

St. Christopher Church

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastors' Desk

One Essential Ingredient

Worry has a corrosive power that eats away at our bodies, our relationships, our peace of heart. What if we did what Jesus said and chose instead of worrying, to just "seek the kingdom"? In other words, to just love.

In any moment, worry will not help me in any way. It will rob me of the life and joy that is only found in the present moment. Whatever the worries or tensions, regrets or fears, one thing only is asked of me: To Love Now!

We hold firm to what we know is true. We trust. For me, that means not that everything will be ok but that no matter what life holds, I can be ok. And so, instead of worrying, I am called just to love now.

That is all that I really can do. That is all I need to do. It is one of the essential ingredients of a holy, happy, joy filled life.

Jesus is not saying don't plan for the future. He know we have to think ahead and use our brains. He is just saying don't live there. Live now, love now.. Jesus is not saying don't learn from the past or act like it didn't happen, He is just saying don't live there, live now, love now!

Sunday

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Monday

Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday

2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25

Friday

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41

Weekly Collections

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| <i>First Collection</i> | <i>\$ 10,558.00</i> |
| <i>(including Online Giving \$ 815.00)</i> | |
| <i>Scholarship Fund</i> | <i>\$ 4,253.00</i> |
| <i>Last years Collection</i> | <i>\$ 7,459.00</i> |

Attendance for last week 801

Thank you for your generosity!

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Ezra gathered the people and read to them from the book of the Law of God. He interpreted the law clearly, so that everyone understood what he had read. He then told them to go and rejoice in the Lord.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-30

Paul explains that a body is composed of many different parts, and that each part has its' own purpose and is important. He compares this to the Church, describing how we are one body composed of many members. All members should show concern for each other and understand that we are all vital to the body as a whole.

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Luke discusses his decision to write about the events he and the other disciples had witnessed. He begins by telling of Jesus reading a passage from the book of Isaiah, where the anointed one is portrayed. Jesus finished by telling the people that they had seen that passage fulfilled in their hearing.

Masses

Saturday, January 23rd

8:30 am Special Intentions for Healing
5:00 pm Martha Riley

Sunday, January 24th

7:00 am Robert Renaudette
8:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
9:15 am Domenica Capozzi
10:45 am George Naseef
12:15 pm Deceased Members of the Trinidad Family

Monday, January 25th

7:00 am Fernando DeRosa
12:05 pm Anthony, Anita, & Joseph Natoli
7:30 pm Alice Harrison

Tuesday, January 26th

7:00 am Ann Paterno
12:05 pm Pamela LeDonne

Wednesday, January 27th

7:00 am Carol Miller
12:05 pm Col. Paul A. Kelly

Thursday, January 28th

7:00 am Anne Leonard
12:05 pm Thekla & Arnold Trauth

Friday, January 29th

7:00 am All Deceased Members of the Parish
12:05 pm Jennie & Anthony Scannella

Saturday, January 30th

8:30 am Fernando DeRosa
5:00 pm Edna Laudati

Sunday, January 24th

7:00 am Robert Renaudette
8:00 am Ralph Mucerino
9:15 am All Deceased Members of the Parish
10:45 am George Naseef
12:15 pm Dennis Coari
Arnold Trauth

The Living Flame for the
Sanctuary Light will be
in Memory of
Col. Paul A. Kelly
for the month of January 2016



*Please remember in your prayers all the departed
family and friends of St. Christopher's Parish,*

Especially:

Helen K. Patella & Linda Sweeny

Religious Education

If you have any questions concerning our CCD program, please call Mary Ann Jacisin in the CCD office at (973) 539-6208.

Baptism

Our next Baptism preparation meeting will be on February 8th @ 7:00 pm in room 101. Please call the rectory to enroll and for any other information you may require.

Meditations

Have you ever felt that you have nothing to offer others, that your life was without meaning? Consider that God chose to create you in this time, in this place. God has given you certain abilities that you are expected to develop and use. Paul used the image of a body to remind people that each of us has an important role in the life of the community - even if it is a "hidden" one. If you are not using your abilities, then the whole body - the community - is not functioning as well as it could. Pray to understand what your abilities are and how to use them.

You, then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it.

-1 Corinthians 12:27



Parish Activities...

Coffee and Class- Morning & Evening Adult Education

Men's Group –Issac Jogues Society - Meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, in room 101 in the school. Our Mission Statement is: "Life as a Catholic Man – A Truly Catholic and Spiritual Way of Life".

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***Monday mornings** in room 110 in the school, from 10:30 am to 11:45 am followed by the 12:05 pm Mass
New topic: *Protestant Reformation & The Council of Trent.*

***Thursday mornings at 10:30 am** in room 110 in the school, New topic: *The Book of Revelation.*

Jr. Choir practices every **Thursday** from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and they will sing the 2nd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am Mass. Contact Therese Steinel at 973-299-7977 or Karen Blunt at 973-887-1989 for more information.

St. Christopher's Senior Social Club is a club to have fun and socialize. The meeting will be at the Community Center, at 1130 Knoll Road, Lake Hiawatha, N.J. Dates for February will be announced shortly.

Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:15 AM. Dates will be announced shortly. For information call John Mola at 973-335-8947. If you wish to learn more about the St. Christopher's Senior Social Club, please call either John Mola at 973-335-8947, or Anne Purcaro at 973-887-5186.

St. Christopher Women's Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:15 pm in room 110. **Next book selection:** The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd.

We hope to see you at our next meeting, even if you just want to stop by and see what we are all about, no obligations just drop by :)

New members are always welcome!

Check our website for a brief synopsis of our book club selection .. www.stchristopherparsippany.org

St. Christopher is hosting the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion, to our Blessed Virgin Mary, every First Saturday of every month. Please join us on Saturday, February 6th at the first floor of the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop; stop by for an hour or the day, you are all most needed and welcomed anytime between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Bring a Snack! For details call Josie Mendez (973) 887-7835 or Jeanette East (973) 334-8766.

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Martha & Mary Society - This is a group of dedicated women who maintain and decorate the Church throughout the year.

Saints Peter & Paul Society – As a companion to our Martha & Mary Society, this group handles all the handy man activities both inside & outside of the Church. *These two groups meet every Saturday at 9:00 am in the Church. All are welcome.*



Come play Bingo with one of the best groups in town. Great food, great prizes (\$1000 worth of prizes with two 50/50). You are sure to want to return and play every **Wednesday at 11:30 am in the St. Christopher All Purpose Room.**

Catholic War Veterans of America - Parsippany Chapter - Named: Chaplain (Major) Charles Joseph Watters, USA Post 1967 –CWV will meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in room 101 at the school.



St. Christopher's Pre-Cana Program For more information please call the rectory at 973-539-7050.

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St. Christopher's Prayer Group
Tuesday, January 26th at 10:30 am
Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00 pm

Remember, Pray the Rosary every Monday – Friday after the 12:05 pm Mass. Novena & Rosary @ 7:00 pm followed by Mass at 7:30 pm every Monday at St. Christopher.

The Pope Francis Society

Our new program to help Hope House Food Pantry, a program of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Paterson, which in turn helps those in need. The food box will be in the entrance of the Church. **Mission statement:**

"If you love me, feed me".

List #3 - Pancake mix, pancake syrup, tea, coffee (ground or instant), soup, rice, canned beans (Any variety) jelly, macaroni & cheese, side dishes (rice a roni, pasta sides, etc)

For more information contact the rectory and speak to Fr. Joe.

20 Week Club -

The winners of this week's 20 week club drawing (3rd Winners):

#150 Oliver & Theresa Garcia
Congratulations!

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St. Paul Inside the Walls...

For programs and events and to register visit www.insidethewalls.org or call (973) 437-9741

Third Annual Catholic Trivia Super Bowl

Build your own five-person team and tackle multiple-choice questions on the Catholic Faith! Rules: Only one priest, religious brother/sister, or theologian allowed per team. Cost: \$25.00 per team in advance, \$30.00 at the door.

Madison, Saturday, January 30th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Being Single, Being Faithful (35+)

Whether single by choice or by circumstance, we must live every "single" day to the fullest. We can find fulfillment in Christ and his Church by embracing the opportunities in the Church for spiritual growth, meaningful service and a sense of community.

Madison, Saturday, February 6th from 10:00 a.m.-noon

The Women's Society

Due to the absence of some officers of St. Christopher's Women's Society the meeting for Monday, February 1st has been canceled. The next scheduled meeting will be on March 7th at 8:00 pm.

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The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents will be meeting on Thursday, February 11th, 2016 at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30 pm in room 101. **Program:** "Valentines Day With A Broken Heart". Come and let us help each other learn how to begin again. For more information please call Lily Capriglione at 973-568-4164.

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Mark Your Calendar

St. Ann's Parish invites you to this year's Lenten Mission "The Year of Mercy" which will be held on three consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. On February 16th Father Joseph Garbarino, who is well versed in scripture and has a keen sense of humor, will present "Compassion on the Journey." Fr. Joe is the pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Clifton. Father John Andrew Connell will be the presenter on February 23rd. His talk will be "Journey to Mercy" reflecting on the gospel of Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32. Fr. Connell is retired and was the former pastor of Resurrection Parish, Randolph. He has given numerous retreats and missions throughout NJ and other states. The final presenter on March 1st is Fr. Paul Manning who will speak on "His Mercy Endures Forever." Fr. Paul is the Executive Director of St. Paul Inside the Walls and Vicar for Evangelization for the Paterson Diocese. For additional information call 973-884-1986.

| Jan. 30th & 31st | Altar Servers | Eucharistic Ministers | Lectors |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 5:00 pm | The Lally Family | C. Hendricks A. Calabrese P. Alloca M. Long | K. Lucibello |
| 7:00 am | The Rozanitis Family | B. Carroll | M. Montefusco |
| 8:00 am | C. Ocker I. Imperati C. Dumapit | N. Gordon P. Luther C. Ocker | M. Dumapit |
| 9:15 am | The Przyhocki Family | M. & M. D'Ambrosia S. DeMaio R. DiMaggio | A. Apro |
| 10:45 am | T. & A. Pactwa Dan De-LaEspriella | B. Pactwa Visit: J. Hoffman J. & L. Reinke | J. Cannaveno |
| 12:15 pm | J. & J. Jacob J. Vadakkedam | S. Capozzi M. Pasuco C. Rogers C. Walsh | B. East |



Open House at All Saints Academy

All Saints Academy will host an OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday, February 2nd, 9am-6pm.

New and current families, parishioners, neighbors and friends are welcome to visit to learn about all of the great things happening at our parish school. This is a perfect opportunity to tour our building, meet our teachers and staff, and see genuine STEM instruction and learning in process. This Open House is held in conjunction with NCEA's National Catholic School Week. If you are not able to participate on February 2nd, please contact our school office to schedule an appointment to visit us and tour our school on another day.

All Saints Academy is a nationally recognized STEM school of the Diocese of Paterson. Our school offers a comprehensive, multi-curricular, rigorous academic program, centered on values-based education. A strong and loving Catholic identity permeates the environment. A spirit of faith, respect and joy are evident in our school. In addition to religious instruction, students model Christian ideals through cooperative activities, spiritual and liturgical celebrations, participation in Sacraments, and service outreach. An active parent organization lends partnership and support to the school community. The Early Childhood Center offers classes for three and four year old children. The elementary and middle school classes include kindergarten through grade eight. Contact our school principal, Mrs. Judy Berg, at 973-334-4704, to schedule a tour and classroom visit.



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Nothing is more startling and, at the same time, more consoling than the truth for which Jesus lived and preached and died. It is this: God is love. As the Psalmist says, “The Lord is a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, most loving and true” (Ps 86:15).

Throughout his public ministry, Jesus shows the face of God as compassionate and merciful in his healing miracles and exorcisms. Even before Jesus issues the summons to repent, he announces, “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand” (Mk 1:15). The kingdom is nothing other than the presence of God making his love known and felt in our lives.

Jesus opens us to the profound meaning of the kingdom with his parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15: 11-32). It is found at the very center of Luke’s Gospel. It is the very heart of the gospel itself! The son who takes his inheritance, squanders it away and finds himself unfulfilled is each of us. We take the gifts that God gives us and use them against God’s will. We are the ones left empty, longing and desiring more than our sinful lives can give.

As in the parable, so in life. God is the Father who sees us, runs to us and embraces us. He takes our feeble confession of sin and turns it into a moment of great rejoicing. Our sins strip us of our dignity. God clothes us with his grace and peace. Nothing can make God stop loving us. In fact, as Paul says, “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Rom 5: 8).

When Jesus preached such great love to sinners, the self-righteous took scandal. But not the tax-collector and the prostitutes (cf Mt 21: 31). They recognized in his ready forgiveness of even their worst sins that God was drawing them back to Himself. The self-righteous would not acknowledge their sins. They did not accept the free gift of God’s forgiveness offered in Christ. But others, like Zacchaeus and the woman caught in adultery, did and found peace.

Through the ministry of the Church, God offers us his forgiveness in Christ Crucified and Risen. In the great sacrament of Reconciliation, God is already running to meet us. He wants to welcome us. He wants to exchange our dirty rags of prideful self-indulgence with the righteousness of Christ Crucified. He wants to bring us back into the joy of his home and into the fellowship of his Church. He longs to see us reconciled with Himself and with others.

Like the prodigal son barely able to confess his sins, we, at times, are ashamed and even afraid to name those evils that separate us from God who loves us so much. But the Father is not ashamed to recognize us as his own son or daughter. He longs to wrap his arms around us. He is waiting to welcome us to home.

Now is the time to meet the Lord in Confession and know the joy of coming home.

May the Lord who calls us to be one with him lead us through repentance into the embrace of his love.

+ Arthur J. Serratelli



*Family Square Dance at
St. Christopher*

**In the All Purpose Room on February 19, 2016
from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

Fun for the whole family,
ages 5 to adult.

Knowledge of Square Dance is not necessary
All steps will be taught and demonstrated.

Our caller will be Susan Kassab
** wear comfortable shoes**

FISH AND CHIPS DINNER

CATERED BY THE FAMOUS ARGYLE'S RESTAURANT, Kearny, NJ

WHEN: Friday, February 12, 2016

WHERE: Saint Christopher's All Purpose Room

TIME: 5:30pm-7:30pm **EAT-IN ONLY** (No Seating till 5:30)

5:00pm-7:00pm **TAKE-OUT ONLY**

PRICE: **\$15.00** per person/Senior Citizens **\$13.00** per person

*Children's meal will be available at a cost of **\$8.00 per child.***

Children may choose Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Fingers, or Fish (all served with fries).

Come join us for a delicious dinner of fish and chips in the All Purpose Room, or, if you prefer, you can place an order for "take out". Either way, you will receive a generous portion of fresh fish, French fries, and Cole slaw.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of dinners (please specify below):

\$15.00 (Adult) _____

\$13.00 (Senior) _____

\$8.00 (Child) Fish _____ Chicken _____ Mozz Stix _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Eat In: _____ Take Out (pick-up time): _____

Checks can be made payable to: Saint Christopher Church

Questions?? Feel free to contact the rectory at 973-539-7050

between 10am / 4pm daily or email Jean at jekev3@yahoo.com.



242 Old New Brunswick Road | Suite 340 | Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

New Jersey Right to Life
Invites you to Join us as we Rally for Life

Friday, January 22nd, 2016
43rd Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade
U.S. Supreme Court Decision

State House Steps, NJ Capitol
125 West State Street, Trenton, NJ
11:00 A.M. to approximately 1:00 P.M.

Pro-Life Leaders, Elected Officials and Clergy Expected to Address Rally.
Check our website, www.NJRTL.org, for information regarding weather and last-minute updates.



PLEASE DO NOT BRING SIGNS
SIGNS WILL BE PROVIDED

No signs on sticks are allowed due to State House
Regulations

Buses leaving from the Diocese of Metuchen and various
other NJ locations.

For information and to reserve a seat on buses leaving
from the Diocese of Metuchen, email:
amarshall@diometuchen.org, or call: 732 562-1990, x
1543 or 1629.

Please e-mail NJRTL if you plan to attend at
feedback@njrtl.org, or call us at 732 562 0562 for more
information.

Morris County Right to Life invites you to ride with us to Trenton. Bus leaves from Assumption Parish at 91 Maple Avenue, Morristown, near lower parking lot off MacCulloch Avenue. Board bus with lavatory* at 9:15 a.m. for 9:30 a.m. departure to Trenton; arrival back in Morristown 2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. To ride free** you must register via email at info@morriscountyrighttolife.org, Subject: Trenton Rally, or by phone at 973-933- 2800. Please leave a message with your name, home and cell phone numbers.

Bus availability subject to sufficient minimum pre-registration by Sunday evening January 17. Bus may be downgraded to a Jitney with no lavatory. Portable lavatories available on Statehouse grounds. Bus may be cancelled if too few are registered, decision by noon Monday January 18.

**small free will offering accepted for bus driver tip. Visit www.morriscountyrighttolife.org
The Rally For Life is an alternative for those unable to do the March For Life trip to DC.

**“Make a Difference Monday”
January 25th at**



*Fresh, Creative Italian Cuisine
in a Warm, Welcoming Setting - - BYOB*

136 Baldwin Road – Parsippany

Baldwin Plaza

Lunch 11:30am – 2:30pm

Dinner 5 – 8 pm

Take Out Lunch/Dinner

973-316-0088

Reservations Recommended



**Enjoy a fabulous meal and
Gourmet Cafe will donate
10% of sales to
All Saints Academy**