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# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

## SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

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Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

March 14, 2010



## Love Lavishly, Forgive Freely

### GLORY BE TO GOD!

Let me begin by saying that it just feels so good to be back.

This weekend we move into the fourth week of Lent. Our gospel is about the merciful father and his two self-centered sons; one of the most familiar and best loved stories in the scriptures. This parable centers around three main characters.

The younger, a wastrel, tells us not only something about greed and its consequences but also about the virtues of humility and repentance. The younger son, in a hurry to meet life, gets what he can out of his father, gathers together his bits and pieces and he goes to live it up and do his own thing. When his money runs out, his friends leave him and he finds himself reduced to living like an animal. Down on his luck, he comes to his senses and realizes he has made a fool of himself. Hoping for forgiveness, he heads back home to face his father and is overcome with the welcome he receives.

The elder, a complainer, speaks multitudes about human nature and how easily envy, jealousy and resentment arise when other people are treated well. The older son, as a solid citizen who has never put a foot wrong in life, is resentful of his brother's notorious living, cannot come to terms with the easy pardon and refuses to join the celebrations. His type would never have experienced the shame of coming home in disgrace, knowing full well that the tongues of the town were wagging and buzzing with gossip. Each one of us, at one time or another, has found ourselves in one of these situations, as a younger or an elder son.

The star of the show is the father who welcomes his son home without a word of reproach or recrimination. Irrespective of what has happened, he can not change the one basic fact of this case. *His sons are still his sons and both will always be received with open arms.* As he stands there waiting you can almost hear him praying, pleading – “Come Home, Please...just come home. Forget the transgressions and the mistakes you have made long ago... Don't let them separate us anymore.” What parent doesn't echo these same sentiments? The father in the story is someone whose love never changes and is present all the time as much when the son goes as when he returns. He is the Father of both sons. Then again we have the opportunity to enter into his heart in

relationship with his older son. “Please don't feel that way. He's your brother. He needs us. Don't let your anger get in the way. We're family.” What parent hasn't voiced this concern to their children when they are fighting. His only desire is to remain in communion with each of his children.

This is where the gospel story tells us something about the gracious goodness of God - his warmth with sinners and the length of his merciful arm. God never changes.

Somehow, way beyond our understanding, he knows the weakness, the waywardness and the perversity of the human heart and makes allowances. He loves lavishly and forgives freely. No matter what the situation, His love for us remains; He is always willing to forgive.

Lent is a time for growing in an appreciation of the beautiful and comforting truth that every person has a place in the heart of God. This story is drawn from real life with existing situations and if we are honest we can see shades of all three of these characters in our lives - the mercy, joy and compassion of the father, the repentance of the younger son, the pouting, the indignity and self righteousness of the elder son. We have been wandering, disobedient and selfish children who hold grudges and are unwilling to forgive one another. We have forgotten our ever-loving Father who even after our most stupid mistakes and tragic sins is always ready to welcome us with open arms. The gospel tells us what coming home to God is really like.

This Sunday as we approach the half-way mark in our Lenten season it is time to review the flapping resolutions and ask if our lives are a joyful response to God's love. Has his love touched our hearts, and found an expression in the way we live. What are we doing to bring the love of God into the lives of those we tend to judge harshly? Lent is a call to reshape and restructure our hearts. How are we doing ???

### A Note From Deacon Bob Schrader

I am a retired Deacon, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 75, and am also a retired chemical engineer from Eastman Kodak. As a deacon I served at the Psychiatric Center with Father Hoctor and at Holy Family Church with Father Tomasso. My home parish is Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton.

I have lived in Rochester for over 50 years and my wife Barbara is a Rochester native. We were married at St. Peter and Paul's Church on West Main Street in Rochester. We have one daughter, who also lives in Rochester.

Barbara and I know John and Peggy Cunningham well. We were in the same Deacon Class together.

Deacon Bob Schrader

**MASS INTENTIONS - Mar 13th to Mar 21st**

- Sat.** 4:30 AM Betty Marsico by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Turner  
9:00AM Christopher Daly by Mr & Mrs William Uebelacker  
11:00 AM George Noeth & Jon David Noeth by family
- Mon.** 9:00AM For the people of St. Christophers
- Tues.** 9:00AM Richard Przybyla
- Wed.** 9:00AM William Rennick by Beth Adam
- Thur.** 9:00 PM Communion and Prayer Service
- Fri.** 9:00AM Fathers living and deceased
- Sat.** 4:30 AM Bill McDonnell by Joe & Janet Shortino  
9:00AM Sam Pizzo by Robert & Mary Jane Lighthouse  
11:00 AM William Jackson, Jr. by Mrs. William Jackson

**NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES****Sunday, March 14**

- 9:00 AM - (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes  
11:00 AM - (Hall) Confirmation Faith Sharing  
12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir

**Monday, March 15**

- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Youth Office) Youth Group Meeting  
4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes  
Grades 1-5

**Tuesday, March 16**

- 4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes  
Grades 1-5  
6:00 PM - (Hall) Council  
7:30 PM - Joe Kelly at St. Columbas

**Wednesday, March 17**

- 6:30 PM - 08:00 PM (All Clsrms) Jr. High Classes  
7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group  
7:00 PM - (Rectory) Raffle Meeting

**Friday, March 19**

- 7:30 PM - (Church) Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 20**

- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Hall) First Eucharist Retreat  
10:00 AM - (Hall) Eucharist Ministry  
5:30 PM - (Hall) Family Life Pizza Party

**Sunday, March 21**

- 9:00 AM - (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes  
11:00 AM - (Hall) Confirmation Faith Sharing  
12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir  
12:15 PM - 01:15 PM (Church) Living Stations Rehearsal  
1:00 PM - (Youth Office) Youth Group Meeting  
2:00 PM - (Church) Penance Service

**Lenten Series with Dr. Joe Kelly**

5 Saints West has invited Dr. Joe Kelly to present a Lenten series, "**Job's Dilemma and Ours: Biblical Reflections of the Problem of Evil**"

The series will be held Tuesdays at 7 pm as follows:  
March 16 – St. Mary of the Assumption in Scottsville  
March 23 – St. Vincent de Paul in Churchville

**Soup & Stations**

Every Friday during lent, we have the Stations of the Cross. This year we will once again have Soup before Stations each Friday from 6:30-7:25pm. Come join us in the parish hall each week for soup and stay for stations. There is no cost involved and all are welcome. Human Services Ministry

**BAOBAB BLAST VBS 2010**

GET READY FOR THE WILDEST ADVENTURE YET JULY 19-28, 2010! Registration forms are available at the entrances to the church as well as the Faith Formation Office. The great Baobab tree in the expansive African savannah is the setting for this year's VBS. This great get-together has something for everyone in the community to LOVE. Kids, ages 3-12, will be sharing in their classes, visiting the Kalahari Craft Center, The Grassland Games Field, the Savannah Storytelling area, and the Madagascar Music Theater. Registration is limited so sign up soon. Pre-registration ends on May 20, 2010. See you at the Baobab Blast!

**Faith Formation Registration**

During the past couple of weeks we have been sending home the registration forms for September 2010 – April 2011. If you did not get the form please pick it up this week when you bring your child(ren) to classes. Forms should be returned to the Faith Formation office no later than June 1, 2010. If your child will be starting for the first time in the fall or if you have any questions call the Faith Formation office at 594-1441.

**Golden Agers....**

There will be a Golden Agers meeting Tuesday March 23rd following the 9:00 AM Mass. After the meeting there will be a mini Retreat as planned by Judy Leone. Following the Retreat we will have pizza and wings and the cost will be \$2.00 a person. Please let Chris know if you plan to attend or if you will not be able to attend at 293-9248.

**The Prodigal Son**

The story of the Prodigal Son helps us refocus on the meaning of Lent. This is a time to change our ways, to turn back to God our Father, and to appreciate and share the gifts we have received. As we begin the second half of our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, we remember that we are called to be stewards of what God has given us, and we connect our prayers and fasting with our giving. Human Services Committee

**Attention Parents of College Freshmen...**



**Care Package Opportunity!**

St. Christopher's Young Adult Ministry has a tradition of sending care packages to college freshmen from our parish who are adjusting to their new lives as young adults. Through this gift they realize anew the faith support of the members of our parish community.

We will be sending out "**Final Exam Survival Kits**" in April. If you wish your young adult to receive this care package, please contact Maranda Skolen by April 7th! 643-5555 or marandaskolen@hotmail.com

**Attention: Liturgical Ministers**

First, I would like to thank Margy Lydon for all the hours she has put into creating the Ministry Schedule over the past several years. Believe me, it is a very big undertaking. I greatly appreciate her service to St. Christopher's.

The current schedule will end with March 28. Its time to let me know of any changes that need to be made before the next schedule. I have designed a sheet that will be at both entrances of the church. Please complete one of these forms and drop in the collection when you want to request "non-schedule" dates, or if you wish to make a change in your ministry status. You may also send me an email at [nstchris@dor.org](mailto:nstchris@dor.org).

**The Lazarus Committee Needs You**

Please help us: We are looking for serving dishes which have gone astray from the church hall.

Parishioners take the time to provide dishes for funeral receptions at their own expense and when they come to pick up their dishes, they can't find them. I am asking you to please! Check your cupboards and, if you find some item(s) which do not look familiar to you, please bring them to the Church Hall and place on the main table.

Request: Looking for large, non-glass plastic daisy salad bowl, and some glass items. Check your cupboards.

We appreciate your efforts!

**An Invitation to "Spring Into Action"!**

Some of your elderly neighbors may need a ride to do these simple, but necessary things...like a stop at the pharmacy...a visit to the doctor...a trip to the grocery store. Can you help? If you have a couple of hours a week, or even a couple of hours a month, consider being a volunteer driver. You can select your geographic area and the times you wish to drive. You will be provided with training, and supplemental accident and liability insurance. You may receive a discount on your automobile insurance.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer driver, call Sr. Anne Guerin 244-8400, x142, or email, [aguerin@lifespan-roch.org](mailto:aguerin@lifespan-roch.org).

**Join Lifespan for the 14th Celebration of Aging on Thursday, March 18, noon at the Convention Center. Our guest speaker is NBC's Willard Scott, and we will honor area 100-year-olds.**

**Vocations...are you being called?**

First, Mary believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled and she accepted God's plan for her. Then, in the same obedient way, Jesus said, "As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God." We have been given two perfect examples of love, obedience and sacrifice to follow. Are you open to hearing God's voice in your life? How are you being called to a life of love, obedience to God and sacrifice? Is it through consecrated single life; a holy married life; possibly, ordained or religious life? If you've ever considered diocesan priesthood and would like to talk with someone about it, contact the Office of Vocation Awareness/ 585-461-2890/ [vocations@dor.org](mailto:vocations@dor.org) website: [www.dor.org/vocations](http://www.dor.org/vocations)

*The Joy of Stewardship*

**Parish Financial Stewardship Summary**

	LAST WEEK	Attendance	YEAR TO DATE
Last Week	\$ 6,307.80	923	\$ 247,559.85

#of Envelopes 3/7/2010 240

Stewardship ... Live It!

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

**585-594-1400** *Emergency Pastoral Care* 293-9248  
 e-mail: [nstchris@dor.org](mailto:nstchris@dor.org)

<http://www.stchristophersnchili.org>

Patrickplace.org ~a comfort care project of 5 Saints West

**PARISH STAFF**

Pastor .....*Rev. Robert Gaudio* 594-1400  
 Sec/Business Mgr *Marilyn Weinert* 594-1400  
 Deacon.....*Bob Schrader*  
 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* 643-5555/594-1091  
 Youth Minister.....*Kim Winden* 329-4642 / 594-1091  
 Maintenance.....*Robert Yaw* 594-1441

**SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS:**

*Sunday Eucharist* Saturday 4:30 PM  
 Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM  
*Weekday Eucharist* 9:00 AM Mass or Communion Svc

**EASTER FLOWERS**

To donate to flowers, use this form, the envelope in your packet, or pick up an envelope at the entrances to the church.  
 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of.....

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_