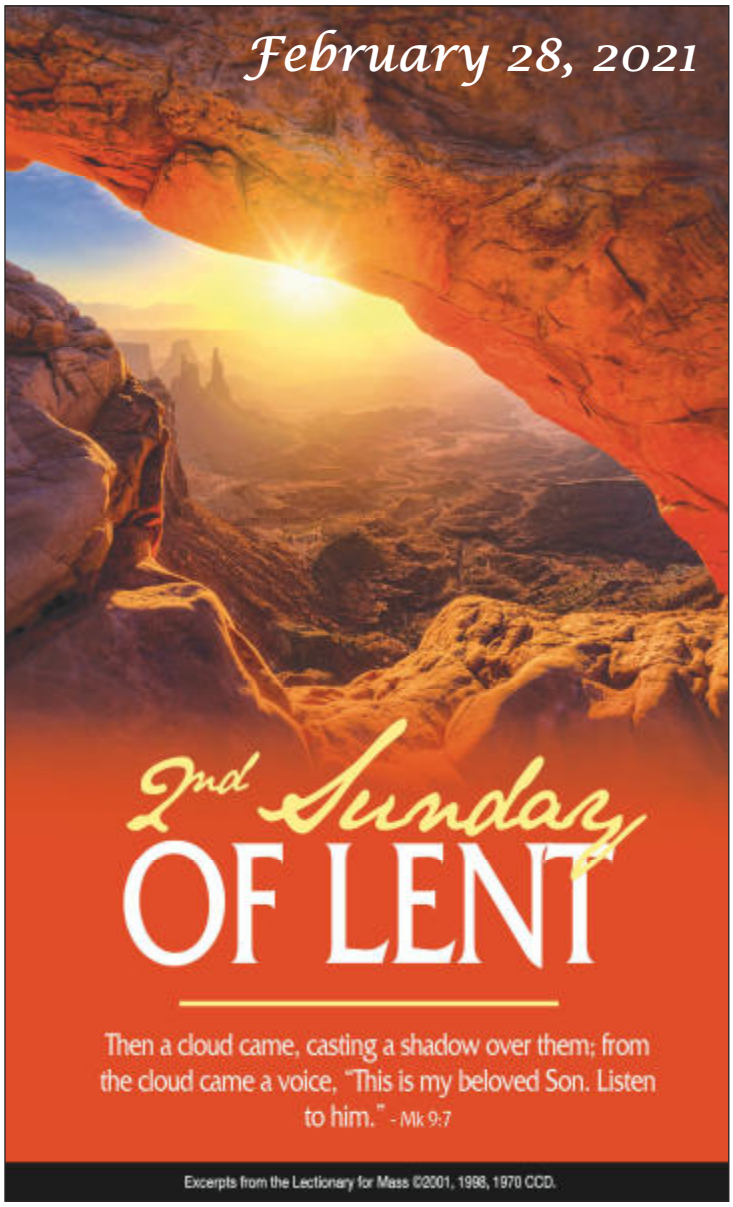

MASS SCHEDULE

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.

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)
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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

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

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**

Monday, March 1st
9:00am **Deacon John LeDoux, 1st Anniversary,** by St. Christopher's Retired Club

Tuesday, March 2nd
No Mass

Wednesday, March 3rd
No Mass

Thursday, March 4th
9:00am **For our Parish Family**

Friday, March 5th
9:00am **Rose Baldanado & Margaret Gibbs,** by Ray Gibbs

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 6th
4:00pm **Margaret & Edward Sullivan,** by Family

Sunday, March 7th
9:30am **Margarita & Robert McCarthy,** by Family

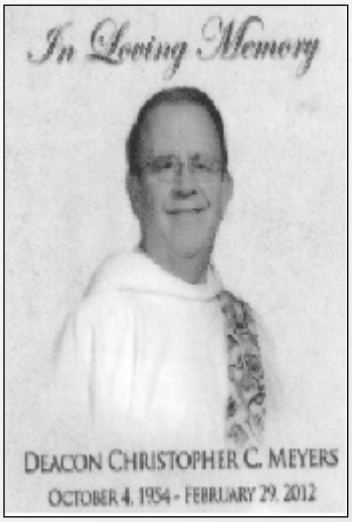
Next weekend, we will be having our monthly food drive for St. Joan of Arc Food Pantry.

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.



This week 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.*

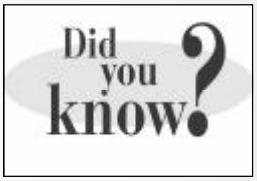
Deacon Chris died on February 29, 2012 at the orphanage and was summoned to serve with our Lord. This Sunday's Mass will be in remembrance of Deacon Chris. Please remember him in your prayers.

Fr. Stanley

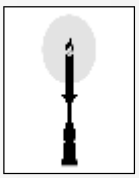
This week we also remember the 1st Year Anniversary of *Deacon John LeDoux* who died on March 1, 2020.

Deacon John was with us here at St. Christopher's for a short time from September, 2018 until the time of his illness. Deacon John devoted many years of service to Pro-Life Ministry and to preparing couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. Please remember him in your prayers as well as his family and his wife, Allison who staffs the Diocesan Office for Marriage & Family Life.

Fr. Stanley



The wooden candleholders on either side of the altar were donated many years ago along with a matching processional cross that we used for Mass on the stage in our church hall.



The plaque on the cross holder reads:
"In Memory of our Mother Mrs. Rose Valentine"

Are you a St. Joseph?

Be one of the first 100 men to live like St. Joseph in prayer, action, and stewardship for 100 days. Join 1230AM & 970AM Emmanuel Radio's "Year of St. Joseph" 100 Men Challenge. In the year of St. Joseph, answer your call to faith like St. Joseph did. Visit *1230radio.com* or call 508-767-1230 to join the challenge or for more information. Details are also available on the church bulletin boards.

WORD OF LIFE

"The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is **cherished**."

~USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent
Usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

St. Patrick Dinners To Go ~ $15/Plate

St. Mary of the Hills Church
630 Cross Street, Boylston
Saturday, March 13th
Pickup from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Reserve your meals by emailing Claudine at *secretary@saintmaryofthehills.com* or by calling 508-869-6771.

The sympathies of our parish are extended to the family of

Yvonne Latino

who recently passed away.

Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep children safer in today's fast-paced world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. NCMEC's website offers a range of practical information for parents and guardians that will help keep children safe from harm. For more Information, visit *www.missingkids.com*. For particular help you may call Judith Audette, Director of Office for Healing and Prevention, at (508) 929-4363.

On-line Study of Evangelium Vitae

Six Wednesdays from March 3rd thru April 7th
2:30-3:30 p.m.

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to join **"Live the Gospel of Life,"** a six-week on-line study of St. John Paul II's landmark encyclical, Evangelium Vitae. The sessions will be held via Zoom. Participants will have the opportunity to study and prayerfully reflect more deeply on The Gospel of Life and its central themes & teachings.

Pre-registration is required to receive materials and the login link. To register, email your name, email address and parish name to *aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org* and include the words "EV Study Registration" in the subject line. All are welcome!

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.

Annual Priestly Discernment Retreat

North American Martyrs Church
8 Wyoma Drive, Auburn
Saturday, March 27th ~ 9:00-5:00 p.m.

Men, high school aged & older are invited. This day of prayer will include witness talks from priests and seminarians as well as a presentation from Bishop McManus on discerning a priestly vocation.

Online Deacon Information Session

Thursday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Office of the Diaconate is seeking active men of faith in the Diocese of Worcester who may be discerning a vocation as a permanent deacon. Men between the ages of 31 and 60, married or single, who are interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate and the process for becoming a deacon may pre-register at *worcesterdiocese.org/register-for-information-session*. The session should last between 1.5 to 2 hours. An email with the link to the online session will be sent out prior to the scheduled date.

Devotions in Worcester during Lent

St. Bernard Church, 228 Lincoln Street

Eucharistic Adoration—every Thursday during Lent. Exposition begins following the 8:15am morning Mass & reposition takes place prior to the 7:00pm Mass in Spanish. If interested in signing up for an hour, email *parish@olpworcester.org* or call 508-755-3820.

Stations of the Cross—Fridays during Lent at 5:30pm in English and at 7:00pm in Spanish.

Virtual Lent Bible Study for Young Adults

Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. during Lent

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 *neworcester.org/lent-lectio-divina*.

Offertory Collection

Weekly Goal:	$ 3,287
Weekend of Feb. 13th & 14th:	$ 2,406
Deficit:	($ 881)
Air Conditioning (to date):	$18,695

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21):	$78,888
Year-to Date Collections:	48,314
Year-to Date Electronic Payments:	14,793
Year-to Date Deficit:	($15,781)

Catholic Free Press subscription envelopes may be turned in this weekend. If needed, envelopes are available in the main entrance of the church.

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

Thank you for your continued support!

TIME Talent TREASURE

"'Here I am!' he answered."
~Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord" when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy—most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

Special Note

Any and all parish donations, along with donations for special collections and Catholic Free Press subscriptions, may be safely and securely made by dropping them into our parish collection box in the main aisle of the church.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our parish!

Share YOUR Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

Thank you for your generous support last week for the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your donations will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean, so they, in turn, can share the Good News with others. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit *www.usccb.org/latin-america* and click "How to Give." Your gift makes a difference!

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic.

The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

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SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:
God put Abraham to the test.
(Gn 22:1)

PSALM:
I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living. (Ps 116)

SECOND READING:
If God is for us, who can be against us?
(Rom 8:31)

GOSPEL:
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
(Mk 9:7)

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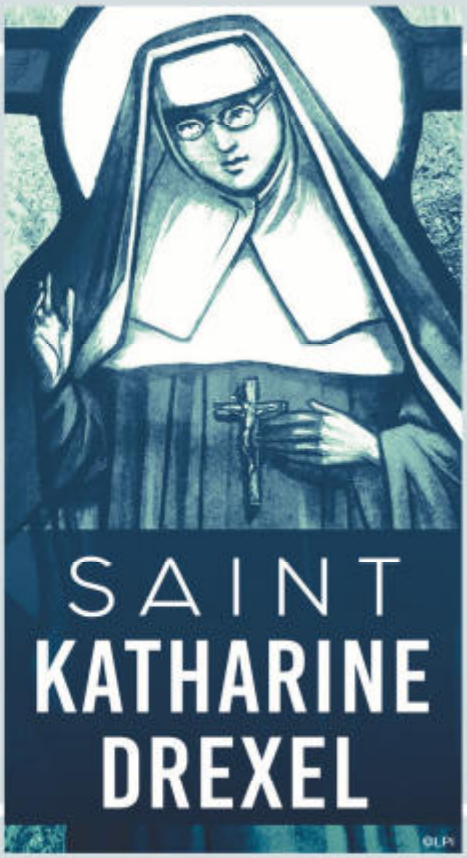
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Lent
Wednesday:	St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
Thursday:	St. Casimir
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Lent



REFLECT

FIRST READING
God's request of Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac seems cruel from our modern perspective. Yet Abraham's obedience rendered divine blessings. Do you think you have such depth of faith?

SECOND READING
Paul tries to reassure the Christians in Rome of God's divine providence in our lives. As we continue the Lenten journey, can you recall when have you felt God's protection and comfort?

GOSPEL READING
We hear Mark's account of the apostles' witness of the transfiguration of Jesus. How difficult do you think it was for them not to share this event with anyone until after Jesus rose from the dead?

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