



St. Christopher Parish

January 7, 2018

St. Christopher Church

Fr. Richard Kelley, Pastor

Rev. Thien Nguyen,

Vietnamese Ministry

62 Manchester St.

Nashua, New Hampshire 03064

(603) 882-0632

parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org

www.stchrisparishnh.org

St. Christopher School

Mrs. Cindy Clarke, Principal

Grades PreK - 6

20 Cushing Ave.

Nashua, New Hampshire 03064

(603) 882-7442

(603)594-9253 fax

www.stchrisschoolnh.org

Worship Schedule

Morning Prayer	7:00 AM Weekdays
Daily Mass	7:15 AM Weekdays
Saturday Vigil	4:00 PM
Sunday Mass	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Vietnamese Mass	3:00 PM Sunday
Confessions	3:00-3:30 PM Saturday
Rosary	7:00 PM Tuesday
Eucharistic Adoration	1:00-4:00 PM
	1st Friday of the Month
	September - June

Welcome New Parishioners! If you would like to register or you have changed your address, please fill out the form on page 5. Those moving from the parish are also asked to contact the rectory. Thank you!

The Epiphany of the Lord

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is that they brought three gifts? The Bible never says their number or their names. The gifts tell us about the givers. And these special gifts--gold, frankincense, and myrrh--tell us much. When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. So the first gift of the wise men tells us they recognized Jesus as King. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. So this gift shows the wise men paying homage to Jesus' divinity. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. It reminds us of Jesus suffering and death on the cross.

So what gifts do we have for Jesus? Maybe we can take a hint from the wise men. If we acknowledge Jesus as king, maybe a better gift than gold would be to pledge our obedience to him. Each day we can promise to live our vocation as best we can, to love those around us, and forgive those who hurt us.

A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. Some people are able to attend daily Mass, others spend time in adoration before the Eucharist, or even a few minutes of their lunch break to say the rosary. As for the gift of myrrh, we can give Jesus the crosses we bear each day. When we accept suffering in our lives, especially that caused by our sins, we give ourselves to Jesus as he gave himself for us on the cross.

The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive. Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Our Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all of the people and programs of St. Christopher Parish. Unite us as a community of believers and grant us the wisdom, grace, and strength to do your will. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

Our Mission

We are a Roman Catholic parish whose members live and proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

St. Christopher Church serves as a spiritual home where all are welcome to share in its ongoing commitment to providing opportunities for

- Worship through the celebration of the Sacraments,
- Service through active and compassionate participation in the community,
- Education in God's Word and the Catholic faith, and
- Fellowship through parish events that nurture and support family life.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6

4:00 PM For Parish Intentions

Sunday, January 7

8:00 AM Angela Jannalfo
by Dan & Sue Tracy

10:00 AM Larry Jones
by St. Christopher RCIA

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

Monday, January 8

7:15 AM For Parish Intentions

Tuesday, January 9

7:15 AM Rev. William F. Lucey
by Family & Friends

Wednesday, January 10

7:15 AM My mother Teresa, for
God's blessing and grace
needed in her old age

Thursday, January 11

7:15 AM Craig Levesque
by His Parents, Maurice &
Michelle Levesque

Friday, January 12

7:15 AM Robert Dupuis
by the Finance Committee

Saturday, January 13

4:00 PM David A. Rock II, 1st Anniv.
by Mr. & Mrs. Jay Coffey
& Family

Sunday, January 14

8:00 AM Pearl Oliver
by Her Daughter, Sandra

10:00 AM Thomas F. Koitzsch
by His Wife, Dorothy

3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Craig Levesque
by His parents, Maurice & Michelle
Levesque

Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread and Wine, which
will become the Body and Blood of
Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses
during January, will be offered for
Parish Intentions.

*Arrangements can be made to donate the
monthly Altar bread and wine in honor
of a loved one by contacting the rectory
at 882-0632 during business hours. Mass
intentions can also be scheduled by
calling the rectory.*



THANK YOU - Christmas of 2017 is now history, but I want to thank the many people who worked so hard in order to help bring the saving message of Jesus Christ to the people of the parish.

I especially want to thank Linda Sanborn and the people who worked with her in decorating the church. This involves not only setting up and decorating but it also involves much planning as well. I thank Carol Ann Skabo and the two choirs (adult and children) for the beautiful music which also involves a tremendous amount of time in planning and in rehearsals. I thank all of our Liturgical Ministries plus Michael Richards who is always assisting me every step of the way.

I know that many of our parishioners were very generous in this year's Christmas Appeal. This collection is vital to the financial stability of the parish and I thank those who were so generous.

May the Lord continue to watch over and bless Saint Christopher Parish.

AMERICAN PRIEST ONE STEP CLOSER

TO SAINTHOOD - In 2017, two American priests were beatified by the church. In October, Fr. Stanley Rother, who was murdered in Guatemala in 1981, was beatified in Oklahoma City which is where he came from. In November, Fr. Solanus Casey was beatified in Detroit, Michigan, the city where he died in 1957. Both are role-models for priests everywhere.

A few weeks ago Pope Francis advanced the Sainthood cause for another American priest, as well as a Cardinal from Poland. A few brief words about each of them:

- **The American priest: Fr. Patrick Peyton (1909-1992).** During his lifetime, he was more popularly known as the 'Rosary Priest'. He was born in Ireland but came to the USA as a teenager. After working in New York City and in Pennsylvania, he pursued his dream of being a priest and entered

the seminary for the Holy Cross Fathers. He was ordained in 1941 in the Chapel at the Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. During most of his priesthood, he was a Catholic Evangelist for the Rosary, preaching about its value to literally millions of people around the world. He coined the expression 'The family that prays together, stays together'. Fr. Peyton died in 1992 and he is buried at the Holy Cross Fathers Cemetery which is on the campus of Stonehill College in North Easton, Massachusetts.

- **Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński (1901-1981)** was the Cardinal Primate of Poland from 1949 until his death in 1981. He frequently spoke out against the horrors of the Nazis and the Communists. Many people consider him as the one person who kept the country together during these difficult years. He was the archbishop of Warsaw and during that period of time, he was imprisoned for a period of three years by the Communists. Cardinal Wyszyński was also a mentor and friend to Father Karol Wojtyła who later became Pope John Paul II. Former Polish President Lech Walesa credited Cardinal Wyszyński with laying the groundwork for the rise of the Polish trade union, Solidarity, and the eventual fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

I pray that the lives and example of both of these people may serve as an inspiration to all peoples everywhere.

FORMER VIETNAMESE REFUGEE

BECOMES A BISHOP - The Diocese of Orange, California is receiving a new Auxiliary Bishop in the person of Fr. Thanh Thai Nguyen. As a young man, he was forced to flee his native country of Vietnam,

**From the Pastor, continued on
page 4**

St. Christopher School Open Houses in January

Sunday, January 28
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Tuesday, January 30
9:30 - 11:00 AM

Interested in a St. Christopher School education for your child or grandchild? Stop by our January Open Houses for prospective students and their families! The first will take place on Sunday, January 28 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, immediately following school/parish Coffee Hour! A second Open House will be held during Catholic Schools Week on Tuesday, January 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Meet the teachers and staff, tour the school and get all your questions answered!

Parents of PreKindergarten to grade 6 students will appreciate the emphasis on outstanding academics built on a strong Catholic moral and spiritual foundation. Classrooms and school facilities are light and bright and feature the latest in educational technology. Service and extracurricular opportunities are an integral part of a St. Chris education and parents (and grandparents!) are always welcome.

For more information, visit the school's website at www.StChrisSchoolNH.org.

Corpus Christi Corner

Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance, located at 43 Franklin Street, will soon be moving to their new location at 3 Crown Street, the former Infant Jesus Convent. The last full day of services at the Franklin Street address will be Thursday, January 4th. The pantry will open at the Crown Street location on Monday, January 22nd. Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance is forever grateful to everyone for their generosity and donations which enable us to help those in need of our services in the Nashua community. For more information about Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance, please go to our website: corpuschristifoodpantry.org.

Winter Weather Worries

Winter weather is here and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. But parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating costs and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Check out our simple, safe and secure online Faith Direct giving program at www.faithdirect.net. Sign in using our parish code NH10. Currently 46 families are giving online. Please consider joining that growing number of dedicated givers! We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget.

This Week's Parish Activities

Saturday, January 6, 2018

Confessions @3:00pm
Vigil Mass @4:00pm

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Sunday Mass @8:00am
Sunday Mass @10:00am
Vietnamese Mass @3:00pm
Youth Group Meeting @6:00pm

Monday, January 8, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass
Canceled Senior Yoga @8:00am

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass
The Catholic Daughters of Americas meeting @6:30pm
Baptismal Class @7:00pm
Rosary @7:00pm

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass

Thursday, January 11, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass
Boy Scout #773 @7:00pm

Friday, January 12, 2018

7:15 am Morning Mass

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Confessions @3:00pm
Vigil Mass @4:00pm

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Sunday Mass @8:00am
Sunday Mass @10:00am
Carmelite Meeting @12:00pm
Vietnamese Mass @3:00pm
Youth Group Meeting @6:00pm

We're Here for YOU at St. Christopher Parish!

Rectory Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00

Rectory Phone:

882-0632

Email:

parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org

Parish Life - Linda Sanborn

lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org

Bookkeeper - Jean Dickson

bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org

Director of Music & Organist -

Carol Ann Skabo

music@stchrisparishnh.org

Religious Educ. - Christine Mercurio

cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org

Confirmation - Deacon Jim Daly

deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org

RCIA - Joe Mercurio

rcia@stchrisparishnh.org

Youth Ministry - Emily Murphy

youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org

Parish Council - Elizabeth Cote

ecote@stchrisparishnh.org

Finance Committee -- Tom Nardone

tnardone.work@gmail.com

Bulletin - Marta Nissen

bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org

Bulletin submissions are due one week before publication.



**Like St. Chris Parish
on Facebook!**



**Join our Parish
Email List!**



December 25, 2017 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$17,722.00
Loose Offertory	\$2,499.22
Previously Collected	\$2,895.00
Total	\$23,116.22

Retirement Religious	\$110.00
(total to date \$1,922.52)	
Christmas Flowers	\$71.00
(total to date \$1,771.00)	
Snow Removal	\$10.00
(total to date \$110.00)	

December 31, 2017 Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$4,697.00
Loose Offertory	\$685.86
Children's Offertory	\$2.00
Faith Direct	\$1,149.00
Total	\$6,533.86

Christmas Offertory	\$2,580.00
(total to date \$25,696.22)	
Solemnity of Mary	\$536.00
(total to date \$591.00)	
Retirement Religious	\$20.00
(total to date \$1,942.52)	
Fuel Collection	\$420.00
(total to date \$2,059.00)	
Seminarian Fund	\$25.00
(total to date \$45.00)	
Catholic Education	\$25.00
(total to date \$35.00)	
European/African Church Aid	\$25.00
(total to date \$35.00)	
Snow Removal	\$35.00
(total to date \$145.00)	

**Thank you
for supporting
your Spiritual Home!**

FROM THE PASTOR cont'd.

spending 18 days at sea without food or water in a boat with others trying to flee the violence of the war. He and his family became part of 3 million refugees who survived but were displaced from their native land and were among two million refugees who resettled in the United States.

For a number of years, he was a math and science teacher in Connecticut before entering the seminary to study for the priesthood. He was ordained in 1991 for the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette. In the years that followed, he served in Georgia and Florida.

Bishop Nguyen's appointment comes at a time when anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment in the USA seems to be on the upswing. Bishop Nguyen, who was in refugee camps in the Philippines for 10 months before arriving in the USA, said politicians should 'put listening to the story of a human being into their decision making'. He also encouraged policies to 'help refugees and migrants to have the opportunity to live as human beings as was the case for me'.

This is something for all of us to think about!

MARCH FOR LIFE - The annual March for Life in Washington, DC will take place on Friday, January 19th. I have participated in these annual marches 17 times in the past. They have been fabulous experiences, they have deepened my faith and helped me grow spiritually; but due to the physical demands that it entails, I can no longer do it. By attending, I would probably hinder and slow up the participation of younger people and I will simply will not do that.

On Friday evening, January 19th, we will have a Holy Hour for Life here at the parish and I hope that as many people as possible are able to attend.

The Opening Mass for the March for Life which takes place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will take place on Thursday evening, January 18 beginning at 5:30 PM. It will be televised on EWTN. Coverage of the March itself on January 19th will be televised on EWTN as well. I encourage you to watch it.

PRAYERS - Please remember in your prayers Ted Hood. His funeral Mass was held here this past week.

Religious Education News

Sunday Morning Class 8:30-9:45 AM

- January 7** - Regular class
- January 14** - NO Class, MLK Day
- January 21** - Regular class

Monday Evening Jr High Class 6:30-7:45 PM

- January 8**- Regular Class
- January 15** - NO Class, MLK Day
- January 22** - Regular class

Thank Again!

Many thanks to everyone who donated Christmas cards for our Religious Ed Service project. All of our students in the program from pre-k through 8th grade put their creative spirits to work. Our final tally was 235 cards which were hand created/decorated using our donated card supplies. These completed cards were delivered during the days leading up to Christmas. Many elderly residents around the area received a card to wish them a very Merry Christmas! Thank you to all who participated!

Yoga for Seniors on Monday!

Have you thought about becoming a little more active to improve your overall health? Consider joining the St. Christopher Yoga for Seniors class on Monday mornings at 8:00 am in the Church Hall. Yoga for Seniors is a class that moves the whole body through a series of seated and standing yoga poses to increase flexibility and range of motion, improve balance and core strength, and help promote stress reduction and mental clarity. Classes are provided free of charge to St. Christopher's seniors. Please regularly check the bulletin or the www.stchrisparishnh.org web site for the up-to-date schedule. If school is cancelled or delayed due to weather, there will not be a class that day.

Upcoming class schedule:

January 8 – NO CLASS
 January 15 – Yoga Class 8:00 am
 January 22 – Yoga Class 8:00 am
 January 29 – NO CLASS

Youth Group News

This Week: The youth group will be discussing the morality and reality of abortion this week, as a segue to the NH March for Life on Saturday, January 13th. See you in the Pennell Center on January 7th at 6pm. For any questions, email Emily Murphy at youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org.

Middle School Retreat - Sometimes, God can seem like nothing more than a subject in school. We learn about Him, but it can be hard to experience Him and His infinite love. If you're searching for God's powerful love in your life, why not try to find Him at the Rivier Retreat? It's a day full of dynamic speakers, encountering God in prayer, and sharing your faith journey with your friends. The retreat will be held at Rivier University on Sunday, February 4th. If you're a middle schooler interested in attending, please contact Emily Murphy at youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org.



From the Families of Nazareth

Do You Take the Time Out To Seek the Messiah?

"A person who is preoccupied with himself and his own illusory treasures, or that which contaminates the soul, prevents himself from hearing the sound of the Lord's knocking. Such an individual responds to God by saying: 'Not now. I'm busy...maybe later. Right now I do not have time.'"

S.C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ*, (Ft. Collins, CO: IAMF, 2005), 5.

Join our regular Thursday night schedule of meetings at 94 Walden Pond Dr., Nashua to pray and share together our experiences of God's love, and support our responses to that. We begin at 7:00 PM, and look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend.

Diocesan Camps Accepting Applications

Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2018 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes Region of NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children, ages 6-15. To request a brochure contact Michael Drumm at 603-364-5851 or e-mail mdrumm@bfcamp.com, or visit us on the web at www.bfcamp.com. Please don't wait as sessions fill up quickly.

Holy Family Academy Open House

Holy Family Academy is holding an Open House on Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM for prospective students, parents, and anyone interested in learning about the Academy. Holy Family Academy is an affordable Catholic school teaching grades 7-12 in the classical tradition. Holy Family is located at 281 Cartier Street Manchester, NH 03102.

For more information, please visit the website at www.holyfamilyacademy.org or call 644-7247.



*Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
 Protect them as they protect us.
 Bless them and their families,
 For the selfless acts they perform,
 For us in our time of need.
 And give us peace.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 Our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

Please pray for the following service people from our parish:

Children of William & Yvette Berthelotte:
 Maj. Brian Berthelotte (Army);
 Maj. Mark Berthelotte (Air Force);
 LCDR Brad Berthelotte (Navy)

Grandson of William & Yvette Berthelotte:
 PFC Matthew Berthelotte (Marine)

Son of John & Alana Kocsis:
 Sgt. John Kocsis III (Army)

Son of Joseph & Sue Strob:
 Maj. Rob Strob

Grandsons of Pat & Kaye Heffernan:
 Sgt. Eamonn Garber (USMC)
 LCPL Nicholas Garber (USMC)

Son of David & Patricia Taylor:
 SFC James Taylor (Army)

Grandson of Lorraine St. Pierre
 PFC Alexander St. Pierre (Army)

Sons of Laurie Allard and Grandsons of Madeleine Kopka:
 AT2 Michael Allard (Navy)
 AME2 Joseph Allard (Navy)

Daughter of John Soltis:
 Lt.Col. Kristen Soltis (USAF)

Son-in-law of John Soltis:
 Lt.Co.I James Habeck(USAF)

Grandchildren of Dan & Sue Tracy:
 2Lt Brittany DesLauriers (Army)
 PV2 Gavin Tracy (US Army)

January 7
(died 1275)

**St. Christopher Parish
Community Outreach**

Parish Prayer Line
*Overwhelmed by life, by care?
May we help with our prayer?*

St. Christopher's Prayer Line --
24/7 from us to Heaven!

Call the Prayer Line
(Coordinator Maureen Brown)
882-8634

Go online to
www.stchrisparishnh.org

Send email to
prayerhotline@
stchrisparishnh.org

Prayer Shawls

Our prayer shawl ministry, Creating for our Community, gathers once a month to knit, crochet, and pray as they create beautiful prayer shawls. If you know of someone who could benefit from the gift of a Prayer Shawl, whether they are having difficult time, or simply need the comfort of Prayer wrapped around their shoulders, please contact the rectory at 882-0632.

Outreach Ministry

If you are homebound and cannot attend Mass and would like to receive communion, please call the Rectory 882-0632.

Senior Companions

Are you homebound? Would you enjoy a visit? Your parish wants to stay connected with you! If St. Christopher is your spiritual home, how about a visit from one of your fellow parishioners? To arrange a visit, please call the Rectory at 882-0632.

St. Raymond of Penafort

Raymond was born in a little town called Penafort near Barcelona, Spain and his family belonged to Aragonian nobility. He studied at the cathedral school in Barcelona and became a famous teacher of Philosophy when he was twenty. After Raymond became a priest he studied law in Bologna, Italy and became a lawyer. Then he joined the Dominican order in 1218.

In 1230, Pope Gregory IX asked this dedicated priest to come to Rome. When Raymond arrived, the pope gave him several duties. One duty was to collect all the official letters of the popes since 1150. Raymond gathered and published five volumes and also helped to write the Church law.

In 1238, Raymond was elected master general of the Dominicans. With his knowledge of law, he went over the Order's Rule and made sure everything was legally correct. After he had finished, he resigned his position in 1240 so that he could truly dedicate the rest of his life to parish work. That is what he really wanted.

The pope wanted to make Raymond an archbishop, but Raymond refused. He asked if he could return to Spain and was given permission. He was overjoyed to be in parish work. His compassion helped many people return to God through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

During his years in Rome, Raymond often heard stories of the difficulties that missionaries faced trying to reach non-Christians of Northern Africa and Spain. To help the missionaries, Raymond started a school that taught the language and culture of the people to be evangelized.

Also, Father Raymond asked the famous Dominican, St. Thomas Aquinas, to write a booklet explaining the truths of faith in a way that nonbelievers could understand.

St. Raymond lived nearly one hundred years and died in Barcelona on January 6, 1275. He was declared the patron of Church lawyers because of his great influence on Church law.

<http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/>

Welcome!

St. Christopher Parish welcomes all visitors to our Spiritual Home! If you are interested in joining the parish, please complete the form below and either drop it in the Offertory Basket or mail it to the Rectory. One of our Parish staff members will be in touch. Registration forms are also available online at www.StChrisParishNH.org.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**



Family Connection to this Week's Gospel

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

Reprinted from <http://www.loyolapress.com>

About Our Catholic Faith:

The Epiphany of the Lord

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Reprinted from <http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

Prayer to Saint Michael

With so many challenges confronting us these days, we need help and strength to meet them head on. Please join us in praying daily that through the intercession of Saint Michael, we will remain faithful and strong in the Lord's service and in defending the Truth which resides in the Church!

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.

In the Words of
Pope Francis

"Go out to meet Jesus, spend time with Him in prayer, and entrust your whole life to His merciful love."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex
December 19, 2017**