



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

January 10, 2010

GLORY BE TO GOD! – Baptism of Jesus

Show and tell is generally a popular time in elementary school classrooms and this for at least two reasons. First, education research has revealed that we learn best by concrete, hands-on experiences. When the children can see and touch some object, their curiosity is roused, questions come easily, and they are usually eager to run home after school and tell others about the experience. Second, show-and-tell is popular because it boosts the self-esteem of the little one doing the explaining in front of the class. Something significant to the child is shared with others, and the interest of the classmates encourages the child and makes him or her feel important. Show-and-tell is a manifestation of good learning technique and the worth of an individual. This Sunday's gospel tells of a kind of show-and-tell on the part of both Jesus and us. It manifests who we are and how we have been gifted.

The baptism of Jesus is a dramatic moment in his life and is also an important symbolic moment for us. We who have received Baptism are told that we, too, are God's beloved; we, too, are freed from sin; we, too, are filled with the Holy Spirit and are chosen to live out the same mission as Jesus. The baptism described here is a window to our own destiny, our own call to live in Christ. Jesus' baptism revealed that God loved him and had chosen him. Our baptism reveals that we are especially loved and chosen by God and belong to his body the Church.

As Jesus was baptized by John, so must we be baptized not just in the waters of repentance and forgiveness but by the Holy Spirit, which calls us to give ourselves (see second reading) for the good of others. Thus the gospel speaks of two baptisms. The first is the event this feast celebrates: the baptism Jesus received at the hands of John. The second is the baptism that we receive "with the Holy Spirit." Jesus' baptism revealed him as "beloved Son"; our own baptism reveals us as ones who are saved, renewed, justified, and heirs of eternal life (see second reading). This feast, then, is an epiphany not only of who Jesus is but also of who we are.

We are baptized with the Spirit who is the divine presence within us. We are also baptized with fire that burns within us so that we are ignited with love, commitment, intensity, energy, drive toward a goal—by the very goodness of our lives, being a faithful divine presence for others.

Our baptism, then, is a dynamic and energetic embracing of our own graced identity as God's own people (see second reading) expressed through a Gospel way of life. The Holy Spirit with which we are baptized surely must make us "eager to do what is good" (second reading).

Jesus' mission was now to go into the world and preach that God's love is for all people. Ours is the same: to go into the world in which we live and preach the love of God. Our world is our family; our neighborhood and friends, our co-workers and parishioners; the people all around the world with whom we can be connected through the news, the Internet, the organizations that reach across our continents.

How do we preach? We preach by our words and our actions, just as Jesus did. But we evangelize in our own way. We do this first through prayer that supports a loving attitude toward those around us, by being truly present and attentive to the people in our immediate life. We also evangelize by using our talents to help others, our voice to speak up for the voiceless, our financial contributions to help those in need: the power of the pen and ballot box to help bring justice into the world, our time to volunteer to help of service in the many places working to lift up the down-trodden in our world. When we put flesh to the works of mercy, we too are truly the Sons and daughters on whom Gods favor rests.

The Giving Tree Thank You!!!

We would like to thank the people of St. Christopher's who so generously gave to The Giving Tree this year. We placed 342 ornaments on our Tree. With your help we were able to assist 50 families (94 people).

We would also like to thank Michael and Tim Murtaugh, Katie Liebow, Katherine Wimer, Karen, Ben & Eva Campanis, Pat Bradt, Kristine & Mickaela Huff and Sarah, Jennifer Vujanovich, Val, Lauren & Deanna Kessler, Sarah Close, Karen, Mara and Alex Curtis, Linda DeBellis, Joan and Rachelle Glakowsky, Dick Philson, Karen Lagas, Dee Milner, Marilyn Weinert, Michelle Buckenmeyer, Terry & Kathy Collins, Kathleen Delesky, Nancy Bodziak, Steve Beiter, Lisa Guernsey, Joan Reilly, Donna Smith, Joanna Aguglia, Linda Benoit, Bruce and Susan Dunn, for their help in making the ornaments and setting up The Giving Tree, wrapping the gifts and delivering the gifts to the families of St. Christopher's and Bethany House.

A special "THANK YOU" to Robert Yaw for all his hard work in setting up "Santa's Workshop".

"It wouldn't be the same without you!"

Thank you,

Chris and Sheila

MASS INTENTIONS - Jan. 9th to Jan 17th

Saturday 4:30 PM Laura Robinson by Beverly & John Neder
Sunday 9:00AM Leo McKinney by family
 11:00AM Lois J. (Mickelson) Lawrence by Ron & Karen Carey
Monday 9:00AM Communion and prayer service
Tuesday 9:00AM Communion and prayer service
Wednesday 9:00AM For the people of St. Christopher's
Thursday 9:00 PM Communion and prayer service
Friday 9:00AM Communion and prayer service
Saturday 4:30 PM James V. Bovenzi by Don & Sharleen Ellis
Sunday 9:00AM Ray Saurini by Joe & Janet Shortino
 11:00AM For the people of St. Christophers

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**At The Advertisers****LOOK Supporting Our Church Bulletin****Sunday, January 10**

9:00 AM - (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Hall) LOW
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir
 12:15 PM - Baptism Conner William Guy
 2:00 PM - (Hall) Confirmation Parent Meeting

Monday, January 11

4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes
 Grades 1-5

Tuesday, January 12

4:15 PM & 6:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes
 Grades 1-5

Wednesday, January 13

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (All Clsrms) Jr. High Classes
 7:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group
 7:00 PM - (Rectory) Finance Committee

Saturday, January 16

10:00 AM - (Hall) Eucharistia Ministry

Sunday, January 17

12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Hall) Hands of Christ Gathering

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Congratulations. We have reached our CMA goal of \$47,181.00. 337 families have made a contribution to this year's campaign. If you have yet to make yours, please do it today.

Thank you for your support of this year's campaign

NCYC Journal:

For a few weeks we will be putting in statements from some of our NCYC pilgrims and parents! This is a way for us to share thoughts and experiences with the parish! Thank you again for your love and support of the youth program at St. Christopher's! Without your support, we couldn't have had this wonderful life-changing experience! :)

Andrew Murtaugh...NCYC - An entire week of heart-stopping, brain-bending, soul-touching, earth-shattering, tree-hugging (what!?), rhythm-pulsing action all wrapped up in the most energetic days that anybody could hope for. And all without sleep.

Judy Hasman...Thank you to the parish for all your support and love that enabled me to go to Kansas City. With prayer all things are possible.

Youth Group:

There is youth group for the rest of January! We look forward to seeing you there...all 7-12th graders are welcome and encouraged to check it out! Sundays 1-3 - youth room! :)

Care Packages for Soldiers

Care packages will be sent in January, April, and June, to the men and women of Bravo Company serving in Afghanistan. Please consider donating "gently read" paperback books and magazines. We can also use donations of soup mix, granola bars, kool-aid singles, hot cocoa mix, sewing kits, Pringles chips, stress relief balls, AA and D size batteries, stick-ups air fresheners, hand and foot warmers, puzzle books. They also love to receive cards and notes, especially hand-made cards from children. There are 40 soldiers in Bravo Company. If you would like to help, please call Joanna Aguglia at 594-9378. Many thanks!

FINAL NOTICE!!

Hands of Christ
Class of 2010



Nominations Now Being Accepted!

Deadline is Jan. 11th!

The Hands of Christ is a recognition program sponsored by the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Rochester to assist parishes in affirming their high school seniors who have been the "Hands of Christ" in their church, home, school and community. Recognized seniors are invited to receive a plaque from Bishop Clark at one of three special Recognition Ceremonies held in March of 2010.

For details about the nomination process, deadlines, nomination forms and various events surrounding the Hands of Christ Program please pick up a flyer located near Church

March for Life

An Incredibly Inspiring Event

We hope you will consider joining us for the March of Life. Our bus leaves at 10 p.m. on January 21st from St. Christopher's and will arrive at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception around 6:30 a.m. on January 22nd. Following the march, we plan to leave Washington D.C. at 4:30 p.m., which will bring us back to St. Christopher's Church at nearly midnight.

Each seat will cost \$55. If you cannot attend the march, please prayerfully consider a donation for a person or family that wishes to attend but needs financial assistance. For more information on securing a seat for the trip, please call Joan Reilly at 1-315-690-6455.

Martin Luther King Holiday

Our offices will be closed on January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Vocation Awareness

This is National Vocation Awareness Week. How fitting that the week begins with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan marked the beginning of his public expression of the life that God the Father had called him to. In much the same way, each of us is called by nature of our own baptism to publicly live our life as a sign of God's love in the world. We do that through many different vocations – married and single life, ordained and religious life. Let us pray in a special way this week for all holy vocations. Let us also pray that women and men will generously answer God's call to the religious life and ordained priesthood to serve our local church. Office of Vocation Awareness/ 585-461-2890/ vocations@dor.org/ website: www.dor.org/vocations

Visit a Catholic School Day

Saint Pius Tenth School invites you to join us for our "Visit a Catholic School Days" on Fri, Jan 15th or Wed, February 3rd - 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM. See our facilities, meet our staff, our Principal, Stephen Oberst, and observe a classroom. To schedule an appointment, call our office at 247-5650

Clear the Clutter and Get Closer to God:

Four Weeks to Making Your Home a Spiritual Sanctuary

Mondays, January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon at Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY 114620. The four sessions will include discussion and encouragement in de-cluttering and practical tips on how to start – and finish – the job.

Presenter: Diane Zielinski Fee: \$60 for series. Call 585-473-6893 to register.

Dreams and Spirituality Workshop, Mondays, January

11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 1:30 – 3:30 pm at Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY 14620.

This group is for those who have had an introductory course on dream or experience in a dream group. Limit: 12
Presenter: Dorothy Lindsay. Fee: \$115. Call 585-473-6893 to register.

The Joy of Stewardship

Parish Financial Stewardship Summary

	LAST WEEK	Attendance	YEAR TO DATE
Dec 20, 2009	\$ 7,235.04	842	
Christmas	\$ 9,907.25	1465	
Dec 27, 2009	\$ 8,073.85	626	
Last Week	\$ 5,873.05	609	\$ 186,576.48
#of Envelopes 1/3/2010		190	

When we provide financial support to parish causes, we are not just paying our dues or somehow keeping God placated. Rather, we are extending ourselves to participate in the work of God's Kingdom. Granted, when we give, we are helping others extend God's Kingdom, but in the process we are involving ourselves, too, because we don't just give money — we give ourselves.

Stewardship ... Live It!

**St. Christopher Church
3350 Union St., P.O. Box 399
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585-594-1400 *Emergency Pastoral Care* 293-9248
e-mail: nstchris@dor.org

<http://www.stchristophersnchili.org>

Patrickplace.org ~a comfort care project of 5 Saints West

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* 643-5555/594-1091
- Youth Minister.....*Kim Winden* 329-4642 / 594-1091
- Maintenance.....*Robert Yaw* 594-1441

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS:

- Sunday Eucharist* Saturday 4:30 PM
- Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
- Weekday Eucharist* 9:00 AM Mass or Communion Svc
- 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

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Comments: