



August 22, 2021

21st Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life." - Jn 6:68

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



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 Only
 Please see the Pastor after Mass for a form.
 Baptisms must be scheduled at least one month in advance.

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
 508-853-1492

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.





21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 21st

4:00pm **William Bourque,**
by Brother, Charlie & Francine Bourque

Sunday, August 22nd

8:00am **For our Parish Family**
10:00am **Georgette Camere, 5th Anniversary,**
by Diane and Joe

Monday, August 23rd

9:00am **Mass**

Tuesday, August 24th

No Mass

Wednesday, August 25th

No Mass

Thursday, August 26th

9:00am **Mass**

Friday, August 27th

9:00am **Mass**

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 28th

4:00pm **Joseph Tinh Nguyen,** by Family

Sunday, August 29th

8:00am **Lilia Butler, 7th Anniversary,** by Husband
10:00am **Joseph Tinh Nguyen,** by Family

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

*"If it does not please you to serve the Lord,
decide today whom you will serve...As for me
and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

~Joshua 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission.

If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!

HELP WANTED—MANY OPENINGS! ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PRAYER LINE

**TIME REQUIRED—NOT MUCH,
AND VERY FLEXIBLE.
COMPENSATION—"OUT OF THIS WORLD"**

Help enlarge our prayer line. Are you willing to take private time in prayer for others in need? Call Ken Butler at 508-852-0127 for more information. Please consider joining.



Also, do you know of someone in need of prayers? We just need the person's first name and the nature of the problem.

Remember, someday YOU may be the one in need!

The Diocese had to cancel all Mission Cooperative Appeals last year due to the pandemic.

One can only imagine how difficult it was not to receive this annual financial support in countries that were already struggling before the Coronavirus struck. This year, Bishop McManus has proposed a different model for this year's appeal, rather than having to cancel it again.



Although we will not have a person physically visiting our parish, we will conduct a Mission Appeal Weekend here at St. Christopher's next weekend, Aug. 28th/29th.

We are asking for donations for the Kasana-Luweero Diocese, the youngest diocese in the country of Uganda. The major focus of this appeal is to help the Diocese in their current efforts to build a seminarians' dormitory.

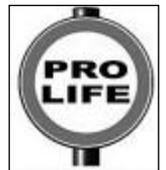
The second need of the Kasana-Luweero Diocese is for clean water. Many people in the Diocese do not have running water, let alone clean water. The lack of clean water claims many lives, especially that of children. Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Ssemogerere, the bishop of the Kasana-Luweero Diocese, is raising funds to drill wells around the Diocese so that people can have access to clean water and, with that, lives can be saved.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the people of the Kasana-Luweero Diocese with your generous donation to our Annual Mission Appeal next weekend.

Thank you so much!

Fr. Stanley

PRO-LIFE VIGILS are held every Saturday at 9:00 a.m. across the street from Planned Parenthood, 475 Pleasant Street in Worcester. All are invited to come to pray for America and the unborn.



We are hoping to resume classes in early September of 2021, BUT ---

TEACHERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL GRADES INCLUDING CONFIRMATION!

Teacher training will be provided. If you can help, please contact the rectory at parish@stchristopherparishworchester.org or by phone at 508-853-1492.

ALSO: We are in great need of an Administrator/Director of our Religious Education Program. If you have any questions, please contact the Rectory. Thank You!

Fr. Stanley

**Faith
in Action**

2021
**Partners
in Charity**

Our Appeal ends in 10 days!

*We are truly grateful to all who
have made a donation or pledge!*

**St. Christopher's has raised \$17,264
from 86 gifts, bringing us to
51% 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.
Donor envelopes can also be found in the church pews.
Please make all checks payable to "Partners in Charity."

Your gift will help the Diocese implement its essential
charitable, pastoral & educational works in the year
ahead. Please prayerfully consider making a gift
which reflects your gratitude to God for all you have.

Thank you!

Fr. Stanley

**Adult Faith Formation Series on the Mass
in Blackstone Valley Parishes**

Thursdays at 10 a.m. at Good Shepherd's Parish Hall,
121 Linwood St., Linwood (Uxbridge) thru Sept. 2nd

Fridays at 6 p.m. at St. Augustine's Parish Hall,
15 Lincoln St., Millville thru Sept. 3rd

Visit staugustinesmillville.com/parish-summer-activities.



RESPECT LIFE

"God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true
source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not
a question of who we are, but rather whose we are.
Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce
our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish
the immeasurable worth of our lives."

*~USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"How to Build a Culture of Life"*



Operation Ranger Rosary Ministry

All are invited to help put a rosary into the
hands of every member of the U.S. Armed
Forces around the globe who wants one.

Contact Cecelia Mason at ceceliamason@yahoo.com.

Learn More about Becoming a Priest

**Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies
51 Illinois Street, Worcester
Thursday, September 2nd**



Vianney Dinners are back!

These are nights for men, high-school-aged and up,
interested in learning more about a priestly vocation.
Come for all or part of the evening as your schedule
allows: 6:05 p.m. Mass; 6:30 Dinner; and 7 p.m. Social.

An RSVP is not necessary, but helpful—
director@worcestervocations.com.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S RETIRED CLUB

**Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, September 15th
at 1:00 p.m. in Church Hall**



Please consider joining this friendly
group of parishioners of all ages who
get together for some socialization and
who also enjoy helping out our parish.

Beginning in September, the Retired Club will resume
gathering together in the Church Hall at 1:00 p.m.
on the third Wednesday of each month.

The gatherings consist of a short business meeting,
followed by some fellowship and a snack.

Membership dues are only \$5 a year!

We look forward to seeing you on September 15th!

Call Liz Knott at 508-852-2348 for more information.

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life

A 30-week directed prayer experience in the tradition
of St. Ignatius of Loyola is being offered by a team of
Jesuits and parishioners experienced in Ignatian prayer.

Starting on Tuesday, September 28th, each weekly
session will be approximately ninety minutes and
will include reflection, direction and presentation.

Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at
St. Peter Church, 929 Main Street, Worcester
(near Clark University).

**An Information Session will be held at
St. Richards Church, 4 Bridge Street, Sterling
on Wednesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m.**

Application forms and information are also available at
ignatianspiritualexercisesworcester.com or by email at
worcspex19@gmail.com or by calling Dick Kirk at
508-885-4462.

**"That Man is You" Chapter in Hopedale
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 187 Hopedale Street**

This group meets twenty-six
Saturdays/year from 7:30-8 a.m.

Their Zoom meetings are open
to all. The program addresses
the pressures and temptations
facing men, especially husbands

and fathers, and combines social and medical science
with the teachings of the Church and wisdom of the
saints, to develop the vision of man.

After the opening prayer, they break into small groups
and reconvene for a round-table discussion. Contact
Mr. Chaplin--508-963-4182 or echaplin@gmail.com.



St. George Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

(38 Brattle St., Worcester)

is inviting new members
to knit & pray from home.
If interested, call the parish
at 508-853-0183 or email



Kathy Hessel at mkhessel@aol.com for more info.



Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of August 7 th & 8 th :	\$ 3,318
Surplus:	\$ 31
Church in Central/Eastern Europe:	\$ 111
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$19,962

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$161,063
 Year-to Date Collections: 103,029
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 28,101
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$ 29,933)

This weekend's special collection is for *Fuel*.
Thank you for your continued support!

Parish 50/50 Club Fundraiser

We are hoping to resume the 50/50 Club in the near future. **But, we cannot begin until we have 100 enrolled members.** At this time, all former 50/50 Club members are invited to submit their dues (\$20 per number) to remain in the club.

You will be able to keep the same numbers previously assigned to you. Put your dues in an envelope and write your name and 50/50 number (if you recall it) on the envelope. Envelopes are available at the entrances of the church. Dues can also be mailed in directly to the parish or dropped off at the parish office.

New Members Accepted at this Time!

The 50/50 Club is a 10-week session. With paid dues of \$20, you can choose an available two-digit number. When your lucky number matches the **middle two numbers** drawn in the **Monday Night MA Daily Numbers Game**, you win! A check for \$100 will be automatically mailed out to you. And, you have 10 chances of winning with each 50/50 session!! Drop this form into the collection basket/box at Mass or return it to the parish office to request a 50/50 number. Once we contact you to choose a number, just submit your \$20 dues for entry!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone #: _____



“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these “gods” because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with “who is God” and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised “more.” But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only “feels” true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters.

We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It's a choice we all have to make.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."
(Jos 24:18)

PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

SECOND READING:

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ
and the church. (Eph 5:32)

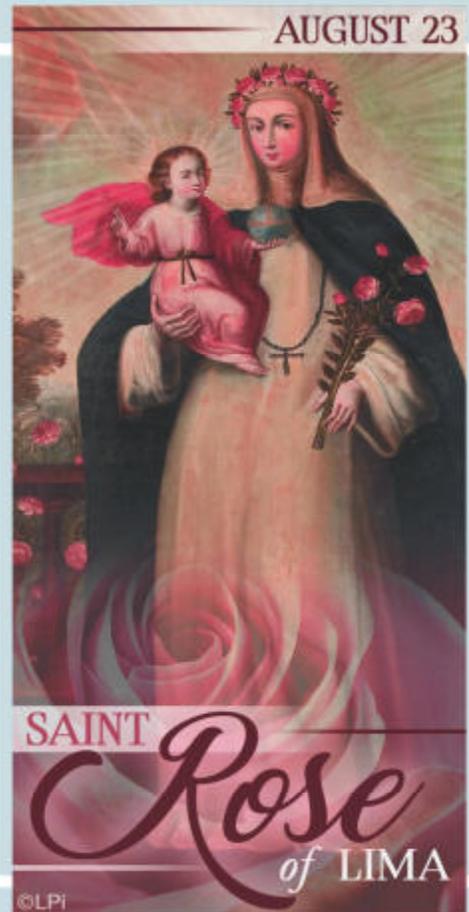
GOSPEL:

Simon Peter answered him, "Master to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2021

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Wednesday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Friday: St. Monica
Saturday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Joshua, who helped settle the Israelites into the Promised Land, knew the struggle ahead lay in Israel's fidelity to God. How does anyone best show fidelity to God?

SECOND READING

Toward the end of his letter, Paul takes up the topic of husbands and wives. He speaks of the importance of mutual subordination and love. What do you see as secret to a successful marriage?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus' bread of life discourse ends with the report that "many of Jesus' disciples" no longer followed Jesus. How should we respond to family or friends who choose to walk away from Jesus?



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