

First Sunday of Advent

From the Pastors Desk



God is Love (1 John 4:9)

It is the wonder of Christmas, for which we are preparing, with hope, in this Season of Advent. It is the surprise of a Child God, of a poor God, of a weak God, of a God who abandons his greatness to come close to each one of us.

God of all my days, I often find that it's much easier for me to shut out the surprises you might have for me than it is to open myself up to the possibility of disappointment. I know this, and yet I ask for something else this Advent Season. I ask for the confidence to awake each day and ask, "what do you have for me today Lord?" You abandoned all and gave all so that I might live in joy. Now I need to believe that joy is possible for me. Be my surprise. Open me up to your love. Take the time this week to read John 10:10.

Time Change

Beginning on January 8, 2018 the mass on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm will be moved (incorporated) to Mondays at 12:05 pm followed by the Novena to the Miraculous Medal Novena at 12:30 pm.

There will be NO Novena or Mass on Monday evening beginning on January 8, 2018.

Weekly Collections

First Collection	\$ 9,882.50
(including online giving \$ 1,157.00)	
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,527.00
Last Year	\$ 9,150.00

*Attendance for the week 814
Thank you for your generosity*

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7

In this straightforward psalm, the people acknowledge their sinful ways, yet plead that their Creator might reveal himself to them. They ask God to remember, not their sins, but that "We are all the work of your hands."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul explains to the Corinthians that they are specially favored by God who has sent his only Son to them. He reminds us all that it was through God's grace that we have been called to kinship with Christ.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Just as a servant watching over the master's house does not know when he will return, we do not know the hour of the Second Coming. Mark reminds us of the warning from Jesus to always be on guard, for we know not the day nor the hour..

Sunday

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Monday

Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

The Living Flame for the
Sanctuary Light will be
in memory of
Deacon John Kelly
for the month of December 2017



*Please remember in your prayers
all the departed family and
friends of St. Christopher's,
Especially: **Ruth C. LaVelle &
Anna M. Price***

Religious Education

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

Baptism

*Our next **Baptism preparation meeting** will
be on December 11th @ 7:00 pm in room
101. Please call the rectory to enroll and for
any other information you may require.*

***The Advent candle for 2017 will be in
memory of the deceased members of the
prayer group:***

*Kitty Marvin, Pauline Moran, Arlene Hak,
Mary Lucibello, Mary Quinn, Ada Cezsak,
Mary Elen Clemente, Tessie Gajdek,
Esther Treuting, Jeanne Chmura,
Nancy DeLue, Betty Rydyfski, Phyllis
Burns, Agnes Hogan, Tania Monteith,
Ruth Vasta.*

Masses

Saturday, December 2nd

8:30 am Carol Miller
5:00 pm Linda Sole

Sunday, December 3rd

7:00 am Jack & Ann Kowalewski
8:00 am Pamela LeDonne
9:15 am Anita, Anthony & Joseph Natoli
Jack Blunt
10:45 am Joseph Calabrese
Ellis Moises Cohen
Ann Price
12:15 pm In Memory of Howard & Rita Vex
Marti Rosen

Monday, December 4th

7:00 am Adonis Romero
12:05 pm Anne Corcoran
7:30 pm Ann Price

Tuesday, December 5th

7:00 am Ruth La Velle
12:05 pm Marciano & Faviola Cobarde
Menci & Sofronio Cinco

Wednesday, December 6th

7:00 am Special Intentions for Healing -
Jocelyn Becker
12:05 pm Jay Birch

Thursday, December 7th

7:00 am Special Intentions for Newton
12:05 pm Joseph Calabrese

Friday, December 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
9:00 am Mary Vajs Sabados
12:05 pm Concetta Rosamilia
Nicholas A. Foster
7:00 pm Don Romero

Saturday, December 9th

8:30 am Anne Price
5:00 pm Deceased Members of the Herrera
Family

Sunday, December 10th

7:00 am Roseanne & Gerald Mancuso
8:00 am Clarence, Minnie & Craig Hall
Salvatore Neglia
9:15 am Jack Blunt
10:45 am Deacon Henry ROhrmann
Anne Price
12:15 pm Concetta & Giovanni Azzizzo

*O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see;
Take care of this vine, and protect what your right
hand has planned. -Psalm 80:14-15*

Parish Activities...

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 morning adult education at 10:30 room 110.
New Topic: Pope Pius XII

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St. Christopher's has a Pre-Cana Program, for more information please call the rectory at 973-539-7050.

St. Christopher Women's Book Club

Join us for our next book club meeting which will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 pm in room 110. Delicious refreshments are always served, as well as a very animated discussion about the books. Definitely a fun time! The new book selection is:

The life we bury by Allen Eskens.

This book is very good, I am sure you all will enjoy it! Hope to see you there, new members are always welcome.



St. Christopher's Prayer Group

Will be every Tuesday, at 10:30 am and every Thursday, after 12:05 pm Mass

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.



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.

Wednesdays at 11:30 am in the St. Christopher All Purpose Room.

St. Christopher is hosting the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion, to our Blessed Virgin Mary, every First Saturday of every month. Please join us on November 7, 2017 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 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. For details call Josie Mendez (973) 887-7835 or Jeanette East (973) 334-8766.

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: **December 15th.**

Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:15 am. Date: **January 8th.** If you wish to learn more about the St. Christopher's Senior Social Club, please call John Mola at 973-335-8947 or Anne Purcaro at 973-887-5186.

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.

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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.

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The Pope Francis Society

Our program helps 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.

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. Paul Inside the Walls...

For programs and events and to register visit www.insidethewalls.org or call (973) 377-1004

Soft yoga for hard times at St. Christopher

Every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm in room 110. Come and experience for yourself the wonderful range of healthy benefits that yoga and meditation can offer you. For more information including price, contact Penny Prosperi, who is the yoga instructor at pprosperi51@gmail.com.

This has been a busy year for the Diocese and I thank each one of you who so patiently supported all our endeavors. Our 80th year has been one of celebration in many ways. Our diocese was established by Pope Pius XI on December 9, 1937. To celebrate this historic event, Bishop Serratelli will preside at a **9:30 a.m. Solemn Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on December 9, 2017 followed by a Communion Breakfast at The Brownstone, Paterson, beginning at 11:00 a.m.** This is not a fundraiser; it is a chance for all of us to come together and celebrate our Diocese. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available on line at: www.rcdop.org/breakfast. This is a day of celebration for all of us in the Diocese of Paterson!

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20 Week Club

To date, we have 150 participants with \$1,500.00 collected. 1st drawing will be on January 5th and will end May 20th. Thank you to all members who have already joined this very important fund raiser.

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2017 Bishops Annual Appeal

In Giving We Receive

As you plan to celebrate joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to your friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require tens of thousand name tags or bow. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an online gift at www.2017appeal.org. Say "Merry Christmas" to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal today. My God bless you for your generosity.

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Retirement for the Religious - will be on Sunday, December 3rd here are St. Christopher, the guest speaker for this National Campaign Appeal will be Sr. Peter.

The generous support you have given through the years is very much appreciated by the women and men Religious who depend on this fund to help support their elderly and retired members. Many of these men and women have served the People of God in the Diocese of Paterson and well beyond its borders.



Reflections

Once again we begin a new Church year with the season of Advent. It is a time of anticipation and waiting as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus—Love made flesh. Consider ways you can make this a special time. If you are alone, take some quiet time to pray and reflect on what you might do to make this season meaningful and renewing. If you have a family, set some time aside to discuss what this season is about and what your family might do to keep its meaning in focus.

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Just a reminder, the Diocesan Christmas concert is on Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson, NJ.

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For those of you who purchased an All Souls Candle, they will be in the school lobby for pick up.

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“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Be constantly on watch, stay awake. You do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge each with his own task, and he orders the man at the gate to watch with a sharp eye. Look around you.’”

We begin a new season of grace, the wonderful time of preparing the way of the Lord, recalling His coming in history, His abiding presence among us now, and looking to discover the way He enters our lives. This year we have four full weeks to live advent.

Like the person in Mark's gospel, the Lord has entrusted each of us with distinct, yet important tasks. My work is different from others, and if I fail to do it, it will remain undone. How am I going to begin this time of prayer?

I can make a resolution not to get caught up only with the material things in our consumer oriented society. My prayer with my family, my reflection on the scriptures, will certainly point me in the right direction. As I consider what I am going to do, I want to include others, the elderly, the sick and the poor, those alone or lonely, to make their lives better. They are part of God's gift for me to take care of.

May the closing words of the Bible become my mantra each day, simply repeating three words prayerfully ‘Come Lord Jesus.’

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Dec. 16th & 17th	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	The Pactwa Family A. Bowman	P. Allocca C. Hendricks C. Callahan N. Gordon	J. Cesaro
7:00 am	The Lalo Family	B. Carroll	L. Pascale
8:00 am	The Valle Family R. Bilboa-LaVieja	K. Hollinghurst K. Nolan L. Valle	E. Shabet
9:15 am	The Imperati Family	R. DiMaggio P. Gatti D. Giradelli M. Cupo	J. Rabadi
10:45 am	B. & T. Wyka T. Metcalf	R. Arcilla Visit: L. Eckel C. Metcalf B. Wyka	K. Lucibello
12:15 pm	The Marsh Family	S. Marsh B. & M. Pactwa C. Walsh	C. Haney

To all Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Servers: always refer to the schedule given to you, in case there is a change or any mistakes on the schedule listed. If you have any questions please contact Mary Ann at the Religious Education office.

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER
The Warmth of Advent

Saint Mother Teresa once said: "Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas not in the cold manger of a selfish heart, but in a heart full of love, compassion, joy and peace, a heart warm with love for one another." As we travel with hope and joy through this Advent Season, our prayers are centered on the warm light of Jesus, the Christ Child and his glorious presence in our lives. The very important presence of faith education truly makes All Saints Academy an extension of the mission of our Catholic parish. This is the time to consider All Saints Academy for your child's faith-based education – an experience that will foster a lifetime. Contact our principal, Mrs. Judith Berg, at 973-334-4704, for more information regarding admission and scholarship opportunities at All Saints Academy. www.allsaintspar.com.



St. Christopher's Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop

Thank you to all our loyal patrons and looking forward to meeting new patrons

~ OPEN SUNDAYS AFTER 9:15 am Mass ~

SHOP HOURS: Wednesday & Friday 11:00 am– 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Located in the OLD Nursery School across from Church

**Come in and checkout all our great merchandise at
amazingly low prices**

For more information call 973-713-4939





Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2017

Christopher Leo Berardo

Thomas Joseph Catapano

Andrew Joseph Pasquale Choffo

Joshua Conklin Christopher Clark

Meaghan Rachel DeBenedette

Alyssa Joy Violet DeNino

Corinne Athena Diaz

Josette Antoinette Margaret Majella Fortes

Kristin Victoria Hardy

Alexandra Riley Mary Hoeman

Ciana Grace Leal

Isabel Jaina Mathew

Aishling Cara Elizabeth McCarthy

Molly Elizabeth Patricia McDermott

Kelly Nicole Gabriella McNeila

Matthew Vincent Anthony Morales

Stephanie Marie Naunton

Christopher Michael Ocker

Cody Matthew Ruth

Jack Rocco Paul Summa

Jade Sui Wai Agnes To

Rachel Lauren Catherine Valatkavage

Samantha Renee Valle

Victoria Leigh Teresa VanLoon

Kaneesha Sajida Vaz

Mychal Clement Villanueva



*St. Christopher's
Giving Tree*

Saturday, December 9th & Sunday, December 10th

The Giving Tree will go up the weekend of November 18th & 19th. The gifts will go to local parish families and individual children and adults that have been selected by Hope House, the Catholic Community Day Care, Friends Corner Day Care, Straight and Narrow and inner-city Parishes.

Please take a tag and return the tag with the unwrapped gift on the weekend of December 9th & 10th

If you would like to give the usual gifts listed below, we will be glad to accept those also, they will be distributed by Catholic Charities. Children and Adults are invited to bring a new, unwrapped gift to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, December 9th & 10th. Children are encouraged to earn the money and help in selection of the gift. The gifts may be placed on or around the Christmas tree before the beginning of Mass.

Items needed include: socks, mittens, watches, pajamas, coloring books, crayons, magic markers, puzzles, cd's, mp3 players (inexpensive), games, new toys, adult & child toiletries, scarves, hats, sweaters, sweatshirts.

2x and 3x sizes are always needed.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, especially in these hard times.

Children's Motorized Truck Raffle

R.C. Ride on car

Perfect for children ages 3 to 6 years old

\$5.00 per raffle ticket (purchase date to be announced shortly)

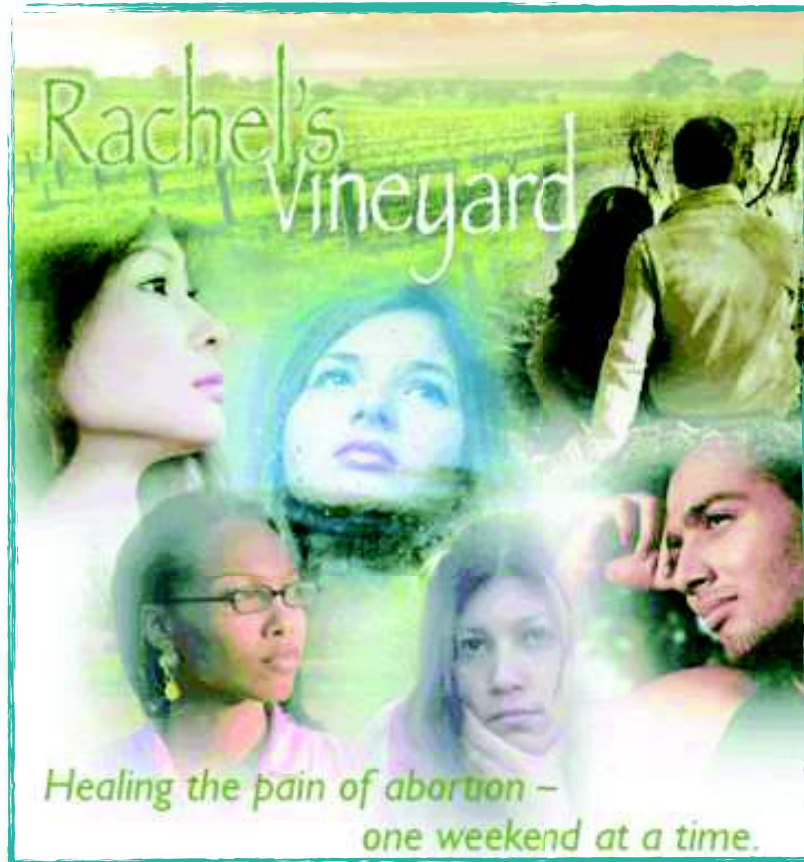
Drawing will be on December 17th



All proceeds from this raffle will be used to help defray the cost of running our Family Fun Activities.

2018 Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Sponsored by the Diocese of Paterson



Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing.

Rachel's Vineyard Paterson Retreat

Friday, January 26 - Sunday, January 28

For more information call 973-377-1004 extension 425 or
email RVPaterson@gmail.com



Simbang Gabi

*A Filipino tradition of a
nine-day novena of Masses during Advent
(December 15 - 23, 2017) in preparation for the
Nativity of our Savior, Jesus.*

You are cordially invited to join our Diocesan and parish-sponsored *Simbang Gabi* (Filipino for “Mass of the Night or Evening”) celebration:

St. Christopher Parish

1050 Littleton Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054


Thursday, December 21, 2017

Eucharistic Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Main Celebrant: Rev. Joseph Buffardi

**This nine-day novena is coordinated by the
Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino
Ministries (DCCFM) of the Diocese of Paterson**

**Refreshment immediately follows Mass
For more information please contact
Jeanette East (973) 334-8766**





Join us for
All Saints
Academy's
Musical Christmas
Celebrations!

Tuesday, December 12
Evening Christmas Concert
Featuring Kindergarten through Grade 8
7pm - ASA Gymnasium



Wednesday, December 13
Morning Christmas Concert
Featuring PreSchool &
PreKindergarten Students
8:30am - ASA Gymnasium

