



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

March 21, 2010



Love Lavishly,
Forgive Freely

GLORY BE TO GOD!

A surgeon and his wife were invited to dinner at the home of friends. The surgeon was enjoying a drink in the kitchen as his host was about to carve the roast.

“Would you like to do the honors, Doc?” his friend said.

The surgeon politely declined.

As he carved the roast, his friend teased, “So how’s my technique, Doc? I think I’d make a pretty good surgeon, huh, Doc? It’s all in the wrist. You know, I might take your job.”

The doctor laughed good-naturedly, having endured this kind of humor many times before — an “occupational hazard” in his field of medicine.

When he finished, the host proudly displayed the tray of beautifully sliced roast beef. “So what d’ya think, Doc?”

“Not bad,” the surgeon replied. “Now — let’s see you put them all back together.”

This teaching mirrors the hope of today’s Gospel. Most of us are pretty good at taking things apart — especially other people. Like the Pharisees and scribes in today’s Gospel, we are able, with surgical precision, to point to evil, to sin, to failure in others — but Jesus asks *What about the evil and sin and failure within yourselves?* We are well practiced in criticizing and condemning—but Jesus challenges us to the much harder work of healing and transforming evil into good, of bringing into the light the things of God that remain unseen in the darkness of fear and ignorance. Today Jesus challenges us to be agents of change, to give one another — and ourselves — space to grow, a hand to help up, a shoulder to lean on.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks both the woman’s accusers and the woman herself to move beyond their standards and expectations, to go deeper than the rules and law, to see beyond what is readily apparent and become ministers of reconciliation and agents of forgiveness. Rather than stone this woman, Jesus calls the Pharisees and scribes to help her up, to provide support and help to her and others like her to re-create their lives.

Such a response begins with the humility to realize that we, too, stumble and fall and be grateful for those who help

us up. Again Jesus challenges them – and us — to look within our own hearts to confront the sins and evil that are part of every life and find within ourselves the compassion and love of God that leads to true and lasting joy, healing and life. God always allows us to start over. In the vision of God, change, especially a change of heart is always possible.

Blessing and Distribution—Palm Sunday

Palms will be blessed prior to all the Masses downstairs in the Parish Center followed by a procession, outside (weather permitting), around to the main entrance into Church. If you would like to participate in the blessing and procession, please go directly downstairs before Mass. After the blessing of palms, they will be distributed to those remaining in Church.

CONFIRMATION – For Older Adults in St. Christopher

Again this year I would like to extend an invitation for those older members in our community who have for whatever reason have not completed the sacraments of Membership in the Catholic Church. Often, during marriage preparation, I’m struck by how many young people have never been confirmed. Since PENTECOST is seven weeks down the road, it seemed like a wonderful time to offer the sacrament for those who would like to have a deeper understanding of the life and the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. I perceive at least 2 sessions around Sacramental life. Classes will take place after Easter with Confirmation on May 17th at the Cathedral.

If you are one of the many we invite you to contact me, or call the rectory and leave your name, we will get back to you with a better understanding of what we are offering in preparation for this sacrament.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Sign-up sheets are posted on an easel in the back hallway for Holy Thursday, (4/01); Good Friday (4/02); and the Easter Vigil, (4/03). Your service during this time of Holy Week is greatly appreciated as there are many positions to fill. ***Please look at the openings and sign-up as soon as possible.***

Penance Service - Note the Change

Please note the date change - our Lenten Penance service will take place on **Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 pm.**

MASS INTENTIONS - Mar 20th to Mar 28th

- 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
- Mon.** 9:00AM For the people of St. Christophers
- Tues.** 9:00AM Mothers living and deceased
- Wed.** 9:00AM William McCall by Karen McCall
- Thur.** 9:00 PM Communion and Prayer Service
- Fri.** 9:00AM Don Paine by Ginny Lockridge
- Sat.** 4:30 AM Sr. Carol Fox by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Turner
9:00AM Keith Walworth by Beth Adam
11:00 AM Michele Cabic by the Cabic family

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**Sunday, March 21**

- 9:00 AM & 11:00 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 - (Church) Living Stations Rehearsal
1:00 PM - (Youth Office) Youth Group Meeting
2:00 PM - (Church) Penance Service

Monday, March 22

- 4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes
Grades 1-5

Tuesday, March 23

- 4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes
Grades 1-5

7:30 PM - Dr. Joe Kelly at St. Vincents

Wednesday, March 24

- 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (All Clsrms) Jr. High Classes
7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group

Friday, March 26

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

Saturday, March 27

9:00 AM - (Church) Decorate for Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28

12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir

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

Living Stations ...

will be held once again on Good Friday at 7:30PM. This event will include music and drama according to St. John Paul II's Stations of the Cross. Please consider joining the Youth and Young Adults of the Parish as they present to you this powerful evening. For those involved, rehearsal will be Monday, March 29 from 5:30PM to 6:30PM in the church. ALL actors and anyone else still interested need to be at this rehearsal. We will also be meeting on Good Friday beginning at noon.

Seder on March 28

In keeping with our recent tradition, we will have a Seder on Palm Sunday. A Seder is a Jewish ritual commemorating Passover. The Last Supper of the Lord was actually a Seder meal and as Christians, we find this to be the source of our Eucharistic celebration.

Our Seder follows the tradition of both a ritual meal and an actual lamb supper. We encourage people to partake in this opportunity by signing up at the back of church. This is a family event, so don't hesitate to bring your children. The Seder will begin at 6:00 PM on Palm Sunday, March 28. Space is limited, so sign up early. If you have questions, call Celeste: 293-2358 or 697-4961.

Also, if you are interested in helping, please come to our planning meeting Monday, March 22 at 6:00 pm downstairs in the parish center.

Faith Formation Registration

During the past couple of weeks we have been sending home the registration forms for September 2010 – April 2011. 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 questions call 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.

Graphics Designer Needed

The Raffle Committee is seeking help from anyone who has expertise in Graphics Design. If you have interest or any questions, please contact Nick Campanis at 889-2054.

The Woman Caught in Adultery

The Lenten call to repentance is matched by the overwhelming compassion and forgiveness of God. The story of the woman caught in adultery shows us that Jesus does not want to condemn us, but rather to place us on the path to new life. Our prayer, fasting, learning, and giving with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl opens paths to new life for our brothers and sisters in need. Human Services Ministry

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

The Lazarus Committee Needs Your Help

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

Parishioners provide dishes for funeral receptions at their own expense, unfortunately, often 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.

We appreciate your efforts!

Youth Group...

~ There IS youth group this weekend (3/21) from 1-3 for grades 7-12

~ There is NO youth group next weekend (3/28) on Palm Sunday

Leadership...

~ Leadership is a program available to anyone in Junior High Faith Formation (Wednesday nights), AND for anyone receiving their confirmation this year (it counts as part of your church ministry for confirmation). It is ALSO available to anyone in grades 7-12

~ Leadership is a program for youth who would like to become stronger leaders! There will be a variety of activities such as team-building, character, leadership, event/service planning, and MUCH more!

~ If you were not able to come to the information meeting but WOULD like to join, please speak with Kim Winden! She will be available to answer any more questions this weekend (3/21) from 12:15-1pm in the youth room! She can also give you an info sheet for Leadership if you want more details but can't stay to ask questions!

~ The actual Leadership program will begin in early May, but we are creating a list of members ASAP so that we know how many people to plan for!

Face the Famine Lock-in...

The Face the Famine lock-in will be April 10-11th at St. Christopher's! You can get more details on the posters at each entrance for the church. At both entrances you can also get a permission/medical form. Please fill this out and return by Sunday Match 28th!!! We are looking for 1-2 adults chaperones for this event, so please let me know if you're interested!

Spring Retreat...

Our Spring Retreat will be the weekend of May 21-23rd for grades 7-12 at Notre Dame Retreat House! If you're interested in being on the planning committee, please email Kim at stchristophersyouthgroup@hotmail.com to let her know you would like to help! We are also looking for a couple of adult chaperones to help in different areas, so let us know if you're interested!

Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

Whenever I join in the crowd during the Palm Sunday Gospel reading, I smugly think, "If I were there, I certainly would not join in this raucous, jeering crowd. I would not add my voice to this violence." But, how does my silence also condemn? Have I used my voice to stand up for justice or have I been silent in the face of today's issues that crucify groups of people for being poor, for being legal immigrants, for being the incarcerated?

Challenge: Learn about the issues and contact your legislators.

The Joy of Stewardship

Parish Financial Stewardship Summary

	LAST WEEK	Attendance	YEAR TO DATE
Last Week	\$6,226.26	753	\$
#of Envelopes	3/14/2010	247	

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

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. _____