

May 16, 2021



# 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

"As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.  
And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may  
be consecrated in truth." - Jn 17:18-19

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

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Vigil Mass (Saturday): 4:00 pm**  
**Sunday Mass: 8:00 am (livestreamed) and 10:00 am**  
**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

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Coordinator for the

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**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.



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
4:00pm **Lilia Butler,**  
by Husband

Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am **Patsy & Helen Damico,**  
by Family  
10:00am **For our Parish Family**

Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

9:00am **Mass**

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

**No Mass**

Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

**No Mass**

Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00am **Mass**

Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

9:00am **Robert Bloemer,**  
by Shirley Dillon

## Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

4:00pm **William Bourque,**  
by Nephew, Donald & Cathy Arsenault

Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00am **Mass**

10:00am **Mass**



I want to thank everyone who continues to support the parish with your weekly, mail-in or online financial contributions. They are so very important—crucial to paying bills each month—the utilities, vendors, payroll, Diocese, insurances, and of course the unexpected church and rectory repairs we face after 63 years! I am sure you know that it's very difficult trying to balance it all, especially with a *double digit deficit* that never seems to decrease!

And with Partners in Charity, Legacy of Hope, and most importantly your family, standing alongside your Parish Support—I know it's NOT easy dividing & distributing your income and donations.

It is also difficult for the parish because of the parishioners, families and friends whom we have not seen in over a year; those who have not been able to join us for Mass and a decline in financial support that has ensued.

I ask that you please continue to support the parish as best you can; do what you are able.

In so many ways, Covid has put a strain on all of us this past year as we consider--the safety of our health, our sanity; fear, loneliness, despair, suffering—perhaps financial difficulty; even the many parishioners, families and friends whom we have not had the pleasure of seeing and welcoming at Mass.

In the midst of it all—don't give up hope--good and wonderful endings I am sure are on their way. Remember Winston Churchill who said: "...never give in, ...never give in...we shall never surrender..."

And never forget--The Lord is with us and walks with us on our journey everyday!

Thank You and God Bless You for all that you do for St. Christopher's Parish.

*Fr. Stanley*

## MASS SCHEDULE

Beginning this Sunday, May 16, 2021, the Sunday Mass schedule will be changing back to our original schedule of 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. We will livestream the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass each week so Mass can be viewed either at that time or later in the day. With this change in schedule, we are even more in need of volunteers to help spray the pews and common areas of the church after each Mass (no wiping required). If you can help, please call or email the parish office. Thank you so much!

## 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 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.



## Diocesan Summer Young Adult Events

All young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join in on our Diocesan Young Adult Ministry events this summer!



Events begin in May and include weekly pick-up volleyball, hiking trips to Mt. Wachusett and Mt Monadnock, an aerial adventure course, and white-water rafting. Pre-registration required for some events. Visit [neworchester.org/summer-young-adult-events](http://neworchester.org/summer-young-adult-events) or contact Tim Messenger at 508-929-4360 or at [tmessenger@worcesterdioecese.org](mailto:tmessenger@worcesterdioecese.org) for sign up or info.

**NOTE:** Weekly pick-up volleyball will be held here at St. Christopher's on Friday evenings at 6 p.m. from June 11<sup>th</sup> - August 27<sup>th</sup>. Open to any young adult, regardless of skill level.



### Be the Face of Christ!

We are truly grateful to all who have made a donation or pledge! St. Christopher's has raised \$12,674 from 60 gifts, bringing us to 37.4% of our goal of \$33,800!

For those parishioners who have not yet donated, we ask your kind consideration of a gift to the 2021 Annual Partners in Charity Appeal.

This year, you can easily offer your gift online at [partners-charity.net/donate](http://partners-charity.net/donate) or by texting the word "donate" to 84576 from your cell phone, or by calling 508-929-4366 with your gift or pledge.

Also, donor envelopes can be found in the church pews this weekend. If using an envelope, you can return it by dropping it in the collection box at church, through the mail, or by dropping it off at the parish office. Please make all checks payable to "Partners in Charity."

This year the diocesan campaign has been impacted by the pandemic. So, it will be a great challenge to reach the diocesan goal of \$5 million (as will many other annual campaigns). Your gift will help the Diocese implement its essential charitable, pastoral and educational works in the year ahead.

Tens of thousands of people are the beneficiaries of our charitable giving. Just a few examples:  
~ those living at the Nazareth Home for Boys  
~ the care of fifty-two retired priests  
~ poor families served by Pernet Family Health Service  
~ seniors receiving home care thru Catholic Charities  
~ children seeking a good education  
~ those preparing for the priesthood or diaconate  
~ the developmentally disabled at Mercy Centre.  
And there are many more!

Hopefully, you will consider making a gift from your generosity and spirit of sacrifice. Please prayerfully consider making a gift which reflects your gratitude to God for all you have. It takes many gifts to reach our diocesan goal of \$5 million. Thank you!

Fr. Stanley

### Virtual May Basket Raffle

Good Shepherd Parish (Linwood/Uxbridge) is holding a virtual basket raffle throughout the month as an annual fundraiser for the parish. The raffle will include over 27 themed baskets and additional gift certificates. Visit [goodshepherdlinwood.org/may-raffle-baskets](http://goodshepherdlinwood.org/may-raffle-baskets) for details on each basket & for ticket purchase info.



Tickets are \$1/each or 6 for \$5. Drawings will take place on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and winners will be contacted by phone. Contact Linda Roberts at 774-280-6602 or Ann Wagstaff at [wagstaffa473@gmail.com](mailto:wagstaffa473@gmail.com) with any questions. Good luck!



On Monday, Thursday & Friday mornings during the month of May we will be reciting the Rosary following the 9:00 a.m. morning Mass. Please join us!

Dear Parishioners,

### Your voice could help save millions of lives!

The Hyde Amendment has protected Americans from funding abortion for 45 years. It is credited with saving the lives of over 2.4 million children to date. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away this law that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century. Without it, billions of taxpayer dollars could go to abortion. That means abortion would be cheaper, easier, and funded with our taxpayer dollars.

As Pope Francis has said, "The future of humanity... is fundamentally in the hands of people and in their ability to organize." It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong message before Congress moves forward to impose taxpayer-funded abortion. Because of the incredibly high stakes, Congress needs to hear from a massive number of people. To that end, I invite parishioners to join our diocesan response to this nationwide effort by the USCCB, set for the first week of June.

The primary goal is for millions of Catholics to sign the petition on [NoTaxpayerAbortion.com](http://NoTaxpayerAbortion.com). Stop your tax dollars from going to abortion.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

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

### St. Thomas More Law School Scholarship

Each year the St. Thomas More Society of our Diocese awards a scholarship of varying amounts (usually around \$3,000) to a law student attending an accredited law school in the fall.



Applicants or parents must be registered and active members of a parish in the Diocese of Worcester. Applicants may be in any year of law school studies.

Applications are due on or before June 30, 2021. To obtain an application, call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345, mail a request to St. Thomas More Society, Chancery Office, 49 Elm St., Worcester, MA 01609 or visit [www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society).



Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of May 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	\$ 2,839
Deficit:	(\$ 448)
Renovation & Maintenance:	\$ 235
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$19,238

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$115,045  
 Year-to Date Collections: 70,761  
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 20,508  
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$ 23,776)

**Thank you for your continued support!**



**“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:15)**

How strong is your faith?

When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

**Support the Virtual Walk for the Homeless**

This Virtual Walk, sponsored by the Central Mass Housing Alliance (CMHA), benefits The Catholic Charities Family Shelter and Emergency Services, CMHA Homeless Prevention Programs, The Interfaith Hospitality Network a program of Friendly House, and St. John's Food for the Poor. Help those who have been particularly impacted by the pandemic due to job loss and food insecurity. Visit [walkforthehomeless.org](http://walkforthehomeless.org) to make a donation or to learn more. Watch the diocesan streaming video at [worcesterdiocese.org](http://worcesterdiocese.org).



**THANK YOU FOR A DECADE OF SPREADING 'TRUTH FOR LIFE!'**

On May 1, 2021, thanks to your generosity, 1230AM/970AM/101.1FM Emmanuel Catholic Radio celebrated 10 years of bringing the Daily Mass, the Rosary, and many other Catholic programs to the people of the Worcester Diocese. In May, there is still time to make a tax-deductible gift. Donate by calling 508-767-1230 or by visiting their website at [1230Radio.com](http://1230Radio.com). Thank you so much!

God remains where love remains. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment.



Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple:

***God remains when we love one another.  
 If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad,  
 we follow the call and path of love,  
 we will walk with God.  
 There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home.***

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**WORD OF LIFE**

“Everyone is in need of reassurance, and if we, who have touched ‘the Word of life’ (1 Jn 1:1) do not give it, who will? How beautiful it is to be Christians who offer consolation, who bear the burdens of others and who offer encouragement: messengers of life in a time of death!”

~Pope Francis, *2020 Easter Vigil Homily*

# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles. (Acts 1:26)

## PSALM:

The Lord has set his throne in heaven. (Ps 103)  
Or Alleluia.

## SECOND READING:

Beloved, if God so loved us,  
we also must love one another. (1 Jn 4:11)

## GOSPEL:

"Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me,  
so that they may be one just as we are one." (Jn 17:11b)

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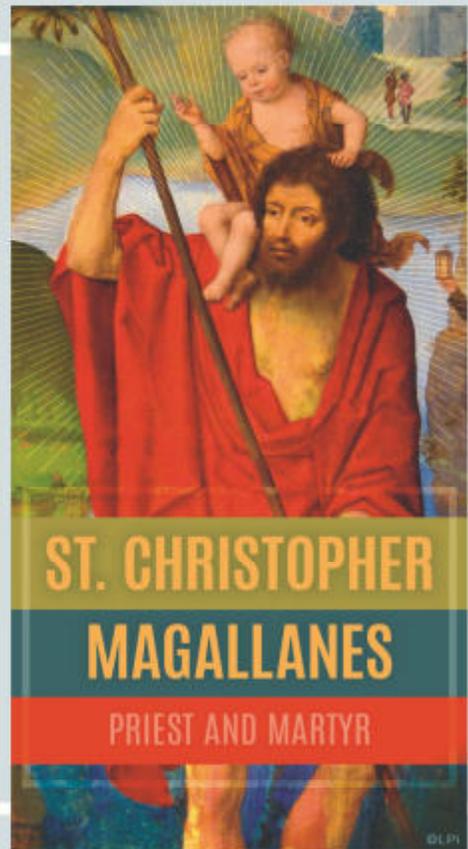
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16, 2021

- Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter;  
World Communications Day  
Tuesday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr  
Thursday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest  
Friday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest,  
and Companions, Martyrs  
Saturday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious  
Next Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

BELOVED,  
IF GOD  
SO LOVED  
US, WE  
ALSO MUST  
LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER.

—1 John 4:11

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## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

In the immediate aftermath of Jesus' ascension, and as a means for healing within the group, Peter and the apostles discerned Matthias as the replacement for Judas. What are some areas in your faith life that need healing in order to feel whole?

### SECOND READING

John testifies that his community has "come to know and to believe in the love God has for us." Do you think your faith community shares a similar conviction of faith in the love of God?

### GOSPEL READING

We hear Jesus' prayer to his Father for the protection of the disciples, especially against "the evil one" in the world. Where do you personally experience evil in the world today?

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