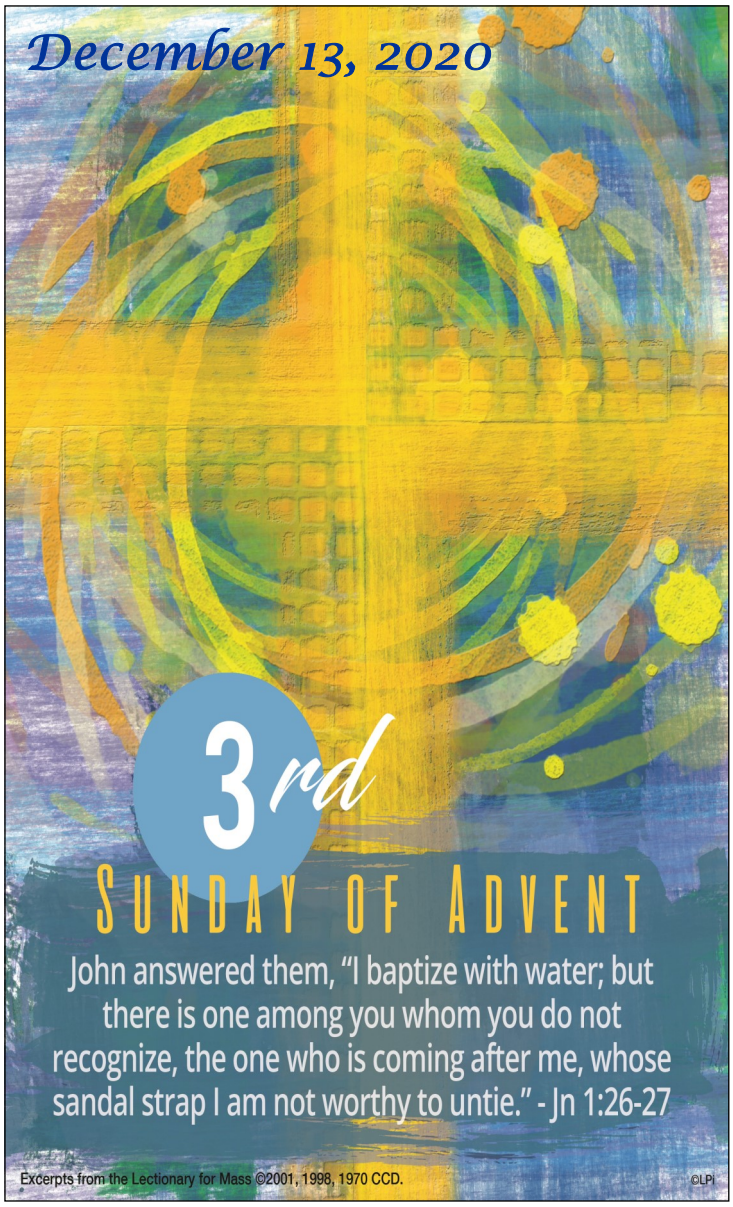


St. Christopher Church

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.

****

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

Deacon Van Nguyen

Religious Education Office
Admin./Director: _____
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 SCHEDULE

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.

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 12th
4:00pm **Richard W. Butler,**
by Ken Butler
Sunday, December 13th
9:30am **Angelo & Esther Narducci,**
by A Friend
Monday, December 14th
9:00am **For our Parish Family**
Tuesday, December 15th
No Mass
Wednesday, December 16th
No Mass
Thursday, December 17th
9:00am **Mass**
Friday, December 18th
9:00am **Pauline Bruchmann, 6th Anniversary,**
by Family

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 19th
4:00pm **Deceased Members of the Gallivan & Quinn Families,**
by Family
Sunday, December 20th
9:30am **Frank A. Zingarelli,**
by Family

Not every pregnancy is easy to talk about.

HOPE AFTER ABORTION

Project Rachel is the Church's ministry of healing and reconciliation to those wounded by abortion. All services are free and strictly confidential. To begin your healing journey, call 508-791-HOPE (4673) or visit *www.hopeafterabortion.com*.

Trust in the tender embrace of God's mercy!

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
4:00pm-Christmas Vigil Mass

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

The 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass will be livestreamed on our parish website—*www.stchristopherworcester.org*.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve
Thursday, Dec. 31st
4:00pm Mass

New Year's Day
Friday, Jan. 1st
9:00am Mass

MARY, HOLY MOTHER of God

Don't fall for the Gift Card Scam!

ALERT SCAM ALERT

Sadly, the holidays are an opportunity for scams. At least two pastors have experienced a scam email claiming they needed gift cards. This is a reminder that the parish would only use normal and ordinary means to communicate any requests, particularly involving donations. If an email request looks odd, hit DELETE!

Public Access TV Stations now carrying Mass:

DAILY MASS

Worcester Ch. 194 "the people's channel" at 9:00 a.m.
Spencer Ch. 192 at 9:00 a.m.
Holden Ch. 191 at 9:00 a.m.
Auburn Ch. 191 at 9:00 a.m.
Shrewsbury Ch. 28 & 328 at 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY MASS

Worcester Ch. 194 "the people's channel" at 10:00 a.m.
(and this Mass replays on Monday at 6:00 p.m.)
and the Spanish Mass at 8:00 a.m.
Spencer Ch. 192 Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Auburn Ch. 191 Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Holden Ch. 191 Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

ALSO, the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed from St. Christopher Church and is available for viewing on our parish website—*www.stchristopherworcester.org*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

©LPi

We are currently seeking a new Administrator for Religious Education here at St. Christopher's. If you have any questions or inquiries about the position, please contact the Parish Office.

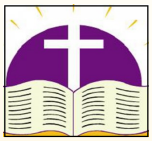
Thank you! *Fr. Stanley*

Gifts Due This Weekend!

All gifts being returned to the church are due by 9:30 a.m. this Sunday, December 13th. Please be sure the card/tag is securely attached to gift.

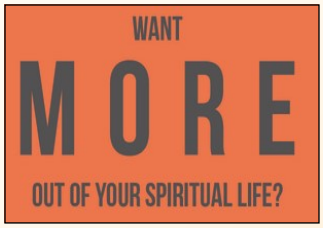
Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Come to Weekday Mass!



As you can, please consider coming to our weekday Masses (Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays at 9:00 a.m.) The Mass brings many special graces and is a wonderful way to start the day!

Exodus 90: Young Adult Men's Program



Are you a young adult man (ages 18-39) who is looking to revamp your prayer life, grow in self-discipline, & find community with other men striving to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ?

If so, you are invited to join in on this 90-day spiritual program focused on prayer, asceticism, and fraternity.

If interested, you are invited to an informational Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m.

The program itself will begin on January 4, 2021 and will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Visit *neworcester.org/exodus-90* to get the Zoom link for the meeting & for complete details on the program.

Recognizing Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

Changes in behavior, extreme mood swings, withdrawal, fearlessness, excessive crying, bed-wetting, nightmares, fear of going to bed, sleep disorders, and a fear of certain places, people, or activities can be signs that a child has been traumatized by sexual abuse. For particular help you may call Judith Audette, Director of Office for Healing and Prevention, at (508) 929-4363.

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@stchristopherparishworcester.org.*

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

STEWARDSHIP

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship.

"Rejoice always" means place your trust in God. He will provide all that you need.

"Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day.

"Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

"The spirt of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me."

You belong to Christ and Christ is God's! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life?

Contact the Vocation Office at 508-630-4473 or email *director@worcestervocations.com*.

VOCATION E-NEWSLETTER

The Office of Vocations has launched a monthly e-newsletter, "The Call." Come follow the great things God is doing in the lives of our seminarians. To sign up for newsletters & to view past issues, visit *worcestervocations.com/sign-up-for-our-newsletter*.

Offertory Collection

Weekly Goal:	$ 3,287
Weekend of Nov.28th & 29th:	$ 2,849
Deficit:	($ 438)
Air Conditioning (to date):	$18,423

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21):	$ 42,731
Year-to Date Collections:	28,081
Year-to Date Electronic Payments:	7,644
Year-to Date Deficit:	($ 7,006)

This weekend's special collection is for the *Retirement Fund for Religious.*

Next weekend's special collection is for *Christmas Flowers.*

Thank you for your continued support!

During this time of pandemic, you may enjoy the convenience of giving to St. Christopher's online. It's safe and secure, and you decide exactly when your gift is made and where it goes. You can even view your giving history and pledge progress at any time, just by logging in.

Visit w*ww.stchristopherworcester.org* and click the "Online Giving" link to get started or to access your existing account.

Online Giving

Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII classes for Catholic Scouts

Any Catholic Scout between the ages of 13 and 17 are invited to join our classes to earn a Catholic Scouting religious emblem. The Ad Altare Dei (To the Altar of God) emblem program is designed for Scouts ages 13 and up. The Pope Pius XII emblem program is for high school Scouts in grades 9 - 12. The classes are held in our Parish hall two **TUESDAYS** each month. Please contact Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting Chairman John Atlas, via email at Scoutmaster.Troop9@gmail.com for more info.

Also, Boy Scout Troop 9 is inviting boys ages 11 and up, grade 6 and higher, to become a Scout

This program is going strong, with appropriate precautions in place, and the Scouts are getting outdoors to camp, cook and hike. This is not virtual Scouting, but the real deal and you shouldn't miss it. They meet in our Parish hall two **THURSDAYS** each month. For further information and to arrange to visit a Troop meeting or attend an outdoor trip to see for yourself, just email Scoutmaster.Troop9@gmail.com. Also check out their Facebook page - Troop 9, BSA - and their website www.Troop9Worcester.org for info.

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as a gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

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EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
111 Worcester Street, West Boylston
Wednesdays from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

All are welcome. Please enter the church through the parking lot side entrance door.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:
I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10a)

PSALM:
My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

SECOND READING:
May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

GOSPEL:
"I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert,*
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" (Jn 1:23)

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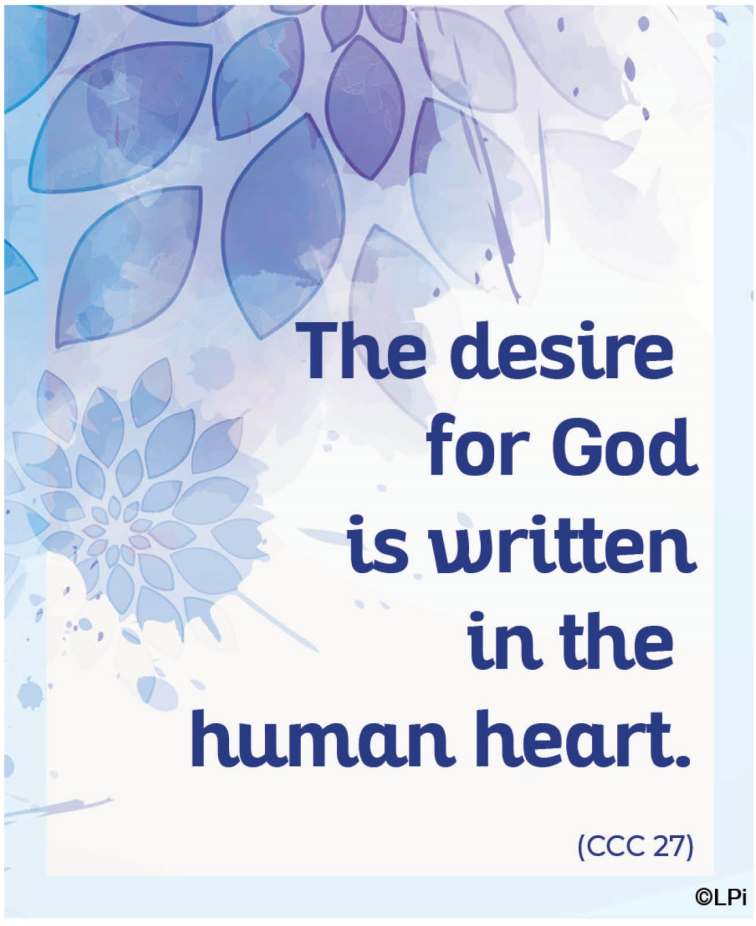
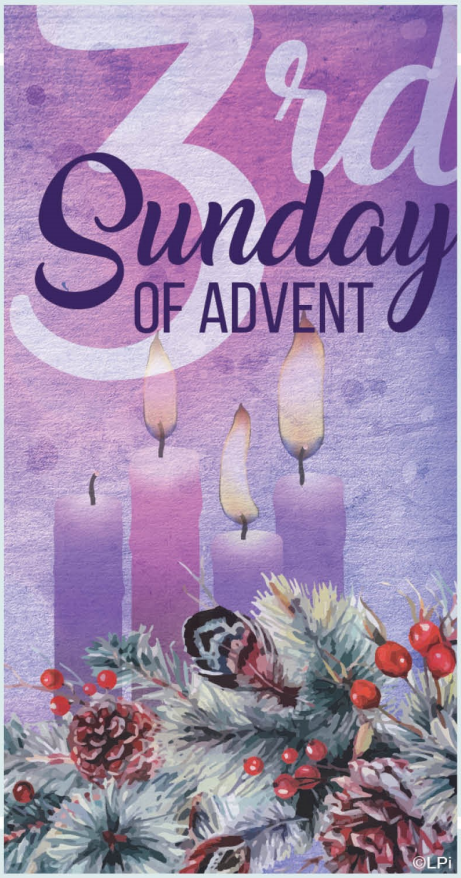
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent





REFLECT

FIRST READING
Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

SECOND READING
Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be thankful to God and be active in their newly found faith in Christ by following his moral imperatives. How are you putting your faith into practice during this Advent?

GOSPEL READING
John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God's call in your life?