - The Old Testament**

**Monday 28 - The New Testament**

We will have free Catholic bibles or you can bring your own. Attendance at all sessions is not required.

## Lenten Soup and Salad Dinners

The parish is sponsoring one more FREE Lenten Soup Dinner during Lent! A meatless soup and salad will be served following the 5:30 PM Mass on **Friday, April 1**. Please join us for Friday fellowship!

We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and/or clean up after the Lenten Soup Dinners. The setup crew would need to arrive about 4:30 PM to set up tables and chairs and all should be done before 5:30 so you can go to Mass. The clean up crew would help during the dinner to bus tables, empty trash and after dinner break down the hall, clean up in the kitchen and empty the trash. If you or your family can help, please call the rectory or email [info@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:info@stchrisparishnh.org).



## 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:**  
[info@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:info@stchrisparishnh.org)

### Fr. David Harris

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

**Administrative Asst. - Kitty Provost**  
[kprovost@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:kprovost@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.

## Visit St. Chris Parish on Facebook!

Fr. David often mentions to check Facebook for parish news and updates. If you don't use Facebook, you can still see our posts through the parish website by visiting, <https://stchrisparishnh.org/facebook/>





**March 13, 2022 Offertory**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Offertory Envelopes | \$2,975.00        |
| Loose Offertory     | \$742.00          |
| Faith Direct        | \$2,809.50        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$6,526.50</b> |

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Church in Eastern Europe | \$50.00  |
| Total-to-date:           | \$965.00 |
| Snow Removal             | \$30.00  |
| Total-to-date:           | \$954.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$355.00 |
| Total-to-date:           | \$355.00 |

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



**Saint Christopher  
ACADEMY**

Saint Christopher Academy is a pre-kindergarten through grade 8 Catholic school located on two nearby locations. At SCA, students are immersed in an authentically Catholic, academically excellent education within the embrace of a safe, joy-filled community.

Visit us online at  
[SaintChrisAcademy.org](http://SaintChrisAcademy.org)

**Now accepting  
applications for  
2022-2023!**

**CPR Class**

The Knights of Columbus Council 11907 will be holding a CPR class on May 3 in the St. Patrick's Parish Center Classroom 3 at 6:30 PM. Class size is limited and cost is \$20 per person. Priority will go to Council members and parish staff, then parish members and the public. If there is sufficient interest, another class may be scheduled. Please email or call Robert Everett, at rje7@hotmail.com or (603) 229-7319 for more information.

**Catholic Relief Services and  
Catholic Home Missions Appeals**

Next weekend, March 26 & 27, we will be collecting for Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Home Missions. The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts, including relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless. The Catholic Home Missions appeal assists fellow Catholics in the practice of the faith through financial support to missionary activities that strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States, and in its territories and former territories.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
- Friday:** Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
- Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**CMC Heart & Hands Scholarship**

The CMC Heart & Hands Scholarship is presented to two students entering grades 7-12 in a diocesan Catholic school who have made a significant contribution or impact in their community. Learn more about the eligibility requirements and how to apply at [www.catholicnh.org/scholarships](http://www.catholicnh.org/scholarships).



**Holy Mass and Confessions**

Saturdays 8:00 AM

**Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions:**

Wednesdays After 7:30 AM Mass  
Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
(through April 5)

**Rosary:**

Tuesdays 7:00 PM  
Wednesdays After 7:30 AM Mass

**Confession:**

Mon. - Thurs. After 7:30 AM Mass  
Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Saturdays 3:00 PM

**Friday Stations of the Cross and Mass:**

Stations 5:00 PM  
Holy Mass 5:30 PM

**Special Events:**

**Friday Lenten Soup and Salad Supper  
(Free!) following Stations and Mass:**

April 1 6:00 PM

**"How to Read the Bible" Workshop with  
Fr. David (Free! Monday in Church Hall):**

March 21 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
March 28 7:00 - 8:30 PM

### First Communion and Confirmation

Our Spring classes have begun. If you have a student interested in preparing for Reconciliation, Confirmation, or First Communion, please email [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org) for program information. Sacrament preparation registration forms are available at [stchrisparishnh.org](http://stchrisparishnh.org) and will be added to the 2022-23 school year schedules. Questions? Email Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org).

**First Communion (grade 3):** These students recently completed classes in Confirmation prep and will continue their studies to receive both Confirmation and First Communion on May 18th. Student and a parent attend class together. Class is 4:30 to 5:30 PM.

**Confirmation:** Students in this class have been baptized, received Reconciliation and First Communion and will prepare to receive Confirmation on May 18th. A parent and student attend class together. Classes are held after the 10:00 AM Mass, from 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM.

### For Vocations

"I AM has sent me to you." Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at [mmason@rcbm.org](mailto:mmason@rcbm.org).

### Christ In Us Family Faith Program Rolling registration for this program for Grades K-Grade 6

Our parish students in public school grades K to grade 6 AND their families gather once a month in the Church hall for a light breakfast. Students will participate in a grade level lesson while their parents participate in a program just for them. We can all use a recharge in our faith journey! Students will continue with self paced lessons at home each week and submit completed work online.

Registration forms can be found on our parish website at [stchrisparishnh.org](http://stchrisparishnh.org) Questions? Email Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org).

### Interested in Sending Your Child to Summer Camp?

Camp Bernadette for girls & Camp Fatima for boys could be ideal for your family! The Diocesan camps of New Hampshire are joyful, Catholic communities with a sense of belonging for all. Campers' lives are changed every summer after participating in the robust camping experiences at Bernadette and Fatima:

- Grow in Faith • Learn New Skills
- Develop Confidence
- Kayaking • Tubing • Archery • Rock Wall
- Ropes • Team Sports
- Make Lifelong Friendships
- And Much More

Call Andrew Thibault at 603.931.5500 x 114 or visit [bfcamp.com](http://bfcamp.com) for more information about the incredible opportunities that the camps offer.



*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

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:  
Cpt. 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](mailto:bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org) or call the Rectory at 882-0632.*



### You are Invited

...to join the Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci and the priests and deacons for the annual blessing of the oils at the Chrism Mass.

When: 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
Location: St. Joseph Cathedral, corner of Lowell and Pine Streets in Manchester  
Registration: [catholicnh.org/chrism](http://catholicnh.org/chrism)

**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.

**NEW! Home Visitation  
Ministry**

The Home Visitation ministry offers in-home visits for Christian fellowship, conversation, and prayer for parishioners who are unable to attend parish Masses and gatherings due to age or infirmity. We offer a comfortable way to experience Jesus' caring presence.

Please note that this ministry does not provide services such as errands, rides, and housework.

Contact Janet Murphy at 603-204-8382 to arrange a visit.

**How to Make A Pilgrimage This  
Lent Without Leaving Home**

***Befriend Your Guardian Angel***

Did you know that you can send your guardian angel to all the Masses being offered throughout the world on any given day? Padre Pio would often send his angel with messages and prayers for others when he could not attend to them himself. We can send our angels on "pilgrimages" to gain graces for ourselves and others. Try also directing your inner dialogue to your angel and see how your life changes.

***Frequent the sacrament of Confession***

One of the traditional practices of pilgrims was an increase in almsgiving to the poor in the areas that they visited. We are called to a particular focus on almsgiving during Lent, and there are creative ways to give of yourself beyond a financial donation. Focus on cultivating generosity of spirit to grow in perfection of charity.

**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."

**Blessed Angela Salawa**

*(September 9, 1881 – March 12, 1922)*

Born in Siepraw, near Kraków, Poland, she was the 11th child of Bartłomiej and Ewa Salawa. In 1897, she moved to Kraków where her older sister Therese lived. Angela immediately began to gather together and instruct young women domestic workers. During World War I, she helped prisoners of war without regard for their nationality or religion. Angela gave great service in caring for soldiers wounded in World War I. After 1918, her health did not permit her to exercise her customary apostolate. Addressing herself to Christ, she wrote in her diary, "I want you to be adored as much as you were destroyed." In another place, she wrote, "Lord, I live by your will. I shall die when you desire; save me because you can." Blessed Angela was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Kraków in 1991.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

March 1, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**A new vision for the Church in New Hampshire**

Looking out at the Catholic Church in New Hampshire, I see a strong, hopeful, and faith-filled people who love their Church and are committed to nurturing their faith for generations to come. Signs of thriving Catholic life are found throughout the Diocese of Manchester. We see it in parishes and schools from the Great North Woods to the Lakes Region, from the Upper Valley to the Seacoast, from our largest cities along the Merrimack River to the intimate beauty of the Monadnock region. No matter how remote or urban the place, we find our Catholic brothers and sisters teaching the faith to people of all ages; trained lay ministers serving their parishes and pastors to ensure that a vital sacramental and liturgical life remains at the core of their communities; and others living out the Gospel message to love one another through acts of mercy and Catholic social outreach ministries. The Manchester diocese is the spiritual home to the Catholic faithful of New Hampshire who are committed to the Gospel message of living out the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The vision for our diocese – the Church in New Hampshire – is one in which the faithful embrace their Catholic identity, grow in their faith throughout their lives and celebrate their faith in vibrant parishes and schools. We all can participate in this vision. But we must be willing to do things differently and work together to realize it.

The Church in New Hampshire, like elsewhere in the country and the world, faces many challenges. Yet we also are blessed with much reason for hope and elements of great beauty. We face the deleterious effects of contemporary society's moral relativism, extreme individualism and even indifference. Feeling alone and despairing of hope, many people desperately hunger for the response Jesus taught us: *"Love one another as I have loved you."* Our Lord's command continues to ring loud and true in our many parishes, schools and ministries, which are standing tall in our cities and expanding in our towns and throughout the countryside. The faithful continue to give to and participate in their parish and school communities despite difficult times. You are the Church, and we need your involvement to ensure our faith continues into the future.

While I recognize the needs and people of our diocese are diverse, our common mission "to bring a New Hope and the Good News of Jesus Christ through our Catholic faith" remains the same. I hope this new vision resonates with all of you. As our blessed apostle St. Paul reminds us, *"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ" (1 Cor 12:12)*. Unified in that same spirit, we go forward together boldly to embark on a new endeavor for our diocese.

To that end, I will introduce a combined campaign and fundraising effort with our parishes and the ministries of our Church called the *New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II*. There is precedent for this. In February 1995, the Diocese of Manchester conducted the historic "The Future of Our Faith" campaign to secure the needs of Catholic education, the education of seminarians, retired clergy, and to assist parishes that were challenged to meet operational needs.

Today, the financial needs of our Church remain consistent with those addressed by the initial "Future of Our Faith" campaign. After praying to build upon its success and discerning the current needs of the Church of New Hampshire, I've chosen to consolidate many Catholic collections and appeals into one effort as we move forward as one Church.

The *New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA)* will be an annual appeal managed by the Diocese of Manchester in parishes across the state. It will be held each spring, with some parishes starting in May 2022. The *New Hampshire Catholic Appeal* will not be a diocesan fund nor a Bishop's fund. It is a ministry fund for Catholic education, seminarians, retired priests, missions and multicultural efforts, evangelization through our diocesan magazine, parish support and Catholic Charities New Hampshire. I hope you will join me in this new chapter of our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci  
Bishop of Manchester

**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*

*"Temptations often appear seemingly in the form of good: the devil uses deception, he arrives "with an angelic face". If we give in to his flattery, we end up justifying our falsity, masking it with good intentions."*

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex**  
**March 14, 2022**



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