

May 23, 2021



Pentecost Sunday

 **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: _____

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religioused@stchristopherparishworchester.org

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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.





Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 22nd

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

Sunday, May 23rd

8:00am **For our Parish Family**

10:00am **Mass**

Monday, May 24th

9:00am **Mass**

Tuesday, May 25th

No Mass

Wednesday, May 26th

No Mass

Thursday, May 27th

9:00am **Mass**

Friday, May 28th

9:00am **Mass**

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Saturday, May 29th

4:00pm **Mary O'Brien,**
by Family

Sunday, May 30th

8:00am **Hector Perez, Sr., 1st Year Anniversary,**
by Family

10:00am **Mass**

WORD OF LIFE

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

*~USCCB Respect Life flyer
quoting Pope Francis’
“Day for Life Greeting”*

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.



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

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 or contact Tim Messenger at 508-929-4360 or at 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 11th - August 27th. 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 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 for details on each prize & for ticket purchase info.



Tickets are \$1/each or 6 for \$5. Drawings will take place on Monday, May 31st and winners will be contacted by phone. Contact Linda Roberts at 774-280-6602 or Ann Wagstaff at 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,

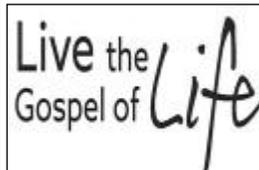
Your voice could help save millions of lives!

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. 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



"Respect Life Ministry in the Parish: The Church's Vision" Training Webinar
Wednesday, May 26th ~ 3 p.m.

Whether you have been involved in Respect Life Ministry for many years, are considering starting or joining a ministry in your parish, or would simply like to learn more, there is something for everyone in this basic webinar training session for parish volunteers. Pre-registration is required to receive a login link. To register, send an email with your name, parish, and email address to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org and include the words "Webinar Registration" in the subject line.



Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of May 8 th & 9 th :	\$ 2,652
Deficit:	(\$ 635)
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$ 19,327

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$118,332
 Year-to Date Collections: 73,053
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 20,868
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$ 24,411)

Thank you for your continued support!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.”

~1 Corinthians 12:4-6

All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances. God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God’s plan to work, each must do what we are called to do. Guess what? We are not all called to do the same thing! For God’s plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do.

Support the Virtual Walk for the Homeless

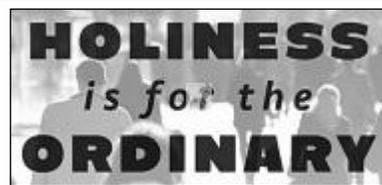
This Virtual Walk, sponsored by the Central Mass Housing Alliance (CMHA), benefits The Catholic Charities Family Shelter and Emergency Services, CMHA Homeless Prevention Programs, The Interfaith Hospitality Network a program of Friendly House, and St. John’s Food for the Poor. Help those who have been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

Begin by taking a moment to calm yourself, focus on your breathing and become aware of the life force that flows through your veins.



Center yourself in the words and affections of St. Augustine’s Prayer to the Holy Spirit, “Breath in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.” Sanctifying, bringing things to wholeness, blessing, restoring and creating are just some of the fruits of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not always about proclaiming loud cries of praise or singing alleluia from a roof top. It is about unfolding and encountering the ordinary in an extraordinary way. Being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the fullness of God’s life and in touch with the power and wonder of God’s presence. It’s about becoming holy.

It is not just for saints or people who have a religious vocation. Holiness is for the ordinary, simple run-of-the-mill person who desires to love God, others, and all of creation. When an ordinary, humble person becomes connected with life and the wondrous power of God’s love, they begin to live life more deeply, a bit more reverently, desire a simple fare and find themselves relishing in ordinary beauty. Their senses become attuned to the Author of life and they realize that they are not alone. The Holy Spirit connects all of the dots of human experience and existence, bringing everyone to center on the Divine Presence. The Holy Spirit does not just breathe “on me” but “in me” and is the force behind every breath I take. Take a moment to soak that thought in. There is the Divine Presence of the Holy Spirit in me, right now. When a person becomes in touch with truth, they know that when inspired by the Holy Spirit, his or her actions are not solely their own. They realize that they are moved by Divine Grace and drawn to things not found in secular affairs.

We live in a world where it is hard to discover truth. Real truth is veiled by so many imposters that it is hard to find, especially for those who are young. It is easy to get fooled and duped and often, without full conscious awareness of doing so, we choose to walk down a path of self-absorption and destruction. It is only the Holy Spirit, through the ministry of the church most especially, who guides us to truth and shows us the way to be the graced and holy human beings God made us to be. The wonders and inspirations of today’s Feast of Pentecost are necessary to share with both those we love and those who only casually cross our paths. The first disciples, touched by the Holy Spirit, brought the Gospel to the ends of the earth one step at a time. Is it unrealistic to ask that we assist in that same mission by helping people understand who they are and who God is one at a time? Ask the Holy Spirit to alleviate the fear in your heart that prevents you from doing so. ©Liturgical Publications, Inc.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
(Acts 2:3)

PSALM:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the
earth. (Ps 104) Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

GOSPEL:

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth." (Jn 15:27, 16:13)

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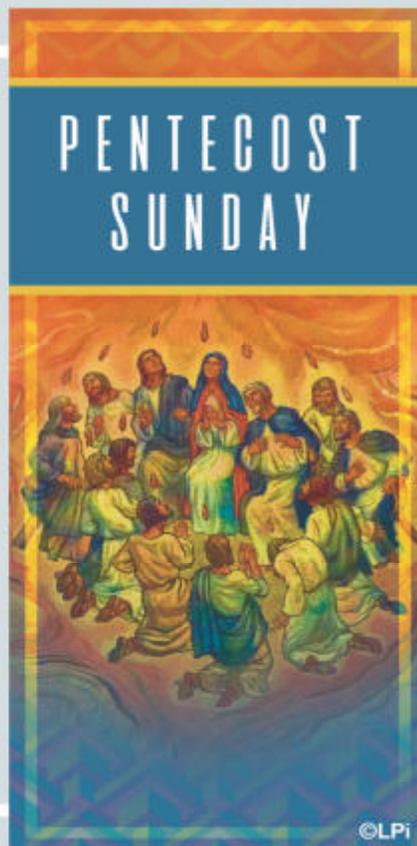
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 23, 2021

Sunday: Pentecost Sunday
Monday: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Tuesday: St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church;
St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Philip Neri, Priest
Thursday: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Saturday: St. Paul VI, Pope; BVM
Next Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity

**"AS MARINERS ARE
GUIDED INTO PORT BY
THE SHINING OF A STAR,
SO CHRISTIANS ARE
GUIDED TO HEAVEN
BY MARY."**

- SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

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REFLECT

FIRST READING

The descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples, which marked the beginning of the Church, was a transformative experience for the followers of Jesus. What have been some transformative experiences for you in your faith journey?

SECOND READING

Paul speaks to the Galatians about our universal struggle between the Spirit and the flesh. Paul even lists examples of the "works of the flesh" and the "fruits of the Spirit." How would you measure your own success in this spiritual battle?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus assured his disciples that his Father would send the "Spirit of truth" to believers offering guidance and divine gifts. Where do you see the Holy Spirit active in your life?

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