

February 21, 2021

1st

SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

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MASS SCHEDULE

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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

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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

First Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 20th

4:00pm **For our Parish Family**

Sunday, February 21st

9:30am **For Improved Health for George Trayah,**
by Wife

Monday, February 22nd

9:00am **Joseph Cianci, Jr., 6th Anniversary,**
by The Cianci Family

Tuesday, February 23rd

No Mass

Wednesday, February 24th

No Mass

Thursday, February 25th

9:00am **James Quinn,**
by Mary Sullivan

Friday, February 26th

9:00am **Louis Roy,**
by Mary Sullivan

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 27th

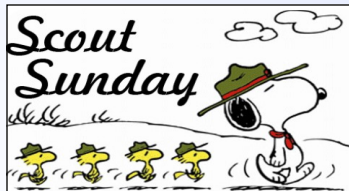
4:00pm **Joseph Camere, Sr., 41st Anniversary,**
by Son, Joseph

Sunday, February 28th

9:30am **Deacon Christopher Meyers,**
9th Anniversary

**We thank Scout Troop 9 and their
Scout Leaders who celebrated Mass with us
last Sunday in recognition of Scout Sunday.**

We were also very grateful to have their assistance in
serving as lectors and altar servers at the Mass.



We thank them all for their
dedication, commitment
and service to our parish
and to our community.
God bless you all!

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.



This month marks the
9th Anniversary
of the death of

Deacon Chris Meyers

who was our deacon
since his ordination
on April 21, 2007.

In February, 2012, Deacon
Chris left St. Christopher's
on his final journey to

***The Valley of the
Angels Orphanage
in Guatemala,
Central America.***

Deacon Chris died on February 29, 2012 at the
orphanage and was summoned to serve with our Lord.

Next Sunday's Mass will be in remembrance of
Deacon Chris. Please remember him in your prayers.

Fr. Stanley

The Catholic Free Press

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." — John 8:32

February is Catholic Free Press month!

We hope that many of you will either begin or renew a
subscription to our diocesan newspaper when at Mass
this month. A 52-week annual subscription is only \$39.
If needed, Catholic Free Press envelopes are available
in the main entrance of the church, or you can use a
plain envelope marked "CFP." Be sure your name
and address are provided along with your remittance.

Baked Haddock Lenten Lunches in Worcester
Pick up only at gym entrance at St. Bernard Church
of Our Lady of Providence, 228 Lincoln Street
on Fridays during Lent

The \$15 meal comes with rice pilaf & carrots and must
be pre-ordered by Wednesday before by calling 508-
755-3820 or online at olpworchester.org/lenten-fish.



Children's Catholic Television Programs

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Catholic TV—Channel 101

Sundays—8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

This weekly series focuses on teachings about the
readings from Scripture, liturgical music, movement,
and visuals to help bring the Word of God to life.

The Little Francis

Catholic TV—Channel 101

Saturdays—7:00 a.m.

Explore the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi through
the heart of the child and see how God uses Francis
to be a messenger of peace and love.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year's Lenten journey to Holy Week and Easter will again be different. But COVID notwithstanding, the reasons for, and the fruits of, this annual holy season of prayer, penance and almsgiving remain the same.

Strive as we do, we sin. Strive as we may, sanctity, the goal of us all, can always be more fully embodied. In both our striving and our shortcomings we should never be discouraged. God's grace abounds.

We should always welcome this penitential but joy-filled season to narrow our focus on what is most important. For when, through deepened prayer, greater penances and more generous alms-giving, we turn from sin to grow in holiness, our greater awareness and receptivity to God's mercy, love and grace prepare us to share in and celebrate ever more joyfully Christ's Easter triumphs.

In these COVID times our personal circumstances may not allow us to gather in great crowds at church for Masses, weekly Stations, Bible classes or even the liturgies of Holy Week. We might worry that this may lead to a diminished Lent. But God will not be denied. He will not deny us an abundance of graces for a good Lent if we do not deny Him or forego a vigorous season of repentance as our circumstances allow.

On the way to the first Holy Week much of what the Apostles thought necessary seemed lacking and events did not play out as they hoped. Peter sought to deter Christ from the Cross. James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume those who did not receive Jesus. Andrew wondered aloud what good five loaves and two fish were among so many. On Good Friday all seemed lost. But Christ rose and triumphed over all for all.

This Lent, our parishes and diocese will again be creative so that the Word will be preached, the Sacraments celebrated and the good works carried on. Together with those public liturgical gatherings that your prudent decisions allow you to attend, your deep private prayer and penances, pondering of Scripture, examination of conscience, and acts of charity will give glory to God and draw you closer to Him.

Let us then, like Christ led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for forty days of prayer and fasting, embark upon this Holy Season to repent of our sin, grow in holiness and draw closer to Christ. For it is only in Him, by the way of the Cross, that we will find and forever share in the deepest longing of our hearts, the love of the Trinity which triumphed at Easter.

With every prayerful best wish for a fruitful Lent, I remain

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

MARRIAGE RENEWAL PROGRAM

RETROUVAILLE, a program to provide help and support to troubled marriages, will start its next session the weekend of February 26th-28th in Tewksbury, MA. This session will be followed by twelve follow-up presentations and monthly support group through December to keep couples on track.



Contact John & Christine at 508-271-7155 or email retrouvaille@gmail.com for additional dates and more information. All inquiries are confidential. Visit website at HelpOurMarriage.org.

Virtual Lent Bible Study for Young Adults **Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. beginning February 23rd**

This Lenten Bible study will involve Lectio Divina along with a discussion. Each session will be unique to that Sunday's Gospel reading so individuals are



welcome to attend all, some, or even just one session. Feel free to attend as often as you are able! To sign up to receive the Zoom link, go to neworchester.org/lent-lectio-divina.

"WATCH WITH ME"

A Unique Online Lenten Experience for Adults

This free program offers you a brief time each week to stop, rest, reflect, listen, and pray a little.

Each Sunday evening during Lent you will receive a link to participate *at your convenience* during the week -no meetings, no schedule. Each activity will include a little music and one or two short reflective prayers requiring 15-20 minutes of your time on your mobile phone, tablet, or computer. Invite family and friends! Pre-registration is required. Contact Romeo Marquis at Rmarquis48@outlook.com for registration or info. (Note: If you participated in "A Time for Singing" during Advent you will automatically be registered.)

CARE for you Mind, Body and Soul

Thursday, Feb. 25th online on Zoom (7-8:30 p.m.) or Saturday, February 27th in person in the parish hall of St. Mary Church, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge from 10-11:30 a.m.

This session will consist of a faith presentation, including a video entitled, "How to Pray in Challenging Times," followed by sharing, prayer, and discussion, if you are comfortable. Registration is required by emailing diane.moriarty56@gmail.com, by visiting stmaryuxbridge.org or by calling 508-615-7154.

Drive-Thru Lenten Fish Dinners in Worcester **The Arc at St. Joan of Arc Church, 570 Lincoln St.**

Fridays during Lent from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Fish & chips-\$12; Baked fish & potato-\$13;
Shrimp & chips-\$13 (beverages included).
To place your order, call 508-283-0253.



Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of Feb. 6 th & 7 th :	\$ 2,729
Deficit:	(\$ 558)
Parish Renovation & Maintenance:	\$ 173
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$18,648

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$75,601
 Year-to Date Collections: 46,675
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 14,026
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$14,900)

This weekend's special collection is for the
Church in Latin America.

Catholic Free Press subscription envelopes
 may be turned in anytime this month.

If needed, envelopes are available
 in the main entrance of the church.

Thank you for your continued support!



**"After John had been arrested,
 Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming
 the gospel of John..." ~Mark 1:14**



Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming? It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Share Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

This weekend we take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America! Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to Church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity makes it possible for our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous to this special collection! To learn more, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience.



God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

I will establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed
by the waters of a flood;
there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.
(Gn 9:11)

PSALM:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those
who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

SECOND READING:

Christ suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18)

GOSPEL:

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for 40 days,
tempted by Satan. (Mk 1:12-13)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



REFLECT

FIRST READING

God promises Noah to use a “bow in the clouds” (a rainbow) as a sign and symbol of His divine pledge to never again allow a world-wide flood to devastate the earth. This is the Bible’s first recorded covenant between God and humanity. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

SECOND READING

Peter teaches that Jesus preached to both the living and the dead — those dead dating back to the days of Noah — and connecting us through baptism. What do you find intriguing about this idea?

GOSPEL READING

We hear about Jesus’ temptation in the desert and his inaugural gospel message to those living in Galilee. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news. As we begin the Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?