MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Mass (Saturday):	**4:00 pm**
Sunday Masses:	**8:00 & 10:00 am**
Weekday Masses (Mon., Thurs. & Fri.):	**9:00 am**
Holy Day Masses:	**9:00 am & 5:30 pm**

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 3:00-3:30 pm

BAPTISM: By Appointment
Please see the Pastor after Mass for a form.
Baptisms must be scheduled at least one month in advance.
Baptism Preparation: **Mrs. Sheila Slik**
by appointment only.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:
Please contact the Pastor to make an appointment **twelve months in advance** before making plans for reception and wedding date.

St. Christopher Church

950 West Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606

"Behold Saint Christopher . . .
. . . Go Thy Way
in Safety"

CONTACT US

Rectory: Phone 508-853-1492; FAX 508-853-4338

Religious Ed./Church Hall/Bingo: 508-853-3302

Email: parish@stchristopherparishworcester.org

Web Site: www.stchristopherworcester.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Parish office is closed on Friday.

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Rev. Stanley F. Krutcik, Pastor
frstanley@stchristopherparishworcester.org

Deacon John F. LeDoux

Mrs. Diane Dadah
Administrator of Religious Education
508-853-3302
religioused@stchristopherparishworcester.org

Mrs. Sheila Slik
Coordinator for the
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
508-853-3302
religioused@stchristopherparishworcester.org

James Joinville – Music Director

Clesson Dupuis - Business Manager
busmgr@stchristopherparishworcester.org

Cindy Barnaby
Administrative Assistant
adminasst@stchristopherparishworcester.org

John Slik - Building & Maintenance

Leo Pedone - Bingo Chairman

MASS INTENTIONS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 22nd
4:00pm **Henrietta Dellasanta Provost,**
1st Year Anniversary, by Family
Sunday, December 23rd
8:00am **Pauline Bruchmann,**
by Family
10:00am **Rosemary Altieri**

Christmas Masses

Monday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)
(No 9:00am morning Mass)
3:30pm **Christmas Pageant prior to Mass**
4:00pm **For our Parish Family**

Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas Day)
8:00am **For our Parish Family**
10:00am **For our Parish Family**

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Wednesday, December 26th
No Mass
Thursday. December 27th
No Mass
Friday, December 28th
9:00am **Mass**

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 29th
4:00pm **Brian Cerullo, 2nd Anniversary,**
by Karen & Kim Cerullo
Sunday, December 30th
8:00am **Mass**
10:00am **Mass**

Christmas in Poland Exhibit until Feb. 3, 2019
The Knights of Columbus Museum
1 State Street, New Haven, CT

This Christmas exhibit features more than 100 items! Open daily 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. Free admission & parking. Call 203-865-0400 or visit *kofcmuseum.org* for info.

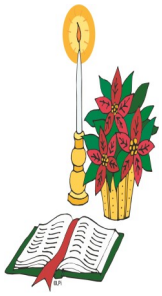
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PRAYER LINE

If you have a request for prayers, or know of someone who might, please call and leave a message for me. All we need is the person's first name and the nature of the request (example: Annie - for successful operation).

I will contact those on the Prayer Line to add the intention to their list.
Also, if you want to join us in prayer, please call Janet Stank at 508-852-8117.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24th
3:30pm-Christmas Pageant in church prior to Mass
4:00pm-Christmas Vigil Mass



Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25th
8:00am & 10:00am

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Holy Day Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve
Monday, December 31st
4:00pm Mass

New Year's Day
Tuesday, January 1st
9:00am Mass

A Savior is Born,
He is Christ the Lord,
the King of Love & Prince of Peace.

As you celebrate Christmas
may you welcome Him
with loving-kindness
generosity of Spirit
and a humble & giving heart.
May you forever find the Joy
of His comfort, love & peace.

May the Holy Family
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Bless your home and family
this Christmas and
throughout the New Year.

You and your loved ones
will be remembered
in my Christmas Masses.

Merry Christmas! *Fr. Stanley*

Sunday, December 23th

No classes due to the Christmas holiday.

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Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Christmas Pageant (Grades 1-6) will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the church.

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Sunday, December 30th

No classes due to the New Year's Day holiday.

IMPORTANT: We encourage all students & parents to attend Mass together each week.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S RETIRED CLUB

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 16th ~ 1 p.m.
St. Christopher's Church Hall

The Retired Club is open to all parishioners and their friends who are age 55 and older. Call Phyllis Carrigan at 508-853-2649 for information.

NOTE: Meetings are cancelled in the event that Worcester schools have a delay or cancellation due to inclement weather.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2019 in Washington, DC

All are invited to join the Diocese of Worcester's bus trip. Buses leave on Thursday, January 17th after the 7:30 p.m. Mass at St. Paul Cathedral and travel to Washington, DC for the March for Life on Jan. 18th, followed by the return trip to Worcester.

Cost is $80/seat for registrations postmarked by December 31st and $95/seat thereafter.

Donations are also accepted to help defray expenses for students in need of financial help to attend.

Visit *www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life* for info.

May the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas!

Savor Christ's presence in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 18-20, 2019 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 8-10, 2019 in Duxbury, MA. Call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at *https://wwmema.org/* for more info.

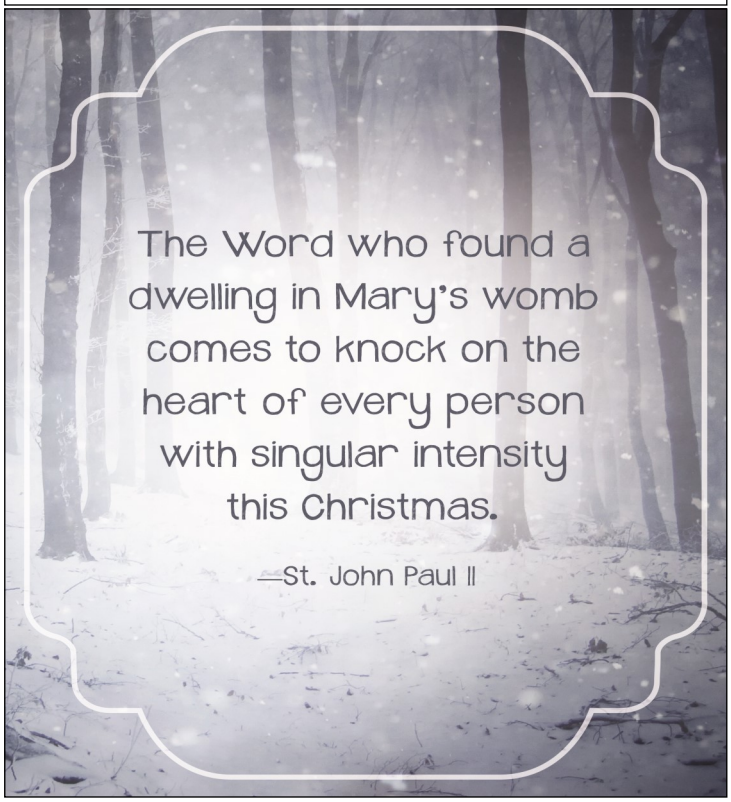
This Week

Sunday, December 23rd		
Coffee Shop	Following the 8:00am Mass	Church Hall
NO Religious Education Classes		
Monday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)		
NO 9:00 a.m. Mass		
NO Wachusett Community Band Practice		
Christmas Pageant	3:30pm	Church
Christmas Vigil Mass	4:00pm	Church
Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas Day)		
Christmas Day Masses	8:00 & 10:00am	Church
NO Religious Education Office Hours		
NO Boy Scout Troop 9 Meeting		
Thursday, December 27th		
NO Morning Mass		
Religious Education Office Hours	6:30-7:30pm	Rel. Ed. Office/Church Hall
Friday, December 28th		
Bingo (Call Leo at 508-853-9492 to volunteer to help)	7:00pm	Church Hall
Sunday, December 30th		
Coffee Shop	Following the 8:00am Mass	Church Hall
NO Religious Education Classes		

Offertory Collection

Due to an early bulletin deadline, offertory totals for last weekend will be reported in next weekend's bulletin.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Christopher Church!



Feast of the Holy Innocents Mass and Rosary Procession

Friday, December 28th beginning at 8:30 a.m.

All are welcome to Blessed Sacrament Church, 551 Pleasant Street, Worcester for 8:30 a.m. Mass, followed by a 9:15 a.m. Prayerful Rosary Procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the abortion clinic. All will return to the church praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by Benediction. Prayers will be said for The Holy Innocents, for babies lost to abortion & for all unborn babies and their parents.

50-50 CLUB

The winner for Week 5 (December 10, 2018):
#94 - Karen Ryder

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the winner for Week 6 (December 17, 2018) will be reported in next weekend's bulletin. The winners' names are also available on our parish website.

Good luck to all our 50/50 members!

Project Rachel — Find Healing after an Abortion

Project Rachel is the Church's ministry of healing and reconciliation to those wounded by abortion.
Call in strictest confidence—
508-791-HOPE(4673)
or visit *www.hopeafterabortion.com*.

SENIOR FRAUD HOTLINE

RSVP's Senior Fraud Help Line is a toll-free resource for seniors and their families to call when they are concerned that they are being targeted by scammers.

If in doubt, check it out by calling 1-800-297-9760 for local, confidential, knowledgeable and supportive assistance.

Reminders Regarding Weekday Morning Mass

To keep heating costs down, Mass on Monday and Thursday mornings will be 'celebrated downstairs in the church hall (signs will be posted as you enter into the church). Please note that Friday morning Mass will ALWAYS be held in the church.

ALSO, daily morning Mass will be cancelled in the case of inclement weather when Worcester schools have delays or cancellations.

On snowy mornings, the church parking lot may not be plowed out as yet. Vehicles driving into the lot make the plowing more difficult. We also do not want people coming out in hazardous weather conditions.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

St. Richard Church is planning to begin a Grief Support Group. This 10-week group will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the downstairs chapel of St. Richard Church, 4 Bridge Street in Sterling. The group will be facilitated by Bereavement Counselor, Peggye Arcouette, MSW, LCSW, BC. The group will be limited to twelve people & sessions. Call Fr. Steuterman at St. Richard's at 978-422-8881 or Peggye at 508-735-6634 if interested.

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary "set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." She has recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit - but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."
Yet Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things!
Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing. How do you plan to tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks.

This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Thank You

Dear Parishioners of St. Christopher Church,

The volunteers of the Food Pantry at St. Joan of Arc Church would like thank your parish for its most generous and ongoing support.

We would also like to wish you a most happy and blessed Christmas. May the message of Christmas fill your life with blessings from above.

Yours,
Karen Lyons
Co-Chairperson, St. Joan of Arc Food Pantry

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem stands as an ancient witness to the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally constructed in 327 A.D. over a cave venerated as the birthplace of Jesus, most of the original church was destroyed in a sixth century Samaritan revolt.
Rebuilt in 565, the second church still stands today.

Through the centuries, the Church of the Nativity has been battered by time and weather. It has suffered fires, earthquakes, desecrations and even gun battles.
The interior, too, suffers neglect as squabbles among Armenian, Greek and Catholic caretakers have delayed needed renovations to the roof, walls and paintings.

For some on the outside, the Church of the Nativity, battered, fortress-like and unattractive to the eye, is disappointing. Even to some on the inside, the neglect is disheartening.

But then, descending a staircase to the cave below, one sees on the floor a silver star and the words, "Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary." Those words and that realization give one profound pause. Here, on this very spot, salvation came, hope was born, Here, Mary laid God's Son in a manger. To this very place, angels directed shepherds who hastened and worshiped. In this very place, like Mary and Joseph, pilgrims for centuries knelt in awe and wonder. From this spot, they have returned home, closer to God, renewed in faith, convinced anew of the great love of God who created us and draws us on. Realizing all that, pilgrims are glad that they did not let the visible defects deter them from entering the Church and staying in it to reach the sacred spot.

In some ways, the Church of the Nativity might be a metaphor for today's Church. Scandals, desecration, and the neglect of some priests and bishops in past years have caused tremendous suffering and sullied the image of the Church. Looking around from outside, some don't want to enter. Being discouraged on the inside, others have left.
This, too, is tragic because it is only in the heart of the Church in the liturgy, sacraments, communion of the saints, the Scriptures and Tradition authentically handed on that one can regularly encounter the ordinary means of God's saving graces. Our world, our society and culture need those graces. We must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect our children but we must also never forget the treasures that have been entrusted to the Church and offered to us in the sacraments. The same Jesus, born at Bethlehem, and laid in the manger by Mary comes to us to nourish our souls, to bring us His love, healing and peace. Like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, may that encounter give you and your loved ones joy and peace on Christmas and each week at Mass.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

3-Credit Graduate Theology Courses offered at Anna Maria College in Worcester

January 3-March 21, 2019—Canon Law
March 28-June 20, 2019—Ecclesiology
Email *mtumeinski@annamaria.edu.*