



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
Kim Fitzpatrick - Coordinator
508-853-3302
religiously@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

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.

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.





Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 26th

8:00am **Frank Loftus,**
by Family

10:00am **Phyllis Carrigan,**
by St. Christopher's Bingo

Monday, December 27th

No Mass

Tuesday, December 28th

No Mass

Wednesday, December 29th

No Mass

Thursday, December 30th

9:00am **Mass**

Friday, December 31st

9:00am **Mass**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 1st (Holy Day)

9:00am For our Parish Family
(No 4:00pm Mass)

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2nd

8:00am Brian Cerullo, 5th Anniversary,
by Karen & Kim Cerullo

10:00am Raymond Gromko,
by Paul Leroux



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!



January 1st celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

The Gospel says that "Mary kept all these things (all the events and messages surrounding Jesus' birth) and reflected on them in her heart."

As we begin a New Year, perhaps we might make a resolution: to take more time in prayer to reflect in our hearts, on Mary and the awesome responsibility she had of being the Mother of God, and the grace given her by God for saying "yes" to his will.

May her holiness and dedication inspire us this New Year to be more faithful in our prayer, service, and dedication in giving ourselves to and saying "yes" to the Lord and His will for us.

Especially on this Feast of the Holy Family....

"May God bless you, keep you, and be gracious to you" and your family throughout the New Year.

Fr. Stanley

MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Friday, December 31st ~ New Year's Eve

No evening Mass

Saturday, January 1st
Holy Day

9:00 a.m. Mass
(No 4:00 p.m. Mass)



Solemnity of the
Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2nd
Mass at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

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 & fruit cocktail.



Sunday, December 26th

No classes due to the Christmas holiday.

Sunday, January 2nd

No classes due to the New Year's holiday.

*We wish our students, families
and teachers a very blessed
Christmas season
and a Happy New Year!*



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S RETIRED CLUB

This month our group made a \$200 donation to McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys, Inc. for the youth in need. Thank you for your donations!

The Retired Club will not meet during the winter months of January & February.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 16th at 1 p.m.

People of any ages are invited to join this social group dedicated to fellowship, charitable causes, and parish support . . .



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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, the parishes in our diocese will participate in the national collection for **The Catholic University of America** in Washington, D.C. Established in 1887, the university is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy and theology.

Catholic University is helping to renew and strengthen the Church. The university has always been the research institution where the Church comes to think. For example, by creating an Institute for Diocesan Excellence in Administration (IDEA), where lay scholars and professionals can support clergy by providing expertise and accountability in the areas of education, finance, canon law and culture, Catholic University serves as a springboard in renewing and strengthening Catholicism in our country.

Catholic University is committed to excellence in teaching and research. With its 12 schools and 23 research centers, the university provides an exceptional Catholic education to almost 7,000 students annually. The university prepares students to respond to the many issues facing the Church and society today by way of its many programs, such as those in ethical business practices; classical architecture; intelligence studies; neuroscience; nursing; Hispanic ministry; social service; and Catholic bioethics.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America to be taken up on the weekend of January 2, 2022.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed New Year, I remain

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

This Week

Sunday, December 26th

Sunday Masses

8:00 & 10:00am

Church

NO Religious Education Classes

NO Religious Education Office Hours

Monday, December 27th

NO 9:00am Mass

6:30-8:30pm

Church Hall

Wachusett Community Band Practice

Tuesday, December 28th

NO Religious Education Office Hours

Catholic Scouting Award Class

7:00-9:00pm

Church Hall

Thursday, December 30th

Scout Troop 9 Meeting

7:00-9:00pm

Church Hall

Friday, December 31st (New Year's Eve)

NO Bingo

Saturday, January 1st (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Holy Day Mass

9:00am

Church

NO 4:00pm Mass

Sunday, January 2nd

Sunday Masses

8:00 & 10:00am

Church

NO Religious Education Classes

NO Religious Education Office Hours



Weekly Goal:	\$ 3,287
Weekend of December 11 th & 12 th :	\$ 4,839
Surplus:	\$ 1,552
Holy Day - Immaculate Conception:	\$ 236
Retirement Fund for Religious:	\$ 561
Air Conditioning (to date):	\$20,709

Year-to-Date Budget (FY 9/1/21-8/31/22): \$49,305
 Year-to Date Collections: 38,221
 Year-to Date Electronic Payments: 9,164
 Year-to Date Deficit: (\$1,920)

Next weekend's special collection is for
The Catholic University of America.
 Envelopes for *Parish Renovation and Maintenance* will also be collected next week.

A special thank you for your continued support of our parish throughout this past year!



“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.”
 ~1 John 3:1

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received—being children of God!
 As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day!
 Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

Part-time Cook needed in Worcester

Duties include basic home cooking three afternoons/week, grocery shopping, and cleaning up from dinner. If interested, call Msgr. Robert Johnson at Holy Family Parish on Hamilton St. at 508-754-6722.



The winner for week 1 (12/13/21):

#76 — Terri Wilder

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the winner for 12/20/21 will be reported in next weekend's bulletin.

Good luck to all our 50/50 members!

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well.



Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the “light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families.” While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love.

The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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Annual Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

Assumption University, Worcester Saturday, April 2, 2022

Visit www.firstmensconf.org for tickets or info. Tickets are \$45 until 3/21; Student tickets are \$30.



SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

PSALM:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

SECOND READING:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

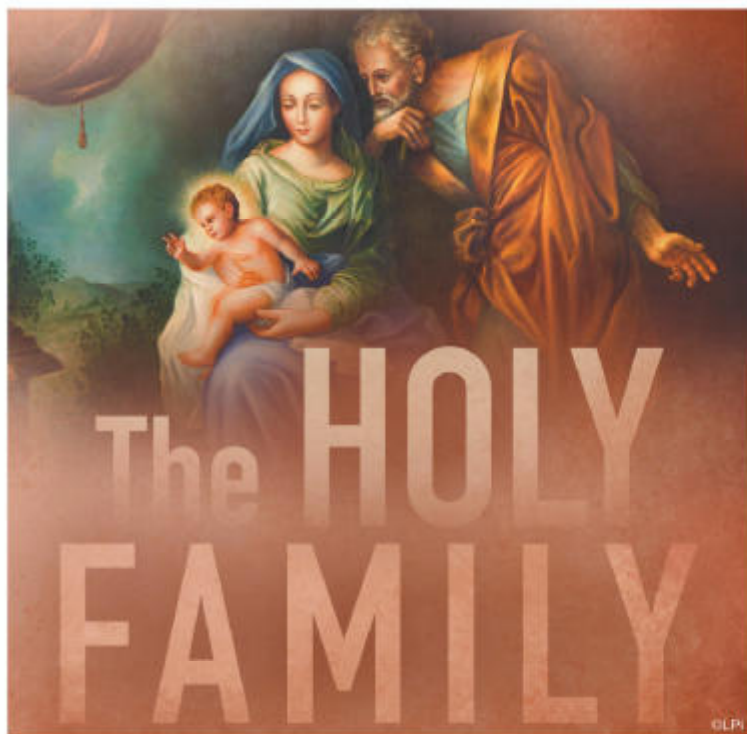
GOSPEL:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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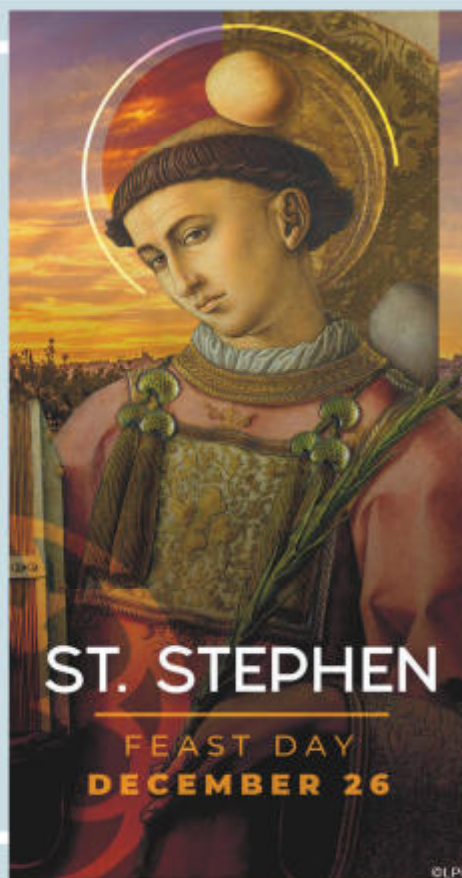
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday:	The Holy Family
Monday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Tuesday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Friday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Saturday:	New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
Next Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church



THE HOLY FAMILY

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Saint of the Week

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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