

The Epiphany of the Lord

From the Pastors Desk



The Mystery of Christmas - Epiphany

The mystery of Christmas, which is light and joy, challenges and unsettles us, because it is at once a mystery of hope and of sadness. It has a taste of sadness, inasmuch as love is not accepted and life is discarded. Such was the case with Joseph and Mary, who met with closed doors and placed Jesus in the manger, “because there was no place for them in the inn. Jesus was born rejected by some and regarded by many others with indifference”. Today too, that same indifference can exist whenever Christmas becomes a holiday with ourselves at the center rather than Jesus; when the lights of shop windows push the light of God into the shadows; when we are enthused about gifts but indifferent to our neighbor in need. This worldliness has kidnapped Christmas. We need to liberate it!

Yet Christmas has above all a taste of hope because, for all the darkness in our lives, God’s light shines forth. His gentle light does not frighten us. God, who is in love with us, draws us to himself with his tenderness, by being born poor and frail in our midst, as one of us. He is born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread”. In this way, he seems to tell us that he is born as bread for us. He enters our life to give us his life. He comes into our world to give us his love.

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah speaks poetically of the coming of the Lord. He describes how “darkness covers the earth” but light and glory appear over God’s chosen people.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul tells the Ephesians that the Jews and Gentiles are now co-heirs of the promises God has made. He explains that both groups are now members of one body through Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus’ birth, three astrologers from the east came to Jerusalem and inquired about the newborn king of the Jews. King Herod became greatly angered, and asked the astrologers to bring him more information about the child once they had found him, so that he too could pay homage to the infant. However, Herod’s true plan was to kill Jesus. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to him and they took a different route to return home.

Weekly Collections

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Collection	\$ 12,400.25
(including online giving \$ 1,117.00)	
Christmas (Updated)	\$ 41,701.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 3,192.00

Attendance for the week 740
Thank you for your generosity

Sunday

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday

1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17

The Living Flame for the Sanctuary
 Light will be in memory of
Ann Paterno
 for the month of January 2018

Masses

Saturday, January 6th

8:30 am Gerard Arcieri
 5:00 pm Robin Carr
 Joseph Burns

Sunday, January 7th

7:00 am Franklin McBlain
 8:00 am Rose Fredrich
 9:15 am John A. Blunt, Jr.
 Mary O'Connell
 10:45 am Ann Price
 Jack Blunt
 12:15 pm Special Intentions - Kaneesha Vaz
 Pauline Six

Monday, January 8th

7:00 am James Miller, Jr.
 12:05 pm Maryann Pruden

Tuesday, January 9th

7:00 am Marion Kramaritsch
 12:05 pm Madeline & Paul Bangiola, Jr.

Wednesday, January 10th

7:00 am James W. Moss, Jr.
 12:05 pm Maryann Pruden

Thursday, January 11th

7:00 am James Miller, Jr.
 12:05 pm Paul Jackson

Friday, January 12th

7:00 am Marion Kramaritsch
 12:05 pm Rose & Nicholas DiVincenzo
 Thomas Farrell

Saturday, January 13th

8:30 am Manny Uy
 Anne Paterno
 5:00 pm Michelle Devrieze

January 14th

7:00 am Marion Kramaritsch
 8:00 am Clarence, Minnie & Craig Hall
 Salvatore Neglia
 Ruth LaVelle
 9:15 am Rocco, Angelina & Danny Cifelli
 Ann Price
 10:45 am Gladys Cavallaro
 12:15 pm Henry Rohrmann
 Ruth LaVelle

*Please remember in your prayers
 all the departed family and
 friends of St. Christopher,
 Especially: **James W. Moss, Jr.***



Religious Education

If you have any questions concerning our CCD program, please call Mary Ann Jacisin in the CCD office from Monday thru Thursday 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.*

*Let us welcome into our family of faith
Selynah J. Bilbao LaVieja, who received the
 sacrament of baptism.*

Reflections

The Magi found the new born king in a most unlikely place, in the most unlikely circumstances, yet they had no doubt that they had found what they were searching for. We are also called to journey to seek God and discover his will for us. Where have you encountered God's presence? Think of the moments when you felt God's hand in your life. Consider how you seek to be open to God's direction. What can you do to become more attune to God's direction in your life?

- *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*
 - *Isaiah 60:1*



Parish Activities...

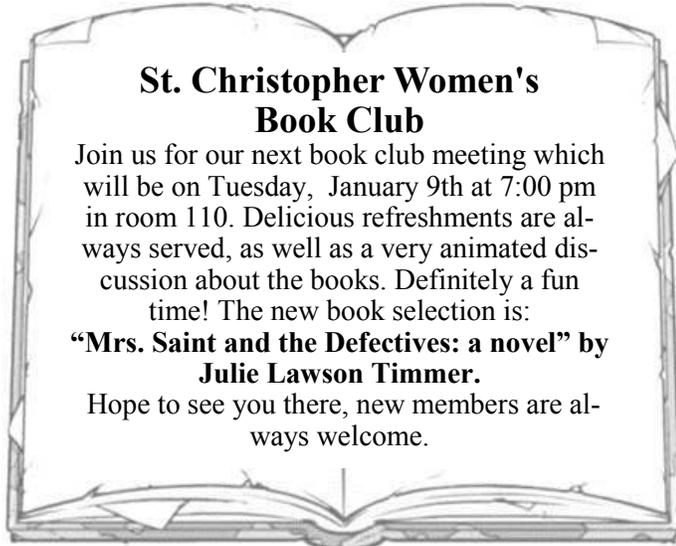
Men's Group - Issac Jogues Society - Meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, in room 101 in the school. Our Mission Statement is: "Life as a Catholic Man – A Truly Catholic and Spiritual Way of Life".

~0~

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

~0~

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

Pray the Rosary every Monday – Friday after the 12:05 pm Mass.

Miraculous Medal Novena & Rosary will be at 12:30 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 January 6, 2018 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 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.

~0~

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.

~0~

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

20 Week Club

To date, we have 244 participants with \$24,400.00 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.



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.



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.



You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit,...it was not made known to people in other generations as it now has been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

We hear the story of the visitors from the east, the magi, remember the three gifts and the guidance of the star. But St. Paul offers us something more for our consideration. God in His goodness has sent His Son, for the salvation of all people. Paul explained it clearly, as revealed now. The 'now' in our time tells us the same awesome and meaningful message. We are 1) Coheirs, - something special is offered to us. 2) Members of the same body - we belong to the Lord and His church, a holy people and 3) copartners, called to do our part as Missionary Disciples. These gifts have been given to us for our benefit, to be treasured and used for the building of His kingdom.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Jan. 13th & 14th	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm	J. Summa B. & E. Hollinghurst	L. Asea M. Downing K. Hollinghurst J. Kobeski	M. Appio
7:00 am	The Rozanitis Family	B. Carroll	C. Johnson
8:00 am	The Marsh Family	P. Luther S. Marsh J. Mucerino	K. Longo
9:15 am	A. & D. Perez A. To	D. & S. Kaschalk K. Nolan C. To	
10:45 am	C. Rizzo J. Jacob J. Vadakkedam	E. Haynes Visit: M. & M. D'Am- broso C. Mosiello	C. Mosiello
12:15 pm	A. & D. Guzzardo A. Anastasi	M. Pasuco K. Lucibello B. & J. East	E. Shabet

March for Life - 2018

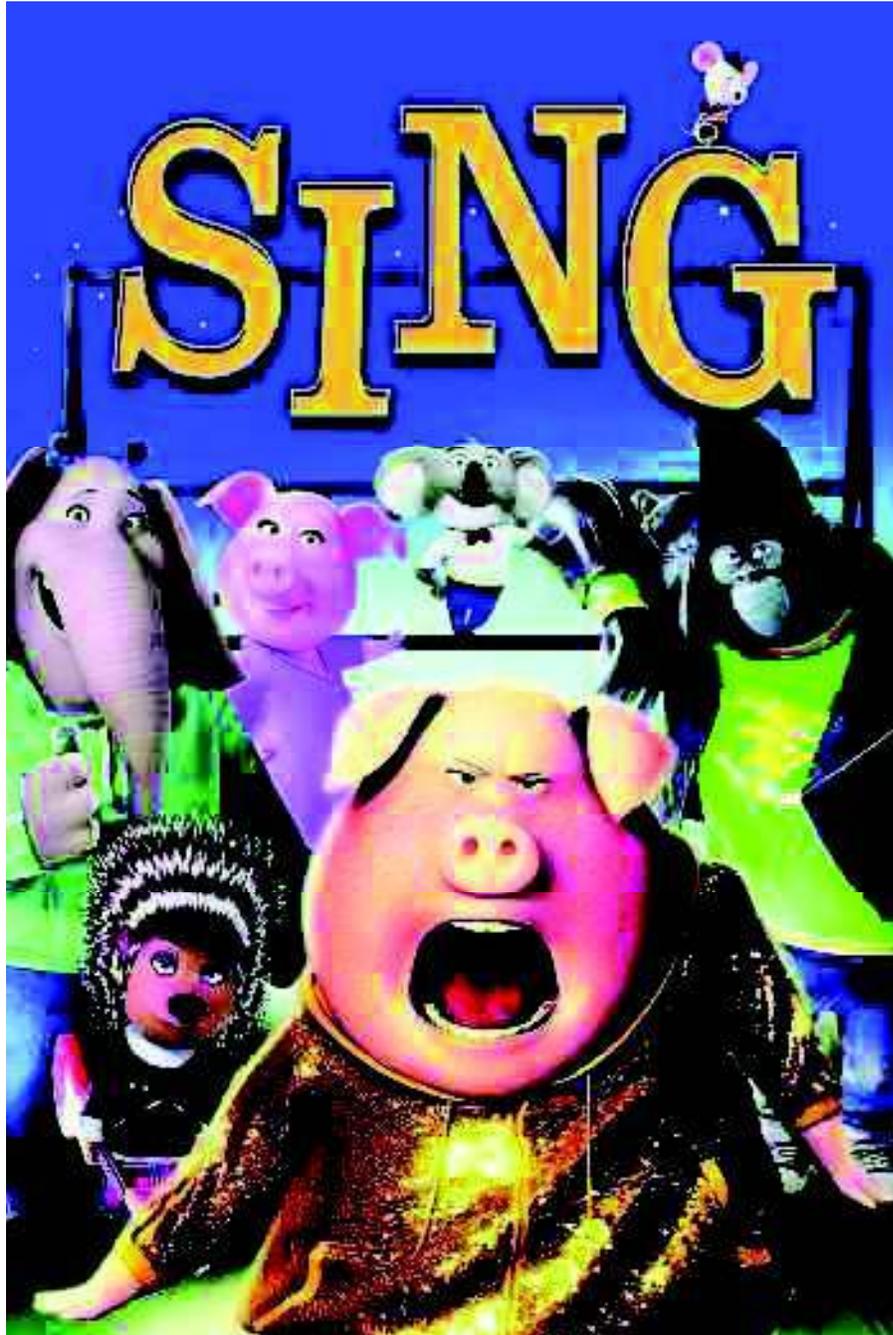
This year the March for life will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 19, 2018 at Saint Peter's Church on Capitol Hill at 12:10 pm. It will be the 45th anniversary of the passage of the landmark decision of Roe v. Wade that made abortion legal for the entire country. Our people from the Paterson Diocese will board buses to go to Washington, D.C. to show solidarity against abortion and stand for life issues. They will join three hundred to four hundred thousand marchers from all over the world to make their statement for the sanctity of life in the womb. As in the past years, the media will ignore this large number of marchers and give little or no mention of this momentous occasion.

Buses will be leaving from the parishes listed below:

1. St. Mary - Denville - 973-627-2596
2. Independent - Chester - Aschlaflay@aol.com
3. St. Michael - Netcong - 973-670-7457
4. St. Joseph - Mendham - 908-347-9660
5. St. Jude the Apostle - Hamburg - 973-827-8030
6. St. Vincent de Paul - Stirling - 908-647-0118
7. St. Vincent Martyr- Madison - 973-408-9042
8. Our Lady Queen of Peace - Branchville - 973-948-3185
9. Holy Family- Florham Park - Tinarifr@shu.edu

For any other information, please contact Dr. Mary Mazzarella (973-777-8818 x269).

**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

Pasta Night at St. Christopher's



Join us on Friday, March 23rd at 7:30 pm in the All-Purpose Room at St. Christopher's for our 2nd Annual Wine & Pasta Night.

Price per person will be \$15.00 (21 and over). Included with this price will be linguini with clam sauce, tortellini alfredo, eggplant rollatini, 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 will be 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

UPCOMING RAFFLE

OUR NEXT PARISH RAFFLE WILL BE THIS BEAUTIFUL
HANDMADE DOLL HOUSE.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS.



ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS OF PARISH
YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

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