



September 10th, 2023
23rd 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



Daily Mass: Mon-Fri—6:30 am and 9:00 am



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

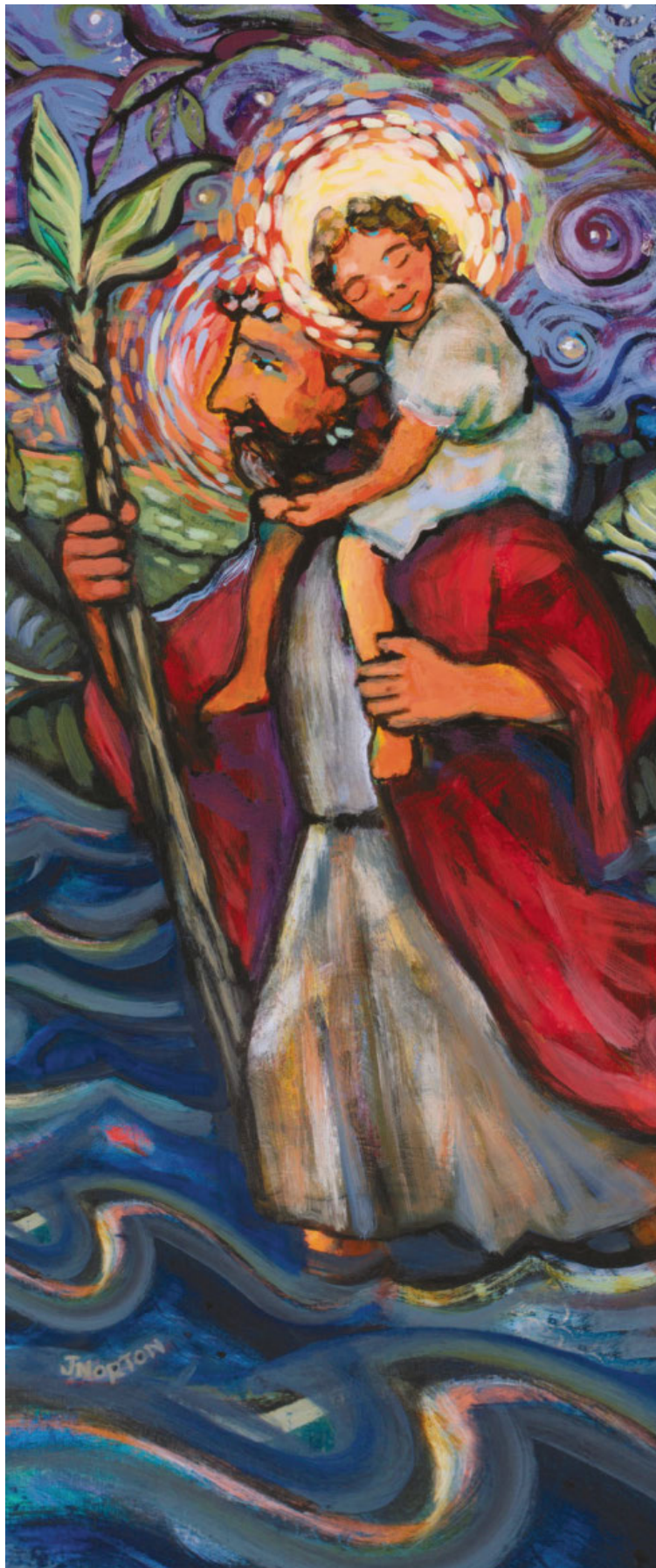
First Saturday 10:00am-11:00am
& by appointment

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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“Enlarge the space of your tent” Synod 2023-2024

Walking together with all Christians.

The call to ecumenism is not, however, merely aimed at common social engagement. Many reports emphasize that there is no complete synodality without unity among Christians. This begins with the call for closer communion between Churches of different rites. Since the Second Vatican Council, ecumenical dialogue has made progress: “In the real life of the Central African Republic, ‘living together’ between Christians of different confessions is self-evident. Our neighborhoods’, our families, our mortuary places, our workplaces are real places of ecumenism” (EC Republic of Central Africa). However, many ecumenical issues related to synodal structures and ministries in the Church are still not well-articulated. The reports also note that there is an ‘ecumenism of martyrdom’ where persecution continues to unite Christians. The reports request greater attention to divisive realities, for example the question of sharing the Eucharist.

The reports also point to the sensitive phenomenon of the growth in the number of inter-church and interfaith families, with their specific needs in terms of accompaniment. Revitalizing the commitment to dialogue and accompaniment as a witness in a fragmented world requires targeted formation that increases confidence, capacity and motivation for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue among bishops, priests, consecrated women and men, lay men and women. “Although the Catholic Church in India has attempted to foster ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue, there is a feeling that the mission in this realm is minimal. The dialogue efforts drew only a handful of elites and remained mostly as cerebral exercises limited to the realm of ideas and concepts rather than becoming a movement of the masses and becoming also a dialogue of life, love and action at the base, by getting people of various faiths and ideologies to discern, plan and work together for common causes” (EC India)

Cultural contexts

50. Numerous reports highlight the importance of recognizing that the Church fulfills its mission of proclaiming the Gospel within specific cultural contexts, and is influenced by profound and rapid social changes. The factors vary, but create significant challenges for participation and shape the reality of the Church’s mission. Legacies of sectarianism, tribalism, ethno nationalisms – differently expressed and experienced in diverse places - share the same characteristic threat: to narrow the Church’s expression of its catholicity.

Many local Churches express concern about the impact of a lack of trust and credibility resulting from the abuse crises. Others point to individualism and consumerism as critical cultural factors: “Every day we can feel that even in our country the proclamation of the Gospel is challenged by growing secularization, individualism and indifference to the institutional forms of religion” (EC Hungary). Malta’s report, like many others, underscores how historical entanglements between Church and political power continue to have an effect on the mission context. Many Churches feel they face all these cultural challenges simultaneously, but wish to grow more and more confident in proclaiming the Gospel in “a consumerist society that has failed to ensure sustainability, equity or life satisfaction” (EC Ireland).

Others experience a pluralism of positions within themselves: “Southern Africa is also impacted by the international trends of secularization, individualization, and relativism. Issues such as the Church’s teaching on abortion, contraception, ordination of women, married clergy, celibacy, divorce and remarriage, Holy Communion, homosexuality, LGBTQIA+ were raised up across the Dioceses both rural and urban. There were of course differing views on these and it is not possible to give a definitive community stance on any of these issues” (EC South Africa). Many reports express particular regret and concern for the pressures experienced by families and the resulting impact on intergenerational relationships and faith transmission. Many Asian reports ask for better accompaniment and formation for families, as they negotiate changing cultural conditions.

(to be continued)

REMEMBERING 9-11

911. For years, those numbers simply meant a call for help. Now they also remind us of September 11, 2001, the date of the worst terrorist attack on the United States of America and one of the deadliest days ever on American soil. The tragedy of September 11 reminds us that life is precious and fragile, and that freedom comes at a high cost. This day marks the single largest loss of life resulting from a foreign attack on American soil. The acts of terrorism are forever engrained in our memories; we witnessed inexplicable evil — a disturbing mission unfolded before us, in real time, seeking to snuff out freedom, hope, and life itself.

As we reflect on the powerful stories of those who courageously came to the aid of others, that day and in the weeks to follow, we are reminded that beauty rises from the ashes of tragedy. We remain forever grateful to all who served and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their very life to preserve that which we hold most dear.

As we gather at the Eucharistic Table and pray with our brothers and sister, let us remember and honor the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives that day. Let us continue to pray for and mourn alongside the thousands who, to this day, grieve the loss of a father, mother, son, daughter, other family member or friend.

Let us pray that God will comfort the grieving. Let us pray for the Church to shine Christ's light where hatred and violence reign. And let us also pray for those we have named as our enemies, may they find mercy, and the forgiveness God has offered them in Christ. As we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, carefully saying the plea that God will forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Let us pray for true forgiveness.

As remain forever grateful to all who served and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their very life to preserve that which we hold most dear. Let us remember and pray, let us recommit ourselves to being agents of love and truth, people rooted in the hope of the resurrection who, even in the darkest of nights, shine as a light brightly visible.

Prayer of Remembrance:

God of comfort we lift to you our prayer this day on the 10th anniversary of September 11. We ask you to surround us with comfort, protection and your Divine Providence. September 11 was a day when we as a nation lost so many. May we take this time to honor the women and men, and the boys and girls who lost their lives. When we struggle with the questions behind these events, help us to know that we are never alone. Guide us with the courage to know that when we stretch out our hands to you, we feel your embrace in the arms of our neighbor.

May we always remember that we are one family in this world. Help us to know that our pain is yours; and the tears of our family fall on your heart. Guide us as a nation, and help your people to never forget how so many laid down their lives for their friends. Bring us your grace to hear the small voice of the one crying in the wilderness. Bring those who are suffering your comfort in our embrace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH AND SCHOOL

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Office Hours

Mon-Thurs, 8:30am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-3:30pm
Fridays. 8:30am-noon

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Bennett, ext. 302
Email: revbennett@sbcglobal.net

Parochial Vicar & Deacons

Rev. Paolo Gobbo, ext. 306,
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Deacon Richard Noack, ext. 316
Email: deacon.richard@stchrissj.org

RCIA

Edward Dantes, ext. 317
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Administrative Assistant / ADA

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Safe Environment

Sherry Riordan, ext. 313
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Pastoral Ministry

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Youth & Young Adult Ministry
TBD

Outreach Office

Nancy Melander, ext. 310
Email: nancymelander@gmail.com

Faith Formation

Catechetical Ministry (408) 264-8764

Director: Edward Dantes, ext. 317
Email: edward.dantes@stchrissj.org

Diane Forst—Faith Formation Assistant ext. 315
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Irene Jacobs—Sacrament Coordinator, ext. 314
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Angela Duncan
Email: aduncan@stchris.us



OUR COMMUNITY

PRAY FOR THE ILL IN OUR PARISH



Veronica Lopez

Dona New

Susan Lorson

Peter Arnone

Tiffani Pratali

Dave Allen

Michael Anderson

Larry Dudley

Jack Nicca

Sr. Sharon Skain S.N.D

Pat DeMarlo

Jo Bertaccini



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



Robert Avila



Donna Trumpp



Loretta Palla



Robert Martin



Shirley Dalle-Molle



Leonre Luedemann



Frank Pignataro



Shirley Arnone



Michael Yang



Raymond Castello

Altar Servers



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Altar Server Training

Boys and girls currently in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grades who are interested in becoming an altar server are invited to attend the training to be held on Tuesday, September 26th from 5:30 to 7pm and repeated on Tuesday, October 10th from 5:30-7pm. **Your child only needs to attend one of the dates** so you have a choice as to which works better for you.

We ask that a parent attend the first 15 minutes of the training session (if at all possible) to help them understand the responsibilities of altar serving, scheduling, and the practical aspects of serving our parish as an Altar Server. **Please sign up by sending an email to lorettapfaff@stchrissj.org or call 408-264-5114.** Let us know your child's name, grade, and your email and phone number and which date your child can attend.



Come join us for Donuts: Sunday, September 17th
after the 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am Mass's

Ladies' Guild Lobster Feed & Fundraiser *A Night for Ladies & Lobster*

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purchase tickets



Wednesday, 9/13

5:00pm -cocktails & raffle

6:30pm - dinner is served

St. Chris Parking Lot



WE NEED YOU!

JOIN the NEW BELL CHOIR!



at St. Christopher Parish
**No experience necessary! Kids age
10 & up welcome!**

1st Rehearsal:

Sunday, September 17th

11am - Noon in Kindergarten Courtyard

Our director is Mrs. Mindy Dickens, music teacher and choir director.

**Please email Loretta at
loretta.pfaff@stchrissj.org.**

Communion to the Sick

If you or someone close to you in our parish, is unable to attend church due to age, illness or injury, please call Loretta in the Pastoral Care office at 408-264-5114 or email, loretta.pfaff@stchrissj.org. We have ministers to the sick and homebound who are available and happy to come once a week to pray with and bring Communion to those individuals who are unable to attend Church anymore

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

St. Christopher's Grief Ministry is offering a 6 week grief support group in the Marian Rm. of the Msgr. Allen Center starting on Mondays, October 2nd through November 6th from 1:15pm-2:30pm. The group is open to anyone going through loss, such as a death, divorce, or having to put a partner in care facility from Alzheimer's. Call Sandy at 408-807-0503 or email her at: tyedyesandy@gmail.com to sign up or if you have questions.



Rosary Group

The Rosary group will be reciting the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church immediately following the 9:30 Mass to be followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This will be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Join us in these beautiful and powerful prayers. Contact Debbie Kearney at debkearney@att.net for more information.



St. Christopher Parish Children's Choir

All children from **2nd grade through 8th grade** are welcome to join our Parish Children's Choir. The children's choir sings once a month at the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass. Our First Sunday this year will be **September 17, 2023. This is a wonderful experience for children both fun and prayerful.**

This choir is led Mrs. Mindy Dickens-Flatow who is both a very experienced and talented director and music teacher.

Rehearsals will be held at 8:00 a.m. in the Kindergarten Courtyard the same morning as the monthly Mass and there will be one additional rehearsal

during the month on Sunday, Morning: **First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 10th, in Kindergarten Courtyard** This will help the children be prepared for their first mass singing in choir.

If your child is interested in being part of the choir, please email Loretta with the Name of Child, Grade, Parent Name, and Email to loretta.pfaff@stchrissj.org. Also, feel free to call Loretta at 408-264-5114 with any questions you may have

PARISH RESTORATION UPDATE

Dear Parishioners,

I want to thank you all for your generous donations to the Parish Restoration Fund. Due to your generosity, we will be able to move forward with the project. We are presently ready to start the renovations but unfortunately, we are still waiting for the permits from the City of San Jose. Once we receive the permits, construction will be begin.

Please keep us in your prayers as we undertake the restoration of our beloved Church. I will do my best to keep you informed about when it will begin and how we will proceed.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Chris



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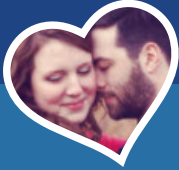


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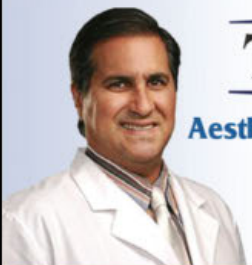
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