



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

December 6, 2009

"God Speaks to us in Simple Ways"



Second Sunday of Advent

GLORY BE TO GOD!

John the Baptist went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths . . . The winding roads shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth." (Luke 3: 1-6). Here John not only preaches that people should prepare themselves but we will see in the weeks ahead how he also aids them, offering them simple challenging acts of kindness which extends God's blessing in simple ways.

Advent is a season which challenges us to look more deeply in the events around and see how God is touching people hearts. Here is a simple act of kindness that dissolved centuries of horrible stereotypes:

This fall, a Muslim congregation in Reston, Virginia had outgrown its facilities and was looking for a place to meet for evening prayers during Islam's holy month of Ramadan. When a Jewish synagogue heard that the Muslim congregation was looking for space, they offered the use of its hall.

The synagogue was not just tolerant but welcoming to its Muslim neighbors. Members of the mosque greeted their Jewish neighbors with the Hebrew greeting Shalom, and the synagogue community responded with its Arabic equivalent Salaam. The rabbi spoke at the Islamic community's Friday afternoon prayers; the imam spoke at Friday evening Shabbat services.

The relationship has grown between the two congregations. The Muslim community has been invited to continue holding their Friday prayers at the synagogue. The rabbi and imam are planning a trip together to the Middle East.

The imam, who grew up in the Sudan, said that he had never met a Jew until he moved to the U.S. in his 20s nor had he ever imagined having a close relationship with a rabbi. His congregation's experience with the synagogue had shattered stereotypes. One member of the Muslim congregation said, "I will not look at the [Jewish people] the same."

The rabbi said the relationship works both ways. "You really only get to know someone when you invite them into your home . . . you learn to recognize their faces. You learn the names of their children." [The Associated Press, September 17, 2009.]

Advent's "highway" for our God is built one smooth stone of kindness and understanding at a time. There are so many wastelands and barren places into which we can bring the life of God, so many crooked roads that we can transform into highways through our charity and forgiveness, our sense of humility and gratitude. The work of Advent is to bring light to the dark chasms of ignorance, to fill in the valleys of poverty and want, to make low the mountains of injustice, to straighten roads made impassable because of mistrust and hatred.

Masses for Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 is Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.

St. Christopher's— 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on the 8th

St Columba's in Caledonia	Vigil - 12/7 - 7:00 p.m.
	Day - 12/8 - 12:10 p.m.
St. Vincent's in Churchville	Day - 12/8 - 8:30 a.m.
St. Mary's in Scottsville	Day 12/8 - 7:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS - Dec 5th to Dec 13th

Saturday	4:30 PM	Ken McCorry by the Lyons family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Roberta Daniels by Beth Adam
	11:00 AM	Frank Ragonese by family
Monday	9:00 AM	Marean West by The people of St. Christopher's
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Fred Stohr by Kathleen Delesky
	7:30 PM	F or the people of St. Christopher's
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Mothers living and deceased
Thursday	9:00 AM	Communion and Prayer Service
Friday	9:00 AM	Bernadine Smith by Bill, Donna, Lindsay Smith
Saturday	4:30 PM	Laura Robinson by Beverly & John Neder
Sunday	9:00 AM	Christine Fudge by Dave & Judy Hasman
	11:00 AM	George, Jon and David Noeth by family

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**Sunday, December 6**

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Hall) Liturgy of the Word
 9:00 AM - (All Clsrms) Pre School - Kindergarten
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Parish Life Ministry
 12:30 PM - 02:00 PM (Church) Pageant Choir rehearsal
 3:00PM - 04:00 PM "An Advent Afternoon" Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 7

4:15 PM - 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Classes grades 1-5

Tuesday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

4:15 PM - 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Classes grades 1-5

Wednesday, December 9

6:30 PM - 08:00 PM (All Clsrms) Junior High Classes
 7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group
 7:00 PM - (Rectory) Finance Committee

Thursday, December 10

7:00 PM - (Church) Choir

Saturday, December 12

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM (Entire Bldg) Pageant rehearsal
 4:30 PM - 05:30 PM (Clsrms 6) Liturgy of the Word

Sunday, December 13

- (*FYI) Last day to bring in Giving Tree Gifts
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Hall) Liturgy of the Word
 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (All Clsrms) Pre School - Kindergarten
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir
 1:00 PM - 03:00 PM Rectory bsmnt— Giving Tree Wrapping

Christmas Pageant and Family Choir 2009

Mark your calendars and join us on December 20th at 2:00 p.m. for a magical time as we hear beautiful music from the St. Christopher Family Choir and watch and listen to the story of the first Christmas. Everyone is invited to participate. Bring your young ones in their PJ's, and a pillow to sit up front by the fireside to enjoy the reading of the story of the first Christmas as many of our students add to the performance as Mary, Joseph, sheep, shepherds, store keeper and much more. We are asking each family to bring one dozen cookies to share afterwards. If you have any questions call Judy and Karen at 594-1441.

Special Offer

The Cathedral Shop is offering "Forward in Hope: Saying Amen to Lay Ecclesial Ministry" by our own Bishop Matthew Clark at **20% Off** the cover price (\$11.95) through December 31st, 2009, as a holiday special, beginning Sunday, November 29th, 2009.

St. Christopher's Advent Giving

Tree of Lights—Purchase a light for our tree in the name of someone you love and we will send a letter to let them know and invite them to visit us to see the tree. This is also a lovely way to honor someone who has passed.

The letter can be sent to their family as a remembrance. You will find forms for the Tree of Lights at the entrances of the Church. If you have questions—please call the rectory 594-1400



Fill the Cradles—We are collecting items for warmth for children ages 5 and under and they will be given to Focus Pregnancy Center. Please bring in your items unwrapped and place them in the cradles at the entrances to the Church.

**St. Christopher's The Giving Tree**

St. Christopher's Giving Tree is now in place at the front entrance of church. To participate, simply take an ornament or two off the tree and purchase the item(s) listed on the ornament. The purchased gifts should be returned to St. Christopher's and placed under the Giving Tree. **Please be sure to return the gifts UNWRAPPED with the ornament attached to the appropriate gift. Also, any food items must be store bought in a sealed package.**

If you are unable to purchase the gift listed on the ornament, **PLEASE** put the ornament back on the Giving Tree and if you're able, take another ornament. We would ask that the gifts be returned no later than **December 13, 2009**.

If you have any questions, please contact either Sheila Wimer (594-1542) or Chris McCabe 9293-9248)

Help Wanted for the Giving Tree Project

Santa's elves will be wrapping the Giving Tree gifts on Sunday, December 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the rectory basement. All are welcome to join us for a few hours of holiday music, great company and gift-wrapping.

If you can help, please call Sheila Wimer at 594-1542.

Golden Agers

The Christmas Lunch for the Golden Agers will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. It will be at Agatina's again this year. We will meet at Noon and dinner will be served at 12:30. If you did not receive a sign up sheet, please pick one up in the Golden Agers' Mail Box in Church. After making your selection for dinner, please place it with your check in an envelope marked for Chris and put it in the Collection basket or the Golden Agers' Mail Box. Choices and money must be in by December 6th. Please also call Chris at 293-9248 and let her know if you cannot attend or if you have any questions.

Golden Agers, Save the Date

On December 9th, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. our Junior High Students will be hosting a Christmas Party for all Golden Agers. If you have grandparents who you think would enjoy an evening of goodies, music, singing, and games and just great fun, bring them along.

