



---

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

## SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

---

*Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group*

September 6, 2009

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

The people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment . . . Jesus put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; he then looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"- that is, "Be opened!"

Mark 7: 31-37

To be able to listen carefully is an art – it is all centered on where one's focus is.

Two friends were walking down a crowded city sidewalk in the midst of the busy, noisy rush hour - people bustling, horns honking, engines roaring, vehicles of all sizes rumbling, sirens blaring. Amid all this noise, one friend suddenly turned to the other and said, "Listen! I hear a cricket singing!"

"Come on!" the second friend shot back. "How can you possibly hear a cricket in the middle of all of this noise? Are there even crickets in the city?"

"But I did hear a cricket." She stopped to listen again, then, with her cynical friend in tow, crossed the busy street to a big cement planter. Gently pushing aside the petunias and impatiens, she revealed a little brown cricket.

"That's amazing!" said her friend. "How could you have possibly heard it?"

"There's no secret," she explained. "Watch."

She then reached into her pocket and pulled out some loose change and dropped a quarter on the sidewalk. Despite the deafening noise around them, everyone within thirty feet turned their head to see where the sound of the money was coming from.

The woman turned to her doubting friend and said, "See, it's all a matter of what you're listening for."

In the midst of all the noise in our lives, we can become "deaf" to the presence of God in our midst. Fear and ignorance often distort our ability to realize the good in the midst of bad, the reasons to hope in the wake of despair, compassion in the ashes of anger and hate. The words Jesus speaks to the deaf man in today's Gospel - Ephphatha - are spoken to us, as well: "open" our hearts and spirits to ex-

perience God's compassion in the love of family and friends, "open" us to realize God's presence in all times and places, "open" us to embrace God's grace despite our difficulty to trust, to hope, to understand. Discipleship is centered in Jesus' spirit of Ephphatha: "openness" to the presence of God in times of joy and sorrow, "openness" to becoming for others the realization of his healing and life for those unable to sense it.

### What is RCIA?

The letters stand for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, which takes place, usually at the Easter Vigil each year. If you (or anyone you know) are interested in inquiring or learning more about the Catholic faith, please call the rectory at 594-1400 or Joanne at 249-9193. An information meeting in September will kick off the program.



### Spirit Alive

Read: Acts 1:1-26

Reflect: The first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles has the apostles at a new stage in their discipleship. With Jesus' ascension they now enter into the work of spreading the Good News. Before they begin, however, they are prodded

with the question, "why are you standing there looking at the sky?" For a moment they were frozen in their faith. Am I too frozen in my faith? Am I stuck in a rut in how I think about being a follower of Christ? How can I open myself to a new challenge in living my baptismal call to spread the Good News that Jesus is Risen, and live as part of the Body of Christ?

Did anything 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...

...Think about how I speak my faith in my family? At work?

...if I am a parent, tell my child one story about when I learned something new about Jesus?

...try a new type of prayer or ritual?

How else could I act it out?

**MASS INTENTIONS - Sept 5th to 13th**

- Saturday**  
4:30 PM Kenneth McCorry by wife & children
- Sunday**  
9:00 AM Frances Sobieraj by Linda & Bob Wayland-Smith  
11:00 AM Marie & Bill Hockley by Anne Pryor
- Monday**  
9:00 AM Fred Stohr by Joe DeYager & family
- Tuesday**  
9:00AM For the people of St. Christopher
- Wednesday**  
9:00AM Helen Gartz by Arlene Ritzel
- Thursday**  
9:00 AM Communion and Prayer Service
- Friday**  
9:00 AM For all those lost on 9-11-2001 and for their families
- 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

**NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

- Sunday - Sept 7**  
1:00-3:00 PM Youth /Young Adult Choir (any open room)
- Wednesday**  
7:00 PM Folk Group Rehearsal  
6:30 PM Human Services Ministry—Dcn John's House
- Thursday**  
Church connection Night at Roberts Wesleyan College  
7:00 PM Choir (church)
- Saturday**  
4:30 PM Liturgy of the Word at Mass
- Friday**  
Women's Annual Retreat
- Saturday**  
10:00 AM Sacristan Training (church)

**End of Summer Friday Fun Night!**

There will be a Friday Fun Night to finish off the summer right! Come celebrate with us before the craziness of the school year begins! The fun night will on **Friday September 4th from 8-10pm for grades 7-12**. We hope to see you there! :) PIZZA - GAMES - MUSIC - FUN!!!

**Youth Group Kick-Off Party!!!**

There will be a youth group kick-off party on **Saturday September 12th from 8-10pm for grades 7-12!** There will be games/activities for inside, outside, and even an opportunity to give your ideas for youth group activities for this year! If you're at all interested in what youth group is all about, come check out this party!!! See you there!! :)

**NCYC Updates:**

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

**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 for September:**

- Friday 9/4 Friday Fun Night 8-10pm
- Saturday 9/12 Youth Group Kick-Off Party 8-10pm
- Sunday 9/20 FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP 1-3pm
- Sunday 9/27 Parish Picnic SHAVING CREAM WIFFLE BALL!!!

**Annual Women's Retreat**

This weekend and next is your last chance to join the women of St. Christopher's in our Annual Retreat to Notre Dame Retreat House on Canandaigua Lake. The retreat is Sept 11-13. This is a great opportunity for you and even invite a friend for a weekend of prayer, reflection and friendship.

Reservations or info call Marlene at 889-2809 or Lorraine at 594-5694

**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.

**Healing Masses**

Fr. McAlear to hold healing Masses as follows:  
 Monday, Sept 21 at St. Mark's 54 Kuhn Rd, Roch  
 Tuesday, Sept 22, Holy Name of Jesus, St. Martin's Way  
 Friday, Sept 25, St. John of Rochester, 8 Wickford Way, Fairport

***The Joy of Stewardship***

---

**Parish Financial Stewardship Summary**

	LAST WEEK	YEAR TO DATE
Last Week	\$ 6,195.22	\$ 54,389.45
Attendance	616	
#of Envelopes	239	

***"Keep Our Campus Cool" Campaign***  
***\$52,056.30 received      \$53,696.30 pledged    319 families***

---

The Christian Stewardship concept also holds that all are, all that we have are gifts from God and that we have been truly blessed by him. The concept of Christian Stewardship suggests that we are given gifts which can be symbolic of the three gifts presented by the Magi at Christ's birth.

**T**ime, **T**alent, and **T**reasure

**Attention Golden Agers and Others:**

The Golden Agers will be taking a boat ride on the Harbor Belle on Aug. 25. It will be a 2 hour trip with lunch included onboard. They will not leave unless 30 people are present, so it will be open to anyone in the parish also. Golden Agers, of course, will be served first. Anyone who would like to go should call Chris (293-9248) to reserve a spot. The cost is \$21 for those 65 and above or \$22 for those under 65. Tips will be collected at the end of the trip. All reservations will need to be pre-paid no later than Aug. 23. We're hoping many will sign up. Thanks!

**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 Updates**

*Fellowship for College Students & Young Adults in their 20's & early 30's*



St. Christopher's is sponsoring A  
 Theology On Tap

Good Company,  
 Interesting Speakers, &  
 Lively Conversation for Young Adults!

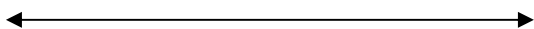
**September 9th, 7 pm at  
 Jitters, Southtown Plaza in Henrietta**

**Bishop Clark will also be  
 joining us for the evening!**

**The Topic is:  
 Discipleship during Times of Societal  
 Crisis with Michael Sauter, pastoral  
 administrator, St. Luke's.**



**Please join us for this FUN evening!  
 Contact Maranda if you would like to  
 carpool!**



**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**

**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.