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# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

## SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

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Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

February 21, 2010



## Love Lavishly, Forgive Freely

### First Sunday in Lent

There's an old song titled "Love Is A Many Splendored Thing". It tells us how love goes beyond the warm feelings of affection we might have for someone, and moves quickly into the multi-faceted area of self-giving. In a similar vein, the Liturgy committee has chosen this year's Lenten theme: "Love Lavishly, forgive Freely." It fits so well with the story of the Prodigal Son. No one could have hurt his father more than this young man. He insulted his father by demanding his inheritance early, then further wounded him by wasting the wealth on wild and selfish living. But to his credit, the young man repented and came back. His father greeted him with incredible joy and forgiveness – no reprimands or reprovals here. Instead the father put fine robes on his son and threw a party.

In the scriptures we find many instances where Jesus loves lavishly and forgives freely: the miracle at Cana (130 gallons of water turned into choice wine); the forgiveness of Mary Magdalene (seven demons driven out); the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (12 baskets of fragments left over); the conversion of the woman at the well (seven husbands).

For Lent we would like to suggest that our own fastings go beyond giving up some food or drink, and be extended to loving lavishly. How about fasting from sharp and quick retorts that rise so easily? Or making up with a family member whom we have always resented? Instead of abstaining from chocolates, can we abstain from snide remarks about someone we dislike? Can we be patient with the boring person who talks too much or is rude and interrupts our conversations? Would you be willing to give away your favorite sweater? Not the best one, not the most expensive, but your *favorite*? The opportunities to love lavishly and forgive freely are endless.

To assist you in putting a deeper focus on this new type

of "fasting" you are invited on each Sunday of Lent, to write on a piece of paper how you have loved lavishly and/or forgiven freely during the past week. Paper and pencils will be provided at the Church entrances. Your notes will be anonymous and *will not be read by anyone!* They are to be folded over and placed in the collection boxes at both entrances to the church. On Holy Saturday, at the end of Lent, all these notes of love and forgiveness will light the new fire of Easter.

Will breaking old habits be easy? Perhaps not. But let's give a new meaning to "penance" this Lent, so that we may experience for ourselves, *God's lavish love and free forgiveness!*

### Lenten Series with Dr. Joe Kelly

5 Saints West has invited Dr. Joe Kelly to present a Lenten series of programs. We all enjoyed when Dr was here for our Fall program "Journeying With Luke".

Our Lenten program will be "**Job's Dilemma and Ours: Biblical Reflections of the Problem of Evil**"

The series will be held on 4 consecutive Tuesdays at **7 pm** starting **February 23** here at **St. Christopher's**. It continues

March 9 – St. Columba in Caledonia

March 16 – St. Mary of the Assumption in Scottsville

March 23 – St. Vincent de Paul in Churchville

### Soup & Stations

Every Friday during lent, we have the Stations of the Cross. This year we will once again have Soup before Stations each Friday from 6:30-7:25pm. The soups are homemade and Deliciousssss. Come join us in the parish hall each week for soup and stay for stations. There is no cost involved and all are welcome.

Human Services Ministry

### Operation Rice Bowl

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. As part of our community's observance of Lent, we ask all families to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, a program of prayer, fasting, learning, and giving. Please be sure to take home a Rice Bowl packet and follow this simple yet powerful Lenten practice.

Visit [orb.crs.org](http://orb.crs.org) for more information

**MASS INTENTIONS - Feb 20th to Feb. 28th**

**Sat.** 4:30 PM Peter Cumbo by Betty & Steve Hodownes  
**Sun.** 9:00AM For the people of St. Christophers  
 11:00AM Vincent Melito by Nocturnal Adoration  
 Society— S.W. Chapter  
**Mon.** 9:00AM Mothers living and deceased  
**Tues.** 9:00AM Sheila Culhane by Morning Mass Group  
**Wed.** 9:00AM for all those recovering from surgery  
**Thur.** 9:00 PM Jerry Pettis by Jean Verno  
**Fri.** 9:00AM Communion and Prayer Service  
**Sat.** 4:30 PM Frank Touch by Mr & Mrs Dave Turner  
**Sun.** 9:00AM For the people of St. Christophers  
 11:00AM Michelle Cabic by the Cabic family

**NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

Sunday, February 21

9:00 AM - (Church) Rite of Sending  
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes  
 11:00 AM - (Hall) Faith Sharing for Confirmation  
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms ) Youth/Young Adult Choir  
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms ) Parish Life Ministry  
 12:15 PM - Baptism Emily Patricia Zigrossi  
 5:00 PM - (Hall) Hope and Healing  
 7:30 PM - (\*FYI) Rite of Election at the Cathedral

Monday, February 22

4:15 PM - 07:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes Grades 1-5

Tuesday, February 23

4:15 PM - 07:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes Grades 1-5  
 7:30 PM - (\*FYI) Joe Kelly at St. Christophers

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 PM - 08:00 PM (All Clsrms) Jr. High Classes  
 7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group

Thursday, February 25

4:00 PM - 05:00 PM (Hall) Brownie meeting

Friday, February 26

7:30 PM - (Church) Stations of the Cross

Sunday, February 28

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes  
 11:00 AM - (Hall) Faith Sharing for Confirmation Students  
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms ) Youth/Young Adult Choir

**Results of the Carpet Vote**

Winner: # 572 – green..... 76 votes  
 # 372 – brown.....51 votes  
 # 970 – gray.....51 votes  
 # 470 – brown #2.....30 votes

**Hope & Healing Party**

Peg and John Cunningham are moving to Florida at the end of February. Peggy's ministry of hope to the separated, divorced and widowed has been a real blessing for so many over the past 10 years. The love, compassion, and time Peggy has shared with us will be greatly missed.

Please join us for a party to celebrate Peggy's work on Sunday, February 21st at 5PM at St. Christopher's Church Hall. To reserve a spot or with questions contact Joan Reilly at jreilly1896@yahoo.com or 1-315-690-6455

**Jesus' Temptation**

In Luke's story of the temptations of Jesus we see how we can be tempted by wealth, power, and esteem just as He was. Lent calls us to focus on our faith life by living it in deeper ways. As we begin our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, let us pray and sacrifice so that through our faith life we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

Human Services Committee

**Patrick Place**

Saints West has been working on developing Patrick Place, a comfort care home. This will be located on the 2nd floor of St. Mary's rectory which will need to be redone. At this time we are trying to raise funds for this project.

On March 13 we will be holding An Evening for Patrick Place at Genesee Country Museum. There will be food music and a silent auction. Tickets are \$60.00 in your parish office. Enjoy a wonderful evening for a great cause.

**First Communion Update**

Students should be working on their books. Once they have them completed they can return them to the Faith Formation Office. They are due no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Don't forget that when they come to Mass on the weekend they should be picking up their name buttons and wearing them so that people know who is preparing for the Sacrament. Students should be attending Mass weekly and participating in the Liturgy of the Word. Family Banners should be finished and turned in at the parent/student retreat March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The sheets for the Mass schedules for First Communion are located in the Faith Formation office. You may sign up when you bring your child in for classes. If you have any questions about available times don't hesitate to contact the office.

**Troubles? Don't know where to turn?**

Today's pressures seem greater than ever. Whether it's balancing work and home, caring for children and aging parents, marital or family problems, grief, depression, anxiety, or stress: the Counseling Program at Catholic Family Center helps families, couples and individuals find solutions. We serve people of all faiths and from all walks of life. CFC's counseling program is nationally accredited and provides professional, licensed, experienced clinicians. Most major insurance accepted. Sliding Scale Fee available. Call (585) 546-3617. Or visit our website at <http://www.cfrochester.org>. Your contact with us is confidential

**Retrouvaille**

A Lifeline for Marriage - Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi, meaning rediscovery) has helped couples through difficult times in their marriages for over 30 years. It has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels - from frustration to separation. For information about or to register for the spring program beginning with a weekend April 9-11, at Notre Dame Retreat House please call 585-293-1552 or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) All inquiries are confidential.

