



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

September 20, 2009

GLORY BE TO GOD!

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

My husband and I stopped one night at a local restaurant. We were the only family with children. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, "Hi there." He pounded his fat baby hands on the high-chair tray. His eyes were wide with excitement and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin.

He wriggled and giggled with merriment. I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man with a tattered rag of a coat, dirty, greasy and worn. His pants were baggy, his shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose, it looked like a road map. His hands waved and flapped. "Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy, I see ya buster," the man said to Erik.

My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. My husband and I were embarrassed.

We ate in silence, all except for Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skid-row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments. We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot.

The old man, sat poised between me and the door. "Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik," I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to side-step him.

As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's pick-me-up position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man's. Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship. Erik, in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain and hard labor-gently, so gently cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back. I stood awe struck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms for a moment, and then his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone.

He pried Erik from his chest unwillingly and I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am.

I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why

I was saying, "My God, my God, forgive me." I had just witnessed Christ's love and a ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me that to enter the Kingdom of God, we must become as little children.

In today's gospel Jesus reminds his disciples that faith is not just a matter of creed and ritual. To be an authentic disciple of Jesus means to put ourselves in the humble, demanding role of servant to others, to intentionally seek the happiness and fulfillment of those we love regardless of the cost to ourselves. Only in "denying ourselves" in order to imitate the servanthood of Christ do we experience the true depth of our faith; only in embracing his compassion and humility in our lives do we enable the Spirit of God to renew and transform our world in God's life and love.

Spirit Alive

Read: Acts 2: 14 - 41

Reflect: Peter's speech to the crowd is the first of many in Acts that connects the message of the prophets to the reality of Jesus the Messiah. Peter is trying to show how the Good News is rooted in salvation history, God's action and preparation in human history for the revelation of Jesus. My experience of God is also rooted in my history and my people. How has my family shaped my understanding of living as a follower of Christ? How has my experience of church changed and challenged me as a disciple? How does the "rootedness" of the Catholic Church influence my life as a disciple in the world?



Did anything else stand out for me in this section of Acts?

Act it Out! *How do my reflections today inform how I will live out my discipleship in the world this week?*

Could I...

...make a special effort to connect with someone in my family; maybe someone I haven't spoken with lately?

...learn about how previous generations of my family or my community lived out their faith, and try to adapt it to my time?

...speak the truth about struggles and conflict in my family or community, and offer to work towards peace?

How else could I act it out?

MASS INTENTIONS - Sept 19th to 27th

Saturday

4:30 PM Larry Dachille by the Mackey family

Sunday

9:00 AM Frank Lindsay by the Uzialko family

11:00 AM Donald Socciarelli by Danielle Socciarelli

Monday

9:00 AM For the people of St. Christopher

Tuesday

9:00AM Sheila Culhane by Joanne Popeck

Wednesday

9:00AM Florence Becker by Beth

Thursday

9:00 AM Communion and Prayer Service

Friday

9:00 AM Roberta Daniels by Ron & Barb Clavette

Saturday

4:30 PM Tony Curtis by Doll Booher

Sunday

9:00 AM Laura Robinson by Dorothy & Edward Bischooping

11:00 AM For the intentions of Dan & Cecilia Crawford on their 25th Wedding Anniversary

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday - Sept 20

9:00 AM Pre-School and Kindergarten Classes (all Clsrms)

9:00 AM First Eucharist Reunion Liturgy

1:00-3:00 PM Youth /Young Adult Choir (any open room)

12:30 PM Parent Meeting for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00-7:00 PM Young Adult Picnic at Genesee Valley Park

Monday

4:15PM & 6:00 PM Faith Formation Classes grades 1-5

Tuesday

4:15PM & 6:00 PM Faith Formation Classes grades 1-5

Wednesday

6:30—8:00 PM Junior High Classes (All Clsrms)

7:00 PM Folk Group Rehearsal (in church)

Thursday

7:00 PM Choir (church)

Saturday

4:30 PM Liturgy of the Word for Children

Reminder! Parish Picnic on September 27

Sign up today and plan on attending St. Christopher's Annual Parish Picnic at Black Creek Park on Sunday September 27th from 1:00 to 5:00, with dinner served at 2 PM. Bring an appetizer/snack, dish, or dessert to share, and hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and drinks will be provided. We are again at Woodside Lodge, which has good facilities and lots of space. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. Sign up sheets are located at the Church entrances.

Parish Picnic Youth Fun!

Don't forget...we'll be playing **SHAVING CREAM WIFFLE BALL** at the parish picnic on Sunday September 27th!!! Bring a change of clothes ☺ This is for **ALL AGES!!!**

Youth Group Schedule-at-a-Glance /Sept:

Sunday 9/20 **FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP** 1-3pm
 Sunday 9/27 Parish Picnic **SHAVING CREAM WIFFLE BALL!!!**

RCIA

Interested in RCIA—The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults? Come to an information meeting at 10:00 AM September 20th in the church. Questions? Call the rectory at 594-1400 or Joanne at 249-9193

Looking for Pageant Singers:

St. Christopher's is once again putting on the Christmas pageant and we are looking for Singers in Grades 3 and up. We will be having an informational meeting on Saturday, September 26 at 1PM, upstairs in a classroom. This year, the children will be singing some exciting songs both during the pageant and before. This will be a Family Choir and we are asking for parents to sing along with the children, if you are interested. For more information, contact Eric Traugott at 585-615-8893 or agentm13@rochester.rr.com.

Acts of the Apostles—The Early Years

Spend a little time with the Acts of the Apostles and discover new ways to Act Out your own discipleship! This week read Acts of the Apostles 2:14-41 and ask yourself: How do my reflections on this reading affect how I will live as a disciple?

Golden Agers

The Golden Agers Meeting for September will be Tuesday, September 22nd following the 9:00 AM Mass. After the Meeting we will be going to lunch at the Adams Basin Inn. Phone calls are being made to advise all Golden Agers that the deadline for signing up for the luncheon is Sunday, September 20th. Lunch will be \$14.00 a person and includes chicken salad on croissant, potato salad, green salad, coffee, tea, iced tea or lemonade. Dessert will be cookies and there will be a talk and tour.

Please advise Chris at 293-9248 if you can drive or if you will need a ride.

Parish Financial Stewardship Summary

	LAST WEEK	YEAR TO DATE	
Last Week	\$ 6,527.50	\$ 66,878.10	
Attendance	796	#of Envelopes	231

“Keep Our Campus Cool” Campaign
 \$52,256.30 received \$53,696.30 pledged 319 families

The Second Gift: : The Gift of our Unique Talents

Again, we have all been blessed by God with unique, individual talents that can serve our Church and community. Through and offering of our unique God given talents we can serve God through service to the parish and one another.

Wonderful opportunities are available to volunteer that unique talent. On a practical level, the parish can benefit substantially with many volunteer projects that save financial resources for the parish.

R & R for All Liturgical Ministers

Oct. 24, 2009; 9:30 to Noon

This gathering is a time of REFLECTION and RENEWAL for our Music Groups, Lectors, Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Servers, and Liturgy of the Word Leaders - ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS. The program includes a keynote speaker, Deacon Larry Feasel from our diocese, prayer service and reflection time, as well as sessions to review the ministry (or ministries) in which you currently serve. The Liturgy Committee requests all liturgical ministers to attend. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Knights of Columbus Selling C&B Tickets

The Knights of Columbus will be selling their Charity and Benefit tickets next weekend after all Masses. Please help support this worthy effort.

Retrouvaille- Lifeline for Married Couples

Thinking of separation or divorce? So frustrated or angry that you barely speak? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties. For confidential information about or to register for the fall program beginning with a weekend on October 9-11, 2009 at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, NY, please call 585-293-1552 or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

Praying our Losses: Affirming our Hope

An evening of prayer and reflection for those who have experienced job loss or who are worried about their jobs.

Tuesday, September 15
7:00-8:30 in the Worship Space
St. Paul's Church
783 Hard Road

For more information, call 671-2100, x 24.

Vocations

Please pray for our seminarians (Peter V., Greg, Mike, David, Matt, and Peter M.) as they begin a new year of seminary formation, and for the new residents of our Becket Hall Discernment House (Andrew, Michael, Sergio, Jorge, and Mark), as they prayerfully discern if God may be calling them to the diocesan priesthood. If you would like more information, please visit the website at www.dor.org/vocations or contact us at 585-461-2890 or vocations@dor.org.

Camp Stella Maris

Oct. 23-25

Teen Leadership Weekend

Learn more about yourself, your leadership style, and what it takes to become a leader in school, on the sports team, in the church youth group and even in extracurricular activities. Camp Stella Maris' youthful, experienced and enthusiastic staff will lead you on this self-discovery through an interactive, unique and fun environment.

Annual Parish Picnic - September 27

Save the date and plan on attending St. Christopher's Annual Parish Picnic at Black Creek Park on Sunday September 27th from 1:00 to 5:00, with dinner served at 2 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for the St. Christopher's Community to come together for a good time with great food and fun games. This year we return to our tradition of bringing an appetizer/snack, dish, or dessert to share, with hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and drinks provided. Sign up sheets are located at the Church entrances for your convenience, so please sign up today, as this will help us better plan food and beverage needs. We are again at Woodside Lodge, which has good facilities and lots of space. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

St. Christopher Church 3350 Union St., P.O. Box 399 North Chili, N.Y. 14514

585-594-1400 *Emergency Pastoral Care* 350-8603
e-mail: nstchris@dor.org
<http://www.stchristophersnchili.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor*Rev. Robert Gaudio* 594-1400
Sec/Business Mgr*Marilyn Weinert* 594-1400
Deacon.....*John Cunningham* 594-1400/301-8540
Faith Formation
Coordinator.....*Judy Leone* 594-1441
Faith Formation
Secretary.....*Karen Curtis* 594-1441
Music Director.....*Celeste Dynski-Trumble* 293-2358

Pastoral Minister.....*Chris McCabe* 594-1400/293-9248
Young Adult Minister....*Maranda Skolen* 719-5851/594-1091
Youth Minister.....*Kim Potter* 329-4642 / 594-1091

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS:

Sunday Eucharist Saturday 4:30 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Weekday Eucharist Monday through Friday 9:00 AM

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday—9-12:00

Rel. Ed. Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

New families are welcome in our parish and we invite you to become more actively involved in our parish activities and ministries. Registration forms and information booklets are found at each of the church entrances.