

St. Christopher Church

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastors Desk

Five individual Lenten practices –

1. **Read the Bible daily** - Make time daily to read a passage from Scripture. By daily reading the stories and lessons of Scripture, you will better prepare yourself for Easter. You might consider reading through one of the Gospels to better understand the continuity of Jesus' life and death. Start with the Gospel of Mark if you are new to Bible reading.
2. **Use a daily devotional** - A daily devotional serves as a great way to reflect about your faith and its importance and influence in your daily life. Devotionals are tools for meditation and an opportunity for you to learn ways you can act out your faith.
3. **Attend Mass** - This might seem like a no brainer but, especially in this penitential season, it is key to attend Mass each Sunday.
4. **Become involved** - As part of your almsgiving, become more informed on a certain social issue. Find out how you can get involved with a charity or social service agency.
5. **Cut out harmful habits, start good ones** - Start a list of the things you might want to cut out or reduce in your life. Take time to reflect on these and set some personal goals. Lent is not only a time to grow spiritually it is also an opportunity to work on developing good habits.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15

The city of Zion laments that God has forsaken it. God replies that a mother would not forget her baby. Yet even if she did forget, "I will never forget you."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Paul describes himself as a servant of Christ. He explains that the opinions of other people are unimportant to him. God is the only one worthy to judge us. When God returns, he will praise those who deserve it.

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus warns the people not to waste their time worrying about material things. He says that God provides for the birds in the sky. "Are you not more important than they?" Jesus asked. We should not worry about food and clothes. Instead we should act as God wants us to, then he will help provide for us.

Sunday

Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34

Monday

Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

First Friday

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

First Saturday

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

Weekly Collections

First collection \$ 11,044.25
(including online giving \$ 852.00)

Beacon \$ 905.00
Last years \$11,517.00

Attendance for last week 838
Thank you for your generosity!

Masses

Saturday, February 25th

8:30 am Deceased Members of the Parish
5:00 pm Gargurino Matesic

Sunday, February 26th

7:00 am Delores Byrnes
8:00 am Pamela LeDonne
Michael Bonomo
9:15 am Salvatore Neglia
10:45 am Joseph Calabrese
12:15 pm Special Intentions - Doris

Monday, February 27th

7:00 am John Pallotta
12:05 pm Col. Paul A. Kelly
7:30 pm Mary Russo

Tuesday, February 28th

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Connor Family
12:05 pm Cynthia Brennan

Wednesday, March 1st Ash Wednesday

7:00 am
9:00 am
12:05 pm
3:30 pm (Service only)
7:00 pm

All Masses today are dedicated to all the Deceased Members of the Parish

Thursday, March 2nd

7:00 am Rose Buccella
12:05 pm Joseph Uy

Friday, March 3rd First Friday

7:00 am Paul Baunhuber
12:05 pm Eileen Farley-Garner

Saturday, March 4th

8:30 am Special Intentions - Vincent Botte
5:00 pm George Bain III

Sunday, March 5th

7:00 am Gargurino Matesic
Angelina Calabrese Barbas
8:00 am John Mucerino, Anthony DiFalco
Roger LeGoff
9:15 am Rudy & Diane Valian
Dorothy & Paul Gerber, Sr.
10:45 am Joseph Calabrese
12:15 pm Special Intentions - Jake
Wanda Dejewski

Ash Wednesday Masses - March 1st

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:05 pm, 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm

**** There will be NO Bingo on Ash Wednesday ****

The Living Flame for the
Sanctuary Light will be
in memory of
Col. Paul A. Kelly
for the month of February, 2017

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

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 13th @ 7:00 pm in room 101. Please call the rectory to enroll and for any other information you may require.*

Reflections

In difficult economic times, it is easy to let worry consume us. Our focus is in our needs and fear can paralyze us. Jesus reminds us that the Father knows our needs and we should not worry about our livelihood and what we will eat. He tells us to seek first the kingdom. Trusting in God's providence is not easy, we like to be in control. Yet that is exactly what we must do. If we believe in God's providence, then we should not be overwhelmed with worry about ourselves. It frees us to see the needs of others and allows us to help one another. God does not bring us groceries when we need food. A neighbor seeing our need, becomes God's messenger when they bring us food. No matter what is going on, how deep our troubles are, there is always something we can share with others, even if it is just the giving of ourselves and our time. Do you trust in God's providence?

*Trust in Him at all times, O my people.
-Psalm 62:8*



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: The Roman Catholic Church and the Civil War.**

***Thursday mornings at 10:30 am** in room 110 in the school. **New Topic: The Book of Revelations.**

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St. Christopher's Pre-Cana Program

For more information please call the rectory at 973-539-7050.

St. Christopher Women's Book Club

Our book club meeting will be on **March 7th** at 7:15 pm in room 110. The February book selection:

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

We hope to see you at our meeting. New members are always welcome!

* **New book selection for the following month will be announced at meeting.**

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.

****No Bingo on Ash Wednesday, March 1st.****

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: **March 3rd & 17th.**

Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:15 am. Date: **March 13th.** 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.

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, March 4th, 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.

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.*

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.

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.

St. Paul Inside the Walls...
For programs and events and to register visit
www.insidethewalls.org or call
(973) 437-9741

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20 Week Club

**7th winner of our 20 Week Club:
Tom & Betty Schimminger.
Congratulations!!**

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Pilgrimage to the National Shrine

The Diocese of Paterson has set a date for its yearly pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. It will be on October 21, 2017.

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Craft and Vendor Fair will be held at St. Cecilia Church basement, located at 70 Church Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866 on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Free admission and indoors. For further information Email: saintceciliarosarysociety@gmail.com or call 973-886-8023.

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The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents will be meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30 PM in room 101. **Program: Meet my Child (bring photos and/or mementos.** For more information please call Lily Capriglione at:

973-568-4164.

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Morris Catholic St. Patrick's 5k Run

Morris Catholic High School is holding it's 6th Annual Crusader Challenge 5k Run on Saturday, March 18th at 9:00 a.m. at it's Denville, NJ campus. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Morris Catholic scholarship and athletic programs and the Denville Public Assistance Fund. \$25 registration fee up to March 8, 2017. \$30 registration fee after March 8th and day of race. For more information, visit:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Denville/CrusaderChallenge5K> or contact MC5KRace@gmail.com

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Lenten Talk

St. Ann Church, 781 Smith Rd., Parsippany, invites you to join them for their Lenten program presented by Rev. James T. Donovan, S.J., of Loyola Jesuit Center, Morristown, who will be speaking at all weekend Masses on Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th and also at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. The theme of Fr. Jim's talk is "Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude During Lent."

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.

United in Faith

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted their commitment card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, it is important that all complete a commitment card as we will be mailing out a summery report of the program and need all commitments accounted for in this report. If you have any questions, please contact the rectory.

**** Your donation goes to
St. Christopher's Parish and stays in
St. Christopher's Parish, if you have
any questions please call the rectory.****

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St. Christopher Women's Retreat Walking in Darkness/Living in the Light

The women of our parish are invited to make a Retreat this year at the San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch. This Redemptorist run Spiritual Center is on eight beautiful acres along the Jersey coast. The weekend begins on Friday with dinner and ends on Sunday after lunch. There are outdoor shrines, a prayer garden, expansive lawns, a beautiful chapel, comfortable individual rooms and the Atlantic Ocean for us to enjoy as we contemplate the theme of the weekend as stated above. We encourage all to visit the website www.sanalfonsoretreats.org. Please join us for the upcoming weekend of March 10th-12th. The cost of this all inclusive weekend is \$210 with a deposit of \$50 due by February 10th. For reservations or information on any questions you might have, please call Sue Stevens 973-586-0303 or Josie Mendez 973-887-7835.

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The Woman's Society will meet on Monday, March 6th immediately following the 7:30 pm Mass at St. Christopher Church. At this meeting we will discuss the remainder of the schedule which includes meetings in March, April and May ending in June.

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER

“National Engineers Week” at All Saints Academy “National Engineers Week” will be celebrated across the country from February 19 - 25. Sponsored by the National Society of Engineers, this effort is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering, science, math and technology related careers. As a nationally-certified STEM school, All Saints Academy is excited to participate in the spirit and purpose of engineering and STEM education and careers. During the week, professional engineers and scientists will visit ASA classrooms to share information about their studies and careers and to engage students with hands-on engineers lessons based on current coursework. Also, All Saints will host a Family STEM Night on Wednesday, February 22. STEM Night provides an opportunity for families to work in teams to tackle fun and challenge STEM engineering design projects. At All Saints Academy, STEM Education encompasses a comprehensive, multi-curricular, rigorous academic program, centered in values-based school environment. For information about All Saints Academy, please contact our school principal, Mrs. Judy Berg, at 973-334-4704, to schedule a tour and classroom visit.

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Journey through Lent 2017 “Together in His footsteps”

1. Stations of the Cross

Every Friday night during Lent – 7:00 pm

2. Monday Evening Lent Series – 7:30 pm

-The Seven Last Words of Christ

a. March 6th – Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing (Lk 23:34)

b. March 13th – Jesus said to his Mother, “ woman, here is your Son,” then He said to the disciple, “ Here is your mother,” (John 19:28)

c. March 20th – I am thirsty (John 19:28)

d. March 27th – Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Lk 23:43)

-My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
(Mk 15:34)

e. April 3rd – It is finished (John 19:30)

-Father, into your hands I commend my spirit
(Lk 23:46)

3. Welcome Home Sacrament of Reconciliation –

Monday evenings during Lent at 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.

4. Lenten Dinner & Movie - March 16th

Dinner 6:30 pm

Movie 7:00 pm (Risen)

5. Lenten Penance Service – March 22nd at 7:00 pm

6. Lenten Anointing Mass - March 25th at 11:00 am

March 4th & 5th	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	The Lally Famiy	J. Sole E. Lally J. Lipuma M. Gelosa	C. Haney
7:00 am	N. & A. Courtney	B. Carroll	C. Ramon- cionis
8:00 am	S. & A. Valle K. Gaydo	J. & L. Reinke L. Valle	E. Shabet
9:15 am	C. & C. Berardo A. To	P. & K. Berardo K. Blunt A. Calabria	
10:45 am	T. Metcalf E. & B. Hollinghurst	S. Marsh Visit: J. Hoffman K. Lucibello K. Holling- hurst	A. Bilotti
12:15 pm	C. Dumapit K. & A. Hardy	J. Alfonso R. Lang L. & R. Polanski	M. Dumapit

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 above. If you have any questions please contact Mary Ann at the Religious Education office, and: Please refer to your schedule for Ash Wednesday.

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Encounter Lent - Join our faith community and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States, in a life changing Lenten Journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family’s CRS Rice Bowl from St. Christopher’s now and don’t forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! May these 40 days better prepare us to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God.

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On April 21st, 22nd & 23rd The Parsippany Knights of Columbus #3680 will be having their Annual Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Drive. They will be outside the Foodtown and Shoprite. Calling on all Knights both present and past, if interested please call Al Clark at 973-887-8588 or Dave Szmak at 973-887-6120.

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Our Lady of Mercy Academy Home School Association will host a Tricky Tray on Sunday, March 26th. The event will be at the school, 90 Whippany Road, Whippany, NJ. Doors will open at 12:30pm. The first 200 people to buy a ticket will be given five nights free at a Cancun Hotel (A value of \$600). Tickets are \$40.00 per person prior to March 10th and \$45.00 per person after that date and include admission. Lunch, beverage, one sheet of regular tickets and door prize entry. For tickets, call the school at 973-887-2611.



St. Christopher and the Cat in the Hat

Please join us on March 12th at 4:30 pm at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, NJ for a live performance of
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss.

Tickets will be \$10.00 per person. Because we only have 30 tickets available it will be a first come first serve basis. To purchase a ticket you must call the rectory at 973-539-7050 from Monday thru Friday from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm.



FISH AND CHIPS DINNER

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

WHEN: Friday, March 3, 2017

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: Adult **\$15.00**/Senior Citizen **\$14.00**/Child **\$8.00**

(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) Fish _____

\$14.00 (Senior) Fish _____

\$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

PASTA NIGHT

At St. Christopher's



Join us on Friday, March 31st at 7:30 pm in the All Purpose Room at St. Christopher's for our **1st Annual Wine & Pasta Night!!**

Price per person will be \$15.00 (21 and over only). Included with this price there will be linguini with clam sauce, tortellini alfredo, eggplant rollatine, penne pasta in marinara sauce, salad, bread, coffee, tea and dessert.

As an added feature we will have a representative of "*Make Wine with Us*" (www.makewinewithus.com), for a wine tasting.

**no wine purchase will be possible, it will be strictly tasting. However you are welcome to bring your own wine (no other type of alcohol permitted).

Name: _____ Phone: _____

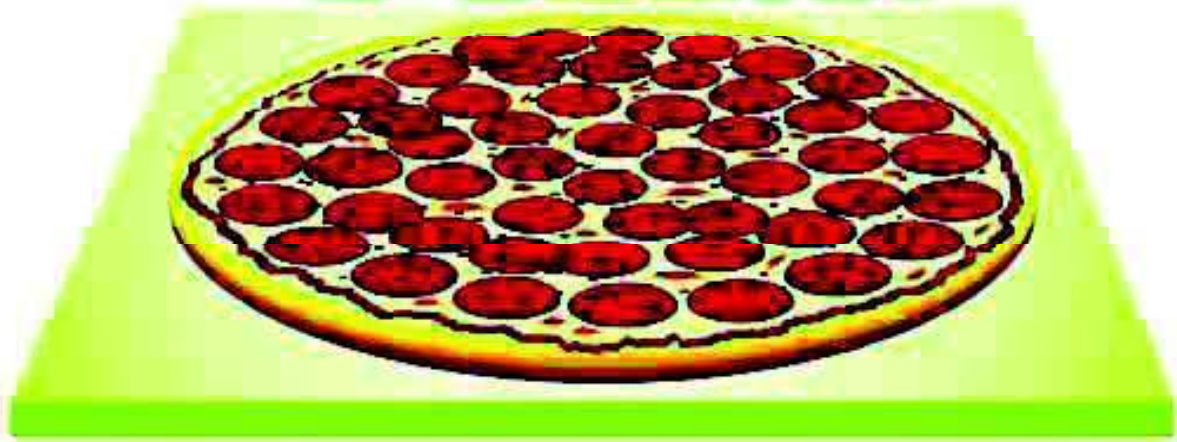
Number of adults attending: _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Checks can be made payable to: Saint Christopher Church

Questions?? Feel free to contact the rectory at 973-539-7050 between 10:00 am / 4:00 pm daily or email Jean at jekev3@yahoo.com

PIZZA!



Night With Bishop

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 – Pope John XXIII H. S., Sparta

7- 9 PM



If you are a young man in high school or college, or even older, come join Bishop Serratelli and priests from the Diocese of Paterson for adoration, reflection, fellowship...and of course, pizza.

For more information, please contact the Vocation Office
at 973-777-8818, ext 711