

# The Word From Two Saints

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

**December 2009**  
*A House of Prayer for All People*

## From the Rector:

## St. Nicholas Party December 5

Dear Saints,

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself...*

*Collect for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

I love this Advent prayer, even though it stretches my mind and heart and soul to truly pray it. What is a pure conscience? Is it ever possible for any of us to have one? How can I get one?

First of all, the prayer asks God to do the purifying, not us. This says to me that my job is primarily to receive this pure conscience, not to make it happen. That means I need to put myself in reception mode as often as possible: praying, participating in the sacraments, and reading and studying the Bible. These are ways we know God can break through to us.

Then how do I know when I have received a pure conscience (like everything else, most of us receive it over time, not all at once. I suspect if we were given it all at once it would be too much for us to bear and we would become literally “unbearable”)? Several things come to mind.

To have a pure conscience means to be unafraid. “Perfect love casts out fear,” we are told in the letter of John.

To have a pure conscience means to be unashamed of who you are, who God has created you to be.

To have a pure conscience means to know yourself as a forgiven sinner.

To have a pure conscience means to see the world with the eyes of God’s justice.

There are many more! May this short Advent journey make us more receptive to a pure conscience!

*Michael*

Our annual St. Nicholas’ Party will be Saturday, December 5 at 5 pm at St. Stephen’s Church. This is a great time for all children of both parishes and fun for adults as well. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children and the real-life “Santa Claus.”

At the party this year there will be Advent wreath making, food, storytelling and a visit from St. Nicholas himself. See more inside.

## Christmas at Two Saints & St. Stephen’s



*They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger*

## Christmas Eve

7 pm Service at St. Stephen’s  
*A Eucharist with lots of music and fun for children*

10 pm Service at Two Saints  
*A Vigil Mass for Christmas*

## Christmas Day

10 am Service at Two Saints  
*A Quiet Service in the Chapel*

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Email: [office@twosaints.org](mailto:office@twosaints.org)

The Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, Rector

The Rev. John T. Burr, Parish Deacon

Phone (585) 546-7730 Fax (585) 546-7733

Website: [www.twosaints.org](http://www.twosaints.org)

The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector

The Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough, Priest Associate

**Thanks for Giving!**

Thanks to all who donated food for our twelve Thanksgiving meals that went out on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Your generosity made someone else's holiday a little tastier and joyful. Several of the recipients invited others to join them in their feast, so the abundance was shared farther than we know!

**Prepare the Way!**

Two Saints will be the venue for a series of noon-time concerts during the season of Advent. Four of our own will present half-hour concerts on Fridays at 12:15 p.m.

December 4: Annie Laver, organ  
Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Margaret Sandresky, Emma Lou Diemer

December 11: Cheryl Frank, viola  
Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Marin Marais

December 18: Marielle Murphy, soprano;  
Jamal Moore, bass  
Traditional Spiritual Settings and works by Franz Shubert, Calvin Hampton, and George Frideric Handel

Concerts are free and open to the public. This is the perfect opportunity for you to invite a friend or co-worker to Two Saints! Posters will be at the back of the church.

We need ambassadors and volunteers to help with publicity to the downtown community. If you would like to help, please be in touch with Annie Laver: 585-469-4089, anne.laver@rochester.edu.

**Give Someone a Christmas Meal!**

Southwest Ecumenical Ministries (SWEM) will be distributing Christmas Baskets to Rochester families again this year. Those who would like to donate a basket should pick up a flyer at the back of the church. A basket contains a complete meal for a family of 3-4 people. A list of items to include in your basket is on the sheet. Include a \$5 donation in your basket to help defray the cost of meat, eggs and margarine that will be added. Some families who donate baskets include homemade place favors or a Christmas card. Baskets can be picked up by a SWEM volunteer, or should be delivered to the Rochester Presbyterian Home at 256 Thurston Ave. on Sunday, Dec. 6 or Dec. 13 between 10am and 2pm.

**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 and 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](mailto:ststephenspastor@frontiernet.net)). A little bit of time every month translates into a big gift to our seniors!

**The Liturgy in Advent**

Purple is the color of Advent (although some places use blue). It signifies royalty and during Advent we especially emphasize that we are waiting for Christ to return to be our king. On the third Sunday, as we pass the halfway mark of Advent, the pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit. Some churches have pink or rose colored vestments. The pink is simply a lightening of the purple as Christmas nears.

We begin the Eucharist with the Order for Light. This order is normally used in the evening, but light is such a symbol of Advent that it seems right to

**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.

bring it into our Sunday liturgy. Our song during the candle-lighting will be “Christ is coming, prepare the way, #6 from *Lift Every Voice & Sing*.

The liturgical ministers enter the sanctuary while the Trisagion is said or sung. The Trisagion is an ancient hymn of the Eastern Church: “Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us” sung or said three times.

During the Prayers of the People we use an unusual word for a response: “Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus.” “Maranatha” is Aramaic (the language of Jesus) for “Come, Lord.” It appears in the Bible at the end of First Corinthians (16:22). Most translations translate it (unlike several Aramaic words in the Gospels that are almost always left untranslated).

Finally, we will use “O Lamb of God” (*Agnus Dei*) as our Fraction Anthem, in keeping with this quieter, more penitential season.

### **St. Nicholas’ Party**

Our annual St. Nicholas’ Party will take place on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen’s Church. We’ll gather at 5:00 pm to enjoy a meal together, make advent wreaths, play a few games, hear some stories and maybe even – enjoy a visit from St. Nicholas! We will be needing greens for our wreaths. Donations of greens will be gladly accepted. If you’re not coming to the party, but you have greens to offer, speak to our rector, Michael Hopkins. A donation of \$5 covers the cost of wreaths and candles.

### **Advent House Church**

St. Stephen's and Two Saints invite you to Advent House Church the four Monday evenings in Advent: November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7th, 14th and 21st. We gather in a parishioner's home between 6 and 6:30 pm, eat a light soup supper from 6:30 to about 7:15 pm and have a service of prayer, usually compline, at about 7:15. This is a very casual gathering and a good time to get to know one another better in an informal setting. Hosts provide two types of soup, one vegetarian and one not, and beverages, coffee, tea, cider, etc. The people attending bring the rest of the meal, bread, salad and dessert. If you would like to host a House Church gathering, please contact Bonnie Hallman-Dye, [cbcrc@rpa.net](mailto:cbcrc@rpa.net) or 473-8041 (evenings). Dates and

locations will be published in the weekly announcements.

### **Finding the Rhythm of God**

On **December 12<sup>th</sup>** from 9am – 1pm at Two Saints, our friend, drummer and pastor, Ed Keegan will return to lead a half day Advent retreat. We will use rhythm instruments as we contemplate how we might “get in step” with God during one of the most secularized and frenzied of our church seasons. We’ll practice listening to one another and to God in this season of expectation! Lunch is provided. Consider including a prayerful rhythm to your Advent this year by joining us on the 12<sup>th</sup>! The retreat is free and open to the public. To register e-mail ([office@twosaints.org](mailto:office@twosaints.org)) or call the church office (546-7730) or sign up in the back of the church! A free will offering will be accepted to help cover the cost of food.

### **Celebrating Our Deacons**

The feast of St. Stephen is December 26<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday this year. A service of the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at St. Stephen’s at 10am. Our deacon, John Burr, will be inviting the deacons of the diocese to join us in celebration of their ministry to the diocese. Following the service all are invited to a potluck brunch. Consider joining us that morning to thank our deacon, and to recognize many others!

### **Simpkins’ Honored**



Adrienne and Bertha Simpkins were recently honored with an award from the Community Foundation for their charitable giving. Several Two Sainters were present for the event at the Convention Center. (Photo by Toni Burr)

***The Word from Two Saints*** is a publication of:

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## **DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 6—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**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, December 13—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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, December 20—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

**Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve**

7 pm Sung Eucharist, child-inclusive (SS)

10 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas Eve (TS)

**Friday, December 25—Christmas Day**

10 am Eucharist (TS)

**Saturday, December 26—St. Stephen's Day**

10 am Eucharist (SS)

**Sunday, December 27—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Meeting (TS)

*Every Tuesday & Thursday*

*12:05 pm Eucharist in the Chapel*