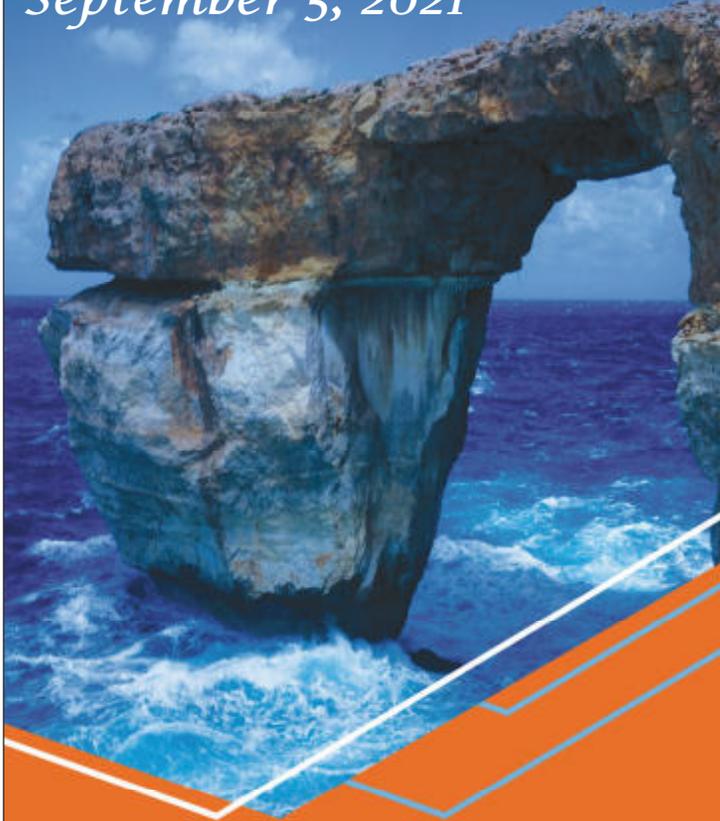


September 5, 2021



23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass: 1989, 1996, 1970-CCD.

VLN

 **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@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  
religiouslyused@stchristopherparishworchester.org

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

**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.





### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

4:00pm Mass

Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Mass

10:00am **For our Parish Family**

Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day)

9:00am Mass

Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

No Mass

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

No Mass

Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Mass

Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Mass

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> (Patriot Day)

4:00pm **Normand Dion, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary,**  
by Family

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

**“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” ~James 2:5**



What is more important—being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions, we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

### 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!**

With the end of our 2021 Partners in Charity Appeal, I want to say . . .

**THANK YOU  
and  
GOD BLESS YOU  
for your gifts, pledges  
and donations  
totaling \$17,404!**



Your gifts, together with all the donations of the parishes throughout the Diocese, will go a long way to help fund the many programs and ministries of the Worcester Diocese.

Please visit [www.partners-charity.net](http://www.partners-charity.net) to see how your gifts are being utilized or to make a donation. Thank you so much!

*Fr. Stanley*

### Earthquake Disaster Relief for Haiti Special Collection this Weekend, September 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>



As you know, Haiti has suffered a disastrous earthquake that has killed hundreds, with many more injured, missing and homeless.

This impoverished nation was still struggling from the deaths of more than 100,000 people in the calamitous 2010 earthquake when the latest earthquake struck.

For the past 25 years, the Diocese of Worcester has had a covenant of support with the Diocese of Les Cayes, which was the epicenter of this recent earthquake. In their tremendous need, our fellow Catholics in Les Cayes need the help of us all at this tragic time. Please be generous in today’s special second collection. Thank you!



Although we still do not know when Religious Education classes will begin (because of having no coordinator or teachers), we still need to know the names and grades of students who would be coming to class—

### **Especially important is Grade One and Grade Two (First Eucharist) and Grade 10 (Confirmation)**

If you have not yet done so, please provide this information to the Parish Office by phone at 508-853-1492, or by email message to [adminasst@stchristopherparishworchester.org](mailto:adminasst@stchristopherparishworchester.org).

Registration forms & other information will follow at a future time. Thank you for your prompt response.

*Fr. Stanley*



O God, to whom all our prayers rise like incense, we thank you for the ability to work and to provide for our families.

Assist us in honoring the laborer and providing a fare wage for all laborers. To work brings us purpose and dignity. In work, the laborer honors you, the One who provides everything we need. We ask you to bless all those who have no opportunity to work. Enliven our hearts to hear their cries for meaningful work and help us to give from our abundance to those who have little. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Dear friends in Christ,*

*“Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.”*

So often have we said or heard these words but what does it mean to remember? A memory is a part of us. The memories of loved ones who have died remain a part of us. To remember is to consciously make them present to us even when they cannot be there in person.

Twenty years have passed since a deep darkness overcame our nation on 9-11 in the horrific suicide attacks in New York City, at the Pentagon and in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Darkness tried to overcome the light as hatred and killing tried to be al Qaeda’s irrational way to lash out at America and at all we represented. Nearly three thousand people died as a result of this senseless and cruel act of terrorism, from innocent victims at work or in travel to many first responders who risked their lives to help those in need.

We will never fully understand and never completely make sense of that fateful and tragic day. Wars and terrorism have continued since 9-11, and new battlegrounds will appear as nations exercise their duty to defend their citizens.

But we must remember this: darkness never ultimately wins. For Christians only the light can be victorious, the Light of Christ which brings eternal rest to those who have died. A Light that brings comfort to those who mourn. And a Light that brings hope for the future that mankind can find alternatives to violence and war. The Light of Christ will always be our source of hope for the ultimate victory of Divine Love over evil and death.

Let us not let this anniversary pass in vain. I would ask you to join me in a moment of silence to remember and pray. Pray that mankind will learn that violence is not the answer. Pray that each one of us will be a light in the world, especially when we are challenged to respond to injustice with the darkness of anger or revenge. Let this moment of remembering and prayer be the tribute we offer to those whose lives were lost.

On this somber anniversary as we prayerfully remember those who died on 9-11 twenty years ago, let us recall that we live and move in the presence of our God who is the Victor over sin and death.

May God grant our beloved dead eternal rest with the angels and saints in the new and eternal Jerusalem. Amen.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

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

**ST. CHRISTOPHER’S RETIRED CLUB**

**Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>! Call Liz Knott at 508-852-2348 for more information.

**Our best wishes and blessings for a successful and rewarding school year!**



**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Our Lady of Loreto Parish  
 37 Massasoit Road, Worcester  
 Nine Consecutive Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

This year’s dates and speakers are:

- September. 7<sup>th</sup>—Rev. Frederick D. Fraini
- September 14<sup>th</sup>—Rev. Nicholas Desimone
- September 21<sup>st</sup>—Rev. Alfredo R. Porras
- September 28<sup>th</sup>—Rev. Walter J. Riley
- October 5<sup>th</sup>—Bishop Robert McManus
- October 12<sup>th</sup>—Deacon Paul T. Audette
- October 19<sup>th</sup>—Deacon Donald J. Pegg
- October 26<sup>th</sup>—Msgr. James P. Moroney
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>—Rev. Richard W. Polek

**Holy Hour to Pray for Priests**  
**Immaculate Conception Church**

**353 Grove Street, Worcester  
 Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m.**



This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. This holy hour is held every second Friday of the month.

**Our Lady of the Lake Church  
 1400 Main Street (Route. 13), North Leominster  
 Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 5-10 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Noon-10 p.m.**  
 Kids’ Alley, homemade pie & ice cream, games & prizes, raffles, fresh food booths, white elephant booth, and so much more!





Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of August 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	\$ 1,555
Deficit:	(\$ 1,732)
Fuel:	\$ 219
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$20,034

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/20-8/31/21): \$167,637  
 Year-to Date Collections: 106,722  
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 29,531  
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$ 31,384)

This weekend's special collection is for  
*Parish Renovation & Maintenance.*  
 Today's second collection is a special for  
*Earthquake Disaster Relief for Haiti.*  
 Next weekend's special collection is for  
*Religious Education.*  
**Thank you for your continued support!**

**80 #s are reserved ... 20 #s to go!!!**

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 likely 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. Dues can also be mailed in 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, along with your dues of \$20, to request a 50/50 number. We will then contact you to choose your lucky #!! Envelopes are available at the church entrances.

-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power.



The messages we receive and process tell us what we are "supposed" to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn't take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life's unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it's really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life's incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God's story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope.

***Remember the words of Julian of Norwich:  
 God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us.  
 Now, listen to God when He says, "be opened!"  
 Be healed and allow your stories to change.***

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**17th Annual St. Peter's Golf Tournament**  
**Ellinwood Country Club, Athol, MA**  
**Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**



\$85/player must be received before 9/21. Sponsorships available. Call Mike Schlosser at 978-249-6175.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### FIRST READING:

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute will sing. (Is 35:5-6)

### PSALM:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)  
Or Alleluia.

### SECOND READING:

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world  
to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom  
that he promised to those who love him? (Jas 2:5)

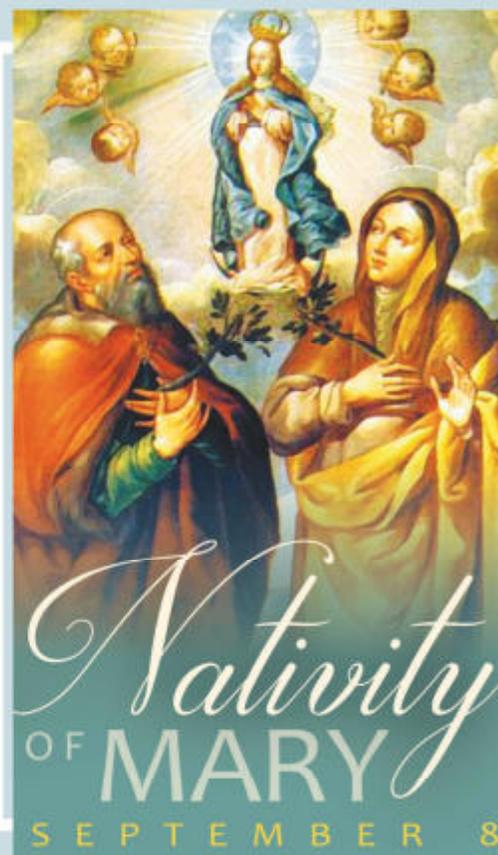
### GOSPEL:

"He has done all things well.  
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." (Mk 7:37)

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### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: Labor Day  
Wednesday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Thursday: St. Peter Claver, Priest  
Saturday: BVM; Patriot Day  
Next Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time' Grandparents' Day



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the importance of being strong of heart when it comes the ways of God. Why do you think this is such an important virtue?

### SECOND READING

James encouraged believers to view the rich and poor from God's perspective. Why do you think people struggle with this divine point of view?

### GOSPEL READING

In today's reading, we hear how Jesus healed the deaf man with a speech impediment at the request of the "people" close to this man. Who do you know in your life who needs healing from Jesus?

O LORD,  
MY HEART  
IS OPEN  
WIDE FOR  
YOU.

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