

St. Christopher Church

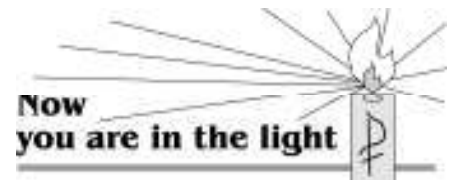
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Pastors Desk

Opening ourselves to God's Grace -

The blind mans' journey in John's Gospel is a journey in stages that begins with the knowledge of Jesus' name. He does not know anything else about him, he is just "a man called Jesus", then "a Prophet", and a man close to God. Once he has been banished from the temple, expelled from society, Jesus finds him again and "opens his eyes" for the second time by revealing his own identity to him: "I am the Messiah". Our lives are sometimes similar to that of the blind man who opened himself to the light, who opened himself to God, who opened himself to God's grace. But sometimes, unfortunately, we are similar to the doctors of the law, from the height of our pride we judge others, and even the Lord! Today, we are invited to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives, to eliminate these behaviors in order to journey well along the way of holiness.

How might I open myself to God's gifts and use them to help others?



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

c. 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)

d. 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

Weekly Collections

First collection	\$ 10,480.50
(including online giving \$ 928.00)	
Last years	\$ 14,958.00
<i>Attendance for last week 790</i>	
Thank you for your generosity!	
Year to date: Snow Removal	\$ 24,312.50



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

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 April 10th @ 7:00 pm in room 101. Please call the rectory to enroll and for any other information you may require.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In seeking a King for the Israelites, Samuel traveled to Jesse of Bethlehem, who had seven sons. Commanded by God to ignore the elder sons, Samuel anointed the youngest, David.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul exhorts the Ephesians to live as "children of light" in goodness and truth and to avoid evil deeds "done in darkness."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus performs the miracle of giving sight to the man born blind. Because Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath, the Pharisees called him a "sinner," but the blind man said, "He is a prophet." Jesus later reveals to the blind man that He is the Son of Man.



Sunday

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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

First Saturday

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

The Living Flame for the Sanctuary Light will be for the special intention of the **Purcaro Family** for the month of March, 2017

Masses

Saturday, March 25th

8:30 am Joe Indiveri
5:00 pm Andrew Cicala

Sunday, March 26th

7:00 am Margaret Kiernan
8:00 am Pamela LeDonne
9:15 am Robert Decker
Robert Hartmann
10:45 am Joseph Calabrese
Joseph P. Donahue, Jr.
12:15 pm Special Intentions - Sadhna & Family
Fred Bansemer, Jr.

Monday, March 27th

7:00 am Dolores Pampaloni
12:05 pm Col. Paul A. Kelly
7:30 pm Thomas Gazzo

Tuesday, March 28th

7:00 am Debbie Church
12:05 pm Gregoria Samson
Martin Marasco
Christina Azares - In thanksgiving

Wednesday, March 29th

7:00 am Debbie Church
12:05 pm Teresa DiFalco
Pat Tamburri

Thursday, March 30th

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
12:05 pm Bill Hands

Friday, March 31st

7:00 am Deceased Members of the Parish
12:05 pm Mary Uy

Saturday, April 1st

8:30 am John Ruscus
Vinancio Lascano
5:00 pm Alesandro Ciacciarelli

Sunday, April 2nd

7:00 am Josephine Renn
Walter Kowalewski, Katazina Ordon
8:00 am Michael Davis
9:15 am Mary Ruth Borst
10:45 am Joseph Calabrese
Raul Santos
12:15 pm Santos Ruguian
Rose & Angelo Marotte

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
Our next pre-cana class will be on Saturday, April 1, 2017. For more information please call the rectory at 973-539-7050.

St. Christopher Women's Book Club

Our book club meeting will be on **April 4th** at 7:00 pm in room 110. The February book selection:

A man called Ove, by: Fredrik Backman

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.

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: **April 7th & 21st.**

Bus trip to the Sands Casino, in Bethlehem, Pa. Bus leaves St. Christopher's parking lot at 9:15 am. Date: **April 10th**. 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.

****Trip to Virginia Beach and Colonial Williamsburg, from Sept. 18th - 22nd. For information call 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, April 1, 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 #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.

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

**11th winner of our 20 Week Club:
#290 Colleen Murphy
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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Encounter Community— We encounter Maria in Mexico, where a community of hard working women share joys, sorrows, and fellowship while growing economic opportunity at a greenhouse. How have your communities helped you encounter Christ anew this Lent? Visit csrricebowl.org for more.

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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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Please join St. Ann's bus trip, on April 28th, to Sight & Sound Millennium Theater in Lancaster, PA., to see "Jonah." Cost is \$124.00 which includes: shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village, performance at Sight & Sound Millennium theater, dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord, and transportation. Bus leaves from St. Ann's parking lot, 781 Smith Road, at 10:00 am and returns at 10:30 pm. For tickets call Ginny at 973-884-1986. Seats sell out quickly. Deadline: March 26th.

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LIVING STATIONS will be performed at Saint Christopher's on Good Friday, April 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Dress rehearsal for Living Stations will be held on Wednesday, April 12th from 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm.

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.

"GARAGE SALE" - The Saint Francis Residential Community, an Independent Senior Living Facility, located in Denville, NJ, is having their next GARAGE SALE on Friday, April 7, 2017 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM and on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 10:00 AM to Noon, at 18 Pocono Road (new location, near the barn). Questions? Contact Sister Johnice at 973-627-5000, Sally Dankos 973-586-2181, or Ann Marie Lupia at 973-625-5382. Directions? Visit our website www.saintfrancis.res.

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The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents will be meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30 PM in room 101. Program: "Dealing with Anger, Guilt, and Fear". For more information please call Lily Capriglione at: 973-568-4164.

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"There was a time when you were in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Well, then, live as children of light. Light produces every kind of goodness, and justice and truth.... Then he told him, 'Go wash in the pool of Siloam.' (This name means 'One who has been sent')"

With the coming of spring, days become longer and darkness fades. St. Paul tells his readers that they are children of the light. Jesus told us we are the light of the world. We recognize our role through our good works, our efforts to make a just society, and walking with Jesus who is the way, truth and life.

How common it is for us to look for a place to charge our telephones, renew the power in our ipad, or charge our battery. Sadly people fight to plug their charger and renew their telephone, computer or game. Lent is to produce the same effect. The light can become stronger as we strive for goodness, justice and truth. Lent is meant to restore power, or grace, fully. Lent is our opportunity to be and remain connected. We are to be charged by the Lord and radiate His presence.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

April 1st & 2nd	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	The Lally Family	J. Kobeszko E. Lally J. Lipuma M. Long	K. Lucibello
7:00 am	I. & S. Lalo	B. Carroll	M. Dumapit
8:00 am	A. Anastasi M. Morales D. Perez	K. Nola L. Scangarella E. Shabet	M. Appio
9:15 am	The Rankel Family	D. Giradelli C. To J. & T. Raccioppi	S. Marsh
10:45 am	L. Taylor N. & A. Courtney	G. Azares Visit: C. Brown L. Eckel A. Malsbury	A. Bilotti
12:15 pm	P. Whalen B. & E. Hollinghurst	K. Hollinghurst L. & R. Polanski	M. Reyes

Reflections

It is tempting to think that when things are going well it is because God is pleased with us and when they aren't that we have done something "wrong". Perhaps, this kind of reasoning is more "Comfortable" than the alternative which is to take responsibility for the choices we have made, Such an attitude also does a disservice to God. He is not keeping a tally to determine punishments and rewards . God is constantly pouring out his love and grace in the midst of good and bad times. Do you believe that God loves you all the time?

***The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
-Psalm 23:1***

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.

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Please be aware there was a misprint in the Easter Leaflet with the masses. The Mass on Easter Sunday at 12:15 pm was omitted. The following is the corrected Holy Week Schedule.

Holy Week Masses

April 10th

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

April 11th & 12th

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

Holy Thursday, April 13th

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

Good Friday, April 14th

3:00 p.m. – Passion of the Lord

7:00 p.m. – Living Stations

Holy Saturday, April 15th

11:30 a.m. – Blessing of the Food

7:00 p.m. – The Easter Vigil

(No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday – April 16th

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

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

PASTA NIGHT

At St. Christopher's



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

Price per person will be \$15.00 (21 and over). With this price there will be linguini with clam sauce, eggplant rollatine, penne pasta in marinara sauce, coffee, tea and

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

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

Sold Out

Phone: _____

No. 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

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, April 1, 2017 At 9:00 am in the
All Purpose Room

