



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE

Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

January 3, 2010

GLORY BE TO GOD! – The Epiphany



Epiphany

Children love stories and the more imaginative the better. Witness how popular the Harry Potter series has been. Parents and caretakers enjoy telling such stories to children who listen with rapt attention. As children age, however, they come to see how many of the stories of childhood were fairy tales and they move beyond them. This gospel is a wonderful story, and it's easy to get caught up in the imaginative details of the narrative: stars and kings, journeys and searches, newborn Baby and gifts. But like small children, we must move beyond these enticing details to get to the challenge of the message that is there.

The point of the gospel is even more amazing than the imaginative details it includes: God chooses to manifest the mystery of Christ Jesus to all the nations. This, of course, includes each of us today: we are to both search for the Christ as well as manifest his presence for others. God's love leaves no one untouched. Our task-response, note, is not only to search for the Christ among us but also to manifest that divine presence. In other words, we are to be the revelation of his presence, and this is possible for we are "members of the same body" and "copartners in the promise" (second reading). Thus we are to be the story of the manifestation of Christ to all the world.

The feast of the Magi is an event of great symbolism. The three magi from the East were wise men; yet they followed the light of a star from the far regions of the East to Bethlehem in search of a "newborn king." The Magi, wise in the ways of stars, discovered Jesus. What enabled them to see that light and receive the insight to follow it to their journey's end? It appears from the very beginning of their journey they were single-minded about their purpose. They journeyed to "do him homage"; they brought him gifts. Seeing is possible when we are single-minded, when our goal is clear and we prepare well and never lose sight of why we undertake the journey.

The light of the glory of God's presence is all around us. Unlike the magi, we don't have to undertake an arduous journey. We need only do two things: be single-minded about seeking God's presence and arm ourselves with whatever we need to reach our journey's end. The real challenge of the gospel is that we do not seek the light outside ourselves, but within. We ourselves have become the story; we ourselves are the guiding light; we ourselves manifest divine presence.

However it also should be noted that every human life is a journey: in our journeys through the time God has given us, we seek signs of God in our midst; we seek happiness that is authentic and real. In the end, we come to realize that it is love in all its joy and sorrow, in all its demands and gifts that make us real and whole human beings. In encountering the Christ, the magi behold the love of God in their midst (a love that the self-absorbed Herod cannot see). Like the Magi, our search must be guided by the Word of God in the Scriptures. Under the light of God's love opportunities to see more clearly come in all forms: it may be the love we receive from another person: the good example of someone who tries to live by the gospel: an insight that comes in our prayer and reflection: observing someone who is not self-centered: the challenge from a friend to look beyond our own little world: the cry of a child: something we read in the newspaper that calls out to us: even sickness or tragedy in our lives. It is up to us to pay attention and read the signs around us.

May our encounter with Christ - in the Sunday gospels of this New Year, in our everyday lives of both struggle and grace - be a constant epiphany of re-creating and transforming our lives in the love of Emmanuel, "God with us." Like the Magi, our search must be guided by the Word of God in the Scriptures.

MASS INTENTIONS - Jan. 2nd to Jan 10th

Saturday	4:30 PM	Ken McCorry by Henry & Dolores Korytkowski
Sunday	9:00AM	Ann Yankowski by Bud and Ann Roach
	11:00AM	Moses Giovine by Arlene Bianco
Monday	9:00AM	Fathers living and deceased
Tuesday	9:00AM	Janet Quinn by Paula Hastings
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	Laura Robinson by Beverly & John Neder
Sunday	9:00AM	Leo McKinney by family
	11:00AM	Lois J. (Mickelson) Lawrence by Ron & Karen Carey

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**Sunday, January 3, 2010**

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes
 09:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Hall) Liturgy of the Word
 12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir
 12:30 PM - 02:00 PM (Hall) First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Monday, January 4, 2010

04:15 PM - 07:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes
 Grades 1-5

06:30 PM - (20 Spring Flower.) Human Services Ministry

07:15 PM - (Rectory) Liturgy Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

04:15 PM - 07:00 PM (All Clsrms) Faith Formation Classes
 Grades 1-5

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

06:30 PM - 08:00 PM (All Clsrms) Jr. High Classes

07:00 PM - (Church) Folk Group

Thursday, January 7, 2010

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM (Clsrms 6) FF Teacher Meeting

Saturday, January 9, 2010

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM (Clsrms 6) Liturgy of the Word

Sunday, January 10, 2010

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM (All Clsrms) Pre- School FF Classes

09:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Hall) LOW

12:00 PM - (Any open Clsrms) Youth/Young Adult Choir

12:15 PM - Baptism Conner William Guy

07:00 PM - 08:00 PM (Hall) Confirmation Parent Meeting

07:00 PM - 08:45 PM (Hall) Parent Meeting for First Eucharist

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Catholic Ministries Appeal

We are very close to our goal. 327 St. Christopher families have made a contribution to this year's campaign. If you have yet to make yours, please do it today. Our goal is 400 families of the 1010 registered at our parish.

The services funded by your donation need and appreciate your support.

First Eucharist and Confirmation

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation will begin in January. Parents who have a child(ren) making First Eucharist will be meeting on January 4, 2010 in 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Registration forms are available now, in the Faith Formation Office, for all students who will be making Confirmation this year. The Confirmation Parent information meeting will be on January 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Judy or Karen at 594-1441.

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.



**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 entrances or contact Maranda Skolen: 719-5851 or marandaskolen@hotmail.com

Vocation Awareness

Following the star, the magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem in search of the newborn king. When they found him they prostrated themselves and gave Jesus homage. God's glory was revealed to them through a tiny baby. It was revealed to all nations and for all generations. We have been made coheirs in the promise of Jesus Christ through the gospel. As such, it is ours to share with those around us. Our Church needs people who are dedicated to spreading the good news and the promise of Jesus as a way of life. Consider a rewarding life in ministry to the Church – lay ecclesial, ordained, or religious life. **Office of Vocation Awareness/ 585-461-2890/ vocations@dor.org/ website: www.dor.org/vocations**

Building Peace with Justice

Today's Gospel blends good and evil as the Magi journey to a distant land to honor the newborn Jesus. Because of King Herod's jealousy, their visit set off the unintended consequence of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt and the slaughter of innocent baby boys. It's tempting to think that the world has grown less harsh, but migration and violence are still the reality for children throughout the world.

This year National Migration Week, today through January 9, focuses on the plight of refugee and migrant children.

Reflection: How can I honor Jesus, the refugee child, through advocacy and works of love on behalf of today's immigrant children?

Human Services Committee

Visit a Catholic School Day

Saint Pius Tenth School invites you to join us for our "Visit a Catholic School Days" on Friday, January 15th or Wednesday, February 3rd between 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM. You will have an opportunity to see our facilities, meet members of our staff, our Principal, Stephen Oberst, and observe in the classroom. Refreshments will be served and ample time allowed for all of your questions to be answered. To schedule an appointment, call our office at 247-5650

Mercy Prayer Center Presents...

..Christian Meditation Group, Thursdays, weekly starting January 7; 7:30 – 8:30 am at Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY 14620. Come and share the silence and peace with those who meditate – beginners or practitioners welcomed. Presenter: Karen McNamara. Free will offering. Call 585-473-6893 to register.

Relocation of Charismatic Masses

Effective Jan 20, 2010, and on the 3rd Wednesday of each month thereafter, the Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Mass will be celebrated at St. Thomas More Parish. 2617 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14610. At 7:00PM (Our previous location was at St. John Fisher College.) All are welcome.

The Joy of Stewardship

Parish Financial Stewardship Summary

Not available at time of printing.....

We all tend to find time for our priorities. But we don't always have our priorities straight. Consider ways in which you could find yourself wasting time. For some, it's gabbing on the telephone. Others spend too much time on the computer or watching television. Often, we have more time than we realize. As with money, we can spend our time more wisely if we study how we use it. Is there an area in which you waste time that might be reclaimed for better stewardship?

Stewardship ... Live It!

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<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* 719-5851/594-1091
- 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* 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