



Parish church & school of
SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S

538 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT 06118

Tel: 860-568-5240 Fax: 860-568-0673

E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stchris-eh.org

PRIEST

Rev. Vincent J. Curran, Pastor

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Louis D. Cremonie

DEACONS

Deacon Edward Giard
 Deacon Thomas F. Breen III

PARISH TRUSTEES

Kay McNamara
 Richard "Mac" McCarthy

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Roch Girard – 860-568-5879

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Michael Munley – 860-683-8594

OFFICE MANAGER

Bonnie Szalay – 860-568-5240

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PASTORAL ASS'T

Charleen Miele - 860-561-5394

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.

Maria Sousa – 860-895-8692
 E-mail: stchrisre@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION

Kristina Gillespie – 860-895-8692
 E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com

PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Roger Dube

MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
 Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
 Monday – Friday: 7:30 AM
 Holy Days: As announced in the preceding Sunday Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday afternoon: 3:15 – 4:00 PM
 or Anytime by appointment

ROSARY and MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Chapel

BAPTISMS / PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM

By app't. w/Deacon Edward Giard –
 Call parish office at 860-568-5240

MARRIAGES

Please contact Parish Priest at least six months in advance at 860-568-5240

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Kathleen Madej – 860-568-4100

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Karen Santacross – 860-568-4975

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Audrey Cesana – 860-568-4100

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Ron Cote – 860-461-2683

SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

www.saintchristopherschool.org

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

Jean Nowik-Martocci – 860-568-8873

COORDINATOR OF EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Mary Priest – 860-569-0087

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Barbara Casey – 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE

and TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

Bev Connors – 860-432-1530
bcrc29@hotmail.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Toni Amberg – 860-568-9069

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Phil Gosselin – 860-568-5001

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Richard Domler – 860-569-7396

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council #4
www.kofc-ehartford4.org

PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

860-761-7456 vocationshartford.org

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

www.credocath.com

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

www.nccw.org



**Fifth Sunday
in
Ordinary Time**

February 10, 2013

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am,” I said, “send me!” – Isaiah 6:8

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 9 – 4:30 p.m.

Velma Castonguay
(Niece Ina & Bob J. Hetkowsky)

Sunday, February 10 – 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Joseph K. Parzymies

Sunday, February 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Helen C. Katin
(The Katin & Brewer Families)

Monday, February 11 – 7:30 a.m.

Mark Tardiff
(Family)

Tuesday, February 12 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Wednesday, February 13 – 7:30 a.m.

Eleanor Domler – 1st Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Thursday, February 14 – 7:30 a.m.

John & Louise Olinatz
(Children)

Saturday, February 16 – 4:30 p.m.

Rose Yergeau—1st Anniversary
(Children & Grandchildren)

Sunday, February 17 – 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo
(Mom, Dad & Daughters)

Sunday, February 17 – 10:30 a.m.

David Muszynski
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (February 3): \$ 5,893
Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 6,821

My sincere thanks for all you do to make our parish a place where Christ is encountered and where His joy and life are shared with and for others!

With gratitude, Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Each of the readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time makes reference to people being “called.” Of course, each of us is called by God to be a disciple. The challenge for us is to hear that call, understand it, and then to respond to it with action.

Some of us, like Isaiah, are called to vocations of discipleship which function parallel to our life’s vocation, our jobs. Others, like Peter, are called to lifetime vocations — holy orders. The point is not which vocation we follow — it is that as good stewards we recognize we have a vocation — a role — in building the Kingdom of God. Are we prepared and are we responding in the way we should? “Here I am Lord... I will go, Lord, where you lead me.”

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER

“Grant, O Lord, to thy faithful people, that they may enter on the venerable solemnity of this fast with fitting piety, and persevere to the end with steadfast devotion.” – Roman Missal

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The lamps beside our tabernacles remind us of the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Helen Kosiorek Kronen – 27th Anniversary
and Stanley Walter Kronen**
(Son Joe & Carolyn Kronen)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

For All Married Couples

If you would like to schedule a weekly dedication, please call the Parish Office at 860-568-5240.

BOOK DISCUSSION

This Monday ~ February 11 ~ 7:00 p.m.

At the end of our recent Evening of Music and Reflection program, we put forth a challenge for everyone to consider reading the book “The Four Agreements” by don Miguel Ruiz. We plan to gather and discuss this book on Monday evening, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

We invite those who are planning to attend to bring a snack to share. We will provide coffee and tea, but you may bring your own beverage if you wish (no alcohol please).

We look forward to seeing you there!

– Charleen Miele

SIGN OF PEACE

During this time of year when flu and colds are widespread, you may wish to offer each other the Sign of Peace using a gesture other than shaking ones hand. You may be more comfortable offering a nod, a bow or a wave of the hand. These gestures are perfectly acceptable in offering the Sign of Peace to those around you.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

World Marriage Day is an annual event recognized on the second Sunday of February and sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the largest Catholic pro-marriage and family movement in the world. It honors and affirms the vocation of husbands and wives and the positive impact of their dedicated example on our society, families, communities, Church, and nation.



In honor of this day, we welcome to our parish Kenneth and Marybeth Walter who will say a few words at all our Masses this weekend about Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the weekends they sponsor to help married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The next weekend in our area is scheduled for March 8-10.

For more information or to register for this upcoming weekend, please visit wwme.org or call Paul and Kim Gilbert at 860-376-0440.

THANK YOU FROM PIN (Parishioner in Need) COMMITTEE

*“Blessed are the Givers...
and grateful are the Receivers.”*

These words were inscribed on a donation card received by PIN last weekend during our bake sale. What made these words all the more meaningful was that these words accompanied a donation that came from a family recently assisted by PIN. What a wonderful gesture of generosity.

The PIN committee has been *blessed* with a caring parish and is truly *grateful* to all who contributed in some way... by baking, by purchasing, by making a donation. Over \$650 was raised from our bake sale. Most important, however, are the spirits we hope to raise when most needed by assisting where we can, when we can. Please continue to be observant of those in the parish who may need a helping hand, and then reach out to them. If they are hesitant of asking for help, then contact PIN (through the Parish Office) on their behalf. *Please be aware of those who need care.*

Gratefully yours, PIN Committee



NEWTOWN UPDATE

Recently I mentioned that Prayer Shawl groups were asked for shawls, scarves, etc. to distribute to the children and their families in Newtown. At last count, 775 items have been received. Our own little ministry group here at St. Christopher’s put together 7 shawls, 1 poncho, several scarves, and a monetary donation, and mailed off our package. It may not have been a huge donation, but it went with a lot of heart and prayers. I wish to thank all the crafters and supporters who made this contribution possible.

You don't need to know how to knit or crochet to join our band of sisters because we are happy to share what we know with you. We gather in the church hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Come join us!

– Chickie Amberg

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The song of the angels, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” resounds from our lips at every Mass. There was a widespread belief in the first religions of the world that God stirred creation into being by a word, a song, a musical note. Music and a sense of God’s presence have always been inseparable. In the liturgy, your voice is invited into this song as the priest names the reasons for our praise. “Heaven and earth are full of your glory,” and we are not passive onlookers, but participants in this glory. Catholic prayer no longer assigns this angelic hymn to a choir, but gives it to you to sing.

We are born to sing – just listen to a baby testing the full range of newly-discovered vocal abilities. Soon we get shushed and hushed into quiet, and given lots of messages that our voices are unwanted, and that we need to raise our hands in order to be heard. All of that is overturned in liturgy, the place where God waits to hear us come alive in the song of all creation. In heaven, everyone’s in the choir; why not start practicing now? – James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

We invite you to become a member of our adult or children’s choir. Now is a great time to join us as we begin preparing for Holy Week. Here’s our rehearsal schedule. For more information, please contact our Music Director, Charleen Miele, at 860-561-5394.

Adult Choir

(high school students & up)
Thursdays: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Children’s Choir

(grades 1 – 8)
Mondays: 4:30—5:30 p.m.



FOOD BANK REPORT

For January 2013

Requests: 34 Adults: 60 Children: 30

Thank you for your continued support of our food bank so we can continue to help feed those in need!



*Happy
Valentine’s
Day!*



DIACONATE INQUIRY SESSIONS

The Archdiocesan Office of Diaconate Formation is now preparing to admit a new class of candidates for the Diaconate in the fall of 2013. Any Catholic man between the ages of 35 and 60 who may be interested in the Diaconate is encouraged to speak to his pastor.

Two inquiry sessions will be held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield on Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, March 24 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Both sessions must be attended and spouses must also attend. Please call the Diaconate Office at 860-761-7447 no later than March 4 in order to pre-register.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Even though a U.S. District Judge dismissed their lawsuit, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Catholic University of America, the Consortium of Catholic Academies, Archbishop Carroll High School and Catholic Charities of D.C. are optimistic. They say the lawsuit was not dismissed on the merits of the case, but only on procedural grounds. They have released a statement saying, “The court’s ruling today places the onus squarely on the government to fulfill its binding commitment to address the religious freedom concerns. This requires the government to revise its HHS (Health and Human Services) mandate in a way that truly respects our right to serve all those in need without violating our religious beliefs.”

YEAR OF FAITH PILGRIMAGE

Reservations Still Being Accepted

Year of Faith Pilgrimage to Italy
Led by Archbishop Henry J. Mansell

Visit Rome, Vatican City, Orvieto, Assisi,
Siena, Florence, Pisa, Padua & Venice!

May 20-29, 2013

Audience with Pope Benedict XVI on 5/22/13, Mass Celebrated Daily including at Rome’s four major basilicas: St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls & St. John Lateran

Visit www.archdioceseofhartford.org
for itinerary, cost and other details.

Deadline for registration is: Friday, February 15.



PRO-LIFE COLLECTION

Please help our parish school's eighth graders help Birthright (East Hartford) and St. Gerard's Center (Hartford). It takes one person to make a difference. That person can be you!

Please consider donating new, unopened items for newborns to two years old: children's toothpaste, baby clothes, bibs, baby toys (no small objects), baby food or formula, baby first aid kits, gently used children's books, blankets or sheets, baby shampoo or body wash. Items can be dropped off in the collection boxes at St. Christopher School (front lobby) or in the church (parish hall) between now and February 15. THANK YOU for your support!

Any additional questions, please contact Mr. Valente at St. Christopher School at valentedmsc@yahoo.com.



Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Lyla Rose Adams

CALLING ALL WOMEN!!

You're invited to a special event sponsored by the St. Paul's "Mother and Child" ministry. As we are a small group still, we want to take this opportunity to share this special opportunity with more women! Join us in a **silent reflective meditation on "Sainthood: The Universal Call to Holiness"** presented by Fr. Simon Devereux, LC as we **expose the Blessed Sacrament** and spend a brief moment in time with our Lord in the month of LOVE! The event will take place on **Saturday, February 23 starting at 9:00am at St. Paul's in Glastonbury. Babysitting available! RSVP REQUIRED** in the event we need to postpone. Please contact Tonya Brownell @ 860-655-9482. Join us!

WE REMEMBER

We remember in prayer the persons of the military who bravely fought and gallantly died while serving our country. We also remember all those who are caught in the crossfires of war. May they rest in peace.

Youth Ministry

Life Night

Sunday, February 10 – with a time change!
 9th Graders from 7 – 8 p.m.
 10th Graders from 8 – 9 p.m.

FAITH Team

Let's meet on Sunday, February 10, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the parish center. ALL 6th – 8th grade students invited. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to stchrisym@gmail.com.

Movie Night

Sunday, February 17, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the parish center. All youth, Grade 9-12 invited!!

Podcast and Pizza

Every Thursday, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. in the parish center. Bring \$4 for pizza and a drink to share.

Follow St. Christopher's Youth Ministry on Facebook and Twitter! Contact Kristi Gillespie for more information about any programs/activities being offered! stchrisym@gmail.com

GIFT CARDS



Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses the weekend of February 23 and 24. Please help support our parish school by buying gift cards for gifts and everyday purchases. For more information, please contact Kathy at 860-569-8451 or by e-mail at kasimeone95@comcast.net. Orders are placed every Monday, so call Kathy if you would like to receive cards at other times.

ST. JAMES PRAYER GROUP

St. James Prayer Group is sponsoring for the 16th year, Gerri Cathcart, dynamic speaker from Global Missions in Virginia. Her theme will be "A Year of Restoration: How to Recover All You've Lost." It will be held on Friday, February 15 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Saturday, February 16 from 8:30 a.m. (coffee) – 12:00 noon and again on Saturday from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. All are welcome. St. James Church Hall, 896 Main Street in Manchester. Refreshments will be served. Free will offering. For further information, please call 860-569-0727.

Lent 2013



The schedule for Ash Wednesday, February 13, is as follows:

Masses

7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Liturgies of the Word

12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses and at the Liturgies of the Word.



Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Here are a few things to watch for during this season of Lent:

✠ **“Soup and Stations”**...a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. This will take place on the following Wednesday evenings during the season: February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20. Children from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations.

So...dig out your favorite soup recipes and mark your calendars to keep Wednesday evenings free. "Be church" with us and get to know the people in your church family.

Volunteers will be needed to prepare soup and/or bread for each Wednesday. You may simply bring with you to the church hall the item you wish to share on the Wednesday evening that works best for you. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

(continued in the next column)

(“Lent” continued)

✠ **Daily Mass**...will be celebrated Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. This is a great way to draw closer to our Eucharistic Lord. Come and join us!

✠ **Lenten Confessions**...

The door of faith is always open for us, ushering into the life of strong Communion with God and offering entry into his Church. In this “Year of Faith,” prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be open on Mondays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for Lenten Confessions. Let us pray that the “Year of Faith” will re-awaken Catholics of all ages through spiritual reflection and their desire to become one with God.

Resources: Available at all the entrances to our church is *A Guide to Confession* made possible by the Knights of Columbus and a card with an address to a website designed by the Archdiocese of Hartford: **www.Light4you.info**. Both of these resources provide helpful ways in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lenten Regulations

The Church gives us the following regulations for the Lenten Season. **Fasting** is required for those 18-59 years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. **Fasting** means eating only one full meal and two light meals. Eating between meals is not permitted, although liquids may be taken at anytime. **Abstinence** from meat is required on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent for those 14 years of age and older. **Abstinence** means not eating meat at all during the day.



As we begin our Lenten journey, you are invited to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. Throughout Lent pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Please be sure to take home a Rice Bowl packet and follow this simple yet powerful Lenten practice. Visit orb.crs.org for additional resources to use at home.