



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

September 27, 2009

GLORY BE TO GOD! **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Our Faith teaches us that Jesus came to restore all men and women to communion with God and with each other. He came to take away fear from hearts that are frightened and place a deeper sense of God's care for us even though often times we fail to see God's hand at work. This fear can prevent us from hearing God's word drawing us near and from witnessing to others and others about our living God and what God wishes for us – fullness of life.

A British World War II veteran Ernest Gordon, long-time dean of the chapel at Princeton University, remembers his internment in a Japanese prison camp:

During the war, a group of His Majesty's soldiers were captured by the Japanese at the notorious River Kwai. During their imprisonment, the British captives were, at first, very observant of their religion, praying together, singing hymns, reading daily from the Bible. They were hoping and expecting that God would reward their faithfulness or at least mitigate their captivity. God didn't deliver, however, and the men became both disillusioned and angry. They gave up any outward display of their faith.

But after a while, as they began to tend to the needs of one another - caring for the sick and injured, protecting the weaker ones and, in some cases, dying for one another - they began to discern something of the Spirit of God in their midst. They discovered that religion was not just what one believed but what that belief led one to do for others, especially when it seemed that there was nothing that could be done. Compassion gave them their inner strength - and their inner strength gave them compassion.

In some of the hardest words he speaks in the 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 servant hood 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.

Inner strength (Faith), I believe, comes from the sure conviction that God has placed us in the world to do the

work of life, and not of death. This is what St. Paul says: "We are always facing death, but this means that we know more and more of life" (2 Cor. 4:11). Faith is not the opposite of doubt or of death, but the means whereby we face and endure both doubt and death, and overcome our fear of them. We believe that neither death nor doubt nor fear is the last word. This is a sure conviction for Christian believers. Because that belief is testified to by the experience of our ancestors in the faith and our contemporaries who labor beside us and for God in the rubble of life, we are able to endure. With Faith, we are able to go through the worst for the best - come what may. Endurance is what it takes when you have nothing left. Heavy loads have been placed upon us in these days, and even greater burdens and sacrifices may come. Like Jesus in the Garden, we would be less than human if we did not pray that this cup might pass us by—but it won't. It is faith that gives us the courage to manage.



Spirit Alive

Read: Acts 2: 42 - 4: 4

Reflect: This section of Acts begins with a description of the communal life of the early church, and follows with a story of healing, and another proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah. The Good News, and the healing made possible through Christ, is presented in the context of a community of believers. How does my culture support or challenge the experience of community? How am I called to be an agent of healing in my community?

Act it Out!

Could I...

...offer my time to a community outreach program to support my local town or city community?

...seek out older or home bound members of my community and offer to help them?

...support legislation that strengthens the local communities in my state?

How else could I act it out?

Blessing of Animals

Next Sunday we invite all the pet owners of the parish to come and have their pets blessed. This is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Deacon John will be at the church parking lot to bless dogs at 12:30 and all other animals at 12:45. In case of bad weather, we'll move inside to the parish hall.

MASS INTENTIONS - Sept 26th to Oct 4th

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

Monday

9:00 AM For the people of St. Christopher

Tuesday

9:00AM Roberta Daniels by husband

Wednesday

9:00AM Fred Stohr by Mary Ewing—Dept of Ed, Univ of VA.

Thursday

9:00 AM Communion and Prayer Service

Friday

9:00 AM Mildred Sanagorski by her daughter

Saturday

4:30 PM Merle Turner by Mr. & Mrs. David Turner

Sunday

9:00 AM Bob Nelson by Verna
 11:00 AM Angela Bullo by Don & Dora Gabel

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday - Sept 27

9:00 AM Pre-School and Kindergarten Classes (all Clsrms)
 9:00 AM Reconciliation Enrollment Rite
 1:00 PM Parish Picnic—Woodside Lodge at Black Creek Park

Monday & 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)
 7:00 PM Teacher Meeting (clsrm 6)

Saturday

Kick-off of Catholic Ministries Campaign

8:00—5:00 PM Ministry Day (hall)
 4:30 PM Liturgy of the Word for Children

Sunday

12:30 Blessing of Animals

Mark Your Calendars

**Five Saints West Fall Retreat
 "JOURNEYING WITH LUKE"**

Monday, Oct. 19—7pm at St. Christopher's
 Monday, Oct 28—7pm at St. Mary's
 Monday, Nov. 2—7pm at St. Columba-St. Patrick
 Monday, Nov 9—7pm at St. Vincent
 Dr. Joseph Kelly, Professor Emeritus of Scripture at Nazareth College, will bring the Gospel of Luke alive to help us journey towards a deeper relationship with God.

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

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.

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.

Blessing of Our 4-Legged (and other) Family Members

October 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was a lover of animals and we know that many of you in our church family love your pets and consider them a part of your family. On Sunday, October 4 we welcome pet owners to come to the church parking lot (downstairs in the hall, if the weather is bad.) to have their pets blessed by Deacon John. We invite all the dogs of the parish and their owners to come at 12:30 and all other to come at 12:45.

Women's Retreat Update

If you missed our women's retreat there are two weekends left this year for the theme "Be All you Can Be: Holy!" October 2-4 and October 24-25
 You can call Notre Dame at 585-394-5700 or myself at 889-2809 for reservations.

God Bless, Retreat Leader-Marlene Paine

Parish Financial Stewardship Summary

	LAST WEEK	YEAR TO DATE	
Last Week	\$ 6,359.00	\$ 73,237.10	
Attendance	739	#of Envelopes	248

"Keep Our Campus Cool" Campaign

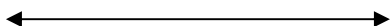
\$ 52,766.30 received \$ 54,451.30 pledged 325 families

The Third Gift: : The Gift of Treasure

The gift of our treasure is probably the most challenging to each of us as well as being a test of our faith. Our secular culture holds wealth and possessions as symbols of our independence, power and personal success..
 But what of our spiritual efforts?
 To be continued....

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



Parish Bike Ride!

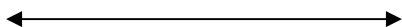
Please consider joining us on our parish bike ride! It will be hosted by St. C's youth group, but it is open to ALL ages. If anyone under 12 would like to join, there will need to be a parent/guardian coming along on the bike ride. The bike ride is on Sunday October 18th at 2pm! If you go north on Union Street from church to Spencerport, we'll be meeting in the parking lot on the LEFT directly BEFORE the canal bridge. PLEASE bring your bike, helmet, and a bottle of water! The bike ride will be about 14 miles total. We are planning on biking from Spencerport to Brockport, and then back to Spencerport. If there are at least 3 people (and 1 is 21 or older) that would like to do a longer ride OR a shorter ride, we can have different groups riding different routes/distances! We hope you will join us to celebrate the nice fall weather! Any questions? Email Kim and Dave at stchristophersyouthgroup@hotmail.com

Youth Group...

~ There will be no youth group on Sunday 9/27 due to the Parish Picnic! Come join us at the picnic for fun (and some messy) games!
~ There WILL be youth group on Sunday 10/4 from 1-3pm.
~ Don't forget that there is always a newsletter the 1st week-end of every month with the youth, young adult, and music updates and monthly calendars! Check that for events and details! If you miss getting it any month, request a copy or check the bulletin outside the youth room upstairs!

THANK YOU from St. C's Youth Group!

The youth group and NCYC pilgrims would like to thank the parish (and a special shout-out to the Golden Agers) for the kind donations and participation in fundraisers! It is your support that makes it possible for the events and trips that the youth group can participate in!



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.

Clothing Drive -

Coming Soon

It's time to sort through your clothes and donate to those in need. This fall's drive is from Sat., October 10 thru Friday, October 16. Details to follow regarding hours of collection and types/sizes of clothing.

Human Services Committee

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.