



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

December 27, 2009

GLORY BE TO GOD – Feast of the Holy Family



It was time for the annual Nativity pageant put on by the children of the church. The manger was located in front of the altar steps. Mary was there in a blue mantel and Joseph in a cotton beard. The wise men were there with a handful of shepherds, and of course, in the midst of them all was the Christ Child, lying on the straw. The nativity

story was read by the pastor with carols sung at the appropriate places, and all went like clockwork until it came time for the arrival of the angels - a "heavenly host" of the children of the congregation dressed in white and scattered throughout the pews with their parents.

At the right moment the angels were supposed to come forward and gather around the manger to sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men," and that is just what they did - except there were so many angels that there was a fair amount of crowding and jockeying for position. One angel, about nine years old who was smaller than most of the other angels, ended up so far out on the fringes of things that not even by craning her neck and standing on tiptoe could she see what was going on. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men," they all sang on cue, and then in the momentary pause that followed, the small girl electrified the entire church by crying out in a voice shrill with irritation and frustration and enormous sadness at having her view blocked, "Let Jesus show!"

The wise pastor decided to end the pageant right there. "Let Jesus show!" the child-angel had cried out, and while the congregation sat in stunned silence, the good father offered a quick final prayer and blessing, and everybody filed out of church with those unforgettable words ringing in their ears.

[From *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons* by Rev. Frederick Buechner.]

May the little angel's cry be our prayer in the year ahead: "Let Jesus show!" in our homes and in our families, in our work places and schools; "Let Jesus show!" in our compassion, alert attention to one another, forgiveness and joy. May we not "lose" Jesus in the many demands on our time; may we not "hide" Jesus when the difficult decision

has to be made; may we not "pack" Jesus away until next Christmas, but may the "Word made flesh" make his dwelling place among us here, now and always, illuminating every one of our days with his wisdom and grace.

Finally this is the Feast of the Holy Family. There is the statement that I have always found true in my life that "the family that prays together stays together." It is really as simple as that. I would encourage that some time this day - before meals or before bed - that you take the time as a family to say this prayer together.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of openly professing as I should, with courage and with human respect, the faith that I received as your gift in holy Baptism.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of sharing by word or by the sacrifice, my possessions and my life.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of loving my family and others in mutual charity as I should, and establish us in perfect harmony of thought, will, and action, under the rule and guidance of the shepherds of the Church.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of conforming my life fully as I should to the commandments of God's law and those of His Holy Church, so as to live always in that charity which they set forth.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I ask in particular this special favor: (*Mention your favor.*)

Dedication of One's Family:

Most loving Jesus, you came to enlighten our world with your teaching and example.

You sanctified family life by your grace filled virtues. Grant that we, with the help of Mary and Joseph, may be taught by the example of your Holy Family. Give us help in times of need. Help us to follow the example of Your Holy Family in the challenges we face in today's world. We pray this in Jesus Name. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS - Dec 26th to Jan 3rd

Saturday 4:30 PM Kenneth J. McCorry by Ken & Kee Milner
Sunday 9:00AM Thomas LeBeau by Rite Aid Ridgemont
 11:00AM Joseph Dentino by Angie Dentino
Monday 9:00AM Helen Leschander by Bill & Sharon Beeke
Tuesday 9:00AM For the intentions of Fr. Bob Gaudio
Wednesday 9:00AM Fathers living and deceased
Thursday 5:00 PM For all those recovering from surgery
Friday 10:00AM For the people of St. Christopher's
Saturday 4:30 PM Ken McCorry by Henry & Dolores Korytkowski
Sunday 9:00AM Ann Yankowski by Bud and Ann Roach
 11:00AM Moses Giovine by Arlene Bianco

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**Wednesday, December 30**

07:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group

Friday, January 1, 2010

10:00 AM - (Rectory) New Year's Day Mass

Saturday, January 2

04:30 PM - (*FYI) LOW at all Masses

Sunday, January 3

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes

09:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Hall) LOW

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

12:30 PM - 02:00 PM (Hall) First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Christmas Pageant and Family Choir 2009

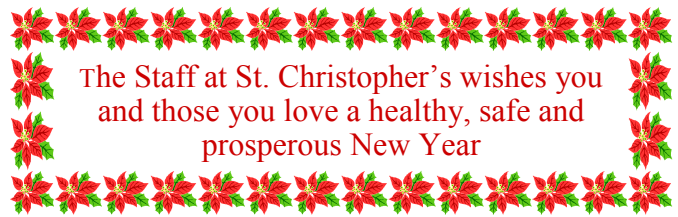
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's pageant. It was a beautiful afternoon and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

We are pleased to report that we are at 85% of our \$47,000 goal for this year's CMA. We have another \$7,000 to go. Thank you to everyone who has sent in their pledge. Please consider the words of Bishop Clark as you contemplate your gift this year.

"I ask you to pray about your gift to the CMA and, if you are able, to make a gift that truly will help your parish, your diocese and those whose lives and well-being would be reduced without our ministries."

Keeping the Spirit Alive



The Staff at St. Christopher's wishes you and those you love a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year

First Eucharist and Confirmation

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation will begin in January. Parents who have a child(ren) making First Eucharist will be meeting on January 4, 2010 in 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Registration forms are available now, in the Faith Formation Office, for all students who will be making Confirmation this year. The Confirmation Parent information meeting will be on January 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Judy or Karen at 594-1441.

March for Life**An Incredibly Inspiring Event**

We hope you will consider joining us for the March of Life. Our bus leaves at 10 p.m. on January 21st from St. Christopher's and will arrive at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception around 6:30 a.m. on January 22nd. Following the march, we plan to leave Washington D.C. at 4:30 p.m., which will bring us back to St. Christopher's Church at nearly midnight.

Each seat will cost \$55. If you cannot attend the march, please prayerfully consider a donation for a person or family that wishes to attend but needs financial assistance. For more information on securing a seat for the trip, please call Joan Reilly at 1-315-690-6455.

Hands of Christ
Class of 2010



Nominations Now Being Accepted!
Deadline is Jan. 11th!

The Hands of Christ is a recognition program sponsored by the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Rochester to assist parishes in affirming their high school seniors who have been the "Hands of Christ" in their church, home, school and community. Recognized seniors are invited to receive a plaque from Bishop Clark at one of three special Recognition Ceremonies held in March of 2010.

For details about the nomination process, deadlines, nomination forms and various events surrounding the Hands of Christ Program please pick up a flyer located near Church entrances or contact Maranda Skolen: 719-5851 or marandaskolen@hotmail.com

