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# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

## SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

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*Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group*

September 13, 2009

### GLORY BE TO GOD! Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Faith teaches us that Jesus came to restore all men and women to communion with God and with each other. He came to take away fear from hearts that are frightened and place a deeper sense of God's care for us even though often times we fail to see God's hand at work. This fear can prevent us from hearing God's word drawing us near and from witnessing to others and others about our living God and what God wishes for us – fullness of life.

A British World War II veteran Ernest Gordon, long-time dean of the chapel at Princeton University, remembers his internment in a Japanese prison camp:

During the war, a group of His Majesty's soldiers were captured by the Japanese at the notorious River Kwai. During their imprisonment, the British captives were, at first, very observant of their religion, praying together, singing hymns, reading daily from the Bible. They were hoping and expecting that God would reward their faithfulness or at least mitigate their captivity. God didn't deliver, however, and the men became both disillusioned and angry. They gave up any outward display of their faith.

But after a while, as they began to tend to the needs of one another - caring for the sick and injured, protecting the weaker ones and, in some cases, dying for one another - they began to discern something of the Spirit of God in their midst. They discovered that religion was not just what one believed but what that belief led one to do for others, especially when it seemed that there was nothing that could be done. Compassion gave them their inner strength - and their inner strength gave them compassion.

In some of the hardest words he speaks in the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples that faith is not just a matter of creed and ritual. To be an authentic disciple of Jesus means to put ourselves in the humble, demanding role of servant to others, to intentionally seek the happiness and fulfillment of those we love regardless of the cost to ourselves. Only in "denying ourselves" in order to imitate the servant hood of Christ do we experience the true depth of our faith; only in embracing his compassion and humility in our lives do we enable the Spirit of God to renew and transform our world in God's life and love.

Inner strength (Faith), I believe, comes from the sure conviction that God has placed us in the world to do the work of life, and not of death. This is what St. Paul says: "We are always facing death, but this means that we know more and more of life" (2 Cor. 4:11). Faith is not the opposite of doubt or of death, but the means whereby we face and endure both doubt and death, and overcome our fear of them. We believe that neither death nor doubt nor fear is the last word. This is a sure conviction for Christian believers. Because that belief is testified to by the experience of our ancestors in the faith and our contemporaries who labor beside us and for God in the rubble of life, we are able to endure. With Faith, we are able to go through the worst for the best - come what may. Endurance is what it takes when you have nothing left. Heavy loads have been placed upon us in these days, and even greater burdens and sacrifices may come. Like Jesus in the Garden, we would be less than human if we did not pray that this cup might pass us by—but it won't. It is faith that gives us the courage to manage.

### Spirit Alive

Read: Acts 2: 1 - 13

Reflect: The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles made it possible for them to go out and begin living their share in Jesus' mission, though some of the people who heard the apostles thought they were drunk. I, too, have been given the grace and gifts of the Spirit in my baptism and confirmation. I, too, am enabled to proclaim the Good News. Do I? When? How? What gets in my way? Is there someone in my life who needs to hear some Good News? Is there something I must proclaim? How am I received when I share Jesus' message? What does that mean for me as I continue on in my journey as a disciple?

Did anything else stand out for me in this section of Acts?

**Act it Out!** *How do my reflections today inform how I will live out my discipleship in the world this week?*

Could I...

...connect someone's struggle or concerns that I hear this week with the gift of peace from Jesus?

...spend extra time with a friend at school who feels alone or awkward?

...speak out against someone who uses racist or hurtful language?

How else could I act it out?



**MASS INTENTIONS - Sept 12th to 20th**

**Saturday**  
 4:30 PM Merle Turner by Mr. & Mrs. David Turner  
**Sunday**  
 9:00 AM Tish Goodwin by Mom & Dad  
 11:00 AM Frank Ragonese by family  
**Monday**  
 9:00 AM For the people of St. Christopher  
**Tuesday**  
 9:00AM Sheila Culhane by Peg Grattan  
**Wednesday**  
 9:00AM Fred Stohr by Mary Ewing & Dept of Ed -U of V  
**Thursday**  
 9:00 AM Communion and Prayer Service  
**Friday**  
 9:00 AM Fathers living and deceased  
**Saturday**  
 4:30 PM Larry Dachille by the Mackey family  
**Sunday**  
 9:00 AM Frank Lindsay by the Uzialko family  
 11:00 AM Donald Socciarelli by Danielle Socciarelli

**NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday - Sept 13**  
 9:00 AM Pre-School and Kindergarten Classes (all Clrms)  
 9:00 & 11:00 AM Liturgy of the Word for Children  
 1:00-3:00 PM Youth/Young Adult Choir (any open room)  
**Monday**  
 4:15PM & 6:00 PM Faith Formation Classes grades 1-5  
**Tuesday**  
 4:15PM & 6:00 PM Faith Formation Classes grades 1-5  
**Wednesday**  
 6:30—8:00 PM Junior High Classes (All Clrms)  
 7:00 PM Folk Group Rehearsal (in church)  
**Thursday**  
 7:00 PM Choir (church)  
**Saturday**  
 4:30 PM Liturgy of the Word at Mass  
**Friday**  
 Men's Annual Retreat

<i><b>The Joy of Stewardship</b></i>			
<b>Parish Financial Stewardship Summary</b>			
	LAST WEEK	YEAR TO DATE	
Last Week	\$ 5,961.15	\$ 60,350.60	
Attendance	612	#of Envelopes	209
<b><i>"Keep Our Campus Cool" Campaign</i></b>			
<b><i>\$52,176.30 received</i></b>		<b><i>\$53,696.30 pledged 319 families</i></b>	
The First Gift: : The Gift of our Time Service to one's Church and community consists of offering one's Time to serve the poor, volunteer at school or religious education, lector, bring Holy Communion to those less ambulatory, but most importantly the gift of Time is allowance for prayer. Prayer is such and important part of our lives that we must make time for it in our daily lives. Needless to say, we must appropriate the gift of Time for prayer and volunteering our service.			

**NCYC Updates:**

There will be a VERY IMPORTANT NCYC update meeting for participants, parents, and chaperones on **Sunday September 13th at 12pm upstairs!!!**

**Parish Picnic Youth Fun!**

Don't forget...we'll be playing **SHAVING CREAM WIFFLE BALL** at the parish picnic on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>!!! Bring a change of clothes ☺ This is for **ALL AGES!!!**

**Youth Group Schedule-at-a-Glance /Sept:**

Sunday 9/20 FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP 1-3pm  
 Sunday 9/27 Parish Picnic SHAVING CREAM WIFFLE BALL!!!

**RCIA**

Interested in RCIA—The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults? Come to an information meeting at 10:00 AM September 20th in the church. Questions? Call the rectory at 594-1400 or Joanne at 249-9193

**St. Christopher Men's Retreat**

There isn't much time left to plan to attend St. Christopher's Annual Men's Retreat on Friday, September 18th at Notre Dame Retreat House. Jesus is extending and invitation to you today. Please respond to this invitation. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in front of church or contact Jim Robinson at 594-5694.

**Looking for Pageant Singers:**

St. Christopher's is once again putting on the Christmas pageant and we are looking for Singers in Grades 3 and up. We will be having an informational meeting on Saturday, September 26 at 1PM, upstairs in a classroom. This year, the children will be singing some exciting songs both during the pageant and before. This will be a Family Choir and we are asking for parents to sing along with the children, if you are interested. For more information, contact Eric Traugott at 585-615-8893 or [agentm13@rochester.rr.com](mailto:agentm13@rochester.rr.com).

**Acts of the Apostles—The Early Years**

Are you looking for a book that describes the challenges and joys of discipleship? Consider joining the Church of Rochester in reading the Acts of the Apostles! ***This week read Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13*** and ask yourself: How do my reflections on this reading affect how I will live as a disciple?

**Choir Rehearsal and Peace Choir**

Choir rehearsals for the 4:30 Mass Choir resume on Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 in church. We welcome all returning members and thank them for their dedication. We also welcome any new members. If you have time during the day, we would encourage you to join the Peace Choir. This group of provides music at funerals. It is very rewarding ministry and the time commitment is minimal. Contact Celeste to join. Questions? – call Celeste 293-2358.

### R & R for All Liturgical Ministers

Oct. 24, 2009; 9:30 to Noon

This gathering is a time of REFLECTION and RENEWAL for our Music Groups, Lectors, Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Servers, and Liturgy of the Word Leaders - ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS. The program includes a keynote speaker, Deacon Larry Feasel from our diocese, prayer service and reflection time, as well as sessions to review the ministry (or ministries) in which you currently serve. The Liturgy Committee requests all liturgical ministers to attend. Please mark this date on your calendar.



### Young Adult Picnic!!!

**Sunday, Sep. 20th,**

3:00-7:00pm

### Genesee Valley Park

(Red Creek Shelter)

We will provide the meat and soft drinks.  
Please bring a snack, salad or dessert to pass.

- \*Kickball \*Ultimate Frisbee \*Bocce \*Board Games
- \*Bring Your Guitars & BYOB

Please RSVP to Maranda by Sep. 16th  
719-5851 OR marandaskolen@hotmail.com

### Knights of Columbus Selling C&B Tickets

The Knights of Columbus will be selling their Charity and Benefit tickets next weekend after all Masses. Please help support this worthy effort.

### Retrouvaille- Lifeline for Married Couples

Thinking of separation or divorce? So frustrated or angry that you barely speak? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties. For confidential information about or to register for the fall program beginning with a weekend on October 9-11, 2009 at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, NY, please call 585-293-1552 or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

### Flu Guidelines:

As you know, there's been a lot in the news media of late about the flu. As has always been the case if you or members of your family are coughing, sneezing or otherwise ill, it is a good idea to stay home from Mass to recuperate and so as not to infect others. Likewise, you should not drink from the cup during Holy Communion if you are sick; remember that we receive the whole Christ, "body, blood, soul and divinity" when we receive of the Eucharist in either form. During the Sign of Peace, you can offer a smile and little bow rather than a handshake if you feel under the weather or feel especially vulnerable, just as you can refrain from holding hands during the Our Father from similar concerns. For our part, we'll be monitoring the situation in our area carefully through health advisories, and we'll adjust our practices as a faith community if necessary.

### Annual Parish Picnic - September 27

Save the date and plan on attending St. Christopher's Annual Parish Picnic at Black Creek Park on Sunday September 27th from 1:00 to 5:00, with dinner served at 2 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for the St. Christopher's Community to come together for a good time with great food and fun games. This year we return to our tradition of bringing an appetizer/snack, dish, or dessert to share, with hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and drinks provided. Sign up sheets are located at the Church entrances for your convenience, so please sign up today, as this will help us better plan food and beverage needs. We are again at Woodside Lodge, which has good facilities and lots of space. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

## St. Christopher Church 3350 Union St., P.O. Box 399 North Chili, N.Y. 14514

585-594-1400 *Emergency Pastoral Care* 350-8603  
e-mail: [nstchris@dor.org](mailto:nstchris@dor.org)  
<http://www.stchristophersnchili.org>

### PARISH STAFF

- Pastor .....*Rev. Robert Gaudio* 594-1400
- Sec/Business Mgr .....*Marilyn Weinert* 594-1400
- Deacon.....*John Cunningham* 594-1400/301-8540
- 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* 719-5851/594-1091
- Youth Minister.....*Kim Potter* 329-4642 / 594-1091

### SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS:

- Sunday Eucharist* Saturday 4:30 PM  
Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
- Weekday Eucharist* Monday through Friday 9:00 AM
- Parish Office Hours:* Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Friday—9-12:00
- Rel. Ed. Office Hours:* Monday - Wednesday  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

New families are welcome in our parish and we invite you to become more actively involved in our parish activities and ministries. Registration forms and information booklets are found at each of the church entrances.