



noted that Kathy Donnelly, youth minister at St. Mary's Church in Bath, often leads youth-group members in reflection on Sunday readings.

"We say what we think the readings mean. And if we don't understand them, Mrs. Donnelly helps explain them to us," Josh, 14, said.

Brianna Carney said she enhances her knowledge of Scripture by using a Teen Study Bible she received as a confirmation gift last January. She noted that this version's text contains explanations that help clarify the Bible passages.

"I love reading it. I can understand what it's saying. (But) my mom's Bible is kind of hard to understand," said Brianna, 14, from St. Margaret Mary Church in Irondequoit.

Cassandra and Rachel said their greatest struggle is to understand writings in the Old Testament.

"It's because of all the detail. The Old Testament is more like a story line," Cassandra said. "I like to read more about how we should live our lives as followers of Jesus, instead of stories about how people lived a long time ago."



Gates Chili High School students take part in student-organized daily prayer at the school's flagpole prior to classes.

"I think I understand the New Testament more, because it relates to my life more," Rachel added. She also noted that as Catholics, our emphasis on Christianity naturally leads us to spend more time studying the Gospels and other New Testament books.

Cassandra said she is especially intrigued by some of the final books of the Bible. For instance, she pays close attention to writings about the end of the world as described in St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy and the Book of Revelation.

"I'm looking at what's happening now, how people are acting," Cassandra said. She explained that she wonders if recent natural disasters and wars may be signaling the fulfillment of prophecies.

On the other hand, Brianna's favorite portion of the Bible can be found in the Old Testament: the Book of Esther. That book details how Esther — with her uncle, Mordecai — thwarted a plot by Haman, a high-ranking official in the Persian

Empire, to massacre all the Jews living in that empire.

"I think I like (Esther) because a woman's a hero," Brianna commented.

Meanwhile, Josh said he was drawn to the Old Testament portion for which he was named: the Book of Joshua. In that book, Joshua overcomes the opposition of many adversaries in leading the Israelites into the land God promised them.

Rachel said she enjoys quotations from all parts of the Bible on her computer, thanks to a friend who circulates a "Bible Quote of the Day" via e-mail.

Her personal favorite? Christ's powerful statement found in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

"That just lets you know that Jesus is everything," Rachel remarked.

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