



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

November 29, 2009

"God Speaks to us in Simple Ways"



First Sunday of Advent

GLORY BE TO GOD!

For most of us, patience just doesn't seem to be in our DNA. We want what we want when we want it - and usually, with enough money or bluster, we can get it.

But we may be missing something when things happen too quickly, too conveniently. Kathleen Norris, one of the most insightful spiritual writers of our time, in her book *Acedia & Me: A Marriage, Monks and a Writer's Life*, reflects on something we have all experienced with our home computers:

"When I started using computers, in the mid-1970s, I noticed that while the programs with which I kept the finances of several small businesses made my work easier, they also made me more impatient. I went from being grateful for how quickly new software could do the book-keeping to snarling at the computer for being so slow. While I knew that my desktop was many times more powerful than the first UNIVAC, which had filled a huge room in the 1950s, I failed to be grateful for the inventiveness and skill that made it possible. Instead, I sighed each

time I had to wait while my computer slowly checked a record, made a computation, or saved to disk the work I had done.

One day, when I timed one such annoying delay and found that it constituted all of ten seconds, I felt as if I had been slapped in the face and warned: Pay attention - watch yourself. And when I did, I saw myself growling and groaning with impatience and pounding my keyboard over a tiny increment of time. Technology had made a fool of me, for a few seconds of 'waiting' in computer time is no longer than seconds spent 'waiting' on a magnificent, rocky beach for the sun to rise over a pearl-tinted ocean; it is only my perception that makes them different. And how I perceive such things is a matter of spiritual discipline."

Advent is a spiritual "reawakening" similar to what Kathleen Norris experienced at her computer. These four weeks before Christmas admonish us to stop and pay attention to the preciousness and fragileness of time. The things we seek most deeply, the things that awaken us to God's presence and God's plan come to us in simple ways. This is the theme that we would like to play over and over in the next several weeks as we prepare for the mystery of the Incarnation - God is always with us - he is in our skin.

Advent teaches us not to master time but to embrace the flow of God's time, to realize that time is not an obstacle to be mastered but a gift to be cherished. Our lives are measured in a fixed, finite period of days, months and years that are not meant to be squandered on temporary and passing things. The spirit of Advent waiting enables us to hope, to behold God in every moment we live, to realize the possibilities to make things better and complete.



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)

MASS INTENTIONS - Nov. 28th to Dec 6th

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| Saturday | 4:30 PM Bud McVea by Gary Melville family |
| Sunday | 9:00 AM Paul Zukaitis by Dorothy German |
| | 11:00 AM Bridget Publicover by Philson family |
| Monday | 9:00 AM Betty Agostinelli by Anne Pryor |
| Tuesday | 9:00 AM for the intentions of Lois McCabe on her 90th Birthday |
| Wednesday | 9:00 AM For the people of St. Christopher's |
| Thursday | 9:00 AM Communion and Prayer Service |
| Friday | 9:00 AM Bill McDonnell by the Eich family |
| Saturday | 4:30 PM Ken McCorry by the Lyons family |
| Sunday | 9:00 AM Roberts Daniels by Beth Adam |
| | 11:00 AM Frank Ragonese by family |

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**Sunday, November 29**

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

Monday, November 30

4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Classes grades 1-5
 7:15 PM - (Rectory) Liturgy Committee

Tuesday, December 1

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

Wednesday, December 2

6:30 PM - 08:00 PM (All Clsrms) Junior High classes
 7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group

Thursday, December 3

4:00 PM - (Hall) Brownie Meeting
 7:00 PM - (Church) Choir

Saturday, December 5

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM (Entire Bldg) Pageant rehearsal
 4:30 PM - Anointing Amanda Marie Raforth
 4:30 PM - (Clsrms) Liturgy of the Word

Sunday, December 6

9:00 AM - (Church) Welcoming Sunday
 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
 3:00 PM - 04:00 PM (Church) "An Advent Afternoon" - Lessons and Carols

Signing Events for Bishop Clark's New Book

Two signing events have been scheduled in celebration of the publication of Bishop of Rochester Matthew H. Clark's new book, *Forward in Hope: Saying Amen to Lay Ecclesial Ministry*, to be published by Ave Maria Press in November. *Forward in Hope* examines the ever-growing significance of lay ecclesial ministry and the way it is changing the face of the Catholic Church, and offers Bishop Clark's personal insights.

Bishop Clark has directed that all proceeds from sale of the book benefit St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry. Bishop Clark will sign copies of his book on:

- Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009, at the Cathedral Shop at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, following the 9:15 a.m. Mass.
- Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers store in Pittsford. Bishop Clark will speak about the book at that time in the store's Community

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



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.

If you have any questions, please contact either Chris McCabe (293-9248) or Sheila Wimer (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.

A Holiday Community Concert

Sat., December 5th at 7:00 PM and

Sun., December 6th at 3:00 PM

At the First Congregational Church, 65 Church Street, Spencerport. Spencerport Community Chorus directed by Margaret Colucci



Young Adult's
 YOU are invited to
Mass with the Bishop!

Sunday, Dec. 6th, 12:15pm

At Blessed Sacrament Church
 259 Rutgers St., Rochester, NY 14607

A special mass for Young Adults with Bishop Clark...

followed by fellowship & Food!
 Please contact Maranda
 For info & if you would like to carpool!
 marandaskolen@hotmail.com

