

# St. Christopher Church

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*Pastors' Desk*

## ***Prodigal Love***

*Today's parable of the father of two sons, one prodigal, and the other who believes he is "righteous", reveals God's joy, the joy of a father welcoming home the son who was lost, who was as though dead and has come back to life. The whole Gospel, all of Christianity, is here. Mercy is the true force that can save people and the world from the cancer that is sin, moral evil, and spiritual evil. Only love fills the void that will open in hearts and in history and this is God's joy! Each of us is that child who has squandered his freedom on false idols, illusions of happiness, and has lost everything. God is a patient father, always waiting for us, who respects our freedom but remains faithful forever. And when we come back, God welcomes us like children into his house, for God never ceases, not for one instant, to wait for us with love. And God's heart rejoices over every child who returns and asks for forgiveness. Remember: Lenten Penance Service, March 16th at 7:00 pm.*

### **Sunday**

Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### **Monday**

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

### **Tuesday**

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

### **Wednesday**

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

### **Thursday**

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

### **Friday**

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

### **Saturday**

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

## *Weekly Collections*

First collection	\$10,471.00
(including online giving \$ 770.00)	
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,392.00
Last years collection	\$10,226.50

*Attendance for last week 831*

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### **First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12**

Joshua and the Israelites celebrated Passover in Jericho. This was the first time they had eaten the produce of the promised land. After this, there was no more bread sent from heaven because they were able to eat the yield of the land.

### **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Paul tells us that anyone living in Jesus is a new creation because God has reconciled with us through Christ. As an ambassador for Jesus, Paul implores that the Corinthians be reconciled to God through Jesus.

### **Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The Pharisees grew disgusted with Jesus because of his compassion toward sinners. So Jesus told them a story of a son who squandered his inheritance. When a famine broke out, he returned home and asked his father to become a hired hand. His father instead welcomed him with a joyful celebration, just as God is overjoyed when a sinner returns to him.

## *Masses*

### **Saturday, March 5th**

8:30 am Matilde Ubiera  
5:00 pm Rudy & Diane Valian

### **Sunday, March 6th**

7:00 am Regina Jarasuniene  
Edward Alt  
8:00 am Anthony DiFalco  
John Mucerino  
9:15 am Fran Dicianni  
10:45 am Fernando DeRosa  
George Naseef  
12:15 pm John Liola  
Benito Magbanua

### **Monday, March 7th**

7:00 am Special Intentions for Raheeda  
12:05 pm Sr. Mary Aurelia  
7:30 pm John Poje

### **Tuesday, March 8th**

7:00 am Barbara Ann McGuire  
12:05 pm Mary Dillon

### **Wednesday, March 9th**

7:00 am Nancy Lopez  
12:05 pm Rose & Nicholas DiVincenzo

### **Thursday, March 10th**

7:00 am Nancy Lopez  
12:05 pm Mary Dillon

### **Friday, March 11th**

7:00 am Mary Dillon  
12:05 pm Michael & Teresa Arcieri

### **Saturday, March 12th**

8:30 am Nancy Lopez  
5:00 pm Joanne Harm

### **Sunday, March 13th**

7:00 am Sr. Mary Aurelia  
8:00 am Molly Jo Picinich  
Michael Benomo  
9:15 am Rita & Mickey D'Ambrosa  
Fran Dicianni  
10:45 am George S. Naseef, Jr.  
Frank Guarino  
12:15 pm Deceased Members of the Coari  
Family

The Living Flame for the  
Sanctuary Light will be  
in Memory of  
**Richard Gaulin**  
for the month of March 2016



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

### *Religious Education*

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

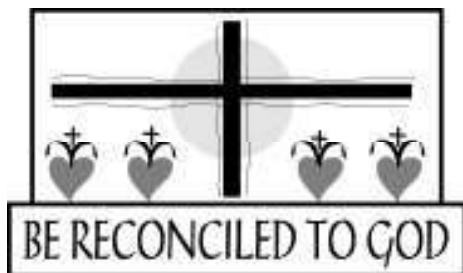
### *Baptism*

*Our next **Baptism preparation meeting** will be on March 14th @ 7:00 pm in room 101. Please call the rectory to enroll and for any other information you may require.*

### *Meditations*

*Some people are fond of declaring that they have been "born again" or are "saved" as though it meant that their stand on an issue had to be right and what they did had to be good. It would be wonderful if discipleship were as simple as saying a few words. Yes, we have been saved - all of us. We did not earn it nor are we forced to accept it. Awareness that we have been saved should open us to God's grace and lead us to love others as Jesus does. How well does your life reflect this awareness?*

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.  
-Psalm 34:4*



## 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. on March 18th.

**Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa.** on March 14th. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:15 am. 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 John Mola at 973-335-8947.

### St. Christopher Women's Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:15 pm in room 110. **Next book selection: The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood.**

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](http://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, April 2nd 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, March 8th at 10:30 am**  
**Wednesday, March 9th 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 #1** - Peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, juice, canned corn, baking mixes, mustard, ketchup, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, deodorant.

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

**Hungering to Learn**

WE journey with CRS Rice Bowl to the Central American country of Honduras , where we meet students who are learning that its better to help your neighbor learn and grow than to leave him or her behind. To whom we are called to extend a hand this week? Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) for more.

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**20 Week Club -**

**The winner of this week's 20 week club drawing (9th Winner):**

**#159 Ceil O'Hara  
Congratulations!**

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**St. Paul Inside the Walls...**

**For programs and events and to register visit [www.insidethewalls.org](http://www.insidethewalls.org) or call (973) 437-9741**

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**LIVING STATIONS will be performed at Saint Christopher's on Good Friday, March 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm.**

Anyone wishing to participate as an actor, reader, musician, or to help with lights, costumes, or props should come to the organizational meeting on Thursday, March 10th from 7:00 to 7:30 pm in the Church.

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**The Women's Society of St. Christopher Church** will meet Monday evening, March 7th for its regularly scheduled meeting immediately following the 7:30 pm Mass. We will discuss the schedule for the remaining two meetings in April and May and the place and time for our June dinner. Refreshments will be served . Anyone interested in attending the meeting or possibly interested in joining this group are more than welcome.

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**The Compassionate Friends**, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents will be meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30 pm in room 101. Program: "Spring Forward With New Hope" (Sharing Photos Of Our Children). Come and let us help each other learn how to begin again.

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**Assumption College for Sisters**, Denville, will host their Fifteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala on April 14, 2016, honoring Msgr. Kenneth E. Lasch, Kathleen Ginty Hyland, and Fred and Mary Alice Lawless. The event will be held at the Hanover Marriot from 6:30-10:00 PM. Featured during the event is a 50/50 cash raffle, wine pull, basket raffle along with a silent and live auction. All proceeds are primarily for the support and education of the 20 international Sisters from developing nations who are attending the college. For more information and for the invitation, visit [www.acs350.org/events-2/](http://www.acs350.org/events-2/)



Mar. 12th & 13th	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	D. Lipuma B. & B. Davies	J. Sole J. & M. Davies M. Downing	R. Gelosa
7:00 am	The Rozanitis Family	B. Carroll	C. Ramoncionis
8:00 am	B. & T. Wyka C. Chambers	K. Anderson L. Scangarella N. Gordan	M. Appio
9:15 am	A. Zecena A. & A. To	C. Callahan M. Cupo P. Gatti C. To	M. Morales
10:45 am	T. & D. Metcalf S. Arcilla	R. Arcilla Visit: C. Metcalf B. & F. Zemo	J. Cannaveno
12:15 pm	D. Perez J. Lance P. Whalan	B. & J. East S. & J. Kobeszko	M. Floro

**ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER**

*We are thrilled to announce that All Saints Academy has been named an AdvancEd STEM Certified School!!! Science – Technology – Engineering - Math*

All Saints Academy is the first school in Morris County and one of only three schools in the state of New Jersey to receive this distinction. In earning this recognition, our school demonstrates its commitment to preparing students for their future educational and career paths by providing a learning environment rich in interdisciplinary studies marked by innovation, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving skills. This achievement is the result of six years of research, development and implementation of STEM education in our school's learning community. Since our first year of operation, our teachers have worked in partnership with parents, students and stakeholders to build a community that supports and propels teaching and learning practices through the lens of faith, social responsibility and STEM citizenship. We are especially proud that this initiative has been very successful within the nurturing framework of Catholic education. The certification process began with an extensive self-assessment and self-study to discern our mastery in eleven rigorous STEM education indicators. The process involved the on-site evaluation by an expert AdvancEd review team. The visit also included interview sessions with three groups: school parents and stakeholders, students representing grades four through eight, and faculty members. The team members observed learning experiences in twelve classroom settings, preschool through grade eight. Achieving high scores across the indicators certifies that students have been equipped with and trained to be innovative, creative and systematic problem-solvers across disciplines. The team also noted a strong commitment to continuous improvement based on measurable goals and high expectations for both student and teacher performance. Part of the review included our creation and presentation of a film depicting the life of STEM in our school community. We chose to base our testimonial on the spirit of our All Saints mission and beliefs. I encourage you to view this movie, and you can access the link through the post on our school's Facebook page. Please pass it on to your extended family and friends to share the wonderful news about All Saints Academy. Thank you for your prayers and support of the All Saints community. We are blessed by your presence in the life our beloved school.

# The Joy of Mercy - Forgiving and Forgiven The Season of Lent 2016

## I. Stations of the Cross

Every Friday Night during Lent – 7:00 pm

## II. Monday Evening Lent Series – 7:30 pm

Our Catholic Symbol, a rich spiritual heritage

a. March 7<sup>th</sup> Symbolic persons from Scripture

b. March 14<sup>th</sup> Symbols of the Easter Vigil: Plunge into the presence of God

## III. Welcome Home, Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday evenings during Lent – 7:00 pm, to 8:15 pm

## IV. Lenten Penance Service - March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

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## Holy Week 2016

### Lenten Penance Service

*Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00 p.m.*

### Palm Sunday Masses

*Vigil, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.,*

*8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.*

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### Holy Week Masses

#### March 21<sup>st</sup>

*7:00 a.m., 12:05p.m., & 7:30 p.m.*

#### March 22<sup>nd</sup> & March 23<sup>rd</sup>

*7:00 a.m. & 12:05p.m.*

#### Holy Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

*7:00 p.m. Mass of the Last Supper*

#### Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

*3:00 p.m. – Passion of the Lord*

*7:00 p.m. – Living Stations*

#### Holy Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

*11:30 a.m. – Blessing of the Food*

*7:00 p.m. – The Easter Vigil*

**(No 5:00 p.m. Mass)**

#### Easter Sunday – March 27<sup>th</sup>

*Masses: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,*

*10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.*

Be part of...

# St. Christopher's Family Easter Egg Hunt



- 3 to 8 year olds
- Meet and take pictures with the Easter Bunny
  - Join the Egg Hunt
  - Enjoy a short Easter Film
- There will be refreshments and snacks



Saturday, March 12, 2016 At 9:00 am in the  
All Purpose Room

