

Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the Pastors Desk



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas has, above all, a taste of hope because, for all darkness in our lives, God's light shines forth.

God of light beyond darkness, the season leading up to Christmas is a feast for my senses! I celebrate with twinkling lights, glorious music, delicious and aromatic food. I celebrate the embrace and touch of those I love. In what is the darkest time of the year with the shortest day, a new light shines forth, piercing my doubts, dissipating my anger and strengthening my faith with a power that arouses something new in me. I am united to a feast that nourishes, nurtures, renews and readies me for another trip around the sun. Be my feast and my journey, Lord.

Read this week John 1:5

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	\$ 10,983.25
(including online giving \$ 983.00)	
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,306.00
Last Year	\$ 9,432.00

Attendance for the week 796
Thank you for your generosity

The Rectory will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th, we will reopen on Wednesday, December 27th.

Christmas Day

The question put to us simply by the Infant's presence is: "Do I allow God to love me?"

God of pure love, I celebrate and relish this day in so many different ways. It is a day for family and children, a day for Santa and giving gifts. I love the music and the tree and the sentiments of the greeting cards. But none of these things, however good, address this most essential of all questions: "What does your presence in the world mean to me, and how does it change me?"

So, I invite you to change me this Christmas, Jesus. Send your love into my life like the unconditional love bestowed in the embrace of a child.

Take the time to read John 1:12

Masses

Saturday, December 23rd

8:30 am Ann R. Paterno
5:00 pm Rita & Mickey D'Ambrosa
Charles Ehrenfeld
James Fenske

Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve

7:00 am Cathy Saffian
8:00 am Theresa Neilson
9:15 am Robert Haynes
Robert Hartmann
10:45 am Ann Price
12:15 pm Walter Pasuco
Ann O'Dea
5:00 pm Chester Kudlac
George Bain III
Delores & Denise Sesta
Megan Nugent
8:00 pm Deceased Members of the
Picinich & Zemo Families
12:00 am Manny Uy

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day

7:00 am Ann R. Paterno
8:00 am Salvatore Neglia
Minnie, Clarence & Craig Hall
Chorny, Lanza, Mucerino, &
Osterhaut Families
9:15 am William H. Kelly
Marcial & Leocadia Bontuyen
10:45 am Manny Uy
Angelina Gruppuso
12:15 pm Rose & Nicholas DiVincenzo,
Sam & Connie Calabria, Rita &
Mickey D'Ambrosa
Frank Calabria

Tuesday, December 26th

12:05 pm Jeanie Wilson
Pamela LeDonne
John A. Blunt, Jr.

Wednesday, December 27th

7:00 am Special Intentions - Matthew
Tapia (1 yr old)
12:05 pm Col. Paul A. Kelly
Jerry Hoffman
Michael Barrone

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 am Special Intentions - Matthew
Tapia (1 yr old)
12:05 pm Sr. Jennifer of Jesus

Friday, December 29th

7:00 am Msgr. Frank B. Ferraioli
12:05 pm Jaqueline Castillo

Saturday, December 30th

8:30 am Cipolla Family
5:00 pm Ann Price

Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve

7:00 am Raymond Guimond
8:00 am Harley
9:15 am Alvaro & Concepcion Ramones
Frank & Irene Dillon
10:45 am Ann Price
12:15 pm Ruth LaVelle
5:00 pm Jenny De La Cruz



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: **Joanne M. Servino**

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 January 8th @ 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 Cezak,
Mary Elen Clemente, Tessie Gajdek,
Esther Treuting, Jeanne Chmura,
Nancy DeLue, Betty Rydyfski, Phyllis
Burns, Agnes Hogan, Tania Monteith,
Ruth Vasta.



Reflections

Have you ever wished an angel would appear to tell you what God wants you to do? It would seem to be a good idea. You wouldn't have to guess any more. Such messages are not the norm. Perhaps it is because God gave us free will and such direct messages might make us feel like we had no choice. God wants us to be free to choose what is right and good. To hear what God wants of us, we must make the effort to discern God's will by reading scriptures, listening to the Church teachings, and praying for the guidance of the Spirit. As we become more open to the promptings of the Spirit, what we are called to do will become clearer.

- *The Lord is my rock and fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge.*
- *Psalm 18:2*

Readings

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Parish Activities...

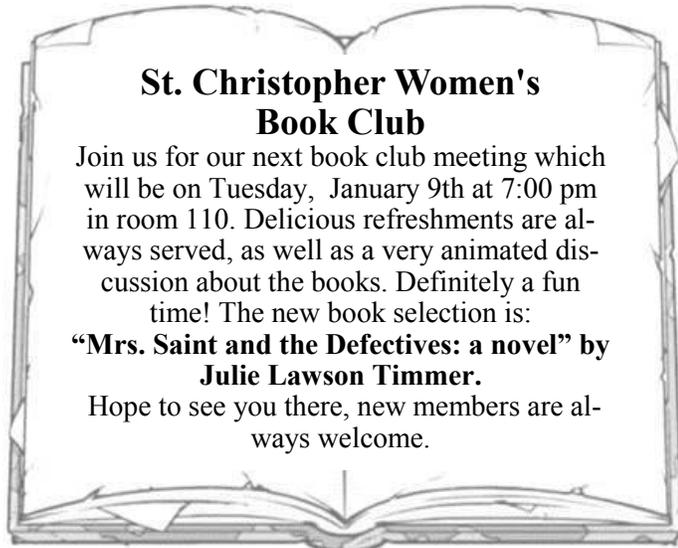
Men's Group - Issac Jogues Society - Meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, in room 101 in the school. Our Mission Statement is: "Life as a Catholic Man – A Truly Catholic and Spiritual Way of Life".

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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'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.

There will be no Bingo on Wednesday, December 27th

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: **January 5th & 19th.**

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".

Food List: Peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, juice, canned corn, baking mixes, mustard, ketchup, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, deodorant, cold cereal, granola bars, cookies, crackers, tuna, Chef Boyardee, canned chicken meat, canned fruit, shelf stable milk, bath tissue, facial tissue, paper towels. 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.

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 Prospero, who is the yoga instructor at pprosperi51@gmail.com.

20 Week Club

To date, we have 217 participants with \$21,700.00 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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Carol Service

Please join the **Contemporary Choir** in celebrating the Birthday of the King! The celebration begins on December 24th with a Carol Service at 11:30 p.m. and is immediately followed by Midnight Mass. The Carol Service prepares us to celebrate the Lord's birth through reading and carols depicting the birth of Jesus.

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St. Christopher Needs You!!

By registering in our Parish, you are declaring your desire to be part of a Catholic faith community. Your registration affects us in many ways. Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to our Parish, what benefits and obligations the Parish has to the diocese, and how many Masses and programs are planned and scheduled.

Registration enables Fr. Michal and I to get to know you better, and helps us to be able to communicate with you by sending you mailings. Once you are registered, please notify us of any changes in address or phone numbers.

You will also receive a packet of envelopes to place your regular contributions. This is important if you want to receive a year end statement from the Parish for income tax purposes. Registered members can expect pastoral care from our Parish, including baptisms, anointing of the sick, funerals and weddings.

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER

Christmas Blessings from All Saints Academy. The students and families and the faculty and staff of All Saints Academy wish our parishioners a very blessed and joyous Christmas. May the wondrous birth of Jesus, the Christ Child, bring peace and love to all. We are blessed by your presence in the life of our school, and we continue to pray for a New Year filled with hope and joy.

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**2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE**

As we plan to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to our friends and loved ones, there is one gift that we can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require ten thousand name tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an online line 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. May God bless you for your generosity!

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The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents will be meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at St. Christopher's Church, 1050 Littleton Road (Rt. 202), Parsippany, at 7:30PM in room 101.

Program: Learning to cope in the New Year. For more information please call Lily Capriglione at: 973-568-4164.

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Motorized Truck Raffle

The winning number was pulled on Sunday after the 9:15 am mass. The lucky winner was: Joann Colleran #225.

Congratulation Joann!!



Dec. 30th & 31st	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	J. Summa T. & J. Carifi	J. & A. Rochacewicz J. Sole C. Hendricks	C. Johnson
7:00 am	The Rozanitis Family	P. Allocca	B. Carroll
8:00 am	A. & D. Guzzardo J. Tran	J. Mucerino L. Scangarella P. Luther	E. Shabet
9:15 am	M. Morales A. To C. Hilgendorf	L. & M. Sostak C. To C. Uy	A. Mogan
10:45 am	E. & B. Hollinghurst J. Vadakkedam	V. Arcilla Visit: A. Calabria L. Copeland C. Mosiello	C. Haney
12:15 pm	C. Dumapit P. Whalen T. Metcalf	P. Doung R. Vento C. Walsh W. Koeller	J. East



Dec. 31st January 1st	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	A. & D. Guzzardo G. Harris	K. Lucibello L. Bain J. & A. Rochacewicz	L. Pascale
10:00 am	A. Zecena S. & T. Lally	N. Gordon C. Walsh J. & B. East	M. Dumapit

Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the word made flesh in a little child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are.

Amen.

“Do not fear, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son, and give Him the name Jesus. Great will be His dignity and He will be called Son of the Most High.”

The great moment in the history of salvation, began with the visit of the angel Gabriel and the invitation to be the mother of Jesus. It is not surprising that Mary hesitated, questioned and then consented. Wouldn't you? Her response 'I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say' redirected the course of human history. The celebration of the Bethlehem event tonight, allows us not just to recall what happened, but to imitate Mary and permit the Lord to touch our lives in a truly special way. Our traditions and customs are rich as we relive Jesus' entering our lives again. The Simbang Gabi celebration of Filipino Catholics or Las Posadas of Latin Catholics lead us to the stable cave to meet and adore the Lord of history, the Lord of today. We have been praying 'Come Lord Jesus' for the four weeks of advent. Today, we welcome Him with joy.

As we celebrate this special night, may we be ready to open our door not just to Joseph and Mary, but Christ who comes to us.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

**St. Christopher 's
Christmas
Schedule**

2017

*Fourth Sunday of Advent, **December 24th** –
will be the regular Sunday schedule *

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24th
5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 12:00 am (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25th
7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am,
12:15 pm

Sunday, December 31st

New Year's Eve Mass - Vigil
5:00 pm

Mary the Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2018
10:00 am



SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH 20-WEEK CLUB MAINTENANCE & REPAIR FUND 2018

Raffle License #
ID #375-01-0914

Location: 1050 Littleton Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Time: 12:00 noon

- A. Each participant pays \$100 once or \$20 a month for 5 months, starting January and ending in May.
- B. There is a winner selected each week, two winners on week 10 (\$500/each) two winners on week 17 (\$400/each) and five winners on week 20 (\$1000/each).

January 2018		February 2018		March 2018		April 2018		May 2018	
1/6	\$150	2/3	\$200	3/3	\$250	4/7	\$350	5/5	\$375
1/13	\$150	2/10	\$200	3/10	\$500, \$500	4/14	\$350	5/12	\$400
1/20	\$175	2/17	\$200	3/17	\$300	4/21	\$375	5/20	\$1000
									\$1000
1/27	\$175	2/24	\$250	3/24	\$300	4/28	\$400, \$400		\$1000
									\$1000
				3/31	\$300				\$1000

- C. A person can win more than once. Your name is put back in so you can win again.
- D. We are planning on having our first drawing on January 6, 2018. Drawings will be held each SATURDAY. A list of winners will be posted in the vestibule of the Church and in the bulletin.
- E. If a participant fails to pay the monthly dues, he/she will be disqualified for the remainder of the drawing.
- F. If gambling is a problem for you or someone in your family, DIAL 1-800-GAMBLER.
- G. The aggregate value of all prizes **\$11,300**. No substitution of the offered prizes may be made.

PLEASE PRINT – FILL OUT FORM AND RETURN TO: St. Christopher Rectory

All forms must be returned no later than January 5, 2018

20-week club# _____

Saint Christopher Church

Raffle License #

Calendar Raffle – 20-week club

ID #375-1-914

January, February, March, April, May 2018

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

_____ \$100 payment in full

_____ \$20 partial payment

**Get ready for Family Movie night
at St. Christopher
on Friday, January 12th at 6:30 pm
with the movie**



Refreshments will be served
Remember to bring chairs



Knights Of Columbus

PARSIPPANY COUNCIL, No 3680

P.O. Box 5572

Parsippany, New Jersey 07054
Grand Knight Frank Palmieri

Meetings
St. Christophers Church
1050 Littleton rd.
Second & Fourth
Monday at 8:00 PM

David Szmak
5 Caldwell Rd.
Parsippany N.J. 07054
Phone 973-887-6120

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

This year's Free Throw contest will be held on January 13, 2018 at 9 am at St. Christopher's All Purpose room. Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is open to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14. High school age athletes should be advised to check with their school athletic directors or their state's high school athletic association regarding possible eligibility conflicts. Each youngster may compete in only one council competition. Local champions may not represent more than one council. Championship entrants compete against youngsters of the same age and gender in five age divisions: 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. At the council level, each competitor gets 15 free throws, and the one who makes the most shots wins.

POSTER CONTEST

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest

Entries in the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest must fall under one of these topics: Alcohol Awareness and Abuse & Drug Awareness and Abuse. Each poster must include a slogan reflecting either of the topics and an original visual image. Posters may only be entered under one topic. The Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is open to all young people between the ages of 8 and 14. Posters will be judged following the 9 am free throw contest on JAN 13, 2018 at St. Christopher's All Purpose room.

Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and any visual images) of a single person. Posters must be 11" x 17" in size. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used, the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic. Posters may be in color or black and white. Each poster must be submitted with a Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest entry form. The name and age of the person entering the poster should be included on the back of the poster. All Entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. Posters will not be returned.

ANY QUESTION CALL MR ALBERT V. CLARK
(973) 887-8588