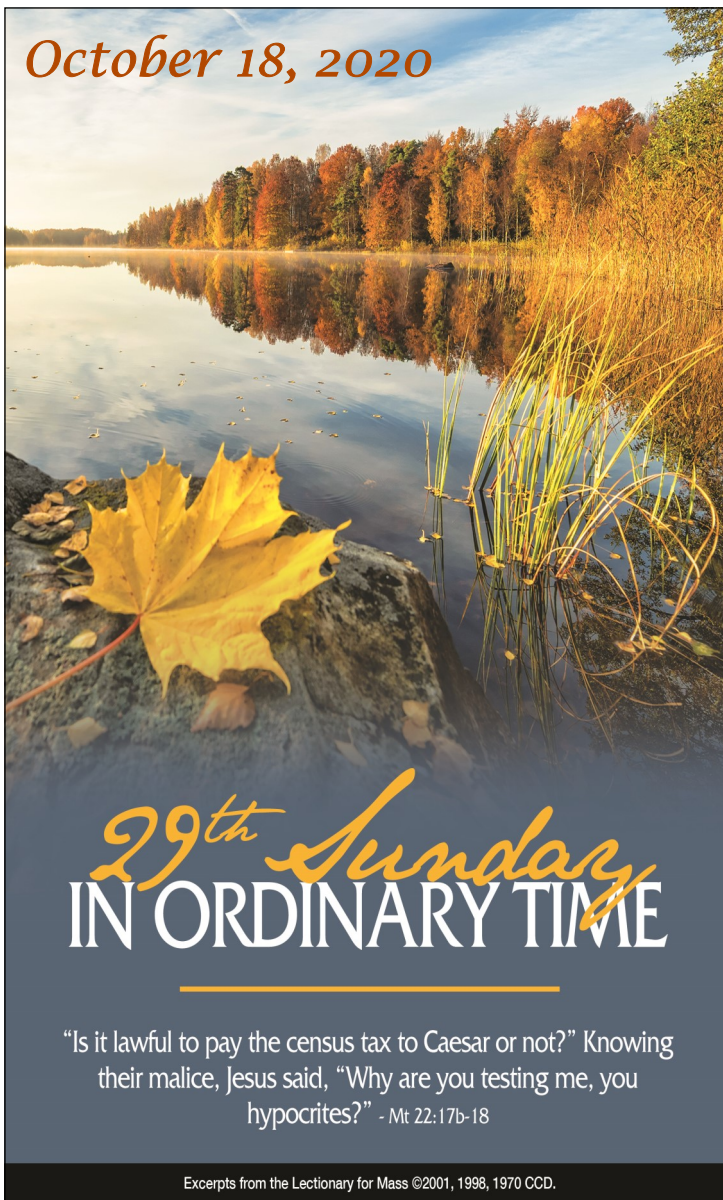


October 18, 2020



29th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

"Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?" - Mt 22:17b-18

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Vigil Mass (Saturday): 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am (also livestreamed on website)
Weekday Masses (Mon., Thurs. & Fri.): 9:00 am
Holy Day Masses: To be determined

RECONCILIATION: Suspended until further notice

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/talk to the Pastor after Mass 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@stchristopherparishworchester.org

Web Site: www.stchristopherworchester.org

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

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

Deacon Van Nguyen

Religious Education Office
Admin./Director: _____

508-853-3302

religioused@stchristopherparishworchester.org

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

James Joinville – Music Director

Clesson Dupuis - Business Manager
busmgr@stchristopherparishworchester.org

Cindy Barnaby
Administrative Assistant
adminasst@stchristopherparishworchester.org

John Slik - Building & Maintenance

Leo Pedone - Bingo Chairman

We thank you for visiting us!

If you wish to become a parishioner of St. Christopher's, please see Fr. Stanley after Mass for a parish registration form.



MASS INTENTIONS

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 17th

4:00pm **Anne Blanton,**
by Family

Sunday, October 18th

9:30am **Jean Wilder,**
by Angela & Rich Halloran

Monday, October 19th

9:00am **Deacon John LeDoux,**
by Ken Butler

Tuesday, October 20th

No Mass

Wednesday, October 21st

No Mass

Thursday, October 22nd

No Mass

Friday, October 23rd

9:00am **Regina Pratt,**
by St. Christopher's Retired Club

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 24th

4:00pm **Lilia Butler,**
by Husband

Sunday, October 25th

9:30am **Paul Boudreau,**
by Mother

TV Masses will end on Spectrum Channel 193

The Daily & Sunday TV Masses, Family Rosary, and other programs produced by the Diocese will no longer be available on Charter/Spectrum Channel 193 after October 23, 2020. If you watch on the internet, nothing will change. TV Ministry is working to get on more local access stations over the next few weeks. It could mean a simple change to channel 194 in towns that have Spectrum cable. An updated list will be available online at worcesterdiocese.org and mailed to all Daily Mass supporters prior to October 23, 2020.

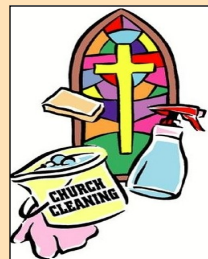
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PRAYER LINE

We are looking for more people to join our Prayer Line. If you are willing to take private time in prayer for others in need, please call Janet Stank at 508-852-8117.

If you have a request for prayers, or know of someone who might, please call Janet Stank at 508-852-8117 and leave a message. All we need is the person's first name and the nature of the request (example: Annie - for successful operation). Janet will contact those on the Prayer Line to add your intention to their list.



We are **most grateful** to those people who have been helping us clean the pews and common areas after Masses on weekdays and on weekends. Without their help, we would not be able to celebrate Mass on a regular basis. **Thank you all so very much!**



We are still in need of more volunteers to help clean the church after Masses on Saturday & Sunday. The process involves simply spraying the pews/common areas with cleaning solution. No wiping is needed. **Please call or email the parish office if you can help us. Thank you!**



Celebrate Priesthood!

Livestream of a Virtual Gala Event Monday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m.

"Celebrate Priesthood" is an annual event to honor and celebrate the dedication of our retired diocesan priests and to support the Priest Retirement Fund. This year, due to the pandemic, the celebration will be a livestream virtual event. The evening will be hosted by Bishop McManus and will feature interviews with some of our priests ranging from recently ordained to retired. And we will invite you into the celebration by sharing your memories that day by email and/or social media so you can be part of this special night.

Although we cannot gather together for the delectable tastings from area restaurants and parishes, "tickets" (as donations) will be available up to and including that night. Everyone who participates will receive a book in the mail. Those who donate \$100 or more will also receive a gift of coupons from various area restaurants to enjoy tastings at their facilities. Advertisers, sponsors and donors will also be posted on the "Celebrate Priesthood" webpage and on social media.

Please visit www.worcesterdiocese.org and click on "Celebrate Priesthood" for more information on this event. On this website, you can also make a donation, purchase an advertisement, or write a tribute to any priest(s) who have made a difference in your life. If you have any further questions, feel free to call Michael Gillespie at 508-929-4368.



Diane Dadah has resigned as our Administrator of Religious Education.

Sheila Slik, who has worked in our Religious Education Program for many years, will be helping with some light duties in the office until we are able to find a new administrator. If you have any questions or inquiries about the position, please contact either the Religious Education Office or the Parish Office.

Thank you!

Fr. Stanley

Virtual Bible Study for Middle School Youth

Third Sunday of the month
beginning October 18th ~ 6 p.m.

Total of 8 sessions—45 min. each

All middle school youth in the 6th-8th grade are invited to participate in the Diocesan Middle School Bible Study!



In this 8-part study, you will learn about Scripture, how to read & approach the Bible and learn how the Bible connects to our lives.

To sign up or get more information, visit neworchester.org/middle-school-bible-study.

St. John's is now a Grade 7-12 High School!

St. John's Virtual Information Session
Tuesday, October 20th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

This event is designed to help you learn more about the application process and about future virtual visit opportunities. Visit admissions@stjohnshigh.org or call 508-842-8934, Ext. 266, to register or for info. Admissions Entrance Exams will be held on Saturday, November 21st & Saturday, December 12th at 8:30 a.m. Visit www.stjohnshigh.org for more information.

Notre Dame Academy Virtual Fall Open House **Thursday, October 22nd at 6:00 p.m.**

This virtual evening is designed for all families interested in Notre Dame Academy for grades 7-12.

Meet faculty and staff members, speak to current families and students, and learn about this independent, Catholic, college preparatory for young women.

Visit www.nda-worc.org/admissions to register.

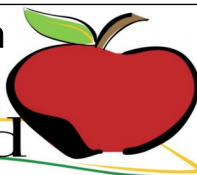
They will also be offering private evening tours beginning the week of October 19th.

Digital Vocation Discernment Groups

The Office for Vocations is unsure when they can resume their monthly vocation dinners. With that, they are contemplating creating digital discernment groups for those from the Diocese, whether currently here or away at college, to read through and discuss "To Save a Thousand Souls."

After gauging interest, they would form groups based on age. If interested in participating, contact the Vocation Office at director@worcestervocations.com.

Religious Education **Teachers** **Needed**



This year may be a combination of remote and home classes, with an occasional class in the church hall. We are taking things one day at a time as we work on a plan which adheres to the guidelines in place limiting the number of people allowed in the hall. However, whichever working model it is, we are still in need of teachers. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the Religious Ed. Office by phone at 508-853-3302 or by email at religioused@stchristopherparishworchester.org.

It's amazing how much YOU will learn and grow by teaching our children!

Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope

is a Catholic Social Action ministry in the Diocese of Worcester. In these difficult economic times, they are in need of volunteers who are willing to donate their time and talents to help support their day-to-day operations in "helping the least, the last, and the left out."

If you have time and would like to help them make a difference, please contact them at 508-831-7455 or by email at mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com.



The sympathies of our parish are extended to the family of

Edward O'Brien

who recently passed away.

Sacred Heart Church
187 Hopedale Street
Hopedale, MA
Saturday, October 24th
8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon



St. Mary Church
640 Main Street
Shrewsbury
9 Tuesday evenings
at 6:45 p.m. from
October 13th thru
December 8th

All are welcome to join together to lift up the "knots" in our lives to Mary and pray that God's grace and mercy will untangle them. Eucharistic Adoration will also take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on each of the evenings.



| | |
|--|----------------|
| Weekly Goal: | \$3,287 |
| Weekend of October 3 rd & 4 th : | <u>\$2,067</u> |
| Deficit: | (\$1,220) |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Renovation & Maintenance: | \$ 152 |
| Air Conditioning (to date): | \$18,123 |

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$16,435
 Year-to Date Collections: 11,510
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 2,837
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$ 2,088)

This weekend is *World Mission Sunday* and the special collection will be for the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*.

All Souls Day envelopes may be placed in the offertory basket next weekend.

TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

~Matthew 22:21

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given each of us.

All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship.

God should be our first priority in everything.

All else comes second, especially our money.

1230AM/970AM/101.1FM Emmanuel Radio

2020 Fall Pledge Drive

Wed., Oct. 21st - Fri., October 23rd ~ 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Emmanuel Radio is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose express ministry is to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord on Catholic radio. Your support to their live three-day Fall Pledge Drive will help keep Catholic radio on the air during this historic coronavirus pandemic. To donate, call 508-767-1230, donate online at www.1230radio.com, or mail a donation to Emmanuel Radio, P.O. Box 20027, Worcester, MA 01602.

PACK 37 CUB SCOUTS

for boys in Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Pack 37 Cub Scouts, chartered through Christ the King Church, 1052 Pleasant Street, Worcester, meets every

Friday at 6:30 p.m. Boys in each grade level work on age-appropriate skills which include Duty to God, Duty to Country, Outdoor Achievements and growth in leadership and independence. Contact the cubmaster at pack37cubmaster@gmail.com for details.



Nobody enjoys paying taxes. Despite our displeasure in being forced to do so, we also realize that the monies generated from taxes allows governments to provide essential services for its people.

Corruption really gets our goat, however. When we witness malfeasance, overspending, irresponsibility, and dishonesty in governmental spending, the grave injustices make an already unpleasant and arduous task even more difficult. The inappropriate distribution and use of hard-earned monies can leave a person quite angry and disconnected. It's bad enough the government wants something from me, now God does, too?

God is not concerned necessarily with our money, although its proper use does factor into our faith life. As the payment of secular taxes speaks of our allegiance to the government, our return to God speaks of our allegiance to God. All of creation, even the entire universe, is fashioned in the image and likeness of God. What speaks to God and has meaning and relevance to him? All of creation and indeed our very selves! God delights in us and when we present ourselves back to him, he delights even more! As the payment of secular taxes is designed to secure the equitable distribution of goods and services to all people, so is our return of ourselves to God in gratitude meant to advance God's kingdom here on earth.

When our exclusive and sincere allegiance is given to God, God can use us to set things right and straight again. The wounds of sin distort our relationship and disorder our world. By giving ourselves and all of creation back to God in gratitude, we acknowledge the proper Creator and Author of life for who He is and devote our labors exclusively to God's kingdom and the justice, peace, or order God envisions. In giving back to God all that belongs to God, we set the axis of our lives correctly and put our priorities in proper order. All of our relationships, especially with God, our brothers and sisters, and all of creation are perceived more clearly as they really are. Using, accumulating, wasting, exploiting, hoarding, and self-preservation are no longer necessary.

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Special Collection this weekend for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Today, we respond, "Here I Am, Send Me," to our baptismal call to mission. Your prayers and financial help, offered today for World Mission Sunday, support mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace. Thank you for your generosity to this collection.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

I am the LORD, there is no other,
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you, though you know me not. (Is 45:1, 5)

PSALM:

Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

SECOND READING:

For our gospel did not come to you in word alone,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much
conviction. (1 Thes 1:1-5b)

GOSPEL:

At that Jesus said to them,
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21b)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18, 2020

Sunday: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday
Monday: Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and
Companions, Martyrs
Tuesday: St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
Thursday: St. John Paul II, Pope
Friday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest
Saturday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
Next Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

FOR WHERE
TWO OR THREE
ARE GATHERED IN
MY NAME, THERE I
AM AMONG THEM.

MATTHEW 18:20

©LPI

The
safest
place
to be is
within
the will
of God

©LPI

REFLECT

FIRST READING:

Cyrus was king of the mighty Persian Empire (559-529 BC) while Israel was exiled in Babylon. The prophet Isaiah revealed God would use Cyrus to free Israel from captivity. What lesson do you think Israel was supposed to learn from this revelation?

SECOND READING:

In his opening remarks in First Thessalonians, Paul speaks of the power and conviction with which he preached the gospel to them. How do you show the conviction of your faith?

GOSPEL:

The religious leaders in Jerusalem were unable to trap Jesus with a seemingly trick question. How do you respond to non-believers who try to challenge or trick you in matters of your beliefs?