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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 28, 2010



Love Lavishly,  
Forgive Freely

### PASSION SUNDAY

Clint Eastwood's compelling new film *Invictus* takes place in post-apartheid South Africa in 1995. Imprisoned for 24 years by the white racist government, Nelson Mandela has become the living embodiment of black South Africa's hopes and aspirations. Mandela is overwhelmingly elected president in the nation's first free elections.

South Africa is on the brink of civil war. Everyone expects a bloodbath: the black majority demands justice for the decades of poverty, brutality and oppression they have endured — and the white minority is terrified. But Mandela, as portrayed by Morgan Freeman in the film, knows that score-settling would be disastrous for South Africa's new and fragile democracy. To the dismay of his coworkers and loyalists in his movement, he seeks some kind of peace with the white Afrikaners who see Mandela as a terrorist and a threat to their traditions and way of life. President Mandela shocks his aides, first, by including whites in his security detail. He then refuses to fire whites who worked in the deKlerk government, assuring them that they are welcome to work with him in rebuilding South Africa.

But it is the Springbok Rugby Club that becomes Mandela's unlikely vehicle for reconciliation. To South African blacks, the all-white Springboks and their green and gold colors were as despised a symbol of white rule as the apartheid flag. The new black government wants to abolish the Springboks, but President Mandela overturns their decision. With South Africa scheduled to host the World Rugby Cup tournament, he sees the underachieving team as the vehicle for South Africa's return as a respected member of the world community. Mandela enlists the help of the Springboks' captain (played by Matt Damon) to transform the team from a hated symbol of arrogant white rule into an inspiring rallying point for the new South Africa.

When confronted by his staff and cabinet about the plan, Mandela says with his understated authority, "Reconciliation starts here. Forgiveness starts here."

Today we happily welcome Jesus, the divine Reconciler as "king" with Hosannas and palm branches — but where will we stand on Friday? How readily will we identify ourselves with the condemned Christ? How willing will we be to take his cross on our shoulders? Will our faith wither as quickly as these branches will tomorrow? This Passion Sunday confronts us with the hard, uncomfortable and dis-

comforting demands of the Crucified Jesus' Gospel. Do we realize the faith we claim in these branches? Are we willing to take on the consequences of proclaiming Jesus as our "king," as God's promised "Messiah"? Holy Week calls us to "surrender" as Christ surrenders to God: to empty ourselves of our own needs and wants for the sake of others, to surrender our will in order that God's will becomes our will, to return to God the gift of our lives that he has so lovingly given to us so that they might be reconciled with our God.

Miep Gies and "the long line" of brave, good, unheralded men and women like her have understood the demands of such faith and have been willing to "crucify" their own safety for the cause of justice and righteousness, to embrace the attitude of the reconciler Jesus, the Suffering Servant, for the sake of the God's own. On this Sunday of the Lord's Passion, may we embrace the faith — in all its demands and challenges .

Easy? Hardly. But we cannot hope to experience rebirth and transformation in our lives until we "empty" ourselves of our self-centered wants, until we "crucify" those attitudes and approaches that make us less than what we want to become in the eyes of God, until we surrender ourselves to the compassion and justice of God.

### Anointing of the sick...

Father will be available in the Chapel immediately following Masses this weekend for the anointing of the sick.

### The Passion

This week we walk with Jesus through his passion, death, and resurrection. We begin to experience the sacrifice he made for us and how we are also called to give our life for others. Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl has helped us walk with our sisters and brothers who daily take up the cross of poverty. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we unite ourselves in the one human family that is God's creation. Human Services Committee

### 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 today.*

### Help Decorate

We will be preparing the Church environment for Easter on Holy Saturday morning. If you would like to help, please come to Church at 9:45 A. M.

<u>Mass</u>	<u>Intentions</u>	<u>March 27</u> <u>For:</u>	<u>to April 4</u> <u>By:</u>
Sat	4:30 PM	Sr. Carol Fox	Mr/Mrs Dave Turner
Sun.	9:00 AM	Keith Walworth	Beth Adam
	11:00 AM	Michelle Cabic	The Cabic Family
Mon.	9:00 AM	For the people of	St. Christophers
Tues.	9:00 AM	Joseph Cicco	The Kamp Family
Wed.	9:00 AM	Noreen Pelletere	Millie Ragonese
Thur	7:30 PM	Fathers living	and deceased
Fri.	3:00 PM	Good Friday	Service
Sat.	8:00 PM	For the people of	St. Christophers
Sun.	9:00 AM	Shirley Evans	Verna & Vivian
	11:00 AM	George Noeth and Jon David Noeth	The Noeth family

**NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday  
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsm ) Youth/Young Adult Choir  
 6:00 PM – Seder Supper  
 Wednesday, March 31  
 7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group  
 Holy Thursday  
 7:30 PM - Mass  
 Good Friday, April 2  
 12:00 PM - 02:00 PM (Church) Living Stations Rehearsal  
 3:00 PM - Good Friday Service  
 4:30 PM - 06:30 PM (Church) Living Stations Rehearsal  
 7:30 PM - (Church) Living Stations of the Cross  
 Holy Saturday, April 3  
 8:00 PM - Easter Vigil  
 Sunday, April 4  
 9:00 AM - Easter Mass  
 11:00 AM - Easter Mass

**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

**CONFIRMATION – For Older Adults**

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 people have never been confirmed. PENTECOST 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. Classes will take place after Easter with Confirmation on May 17th at the Cathedral. If you are interested, please contact me, or call the rectory and leave your name, we will get back to you with information.

**Food Collection -**

We still take up a collection of food on the first weekend of every month to help supply our local food cupboards. Items that are Non- Perishable Canned Fruits, Juices , Vegetables, Soup, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Tuna Fish Personal Products Tooth Paste, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Kleenex. Detergent, Dish Soap. Hand Soap Just some idea's. Please leave your donations in the front entrance of the church.

**Youth Corner...**

**Face the Famine: (grades 7-12)**

We just began getting sponsors to sponsor us to do the FACE THE FAMINE LOCK-IN! If you're interested in participating in this wonderful event, check out the multiple posters at BOTH church entrances. Also at both entrances you can find the permission/medical form! The form stated that it was due THIS WEEKEND, but we are extending it ONE MORE WEEK! We need it by Easter in order to plan accordingly for the number of participants. It will be a fun, amazing event, but MORE importantly, we are doing a wonderful service by getting sponsors to help fight world hunger. \$1 can feed a child for an entire day...you can make a huge difference!

**Spring Retreat: (grades 7-12)**

The retreat is booked! We will be having a 2-day retreat at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua! Keep your eyes and ears open for more detailed posters and announcements!

**Leadership:** (grades 7-12, Jr. High Faith Formation, AND confirmation candidates)

If you are interested in joining LEADERSHIP, check out the posters and website for information! The first week of the actual Leadership program is Sunday May 16th, 2010.

**Youth Group:** (grades 7-12)

- 3/28/10 - No Youth Group (Palm Sunday)
- 4/4/10 - No Youth Group (Easter Sunday)
- 4/10/10 @ 12pm until 4/11/10 1:30pm - **Face the Famine Lock-in (No Youth Group because of famine)**
- 4/18/10 - **No Youth Group (Spring Break)**
- 4/25/10 - **No Youth Group (Spring Break)**

\* **There are only 1 or 2 youth group meetings in April and May due to vacations, holidays, and events, BUT there will be a couple of teen events, so keep paying at-**



**This past week, 8 students from St. Christopher's Parish received the Hands of Christ Award from Bishop Matthew Clark:**

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Madeline Basil      | Michael Murtaugh |
| Amanda Braun        | Danielle         |
| Jennifer Eisenhauer | Socciarelli      |
|                     | Katie Zaffuto    |

***Congratulations from your Parish Family!  
We are so proud of you!***



### Operation Rice Bowl

Please drop off your Operation Rice Bowl cartons offerings in the marked boxes at each of the church's entrances the week after Easter.

If you prefer to write a check or substitute quiet money rather than deal with all the loose change, the collection counters would greatly appreciate it..

### Thank you, thank you, thank you...

... to everyone who helped with the carpet project. Your hard work and sacrifice of time is greatly appreciated. We can now enjoy what we together accomplished. (And it seemed like you even had fun doing it!)

### 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.

### 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 incarcerated?

**Challenge: Learn about the issues and contact your legislators.**



The Patrick Place Fundraising Committee would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that supported An Evening for Patrick Place on March 13th. This

event was an enormous success due to the support of the community, local businesses and individuals who purchased program ads and/or donated items to the silent auction. We also thank those that made private and anonymous donations. Your generosity and support will help to make Patrick Place a reality.  
Patrick Place Fundraising Committee

### Dear St Christopher's Family:

As we are settling in our 'Home away from Home', we are still basking in the warmth of our 'sending forth' given to us on that last Sunday...the gift of your blessings, reception and well wishes. Just as a person who physically leaves their biological family stays spiritually connected, so we will with you, our faith community at St Christopher.

Thank you for your love, support and well wishes.  
Shalom!

Deacon John and Peggy Cunningham  
2800 Indian River Blvd Unit L-1, Vero Beach, Fl 32960  
Tel# 772-774-8699 cell 585-293-3337

## The Joy of Stewardship

### Parish Financial Stewardship Summary

DATE	LAST WEEK	Attendance	YEAR TO
Last Week	\$5,984.02	816	\$

**The Bishop's Second Collection for Haiti raised a total of \$527,000. Thank you for your generosity!**

**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

### 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. \_\_\_\_\_