



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.saintchristophersschool.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



First Sunday
of
Lent
February 17, 2013

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.”

– Isaiah 6:8



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)

Tuesday, February 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Marianne Harden
(Mom & Family)

Wednesday, February 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Veronica Vance
(Pamela Vance & Carol Stacey)

Thursday, February 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Enrique Vargas
(Roger & Jennie Coleman)

Saturday, February 23 – 4:30 p.m.
Paul Crowley
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Wife Irene)

Sunday, February 24 – 8:00 a.m.
Irene Laprise – 3rd Anniversary
(Family)

Sunday, February 24 – 10:30 a.m.
John Connors – 3rd Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Due to last weekend’s Blizzard, there is no financial information to report in this weekend’s bulletin.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The forty days of Lent provide stewards with a marvelous opportunity to evaluate the nature of our life’s “work.” It’s a good number, forty days; good enough to provide structure to help us open our hearts to conversion as we examine just what our “work” in this world should genuinely be about. As we imagine that Jesus must have done in the desert for forty days, we have the opportunity to examine our lives and vocation, as well as our strengths, weaknesses and temptations.

The season of Lent provides us with a singular opportunity to examine how well we’re doing and to make an even greater commitment to exercising good stewardship of all the Lord has entrusted to us.



PRESIDENT’S DAY
Please note that our daily Mass will not be celebrated on Monday, Feb. 18. In addition, our parish office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18. We will reopen on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 8:00 a.m.

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
Anthony Charles Berardone – 6th Anniversary
(Aunt Carolyn & Uncle Joe Kronen)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

In Loving Memory of
Harriet Reynolds
(Her Sister Beverly Connors)

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

LAST WEEKEND'S BULLETIN

Due to the Blizzard, we have inserted last weekend's bulletin into this weekend's bulletin so you can stay informed of parish and church happenings.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Rescheduled to Monday ~ Feb. 25 ~ 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 25, 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



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, Feb. 24 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grades K, 1 & 8. Everyone is invited!

LENTEN REFLECTION: WHO AM I?

It is so hard to believe that we have entered the season of Lent when it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the Incarnation! Yet, as we well know, time moves on, seasons pass, and things change...whether we are ready or not!

Too often, people see the season of Lent as a somber time, a time to focus on our wrongdoings, our shortcomings, the things we have done "wrong." It is my belief that we all know too well that we are sinners. We know that we are not perfect...we make bad choices at times, and we (and others) suffer the consequences of those bad choices. Isn't that enough? Richard Rohr, my favorite author defines sin as "what doesn't work!." He has also described sin as those times we are not "true to ourselves."

(Continued in the next column)

("Who am I?" Lenten Reflection – continued)

I love that! Rather than looking at sin as just the "bad things we DO," these definitions allow us to consider those times when we are not true to "who we ARE."

One of my favorite songs is by the group Casting Crowns and it's called "Who am I?" The refrain of this song sums up our focus this Lenten season. It states: "**Not because of who I am...but because of what You've done; not because of what I've done, but because of who You are!**" Read that a few times and let the message sink in. Fr. Curran often reminds us that we are not meant to travel this journey alone...that in fact, we are UNABLE to travel this journey alone! It is only through the grace of God, the presence of God, the God who dwells within us, that we are able to fully live as the people we were created to be. How awesome is that!?

I invite you to consider this throughout the season of Lent. Once we know who we are (Children of God, the God who dwells within us) then the answer to "what should I do?" will take care of itself. The difficult part is convincing ourselves that we ARE worthy, we ARE loved, we ARE beautiful, and perhaps most important...we ARE FORGIVEN! We are not forgiven because of anything we do...we are forgiven because of who God is! Believe it, embrace it, own it, and most of all CELEBRATE it!

May this season of Lent be a season of Love for each of us. May we never forget that we are not alone in the desert of life, may we celebrate the fact that God is with us...Emmanuel. May we know that the wood of the cradle leads us to the wood of the cross...that is life...that is the journey...but we are also blessed as we know that is not the end of the story...for there is ALWAYS Resurrection! Hold onto that as we journey these 40 days...together...as ONE.

– Peace, Charleen

THE LENTEN SEASON

"One of the wonderful things about the Lenten season is a sense of being in process. Lent is our springtime of new growth and renewed life. Lent is the season to realize that God is continually creating; that God's grace is continually moving through us." – Source Unknown



PRO-LIFE COLLECTION

Deadline Extended to February 24

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 see the article in last weekend's bulletin for all the details.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

President Obama's announcement in early February to make accommodations that would exempt religious institutions and their affiliates from paying for medical treatment and prescriptions that violate their religious freedom basically keeps the situation the same as it was beforehand. There is still tremendous work to be done to ensure religious liberty in our country.

If you haven't expressed your opposition to the federal healthcare mandate, please contact the White House at: www.whitehouse.gov/contact or call: 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414.

GOOD TIMBER

"Good timber does not grow with ease. The stronger the wind the stronger the trees."

– J. Willard Marriott

"SPA FOR THE SOUL" INVITATION!

Women...Spend a quiet morning reflecting on your life with Christ on Sat., March 2 from 8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Epiphany Church, 1750 Huckins Road in Cheshire. The celebration of Mass will follow for those who can stay. RSVP to Tonya Brownell at 860-655-9482. Sponsored by Regnum Christi Movement. Suggested Donation: \$10.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

East Hartford Boy Scout Troop 61 is holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 2, at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street, East Hartford from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. \$7.00 per person, \$5.00 per person for families of 4 or more and children 5 and under are free. For advance reservations, please contact Laura Bloch at 860-324-2498.



GIFT CARDS

Next Weekend ~ February 23/24



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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Catholic Graduates Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. will award three scholarships of \$1,000 each to Catholic students who are high school seniors and who plan to attend a four-year college in the fall of 2013. The applicant must reside in Hartford County. Students are chosen on the basis of financial need, scholarship, character, leadership, and achievement. Information can be obtained at the following website: www.Catholicgraduatesct.org. Deadline for submittal of scholarship applications is March 15, 2013.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes for baptized Catholics who have made their First Communion and are over the age of 18 will be held this spring at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in West Hartford on the following Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. - April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Registration forms are available at www.orehartford.org and by calling Mary Marsan at 860-243-9465, ext. 2678.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

For a limited time, the Catholic Cemeteries Association is offering discounts on pre-need grave, niche or crypt purchases at Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury, St. James and St. Bridget Cemeteries in Manchester and St. Mary Cemetery in East Hartford. Please call the office at St. James Cemetery at 860-646-3772 to schedule an appointment or to get more information. This offer will conclude on March 1, 2013.



✠ **“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.

✠ **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

(Continued in the next column)

(“Lent” continued)

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.



CRS RICE BOWL

You're invited to participate in CRS Rice Bowl! Our parish will be participating in CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, as a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially through the most vulnerable in our world. Rice Bowls are available at all the entrances of our church. Please be sure to take one home and use the easy and fun resources to deepen your family's Lenten experience. Your prayers, fasting and almsgiving this Lenten season will help Catholic Relief Services continue to provide life-saving assistance in nearly 100 countries. CRS works on our behalf to care for the poorest in our world and to end global poverty.

MERCY AND XAVIER HIGH SCHOOLS PRESENT...

Grease

Fri., March 8 at 7:30pm – Sat., March 9 at 7:30pm
Sun., March 10 at 2:00pm

Mercy High School Auditorium
1740 Randolph Road ~ Middletown
Admission: \$10.00

visit www.mercyhigh.com or call 860-346-6659