



February 5, 2023
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Newsletter

Mass Times

Saturday-Sunday

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

6:30 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 4:00 pm

Sunday Mass in Courtyard—

8:30 am 9:30 am and 10:30 am



Daily Mass: Mon-Fri—9:00 am

Monday-Thursday — 6:30 pm.



1st Saturday of the Month

9:00am Mass with the anointing of the sick



Holy Days

6:30 am 9:00 am 12:noon and 7:00 pm



Confessions

First Saturday 10:00am-11:00am
& by appointment

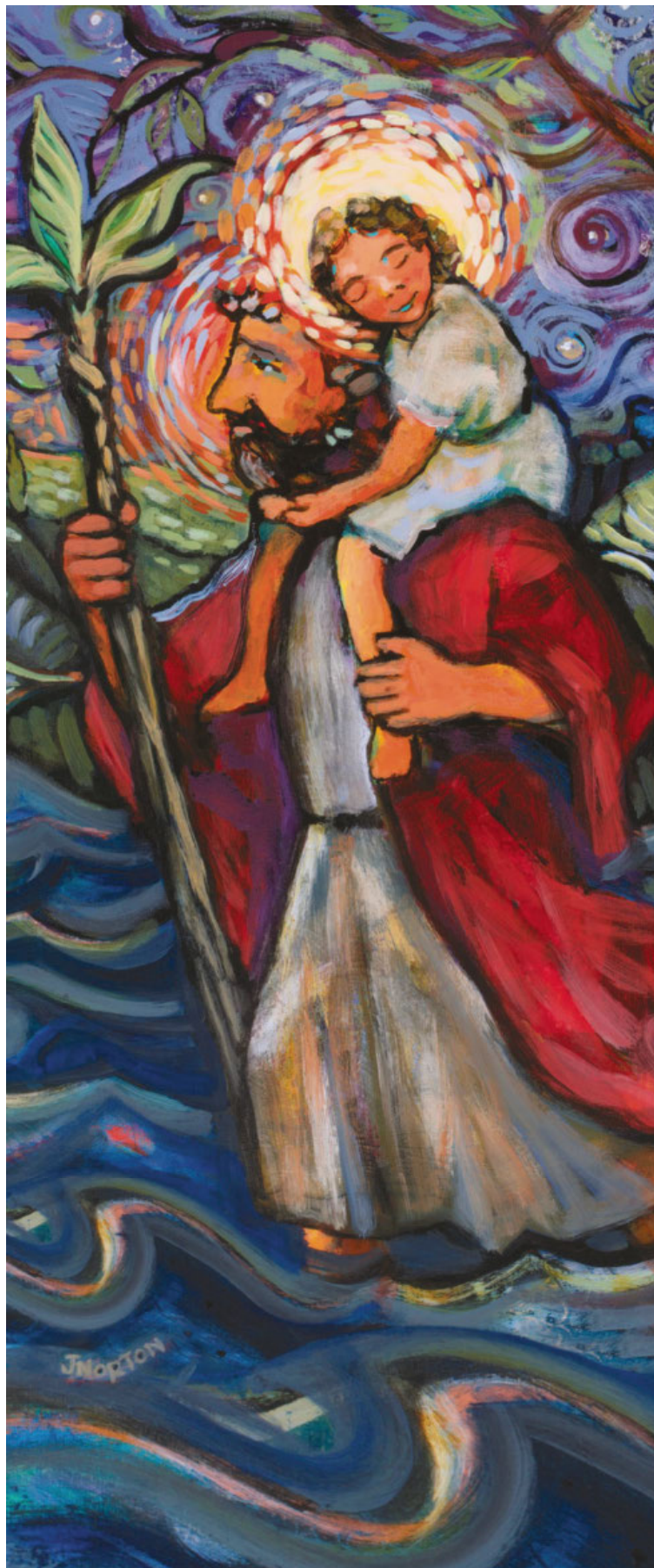
Infant Baptisms

Preparation can begin before or after the birth of your child.

Call 408-269-2226 for more info.

Weddings

Couples, please contact a priest at 408-269-2226 at least six months prior to the proposed date of wedding.



"St. Christopher" © Jen Norton
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THE REAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST

From the very beginning, the Church has believed and celebrated according to the teaching of Jesus himself: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him (Jn 6:54-56). It is not “ordinary bread and ordinary drink” that we receive in the Eucharist, but the flesh and blood of Christ, who came to nourish and transform us, to restore our relationship to God and to one another.

In the Eucharist, with the eyes of faith we see before us Jesus Christ, who, in the Incarnation became flesh (Jn 1:14) and who in the Paschal Mystery gave himself for us (Ti 2:14), accepting even death on a cross (Phil 2:8). St. John Chrysostom preached that when you see the Body of Christ “set before you [on the altar], say to yourself: Because of this Body I am no longer earth and ashes, no longer a prisoner, but free: because of this I hope for heaven, and to receive the good things therein, immortal life, the portion of angels, [and closeness] with Christ.”

How can Jesus Christ be truly present in what still appears to be bread and wine? In the liturgical act known as the epiclesis, the bishop or priest, speaking in the person of Jesus Christ, calls upon the Father to send down his Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and this change occurs through the institution narrative, by the power of the words of Christ pronounced by the celebrant.

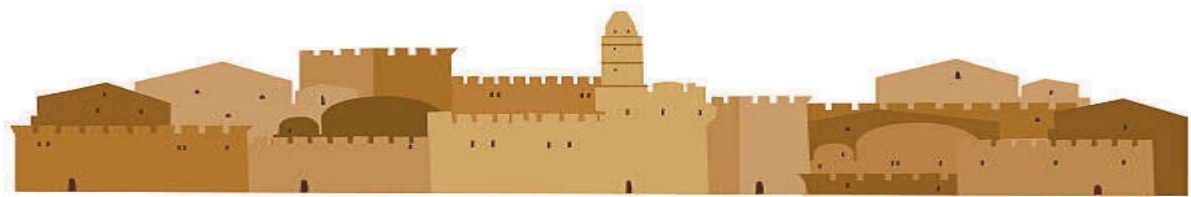
The reality that, in the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ without ceasing to appear as bread and wine to our five senses is one of the central mysteries of the Catholic faith. This faith is a doorway through which we, like the saints and mystics before us, may enter into a deeper perception of the mercy and love manifested in and through Christ’s sacramental presence in our midst. While one thing is seen with our bodily eyes, another reality is perceived through the eyes of faith. The real, true, and substantial presence of Christ in the Eucharist is the most profound reality of the sacrament. “This mysterious change is very appropriately called by the Church transubstantiation.”²⁶ Though Christ is present to us in many ways in the liturgy, including in the assembly gathered, the presiding minister, and the word proclaimed, the Church also clearly affirms that “the mode of Christ’s presence under the Eucharistic species is unique.”

As St. Paul VI wrote, “This presence is called ‘real’ not to exclude the idea that the others are ‘real’ too, but rather to indicate presence par excellence, because it is substantial and through it Christ becomes present whole and entire, God and man.”²⁸ In the sacramental re-presentation of his sacrifice, Christ holds back nothing, offering himself, whole and entire. The use of the word “substantial” to mark the unique presence of Christ in the Eucharist is intended to convey the totality of the gift he offers to us

When the Eucharist is distributed and the minister says, “the Body of Christ,” we are to look not simply at what is visible before our eyes, but at what it has become by the words of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit—the Body of Christ.²⁹ The communicant’s response of “Amen” is a profession of faith in the Real Presence of Christ and reflects the intimate personal encounter with him, with his gift of self, that comes through reception of Holy Communion

(Continue on page 4)

2023 PILGRIMAGES TO THE HOLY LAND



This is my invitation to invite you to a once in a life time experience to come with me in the Promised Land, the Holy Land of God, Israel for an amazing journey. Join us for a journey of a lifetime on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit Our Lord's homeland. It is an encounter that has changed the lives of many pilgrims, and it is an act of faith and prayer. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Each day we will celebrate Mass and reflect on the gospel text appropriate to the place we visit. This will be a pilgrimage of a lifetime and it will forever change the way you read and understand the Scriptures. We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a grace-filled journey to the land from which has come our salvation.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Mt. Carmel & Haifa
- Nazareth—site of the Annunciation
- Cana—Renewal of Marriage vows
- Capernaum and Peter's Primacy
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Mount of Beatitudes
- Jericho & the Jordan River—renewal of baptismal vows
- Bethlehem and Shepherds' Field
- Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane
- Mount Zion and the Upper Room
- Jerusalem—Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Garden of Gethsemane
- The Old City
- Western Wall

For more information please
contact Fr. Chris.
revbennett@sbcgloba.net or you
can find the brochure on our
webpage.



SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH AND SCHOOL

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www.saintchris.com

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Fridays. 8:30am-noon

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Email: revbennett@sbcglobal.net

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TBD

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Diane Forst—Faith Formation Assistant ext. 315
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PRAY FOR THE ILL IN OUR PARISH



Cash Gregory Coprivezia

Tiffani Pratali

Tom Holman

Sr. Sharon Skain S.N.D

Pat DeMarlo

Jo Bertaccini

Randi Myers

Tom Holman

Carol Kested

Julie Dio



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



Rick Held



Robert Turk



Thomas Wheatley



Leslie Hall



Charles Tucker



Dennis DiSalvo



Samuel Marroco



Pope Benedict XVI



Ro semarie Sunseri



Angela Rapisarda



Josephine Oliverio

The Real Presence of Christ



.Communion with Christ and the Church

When we receive Holy Communion, Christ is giving himself to us. He comes to us in all humility, as he came to us in the Incarnation, so that we may receive him and become one with him. Christ gives himself to us so that we may continue the pilgrim path toward life with him in the fullness of the Kingdom of God. The fourteenth-century Orthodox theologian Nicholas Cabasilas described this sacrament by saying, “unlike any other sacrament, the mystery [of the Eucharist] is so perfect that it brings us to the heights of every good thing: here is the ultimate goal of every human desire, because here we attain God and God joins himself to us in the most perfect union.” Through this sacrament, the pilgrim Church is nourished, deepening her communion with the Triune God and consequently that of her members with one another.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is called Holy Communion precisely because, by placing us in intimate communion with the sacrifice of Christ, we are placed in intimate communion with him and, through him, with each other. Therefore, the Eucharist is called Holy Communion because it is “the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being.” How can we understand this?

The Gospel of John recounts that, when Jesus died on the cross, blood and water flowed out (Jn 19:34), symbolic of Baptism and the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council teaches, “The origin and growth of the Church are symbolized by the blood and water which flowed from the open side of the crucified Jesus,” and that “it was from the side of Christ as he slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth the wondrous sacrament of the whole Church.”

In this image from the Gospel of John, we see that the Church, the Bride of the Lamb, is born from the sacrificial love of Christ in his self-offering on the cross. The Eucharist re-presents this one sacrifice so that we are placed in communion with it and with the divine love from which it flows forth. We are placed in communion with each other through this love which is given to us. That is why we can say, “the Eucharist makes the Church.”



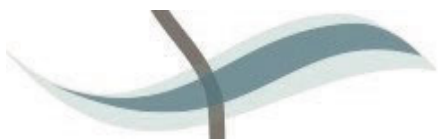
ASH WEDNESDAY

The Lenten season is fast approaching. Wednesday, February 22nd is Ash Wednesday.. Our Masses that day will be at 6:30am, 9:00am., 12:00noon, 5:00pm, and 7:00pm. Ashes will be distributed at the end of each Mass. Please plan to come to Mass as we begin this holy season.

WE NEED YOU!

Lector

The Lector Ministry makes a truly satisfying and meaningful contribution to Eucharistic celebrations at Saint Christopher Church. When one answers the call to be a minister of the word, one enters a deeper relationship with the word of God as revealed in sacred scriptures. The lector takes upon themselves the duty and privilege of bringing the printed word to life—making it flesh. The ministry as a lector gives voice to God's healing and challenging words as it goes forth irrevocably to the ends of the earth, achieving the purpose for which God sent it. In a very real sense, the lector becomes a prophet—one who speaks for God. Please consider becoming a Lector. For more information please Contact: Loretta Pfaff at 1-408-269-2226 ext. 303 or email Loretta.pfaff@stchrissj.org



ST. CHRISTOPHER CALENDAR

Grief Support Group

If you are going through a loss, one of the best ways to heal is to share your grief with those who are going through a similar experience. St. Christopher's Grief Ministry is offering a 5 week grief support group in the Marian Rm. of the Msgr. Allen Center starting on Mondays, February 27 thru March 27 from 1:15pm-2:30pm. The group is open to anyone going through loss, such as a death, divorce, or having to put partner in care facility from Alzheimer's. The group will be led by Sandy Foehr and Mariana Giacalone, members of St. Christopher's grief ministry. Anyone attending needs to be Vaccinated & Boosted.

Call Sandy at 408-807-0503 or email her at: tyedyesandy@gmail.com to sign up or if you have questions.



Restoring our Church.

Dear Parishioners,
Since the first dedication of St. Christopher's on June 2, 1957, many generations of families have gathered at Saint Christopher Church to proclaim their faith and praise God together. We are excited to share our plans to restore our sacred sanctuary and our entire sacred space to ensure that future generations will continue to worship here, at Saint Christopher Church.

Today, we find ourselves between a rich and revered past and a future of great possibilities. It is now our time to make an investment in the future. Our community has always been a caring community. We care about sharing the good news of Christ with the world. We care about passing the faith of Christ on to our children, teaching them to share the Eucharist, prayers, and confirmation.

Our sanctuary is where those needs are met and where people hear the gospel proclaimed. It is where generations have prayed and share, Eucharist together, married, baptized their children, and watched them grow to confirm their own faith, and said farewell to their loved ones.

While our current space has been well cared for over the last sixty five years, today we have an opportunity to enhance and improve our Sacred space in which we worship. After consulting with Diocesan Art and Environment and Art committee we envision:

Sanctuary remodel, floors and walls, new pews, paint the whole church, put a new tabernacle back in the center of the sanctuary.

Remove the wood from the wall at replace with sheetrock and install Hearing Assistance System.

We already have \$200,000 toward the project to help us achieve this goal, I ask each family to prayerfully consider the sacrificial gift they are able to make. If every registered family in our Parish donated \$500, we would come close to our goal. However, knowing that some in our community are on fixed incomes, I am hopeful that those who are financially able, will consider donating a larger amount, such as \$10,000 or even more to help us achieve our goal.

Thank you for your past and present support of St. Christopher Parish. Please join with me and pray for the success of restoring our Church.

Blessings,

Fr. Chris





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