

THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

The Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene
A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

November 2009
A House of Prayer for All People

From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

For several reasons, All Saints is my favorite feast day after Christmas and Easter.

First, it is a "little Easter," and we celebrate it as such, bringing out all the Easter customs, including plenty of "Alleluias." Why is All Saints so tied to Easter? The primary reason is that we could not celebrate the Communion of Saints without Easter. Belief in the Communion of Saints is belief in the resurrection. Then there is history. All Saints began its life historically during Easter season. It only later migrated to the Fall.

Second, I love the whole notion of the Communion of Saints, that the Church includes the living and the dead, that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." Among us we could name hundreds of members of Two Saints and St. Simon's and St. Luke's who are still among us in that great cloud.

Third, I love the music of All Saints: Ralph Vaughan Williams' amazing "For All the Saints" never fails to get my blood pumping and my faith restored. And even the schmaltzy, "I sing a song of the saints of God." "And I want to be one too!" And by the end of the Service I know that I am.

Fourth, the reading of the names that people have asked us to read out loud is always very moving—and sobering, as we add those who have been killed in Rochester since last All Saints. But also joyful in that we claim them among that great cloud.

Let's make this All Saints a homecoming, and bring as much of the Communion that we call Two Saints together. We can be sure that the great cloud of witnesses will show up.

Michael

Stewardship/Budget Presentation November 22

Sunday, November 22 after both Services there will be a presentation on the 2010 budget as part of this year's Stewardship Drive. The Ingathering of pledges will be the first two Sundays in Advent: 11/29 and 12/6.

All are encouraged to attend these sessions, as they directly impact programming, staff and other aspects of our life together. Last year's session was well attended and people learned a lot. That learning will continue this year.

Annual Thanksgiving Service With St. Mary's Church

**Tuesday, November 24
6 pm
St. Mary's Church**
15 St. Mary's Place

Preacher:
The Rev. Michael W. Hopkins



Bless the God of all who has done wondrous things on earth

*Bring non-perishable food items.
Offering for St. Joseph's House of
Hospitality*

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The Rev. John T. Burr, Parish Deacon

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Website: www.twosaints.org
The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough, Priest Associate

Love Letters

The Welcoming and Inclusion Team invites everyone to attend the play Love Letters starring Allan O'Grady Cuseo. Carol Dundas is coordinating the event for Two Saints. Please see Carol for your ticket.

The dates of the show are November 27 & 28 at 8:00 pm and 28, & 29 at 2:00 pm at MuCCC. MuCCC is at 142 Atlantic Ave., 14607. Parking on street or side parking lot.

The play stars Allan O'Grady Cuseo and Diane Chevron.

A.R. Gurney's Love Letters chronicles the relationship between Andy and Melissa solely through their correspondence. The play tells the story of Andrew Makepeace Ladd and Melissa Gardner, whose poignantly funny friendship and ill-fated romance takes them from second grade through adolescence, maturity, and into middle age.

A smash hit both off and on Broadway, Love Letters captures Andy and Melissa with a precision of detail and depth of feeling only Gurney can command. Love Letters is funny, compelling, sad, poignant, and will prove to be an exhilarating and touching night of theatre that will stay in the memory long after the performance ends.

If you make your reservations for LOVE LETTERS before November 1, 2009, you will get a 50% discount over the at-the door rate of \$20.00. THAT'S 10 dollars a ticket!!!! YEAH.

Being A Good Steward

By: Madeline Gamble

Am I a good steward? This is a question I ask myself. Especially when it is time to submit my pledge. I begin to look at all of the blessings that God has bestowed upon me and ask myself, "What am I giving back?" It is not just about money. It is about giving my fair share in support of the church so that I may have a place to come to worship. It is about doing what I can to assure that my place of worship remains a "welcome table for all".

I don't know if I can truly define what it takes to be a good steward. All I know is I must feel within myself that I am moving forward to being that person God intended me to be. For me, that means contributing to my church just as I would towards

my own home. Assuring that it remains healthy and strong. Recognizing that I am blessed and giving back to Him in thanksgiving for what he has done for me.

Abundant Blessings

By: Allan O'Grady Cuseo

All sunshine and sovereign is God, generous in gifts and glory. (Psalms 84:12 The Message)

Now that I have recently retired and joined a weekly Christian meditation group I find myself praying about my life a lot. I firmly believe that God placed us on this planet (among other reasons) to be productive, show initiative and develop our gifts so we could support ourselves, our family and others in need. I began to realize that after 46 years of teaching I had developed an attitude of worship concerning work. My work as a school librarian had taken over my life and had unbalanced my relationship with life. So, now that negative worship was over what would be my next ministry, my next endeavor?

I know that I have been blessed in so many ways that I may never even know. How do I use the blessings given to me by God? These blessings include my time, my physical health, my energy, my talents, possessions, attitudes, relationships, and yes, money. How can I best express and live my life as one of gratitude?

One of my current methods to express my gratitude to God is to simplify my life. It helps that I took a vow of poverty when I entered the Mercy of God Community. My Community defines this vow as "using God's gifts, including our possessions, in a responsible manner." I realized that my possessions could have the power, if allowed, to get in the way of my relationship with God. They can become idols of worship. So, a donation of clothing, furniture, and other possessions has become a way of life. I have also become very aware of my place in God's Creation and this awareness has changed the way I approach Creation and all of God's creations.

I also have purged my calendar of activities that did not provide fulfillment and meaning. I am approaching my life as one to be lived with less busy-ness. So, my fascination with daily instant news, with electronic communication replacing true communication, has been diminished. I am more aware of my food and its source as I "go green." I try to only buy organic and locally.

As the parish begins its Stewardship program I am excited to ponder the ways that I can pay back my blessings. Some might say that it is all about money - well yes, but it is about so much more. All that I have, all that I purchase, all that I use, all that I do tell me much about my discipleship with Jesus Christ. As I pray about stewardship and my role in the parish I can envision new exciting possibilities ahead. I invite you to pray about your role in Stewardship. Won't you join me on the journey?

MEN'S ASSOCIATION "SOS"

In 2010, the Men's Association will have been in existence for 5-decades. It's sad to say today that our existence is threatened. For the past 5-years, our membership has shrunken to where the only active members we have are down to the 5-officers who've held their titles to this date. We've had a great legacy. When you're in the Parish Hall, take a look at the Men's Association's plaque at the number and names of the great men, past and present, of our congregation who has been honored. Many of you have commented that we've been missed at the past two Clarissa Street Reunions. Let me remind you, when we had the numbers, we also participated at the Corn Hill Arts Festivals and the Teddi-T Events. Unless we get an infusion of new energized blood, and more Parish participation when we call for it, not only will The Clarissa Street Re-Union be history, the Annual Fish Fry will also fall aside. Lent arrives in February, and the fish fry is held during Lent. When we make the call for volunteers, it's going to take the Church to make it happen.

Thank you, Jack Cummings

WHO'S THE VICTIM?

Public Policy Forum, November 15

By Marilyn Wienk

After the late service on Sunday, November 15, James McCauley of Camp Good Days' Partners Against Violence Everywhere will help us answer the question, "who's the victim of violence on Rochester's streets? James will also be with us at the 10:00 service ahead of this forum.

Born and raised in Rochester, James McCauley graduated from East High School and St. John Fisher College, and has worked for the County of Monroe in various administrative capacities for over twenty-eight years. For the past five years, he has

been at Camp Good Days where he holds the title of the Director of Operations.

Come hear James tell us about what he knows concerning the on-going violence that has taken the lives of so many young people in the city and participate in a discussion about what we might want to do.

Advent is Coming

Advent begins Sunday, November 29. That means the start of a new church year, as well as our time to prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Advent is the season of joyful expectation. It tells us that in the end it is all about hope. The future belongs to God. That is not cheap optimism, but a faith statement. Advent is a time to renew that faith so that we can keep hope alive.

One of the great symbols of Advent is the Advent Wreath that marks the four weeks of the season and reminds us that the light shines in the darkness. Every home should have an Advent wreath. It doesn't have to be fancy. You don't need a special ring. Any four candles of whatever color will do. It is the light that is important. Find a time each day to light the wreath and say some prayers (there will be a resource for household's praying during Advent on the Resource Table in the back of the Church (and hopefully on line).



Mission Statement

Together, as People of God, in companionship with Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to be...

A Healing Place for Souls...

A School for Justice, and...

A Welcome Table for All.

The Bible & the World Lecture

The annual Bible and the World Lecture will be held at St. Paul's Church on Sunday, November 8. There will be an Evensong at 4 pm, followed by the lecture at 5 pm. This year's lecturer is John Dominic Crossan. His talk is entitled "Divine Violence in the Christian Bible." The lecture is free.

Pathways to Prayer

Martin Smith, former prior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, described prayer as "loving conversation with God". He meant that phrase to be interpreted in two ways. First, as a caring conversation between God and us, but also as a conversation we enjoy having with God!

On Thursday, October 29th we'll begin an adult series exploring different ways of praying. A light dinner & fellowship will start the evening at 6:00 pm. The evening program will follow at 6:30 pm. The series will be facilitated with different presenters each of the four evenings (Oct. 29, & Nov. 3, 12, & 17). Note that two classes are on Tuesdays and two are on Thursdays.

The four pathways being presented include: An Introduction to Prayer & Praying with Books & Beads (The Rev Mary Ann Brody), Lectio Divina (The Rev. Michael Hopkins), the Labyrinth (The Rev. Joy Bergfalk), and Ignation Prayer (Pamela Keyes). No experience is required! Come to eat and pray, or just to pray, but come!

Look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the church, or you may e-mail the church office if you plan to attend (office@twosaints.org).

Thanksgiving Baskets

Over the next few weeks we will continue to collect items for the Thanksgiving baskets we will be handing out this year to families in Rochester. Please watch the weekly bulletin for items that will be needed. Our Sunday school children will be organizing the cans and boxes that come in. We will also need 12 turkeys to complete our meals. If you are able to donate a turkey, please sign up in the back of the church. Several people have already signed up to help with deliveries on Tuesday, November 24th, but others are welcome. Sign up in the back of the church!

SWEM Christmas Baskets

Southwest Ecumenical Ministries (SWEM) will be distributing Christmas Baskets to Rochester families again this year. Those who would like to receive a meal should call the SWEM office (234-4491) on Nov. 12 & 13, 16-20, and 23-25 between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm. Please help spread the word. There is no income requirement to receive a meal, but you cannot have applied for a meal from another program. Last year SWEM had 305 applications for a Christmas meal, and delivered 273 baskets which served 350 adults and 298 children. If you would like to donate a meal, look for announcements coming in the Sunday bulletin later in November.

Like the Public Market?

SWEM is looking for people who would be willing to volunteer to go to a local farmer's market or the Rochester Public Market to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for their Senior Food Program. Every month 30 seniors in the Rochester area receive several bags of supplemental food on the third Saturday of the month. Now, thanks to a grant, they are able to provide fresh fruit and vegetables as well as nonperishable items, bread, butter and eggs. Volunteers are needed to purchase food, and to pack it into individual bags. Shopping takes about an hour. Talk with Dawn Moore! She did it in October! Sorting & packing also takes about an hour. If you are willing to shop or pack, speak to Mary Ann Brody (328-0856 or ststephenspastor@frontiernet.net). A little bit of time every month translates into a big gift to our seniors!

Spaghetti Dinner & Newcomer's Welcome: November 8

On **November 8th** we will be having our annual Spaghetti Dinner immediately following the 10 a.m. service in the parish hall. This is also a time when we will welcome newcomer's and visitors to our parish as guests at our meal. Please take this opportunity to get to know those at your table a little better, and to share some of what you value about your life at Two Saints. Cost is \$8.00 per person and children under 5 are free. Mark your calendars! Invite your friends! For those of you who cannot stay, take-out will be available.

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals was held Saturday, October 3 with over fifty humans in attendance. It was a great morning! Thanks to Toni Burr for the pictures:



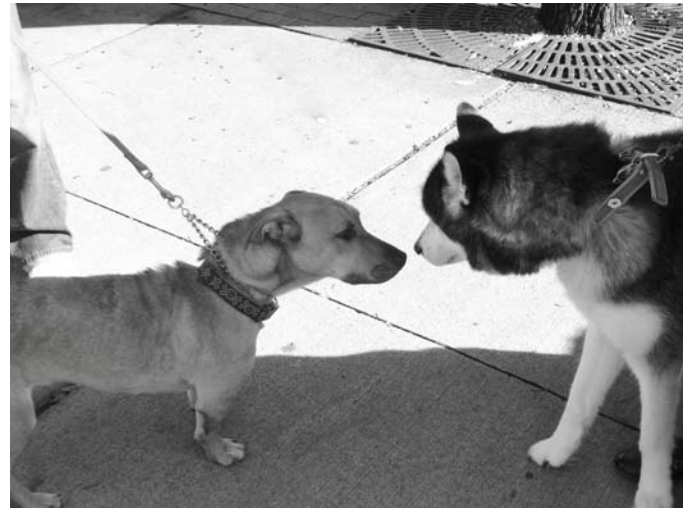
Holy cow! A 48-hour old calf was our special guest of honor. How many years has it been since a cow was downtown?



Yes, that's Betty Wallace with a snake! You go girl!
Four greyhounds were in attendance, making it a greyt morning!



Hannah Ramsay's stuffed animal collection was a hit!



A good time was had by all, not a single disagreement.

The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 1—All Saints' Day

All Church Sunday

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, November 22—Last Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Meeting (TS)

Sunday, November 8—23rd Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Liturgy of the Word (TS)

Sunday, November 29—1st Sunday in Advent

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Meeting (TS)

Sunday, November 15—24th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

*Every Tuesday & Thursday
12:05 pm Eucharist in the Chapel*