

Dear Parishioner,

St. Christopher Parish is a community of faith made up of members with many and varied gifts and talents. You are an important part of our community. Through our Baptism we are called to share our gifts and talents with one another to build up God's Kingdom here on earth. With this in mind, I encourage you to consider some involvement in the life of our parish.

If you are new to St. Christopher, I would like to welcome you to our community. We believe we have a great deal to offer and we hope you might find some way to share your gifts and talents with us.

If you are among those members who are currently active in the life of the parish, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your involvement. I encourage you to continue to share your gifts and talents with us whether in the same ministry or in another ministry in the parish.

If you are a member of the parish but have not been involved, I would like to invite you to consider a way that you might contribute your talents and gifts to support the life of our community.

Whatever your case, it takes all of us working together to make St. Christopher a vibrant parish community. On the reverse side of this page is a listing of volunteer opportunities that are available along with a contact person for each ministry. Maybe you can find one that interests you. Further information about these ministries is also available on our website, www.stchrisonline.com. Once on the website, click the Parish Handbook tab for more information.

May God bless us all in our ministry as we work together as members of St. Christopher Parish Community to build up God's Kingdom here on earth.

Fr. John C. Chlebo
Pastor

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St. Christopher Parish

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Rev. John C. Chlebo - Pastor
Rev. Richard Bona - Associate Pastor
Rev. Timothy M. Daw - Associate Pastor
Rev. Edward F. Prendergast - Pastor Emeritus
Mrs. Marianne Betters - Pastoral Associate
Ms. Gayle Cilimburg - Pastoral Associate
Mr. Christian Fisher - Music Director
Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ - R.C.I.A. Coordinator
Mrs. Laura Peltz - PSR Principal/Youth Minister
Sr. Patricia Twohig, CSJ - School Principal
Mrs. Judie Boland - Parish Secretary
Ms. Carol Juniewicz – Facilities Manager
Mrs. Pam Homma - Business Manager

Mission Statement

*We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church,
A spirited community of faith dedicated to . . .
Welcome, Celebrate, Care and Grow
. . . in the image and likeness of Jesus*

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evenings: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon

Monday - Friday: 7:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Confessions:

Saturday 3:30 p.m. – 4:30p.m. or by appointment

Rectory Office Hours:

Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Other Parish Phone Numbers:

School Office (440) 331-3075

Religious Education Office (440) 331-6226

Youth Ministry (440) 331-6226

Sacramental Information

Parish Registration: New members are asked to register at their earliest convenience by calling the parish office. Parishioners who are moving are also asked to notify the parish office.

Baptisms: Celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 1:00 p.m. or at any weekend liturgy. Parents should be members of the parish community and need to attend a pre-Baptism Class. Call the parish office to arrange all Baptisms or to learn the dates for the classes.

Marriage: Please consult with parish priest at least 6 months before the date selected to allow for the necessary preparation. The bride or groom (or parents of the bride and groom) should be members of the parish.

Holy Orders and Religious Life: Any person who is considering a call to the priesthood or religious life should contact one of the Parish Staff members at any time.

Funerals: Arrangements are made with the help of a Funeral Director who will assist in contacting the parish office to arrange a time for a Funeral Mass before any notice is placed in the newspaper.

Adult Converts: Adults interested in the Catholic faith are invited to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Meetings are Mondays from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. beginning in the Fall and continuing a few weeks after Easter. A Children's Catechumenate is also available for young people who need to prepare to become Catholic. Call the Parish Office for details.

Care of the Infirm and Aging: We are happy to bring the Eucharist or to provide the Anointing of the Sick to the homebound. Contact the Parish Office.

PSR Classes: Pre-K to Grade 8: Sundays 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., mid-September through mid-May. Information/registration call the Religious Education Office.

CLOW Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for children ages 5 to 10 is offered during the 9 am Sunday Mass to allow children to hear and discuss the Scripture Readings on their level.

Counseling Faith-based, professional counseling is available for mental health, personal growth and relationship issues. Please contact Marianne Betters at the Parish Office.

ADVISORY GROUPS

Parish Pastoral Council

“Establish within yourself a heart of good counsel. . . But above all these things, pray to the Most High that he may direct your way in truth.” Sirach 37: 17-19

Purpose: Assist the pastor in the pastoral planning (including development of long-range goals) for our parish community. Represent our Council at diocesan meetings. Assist the commissions as required.

Commitment: A minimum of one meeting per month. Additional meetings may be required for executive committee or commission representative.

Preparation: Prayerfully prepare for each meeting.

Parish Finance Council

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

Purpose: Assist the pastor in the financial management of the parish. Prepare budgets and advise on investments for the parish.

Commitment: Council meets 8-10 times annually. In addition, members are also asked to serve on subcommittees for particular purposes. Term of membership is three years and is renewable.

Preparation: No particular training takes place. Members are chosen on their expertise in the area of finance and management.

CARING MINISTRY

As serving and caring people reflecting a compassionate Lord, we are committed to the care and support of human life in all its stages, to strengthening the family and to work for justice.

Parish Newsletter – Belltower Beacon

“ . . . Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Purpose: To create a quarterly newsletter which informs, welcomes, and inspires St. Christopher community.

Commitment: Volunteer opportunities: Writers of articles, researchers, proofreaders, photographers of parish events, and other follow-up assignments as needed.

Preparation: Quarterly planning meetings are held for each issue. Other meetings may be held as needed to make assignments and meet deadlines for each issue. Former newsletter experience a plus, but not necessary.

Ministry with the Sick/Aging/Bereaved/Divorced

“I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13: 34-35

Purpose: To provide support to those who are sick or suffering and experiencing difficult or transitional times in their lives.

Commitment:

Ministers who take Eucharist to the homebound

Ministers take Eucharist to the homebound on a weekly basis.

Normandy Nursing Home (Mass)

Ministers assist in assembling residents for Mass the third Tuesday of each month and serve as lectors or eucharistic ministers. Each month one person serves in the role of coordinator.

Normandy Nursing Home (Praying the Rosary)

Every Tuesday, except on the monthly Mass date, volunteers lead the praying of the rosary with residents.

Normandy Nursing Home (Sunday Communion Service)

Ministers are scheduled on a rotating basis, generally once a month, periodically serving in the role of coordinator who prepares the service and designates those who will serve as eucharistic ministers and lectors. Volunteers also assist in gathering residents together in the meeting area.

Sunrise Assisted Living Facility (Wednesday Communion Service)

Ministers are scheduled on a rotating basis, assist with gathering the residents together in the meeting area and serve as eucharistic ministers or lectors.

Sunrise Assisted Living Facility (Praying the Rosary)

Every Thursday volunteers lead the rosary with residents.

Prayer Support (Ministry of Praise)

For those who are sick, disabled or anyone over age 60. Members receive a monthly newsletter and pray for the current needs of the parish at home on a daily basis.

Hospital Visitation

Volunteers visit parishioners who are hospitalized in one of our three local hospitals.

Telephone Support

Volunteers phone sick and homebound parishioners for 1-2 hours every other week from the rectory office on a day of their choice.

Nursing Home Visitation

Volunteers spend 1-2 hours a month visiting parishioners who reside in area nursing homes.

Funeral Ministry

Members attend funeral Masses to support the family of the deceased and serve as liturgical ministers if needed.

Support Group Facilitators

Specially trained parishioners facilitate ten-week groups in both bereavement and divorce ministry. Groups in both areas are typically held once or twice each year.

Preparation: Volunteers who minister in any of the above areas receive training provided within the parish specific to that ministry.

Social Concerns Committee

“Let love be sincere, hate what is evil, hold on to what is good, love one another with mutual affection. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” St. Paul’s letter to the Romans 12: 9-11

Purpose: To offer concerned parishioners the opportunity to foster love and caring by studying social and moral issues, offering solutions and taking positive action toward promoting justice and charity.

Commitment: A desire to grow spiritually and deepen personal faith by serving those in need. Some of the opportunities include the following: Food Collection, Church in the City, Saturday Meal at St. Colman, G.I.F.T. (formerly the Giving Tree), Voter Registration.

Preparation: A desire to help those who suffer from injustice by raising awareness and seeking solutions by study and discussion.

St. Vincent De Paul Society

"As long as you did so for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did so for me." Matthew 25:40

Purpose: St. Vincent DePaul Society members assist those in need with food and financial assistance in emergencies.

Commitment: Blankets and funds are collected before each winter to help the homeless and the poor stay warm in the winter. Financial support for the St. Vincent DePaul Society is received from monthly church envelope donations, the poor box in the church, and from 4 to 6 pancake breakfasts. The work of this organization is done anonymously and in the strictest of confidence so that no one feels ashamed to ask for help.

Preparation: No prior experience is necessary. If you are interested in helping St. Vincent DePaul as a member or wish to volunteer to serve at a pancake breakfast, please contact the rectory office.

Marriage and Family Ministry

"Let marriage be held in honor among all." Hebrews 13:4

Purpose: To offer Marriage and Family support to the parish of St. Christopher by providing meaningful formation and education programs.

Commitment: Quarterly meetings. More as needed.

Preparation: A zeal and enthusiasm for helping couples and families.

M.O.M.S.

"Thereupon Mary set out, proceeding in haste into the hill country to a town of Judah where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth." Luke 1:39

Purpose: In the spirit of the Visitation: to gather mothers together to form a network of spiritual support and opportunities for personal and spiritual growth; to increase communication skills and the use of prayer rituals at home.

Commitment: 8 to 12 sessions are held throughout the school year. Day and evening groups are available.

Preparation: Willing to share faith and experiences with other moms.

Extraordinary M.O.M.S.

Purpose: To offer spiritual and emotional support for mothers of children of any age with ADHD/learning disability/mental or emotional disorder/autism and/or chemical addiction. Moms share the joys and challenges of raising these special children in the light of God's love.

Commitment: Support gatherings are held monthly during the school year at a time that works for the current group.

Preparation: Willing to share faith and experience with other moms in these special situations.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

Purpose: This ministry is part of a larger effort in the greater Cleveland area to offer temporary housing to homeless families. Our parish hosts several families for a week at a time 3 – 4 times per year.

Commitment: A variety of opportunities are available during the course of the week such as cooking, serving meals, light cleaning, laundry, visiting and helping with homework. Volunteers sign up for specific times and responsibilities during the week.

Preparation: Some training is necessary and takes place prior to the week we are scheduled.

PARTICIPATING MINISTRY

As a community, we recognize and celebrate the goodness of people and their baptismal call to participate in the life of the parish; thus, we are dedicated to the ongoing development and renewal of parish life.

Ladies Guild

"A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." Proverbs 31: 30-31

Purpose: The Guild of St. Christopher parish is a spiritual and service organization which fosters a spirit of friendship and community among the women of our parish.

Commitment: The Ladies Guild Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month and is open to all members of the parish. There are many social and spiritual activities. We provide service in various forms for our parish and the community at large.

Preparation: The willingness to volunteer some time and ideas.

Marian Prayer Hour

"Again I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

Purpose: A monthly time of prayer devoted to Our Blessed Mother. We pray for our parish, for our priests, for life, and for our personal intentions. We pray in petition and in thanksgiving. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month in the Church at 1:00 p.m.

Commitment: As our group has developed and grown, we have reached out to each other's needs and included them in our prayers, not only at the meetings, but at other times during the month also. Our Blessed Mother, in approved recent apparitions, has asked us to pray, pray, pray.

Preparation: There is no preparation for members; just bring your rosary and prayer booklet that we have available. We include the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, as endorsed by Pope John Paul II, and other timely prayers in our hour-long meeting.

Youth Ministry

“Let no one look down on you because of your youth, but be a continuing example of love, faith and purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Purpose: St. Christopher Youth Ministry provides an opportunity for teen parishioners to meet, pray and discuss their Catholic faith with their peers. The Teen Core Group offers a leadership opportunity for those teens that wish to undertake a role in planning events with the Youth Minister and Adult Team.

Commitment: All high school age parishioners are encouraged to join Youth Ministry and be involved at whatever level of commitment that they are able. Youth Ministry events are held once a month on Sunday evening from August to May. The parish Youth Minister coordinates all Youth Ministry events. Adult volunteers are needed to help implement programs, to chaperone at on-site events as well as outings away from the parish and to build healthy mentor relationships with teens.

Preparation: Adult volunteers will attend preparation meetings with the Youth Minister to discuss requirements of each event. They may also be invited to attend workshops that are offered through the Diocese of Cleveland. Any adult who works with children in the Diocese of Cleveland must complete the requirements of the VIRTUS program

Pro-Life

“I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding his voice and holding fast to him.” Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Purpose: To educate parishioners and the community by providing and promoting Pro-Life activities.

Commitment: Willingness to participate in various activities during the year including the Birthright Bake Sale in December, the Cleveland Right-to-Life Rally in January, and the Respect Life Flower Sale in October.

Preparation: No preparation required, just a willingness to help.

Block Party Committee

“To eat, drink and enjoy the fruits of our labor is a gift from God.” Ecclesiastes 3:13

Purpose: A yearly gathering open to parishioners of all ages. We begin with an outdoor Mass at 5:00 p.m. on the parish grounds followed by an evening filled with entertainment, food, music, and socializing.

Commitment: The Block Party Committee generally meets three times: June, July, and August. Bulletin announcements prior to the meetings announce the exact dates and times.

Preparation: No training is needed – enthusiasm and creativity are a plus!

Welcoming Committee

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

Purpose: To cultivate an active and welcoming spirit within the St. Christopher Community, by personally reaching out to new parishioners and by enabling existing parishioners to establish richer connections to the Church and its members.

Commitment: Your voice is added to that of the staff to make new members feel that they are indeed part of a caring Christian community. Volunteers can assist in any of the following ways: Parish hosts, which includes personally inviting a new parishioner to the Welcome Mass and Welcome Dinner; assisting at the new member dinner; or developing various activities that enable parishioners to come together in a social atmosphere, meeting old friends and making new.

Preparation: There will be an introductory session for prospective parish hosts; there is no additional preparation at this time. Meetings scheduled as needed.

Scouts

*"Let the children come to me, for such is the Kingdom of God."
Mark 10: 13-16*

Purpose: The parish has Scout troops for Brownies, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts. All the troops follow scouting principles in helping the scouts in the following areas:

1. Developing individual potential
2. Relating to others
3. Developing values
4. Contributing to society

Commitment: Meetings are held throughout the school year in the school building. Exact times vary depending upon the troop. Leader and Co-leaders (or parent volunteers) are to be present at each meeting or field trip. One parent for each child is asked to become a registered scout member.

Preparation: Leader or other adults must complete appropriate training as required by scouting guidelines.

Athletic Association

“ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

Purpose: To promote, coordinate, and finance an athletic program at St. Christopher Parish. The Association shall encourage participation in the athletic program of grade school and high school students of the Parish and create deeper Parish interest in these activities. It shall attempt to assure that all interested young persons have the opportunity to be involved in athletics at the level of his/her ability. The Association shall endeavor to furnish fields, safe equipment, facilities and coaches necessary to accomplish these goals and raise the funds to finance these activities. The Association shall at all times promote the philosophy and objectives of Catholic education and encourage all participants in the program to do the same.

Commitment: All adult members (age 21 or over) of the parish shall be General Members of the Association. Members shall have the right to attend any and all General Membership Meetings, present new programs, make suggestions and discuss pertinent problems. The Members shall have the right to vote on Constitutional Amendments. The General Membership Meetings shall be held at least four times a year. The first meeting shall be in July and subsequent meetings shall be every three months thereafter. Meetings shall be held during the first week of each respective month. The Executive Committee, consisting of not more than nine appointed members, shall meet at its discretion to conduct the business of the Association. These meetings are historically held every month but June.

Preparation: No preparation is necessary. However, all Board members are responsible for and expected to participate in all fundraising activities of the St. Christopher Parish Athletic Association. Any adult who works with children in the Diocese of Cleveland must complete the requirements of the VIRTUS Program.

SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

Called to examine a variety of approaches to spirituality so that the parish can offer vitality, nurturance, and sustenance to all parishioners.

Avila Vocations

Then Jesus said to His disciples: “The harvest is indeed great, but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Purpose: To join together under the patronage of St. Teresa of Avila to pray for an increase in vocations to vowed and ordained life. Also, to offer prayer support for the perseverance of those already committed to religious vocations.

Commitment: Associate Members: Commit themselves to a holy hour once a month on the first Monday. The holy hour consists of a rosary beginning at 10:45 a.m. followed by attendance at 11:15 a.m. Mass, and commencing with a short prayer service immediately following the Mass. Homebound Associates: Commit to offer an hour of prayer once a month in their homes to the best of their ability. A vocation prayer book is provided.

Preparation: A desire to offer prayer support to all whom God calls to serve the Church in the vowed and ordained ways of life.

Healing Prayer

*"These are the signs that will be associated with believers . . . They will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover."
Mark 16: 17-18*

Purpose: Weekly meetings to pray for the intentions of the parish, and the sick, and those who have asked us to pray for them. Members of the healing prayer ministry are available to pray with and lay hands on parishioners after weekly prayer time or as requested.

Commitment: To meet weekly to pray for the sick of the parish and other intentions. To be available to pray with those requesting prayer. To continue to learn more about the healing ministry.

Preparation: Members of the healing prayer ministry pray together weekly on Wednesday morning. We also attend healing workshops and conferences as well as healing Masses in other parishes. Spiritual formation through continued education is important.

Prayer & Scripture Study Opportunities

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for holiness, for they shall have their fill." Matthew 5:5

There are various small Scripture and prayer communities presently active at St. Christopher. They represent a wide variety of backgrounds: Women, men, young adult, and youth. For more information, contact the rectory office and a list of available groups will be provided.

Contemplative Outreach

"Be still and know that I am God." Isaiah

Purpose: To be in Christ's presence in silence - to listen - to learn.

Commitment: This is a spiritual journey that meets once a week for an hour and a half. We encourage one another in the twice daily practice of being in Christ's presence for twenty minutes in silence. It is a discipline of letting go of intrusions (thoughts, noises, etc.) by using a sacred word quieting the mind and gently leading one to a deep awareness of Jesus' presence and action in our lives. After prayer, a viewing of a video or reading a book may prompt a short discussion on the subject.

Preparation: Members of the Contemplative Outreach Group can assist others by suggesting ways such as reading Fr. Thomas Keating's book, *Open Mind – Open Heart*.

Baptismal Garments

"She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with the skillful hands. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates." Proverbs 31:12,31

Purpose: To present each newly christened baby a white cloth hand-embroidered garment as they are welcomed into the St. Christopher community.

Commitment: Garments are picked up or delivered to volunteers and then hand-embroidered at home. Usually 6-10 garments are sent home and then returned whenever the volunteer has them done.

Preparation: No preparation required, just an ability to embroider back stitch lines in a variety of colors.

TEACHING MINISTRY

As a faith community, we are dedicated to the education and formation of each person according to traditions and values of our Catholic faith.

St. Christopher School

“Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20

Purpose: St. Christopher School has as its purpose to establish a community which fosters the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of its students.

Commitment: Teachers and students strive to:

- 1) Understand Gospel values as they learn to act as Jesus would.
- 2) Accomplish State and Diocesan curriculum objectives.

As these groups work on their goals, it is often necessary to ask for assistance from parents and parishioners. This is done on an individual teacher or event basis.

Preparation: Volunteers are instructed by teacher or event coordinator requesting their assistance as to what needs to be done.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who announce good news!”
Romans 10: 15b*

Purpose: To assist parents with their task of passing on the Catholic faith to their children, by offering weekly religion classes for children, Pre-K through Grade 8.

Commitment: To teach one hour weekly, mid-September through mid-May on Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. To prepare lessons according to curriculum guidelines. To prepare report forms for students twice each academic year. To attend 3 catechists' meetings.

Preparation: Conversation with director of religious education. Diocesan courses leading to catechist certification are encouraged, but optional. Any adult who works with children in the Diocese of Cleveland must complete the requirements of the VIRTUS Program.

P.T.U.

*“Where two or three come together in my name, I am with them.”
Matthew 18:20*

Purpose: The Parent Teacher Unit (P.T.U.) was founded for the following purposes: Promote community, support fundraising, improve communication, involvement in the daily Catholic education of our children.

Commitment: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month during the school year, alternating between 1:00 p.m. meetings and 7:00 p.m. meetings in an attempt to accommodate everyone. Meetings are held at school.

Preparation: Just being a parent of a child within the day school.

School Committee

“Let the children come to me and do not stop them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10: 13-16

Purpose: The St. Christopher School Committee functions as a consultative body to develop, promote, evaluate, and support policies which have both short-term and long-term goals directly effecting the educational progress of the school.

Commitment: The committee consists of nine members; each must be a parent of a student presently enrolled in St. Christopher School. No spouse or relative of any commission member may serve a concurrent term with said member. Members serve a term of two years and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Terms of the Committee members expire as of May 31st. The Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month during the school year.

Preparation: No special preparation is required except a strong commitment to the ideals and goals of Catholic education exemplified in St. Christopher School and its teachers, administrators, and students. Committee members participate in special subcommittees for special projects, fact finding, specific advisory and/or other tasks assigned by the Committee.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

“I give thanks to my God every time I think of you. . . rejoicing... at the way you have continually helped promote the gospel from the very first day.” Philipians 1: 3,5

Purpose: To assist adults with their preparation for the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. To represent the parish community in welcoming participants into the life of the Church.

Commitment: To attend weekly RCIA sessions, mid- September through mid-May, and assist participants by leading table discussions, meeting one-to-one with participants as necessary, helping with organization and hospitality, acting as leader of prayer, and scripture sharing. To build relationships with participants through story telling and faith sharing; to welcome them in the name of the parish community.

Preparation: Attend one training session and occasional team meetings. Become familiar with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, its principles and procedures.

Confirmation Preparation

“Tongues as of fire appeared and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:3-4

Purpose: We offer preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation to parishioners in the 9th grade or older. We offer a separate program for adults who wish to be confirmed. Confirmation preparation usually begins in January and the sacrament is celebrated in the Spring.

Commitment: Adult volunteers are needed to offer instruction and share their faith with the youth. The high school confirmation program includes ten classes and a retreat day. Classes are held on Sunday afternoons from 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Preparation: Adult volunteers are given plenty of materials to assist them in preparing their lessons. We also have 2-3 meetings offering information and instruction. Any adult who works with children in the Diocese of Cleveland must complete the requirements of the VIRTUS program

Pre-Baptism Class

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism."
Ephesians 4:5-6*

Purpose: To help form and educate parents preparing for the baptism of their children by sharing your own experience as parents.

Commitment: A brief (15 minute) talk given during the baptism preparation session with a pastoral staff member. These sessions occur approximately 3 times per year.

Preparation: Those interested in speaking should meet with the pastoral staff member prior to giving a presentation.

Pre-Cana Team

*"Faith, hope, love remain, these three, but the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:8*

Purpose: To provide a one-day meaningful and reflective experience for couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage. This day is usually held in March.

Commitment: The Pre-Cana Team members give short reflections (10 minutes) and help coordinate the entire day. Members meet approximately three times prior to the Pre-Cana Day and then help with set-up, administration, and clean-up on the day itself.

Preparation: No training is needed – just a willingness to share your sacrament of marriage with couples preparing for it.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

As a worshipping community centered in the Eucharist, we celebrate the mystery of the risen Christ, and are committed to sacramental life and worship of God.

Eucharistic Ministers

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you." Matthew 26: 26-27

Purpose: Ministers of communion assist with the distribution of Eucharist during Mass. Some also are commissioned to bring communion to those who are homebound and hospitalized.

Commitment: Those who take on this ministry must be individuals who have a true reverence for what they are doing; sharing the Lord's Body and Blood with the assembly.

Preparation: New Eucharistic Ministers are required to participate in a three hour diocesan training session offered twice yearly at locations throughout the diocese as well as attend a parish training session. New parishioners who have served as Eucharistic Ministers elsewhere are welcome to serve here.

Worship Committee

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7

Purpose: The Worship Committee plans, reviews, and implements seasonal decorations, liturgies, and other liturgical prayer such as communal penance, Lenten devotions, Block Party Mass, and other prayer as needed. It also oversees all liturgical ministries including lectors, Eucharistic ministers, servers, ushers, and cantors.

Commitment: The Worship Commission meets 9 times a year, September through June. Being part of the commission includes attendance at meetings, willingness to help coordinate specific liturgies, and decorating the church as needed.

Preparation: No formal training is needed. Liturgical education is included as a part of each monthly meeting.

The Ministry of Usher

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrews 13:2

Purpose: The usher’s ministry is to greet people warmly, to introduce strangers, to help people be seated, to care for any needs that come up, to take up the offertory collection, to help with good order during the Communion rite and to distribute bulletins at the end of Mass.

Commitment: Ushers serve at one weekend Liturgy and on other occasions as needed.

Preparation: Ushers need to have a hospitable attitude as well as an understanding and deep respect for liturgical prayer.

Acolytes/Mass Servers

*“Ah, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.”
Jeremiah 1: 6-7*

Purpose: Acolytes assist the priest at Mass and set an example of prayer and attentiveness for the faithful. They prepare the sanctuary for Mass, assist with the lighting of candles and preparation of the gifts, and serve as bookbearer for the priest.

Commitment: Grade school students serve weekend Masses and weekday Masses at 7:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. High school students serve weekend Masses and weddings. Adult acolytes serve for funerals.

Preparation: Boys and girls from grade 6 and up are invited to serve as Acolytes for Sunday and daily Masses. Students from St. Christopher School, St. Christopher PSR, or high school students are all welcome in this ministry. There is a formal training of six sessions for all student servers. Adults who wish to be funeral servers are welcome to serve at any time.

Lectors

“The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.” Isaiah 50:4

Purpose: Those who proclaim the Word of God have the awesome task of communicating God’s word to the assembly.

Commitment: Lectors serve at weekend Masses and at special celebrations such as Holy Week liturgies. Vatican II reminded lectors that “they exercise a genuine liturgical function. They ought to discharge their office with the sincere piety and decorum demanded by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected of them by God’s people.”

Preparation: Lectors must possess a good speaking voice and be able to enunciate and pronounce words appropriately. Training sessions for lectors occur as needed.

Music Ministry

“I will play for Him on my harp, with my lute and ten-stringed lyre. I will greet the Lord with my song, I will sing of the ways of the Lord!”

Purpose: To assist the assembly in their sung prayer and reflection.

Commitment.

- **Adult Choir:** Open to all, high school age and older, the adult choir performs a vast repertoire of music and styles. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7 until 9 pm in the choir rehearsal room. This groups normally sings for the 10:30 Sunday Mass, various liturgical feasts (i.e. Christmas Eve, Easter Vigil, etc.), special events (i.e. Block Party), and performs two concerts each year at Christmas and Lent.
- **Cantors:** These individuals assist the congregation by leading song at Masses on Sundays (except 7:00 am), holy days, patriotic holidays, and other special occasions. Cantors are members of the adult choir and rehearse the weekly music at choir practice on Thursdays. Generally, cantors schedule themselves in coordination with Christian Fisher. Cantors need not be trained soloists, but need to have a pleasant voice and be comfortable working in front of the congregation. All weddings at St. Christopher require a cantor, which provides our cantors with additional opportunities.
- **Instrumentalists:** Anyone who is competent in their particular instrument is welcome to join our ensemble that accompanies the choir at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays and at other special Masses or ceremonies. All are welcome whether woodwind, brass, guitar (acoustic or electric), percussion, etc. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings in the choir rehearsal room at 7 pm. For some instruments, the ability to read and transpose is necessary.

Music Opportunities for Children

- ***Children's Choir:*** Open to all children of the parish in grades K-3, this group generally sings on the first and third Sundays of the month at the 9:00 am Family Mass. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 3:30-4:00 pm in Church. Led by Michelle Sears and Christian Fisher.
- ***Junior Choir:*** All children of the parish in grades 4-8 are welcome. This group generally sings on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the 9:00 am Family Mass. They also sing for school liturgies and sing with the adult choir at several Masses and concerts. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4-5 pm in the choir rehearsal room. Led by Michelle Sears and Christian Fisher.
- ***Junior Cantors:*** Outstanding youngsters from the junior choir will be invited to lead song as cantors at the 9:00 am Family Mass. They rehearse individually with Christian Fisher at 3 pm on Thursdays. Junior Cantors must be comfortable to work in front of the congregation.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Purpose: Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for children ages 5 to 10 is offered during the

9 am Sunday Mass to allow children to hear and discuss the Scripture Readings on their level.

Commitment: To teach preschool children and witness your faith to them on their level. The teaching takes place Sundays during the 9:00 A.M. Mass on a rotating basis among instructors.

Preparation: Training is offered by the staff of the Parish Religious Education Office.