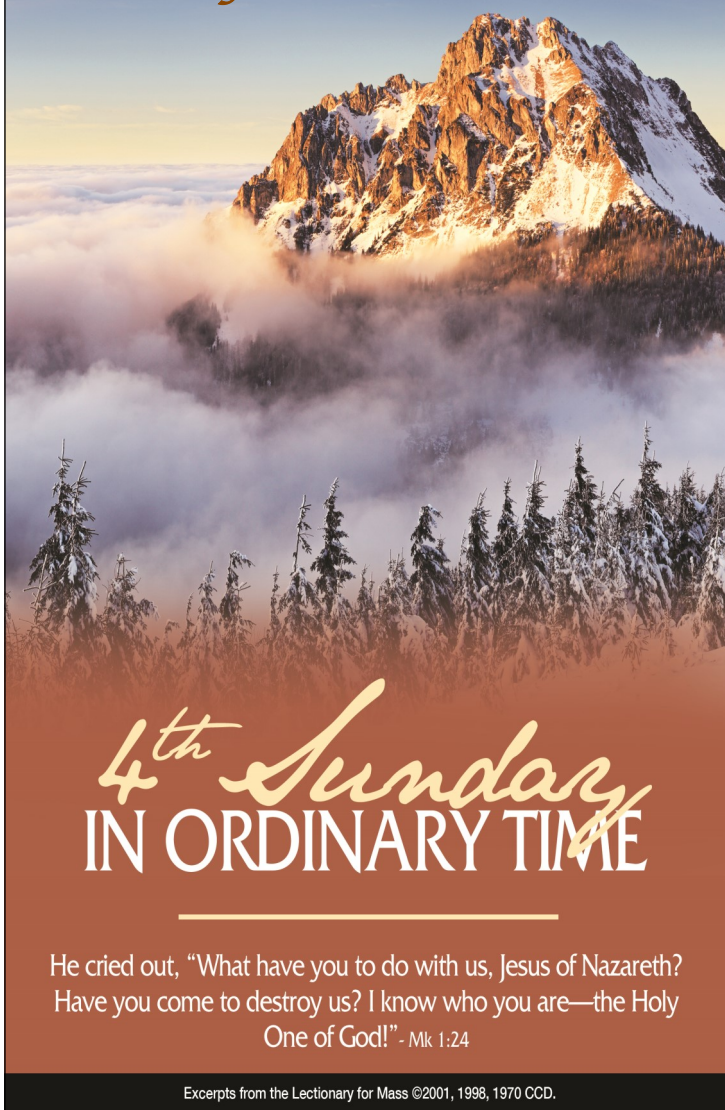


January 31, 2021



4th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

He cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy
One of God!" - Mk 1:24

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.





4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 30th

4:00pm **Maria Hao, 1st Year Anniversary,**
by Family

Sunday, January 31st

9:30am **Frank A. Zingarelli,**
by Family

Monday, February 1st

9:00am **Doris Piscatelli, 6th Anniversary,**
by The Cianci Family

Tuesday, February 2nd

No Mass

Wednesday, February 3rd

No Mass

Thursday, February 4th

9:00am **For our Parish Family**

Friday, February 5th

9:00am **Maureen & Ted Migdelaney,**
by The Ovian Family

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 6th

4:00pm **Maria Hao, 1st Year Anniversary,**
by Family

Sunday, February 7th

9:30am **Howard Barnaby,**
by Angela, Rich, Darlene & Karen

**Next weekend, we will be having our monthly
food drive for St. Joan of Arc Food Pantry.**



Items most needed are cold cereals, white rice, packaged macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables, crackers, canned soups and stews, peanut butter & jelly

(in plastic containers), cookies and fruit cocktail.

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 our Ken Butler at 508-852-0127.

If you have a request for prayers, or know of someone who might, please call Ken Butler at 508-852-0127.

All we need is the person's first name and the nature of the request (example: Annie - for successful operation). We will contact those on the Prayer Line to add your intention to their list.



Collection for Priests' Retirement

This year on Ash Wednesday the parishes of our diocese will begin an annual collection to support the retirement needs of our diocesan priests. In 2019 a committee appointed by Bishop McManus examined the suitability and sustainability of retirement benefits for our retired diocesan priests. The annual health insurance and housing costs along with monthly stipends for our retired priests have recently been running from \$2.2 - \$2.6 million. Even with revenue from Celebrate Priesthood, Partners in Charity, the Legacy of Hope Capital Campaign, the endowments from the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign, parish assessments, and other restricted funds and donations, the costs of caring for our 50+ retired priests exceeds our revenue, in 2020 by \$266,810. After reviewing the committee's report and receiving input from the priests of our diocese, Bishop McManus is instituting an annual Ash Wednesday Collection for Priest Retirement as one part of the diocese's renewed efforts to care for our retired priests. Please consider a donation to the Ash Wednesday Collection to support those who have given their lives in service to the people of the Diocese of Worcester. Review the Retirement Report Summary found on the Diocesan Website to learn more—www.worcesterdiocese.org. Thank you.



WORD OF LIFE

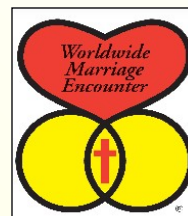
"Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. 'Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20)."

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

***"Brothers and sisters: I should like
you to be free of anxieties."***

There are many things to be anxious about in these days. Let us learn to calm our anxieties in our life by learning how to communicate better on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. **The next virtual Experience is February 12-14, 2021 from East Hartford, CT.**

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening & communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.



**“THE SEARCH”
Lenten Adult Faith Formation
On Zoom or In Person**

**St. Mary Church, 77 Mendon Street, Uxbridge
7 Mondays—February 15th through March 29th
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

THE SEARCH is a new video program receiving rave reviews for its visually stunning and intellectually stimulating approach to life's big questions. If you want to better understand life & death, science & faith, sorrow & happiness, and the meaning and purpose of life, please join in on this video series. There will be an in-person class at the parish and a Zoom class running at the same time. The class is free, but there is an optional workbook available for \$10.

Email thesearch@stmaryuxbridge.org or visit stmaryuxbridge.org to register or for more information.

Bishop Barron’s “David the King” Bible Study

Experience how the whole Bible opens up once it’s viewed through the person of King David. Class sessions (via Zoom): Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on January 13th, 20th, 27th, Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th. Contact Darleen Farland at dfarland@stmarysgraston.org for registration & info.

TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



Tax contribution statements will be made available in the coming weeks to those parishioners who wish to have a total of their 2020 parish contributions.

To request a tax contribution statement, please email the parish office or call during office hours. Also, if you do not currently receive parish offertory envelopes by mail and wish to do so, please email the parish office or call during regular office hours.

**Lenten Adult Faith Formation
On Zoom or In Person at
St. Roch Church, 334 Main Street, Oxford**

All are invited to view “Awaken,” a new video series from Light of the World Evangelization Ministries which takes on the key questions of faith & the meaning and purpose of life.



The days/times for in-person sessions at the parish, as well as alternate Zoom sessions, will be scheduled in the near future at convenient times. There is no cost for these sessions. Email strochoxford@gmail.com or call 508-987-2382 to register or to get more information.

**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.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Parish Secretary—St. Brigid and Assumption Parishes in Millbury. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Must be computer literate. Familiarity with office & church responsibilities would be an asset. Salary and hours negotiable. Contact Deacon Ron Buron at 508-865-6624.

Part-time Cook—Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies in Worcester. Needs part-time cook to fill in for several weeks preparing dinner for six people on Mondays-Thursdays. Salary negotiated based on experience. Contact Fr. Donato Infante at 508-630-4473 or at director@worcestervocations.com.

**St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School
865 Main Street, Worcester
Sunday, January 31st from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Open House is by appointment only. Call 508-791-6496 or email meg.kursonis@stpetercc.com for appointment or information. Openings in Grades Pre-K to 8. Please respect Covid-19 protocol at Open House. Visit website at www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.





Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of Jan. 16 th & 17 th :	\$ 2,798
Deficit:	(\$ 489)
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$18,542

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$65,740
 Year-to Date Collections: 41,030
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 12,706
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$12,004)

This weekend's special collection is the
Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Next weekend's special collection is for
Parish Renovation & Maintenance.

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

***"Brothers and sisters:
 I should like you to be free of anxieties."
 ~1 Corinthians 7:32***

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this—use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then pray for things instead of worrying about them.



During these times 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 www.stchristopherworcester.org and click the "Online Giving" link to get started or to access your existing account. Thank you!

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

**Strengthening the Church
 at Home**



Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Envelopes are available in the entrances of the church. Over 40% of dioceses United States and its territories are considered mission territories, because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. Visit www.usccb.org/home-missions for more info.

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

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**A Credible
 Witness of
 Faith**



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
 111 Worcester Street, West Boylston
 Wednesdays from 3:00-7:00 p.m.
 Enter from parking lot side entrance door.**

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

I will raise up for them a prophet like you
from among their kin,
and will put my words into his mouth;
he shall tell them all that I command him. (Dt 18)

PSALM:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

SECOND READING:

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the
things of the Lord,
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. (1 Cor 7:34)

GOSPEL:

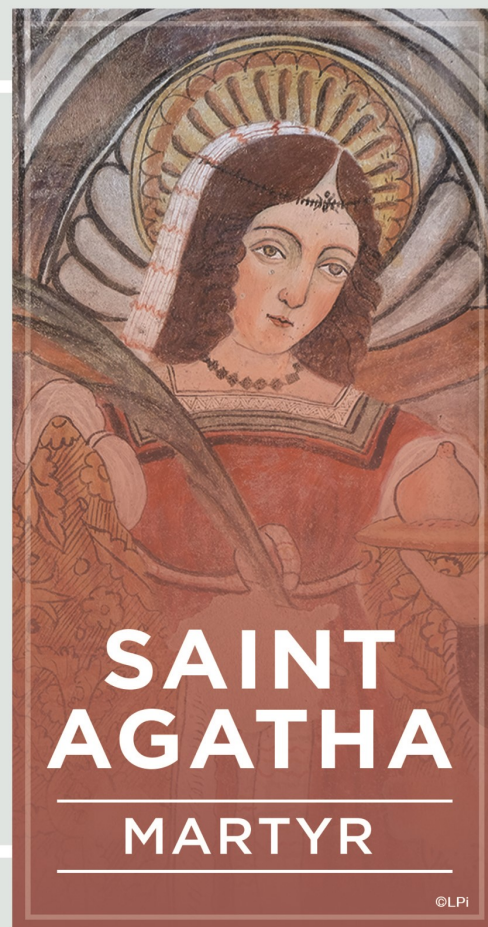
The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not
as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

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

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2021

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday: The Presentation of the Lord;
World Day for Consecrated Life
Wednesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
Friday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Saturday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Moses taught the Israelites that God would send prophets to assist them in knowing His will. Why do you think people so often reject the prophetic message?

SECOND READING

Paul speaks of the inevitability of anxiety in life. How does your faith assist you in handling what makes you anxious?

GOSPEL READING

In the story of the healing of a demon-possessed man, Mark reports how the demons knew Jesus' true identity as "the Holy One of God." What does this reveal about the unseen order?