



ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH
YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS ... WE'VE GOT ANSWERS
 (as of March 25, 2020)

PARISH OFFICE AND BUILDINGS

IS THE PARISH OFFICE OR CHURCH STILL OPEN?

Yes, but we ask that you only come to the office or chapel if it is absolutely necessary. Our parish office hours are as posted below until further notice:

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. – Fri. 10:00am – 2:00pm
Sat. & Sun. Closed

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

April 10, 2020 Good Friday
April 13, 2020 Easter Monday

HOW CAN WE REACH THE STAFF?

Whether the parish staff continues to work from the office or from home, they are still available via their office phone numbers and email. Please feel free to leave voice mail or email messages. We do ask that you please use discretion on the urgency/need when contacting us as we are experiencing an overwhelming increase in calls/emails. You will be answered as promptly as possible.

PARISH PHONE (937) 898-3542

STAFF EXTENSION:

Office	0	Tim Francis	108	Elise Sas	105
Fr. John	103	Andrea Parker	109	Elena Pope	104
Bonnie Prine	101	Mary Lauterbach	124	Kelly Schmitmeyer	937-538-1762

STAFF EMAIL:

Fr. John	jtonkin@stchristopheronline.com	Mary Lauterbach	mlauterbach@stchristopheronline.com
Bonnie Prine	bprine@stchristopheronline.com	Elise Sas	esas@stchristopheronline.com
Tim Francis	tfrancis@stchristopheronline.com	Elena Pope	epope@stchristopheronline.com
Andrea Parker	aparker@stchristopheronline.com	Kelly Schmitmeyer	gkschmit@woh.rr.com

WILL CANCELED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS BE RESCHEDULED?

Some programs and events will not be rescheduled while others will be postponed. For example, the parish Spring Gala is now postponed to the fall. More updates will be posted about any rescheduled events as we enter into the clear of all virus precautions we are under.

HOW CAN I GET HELP?

If you have specific needs, please call the parish office, and if we cannot locate help within the parish, we will assist you in finding the help you need. We are here for you and will help you in any way that we reasonably can.

COMMUNICATION

HOW CAN I GET THE LATEST UPDATES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARISH DURING THIS TIME?

The best place to get information during this time is our **parish website**, weekly **parish emails**, our **myParish app** and **Facebook page**. For those who do not use computers, weekly newsletters will be mailed, and all updates will be included. We suggest you check these communication avenues frequently as changes have been coming to us rapidly. You can also call/email the parish office during operating hours.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

CAN I COME TO THE CHURCH TO PRAY?

No, the main sanctuary will not be available for personal prayer. Our chapel is also closed for the duration of the Shelter in Place order from the state of Ohio.

CAN I RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION?

No. Once the Shelter in Place order is lifted, then confessions will resume. "Do what the Catechism says," Pope Francis stressed, "it's very clear: if you don't find a priest to hear your Confession, talk with God, He is your Father, and tell Him the truth: 'Lord, I've done this, and that, and that . . . I'm sorry,'" and ask Him for forgiveness with all your heart, with the Act of Contrition and promise Him: "Afterwards I will go to Confession, but forgive me now." If you do all this, Francis said, you will return to God's grace immediately. As the Catechism teaches, he reminded, you yourself can approach God's forgiveness without having a priest at hand. (*Zenit.org March 20, 2020 in the Pope's homily at his private Mass*)

HAS THE POLICY FOR COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND CHANGED?

By a directive given by Archbishop Schnurr, individuals will not be able to pick up Communion or take Communion to others. Communion is to be reserved only for the critically ill or dying. Similarly, the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing will also be reserved for the critically ill and dying. Admission of clergy varies by institution. Please check with the institution prior to calling the parish office to make sure clergy will be admitted.

WILL SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER STILL TAKE PLACE?

Yes, but not in public prayer. We encourage you to watch the livestream from the link on our webpage to St. Peter in Chains Cathedral for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday Liturgies. Blessed Palms will be available for pick up in the Chapel lobby starting Monday, April 6, 2020 during office hours, if the Shelter in Place order is lifted.

IS THE APRIL 26 FIRST COMMUNION STILL SCHEDULED?

As things are going we don't know if we'll be back from the social distancing by April 26. If we are, then great! We'll celebrate a wonderful First Communion day. If we still have to maintain distance and not have Masses, *please be assured, we **WILL** celebrate this special day with a Mass.* It may just be delayed. Elise Sas will keep First Communion Parents updated.

CAN I STILL SCHEDULE A BAPTISM OR WEDDING?

Yes, we are still accepting communication for any future planning or questions you may have to start the process on a baptism or wedding.

- **For Baptisms:** Contact Andrea Parker by phone or email as listed on page 1
- **For Weddings:** Contact Bonnie Prine by phone or email as listed on page 1

ARE MASSES BEING SAID FOR CURRENT MASS INTENTIONS?

Since Mass at St. Christopher is currently suspended, Mass intentions are not being said and will be rescheduled once Mass resumes. If you have any questions or needs regarding Mass intentions, please contact our office administrator, Bonnie Prine. If you have specific prayer needs or would like an intention said through the Parish Prayer Chain, please contact Donna Kitta at (937) 454- 0481 or email donna10680@aol.com.

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF FUNERALS?

We will have only grave-side funeral services until further notice. Also, there will be no visitations or receptions at St. Christopher until public Masses, without restriction of numbers, resume.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES?

- **Food Donations** – Once the Shelter in Place order is lifted, food donations may be brought to the church.
- **The St. Vincent Lunch Ministry** will continue at the discretion of each participating donor.
- **The Parish Prayer Chain** is an excellent way to help via prayer. Whether you would like to be added to the email group to pray for others needs or if you have a specific prayer intention you would like for parishioners to pray for, please contact Donna Kitta at (937) 454-0481 or email donna10680@aol.com.
- **Plastic Bags** – Please do **NOT** bring in any more plastic bag donations for the time being.
- **K of C Morehead, Kentucky Donation Drive** – What better time than now to get some spring cleaning done?! St. Christopher Knights of Columbus will be accepting donations for the annual Morehead, KY Donation Drive on April 18, 19, 25, and 26. Saturday hours for drop off are 8am-2pm. Sunday hours for drop off are 10am-2pm. They will take new or gently-used clothes, books, toys, bicycles, housewares etc. (*No Stoves, Refrigerators, Deep Freezers, Washers or Dryers*). Please box items prior to delivery. They will have a few boxes & tape if needed. Any questions please contact Gerald Rosendahl at (937) 718-9012 or gwrosendahl@gmail.com.
- Follow our **St. Christopher Parish Facebook** page for encouragement, spiritual growth and community throughout this Lenten season.
- Join our **Parish Facebook group: St. Chris Cares** to participate in or view some of our fun challenge responses, videos, photos, and more from our very own St. Chris community during these times of social distancing. If you're looking for a smile, laugh, or some cheering up – it's a great place to go!
- **The St. Christopher School and The Center for Children Facebook pages** are also a great place to visit to check out some of the fun, uplifting, and creative posts that are happening among our young community.
- **Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser** – Spring certainly wasn't delayed by the virus outbreak! Start your garden planning now while supporting the school at the same time! The school is still holding their spring plant sale. Order forms are available online (*visit the parish website and click on the graphic for the flower sake at the bottom of the page*). Print the order form and send it in to the School/Parish Office or email it to ktompson@stchristopheronline.com.

EDUCATION AND FORMATION

WHEN WILL THE RCIA RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION TAKE PLACE?

We continue to pray for our candidates and elect during this time as they prepare for the reception of the Sacraments. Because there will be no Easter Vigil Mass, the Rite of Christian Initiation will take place at a later date.

WHAT ARE SOME ADDITIONAL PRAYER AND FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE?

There are a number of resources that can be found by downloading the St. Christopher **myParish App** and checking the **parish website**. In the myParish app, click on the icon labeled St. Chris Cares for response updates and resources to use during this time for you and your family. We know that you are receiving emails from many resources right now and to respect your inbox, we plan to update the website as a reliable resource for you to visit at your convenience throughout the next few weeks: <http://church.stchristopheronline.com/st-chris-cares/>

HOW CAN I HELP?

Pray! We invite you to pray one decade of the Rosary at 12:00 noon daily in solidarity with St. Chris parishioners and all who are affected by COVID-19 until the Governor declares the state of emergency has ended. See the Outreach section of this page or visit the **parish website/myParish app** for various other ways you can help.

FINANCES/CONTRIBUTIONS

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO CUT EXPENDITURES AT THE PARISH ANTICIPATING DECREASED COLLECTIONS?

Building:

- Lights are off in all areas that are not in use.
- All air conditioning and heating units that are operated by thermostat are set to 62 degrees and placed on “heat only” mode.
- We’ve reduced the frequency of trash pick-up by Rumpke.
- Reduction in building supply orders.

Operating Costs:

- Operating expenses in all departments have been scrutinized for unnecessary spending since Fr. John became pastor in 2016. During this time of uncertainty, we continue to look for ways to further cut costs. The largest expense for our parish is salaries and benefits. The payroll expense is approximately \$62,000 every two weeks, not including benefits. Parish employees have been working longer and more stressful hours during this turbulent time to assure we stay connected as a community of faith.

HOW CAN I MAINTAIN MY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PARISH?

As you stay home to protect your well-being and the well-being of your family, we ask you to continue supporting the **parish, school, and child care** if your finances allow.

There are several ways to continue your financial support of the parish:

- Mail your donation to the parish office at: St. Christopher Church, 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia, OH 45377
- Call your bank and set up automated bank checks that will be mailed to the parish from your bank.
- Go to our **parish website** and click the **Online Giving** button on the home page to set up an automatic donation from your credit card or checking/savings account.
- Consider a stock or IRA Qualified Distribution donation by contacting your financial planner.
- Call Tim Francis in the parish office for credit card donations.
- Make your donation through our **myParish Mobile App**.