



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

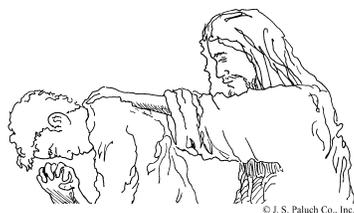
PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

860-761-7456 vocationshartford.org

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

www.credocath.com

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN www.nccw.org



**Second Sunday
of
Lent
February 24, 2013**

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?”

– Psalm 27:1

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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)

Monday, February 25 – 7:30 a.m.

Frank McMahon
(Adult Social Club Members)

Tuesday, February 26 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Wednesday, February 27 – 7:30 a.m.

Doris Tessier
(Her Sister Claire Franklin)

Thursday, February 28 – 7:30 a.m.

Frances Spirito
(Roger & Jennie Coleman)

Saturday, March 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Robert “Bob” Crouse
(Ladies of the Red Hat Group)

Sunday, March 3 – 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Arthur J. Audet

Sunday, March 3 – 10:30 a.m.

Kathleen O’Leary
(Al & Sally Labieniec)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (February 17): \$ 9,117

Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 5,878

Parish School Support: \$ 855

Many thanks for your generous support of our parish! We express our appreciation to those of you who added your offering for the Blizzard weekend to the offering you made last weekend.

with Gratitude, Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Today’s readings pose a challenge to us – they ask us to look beyond this life and this world. Of course, Jesus did that often in His ministry. In relation to His own life and His time on earth, He was fond of saying something similar to what He said in John 16:36, “My Kingdom is not of this world.”

In today’s Gospel, Peter wanted to stay there on the mountain top, build some tents, and create a permanent experience. But permanence is only in Heaven. Heaven is eternity. Stewardship calls us to recognize that – to strive to be as holy as we can be, and to serve as unconditionally as we possibly can. Nevertheless, what should be our driving force, our true comprehension, is that for us, just as for Jesus, our Kingdom is really not of this world. People who embrace stewardship as a way of life live with an awareness of the present and the future, of both time and eternity.

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
Elizabeth Peck**
(Daughter Michele Hurteau & Phil Gravel)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For All Members of the Church
During this Season of Lent**

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

BOOK DISCUSSION

This 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

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

If you have gotten caught up in the busyness of life and have fallen away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you can change that. This Lenten season, the Archdiocese of Hartford is initiating an Archdiocesan-wide effort to inspire Catholics to experience God's love and mercy offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Every church in the Archdiocese will be open on Mondays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. during Lent for Confessions. In addition to Monday evenings during Lent, St. Christopher's offers the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday from 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

To help you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, visit **Light4you.info**. You may also wish to take a copy of *A Guide to Confession* which has been made possible by the Knights of Columbus and is located at our church entrances.

GIFT CARDS

This Weekend ~ February 23/24



Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards after all the Masses this weekend. 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.

HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

Next Weekend ~ March 2 and 3

Our parish will be offering Hospitality Weekend for our parishioners after all the Masses next weekend, March 2 and 3 in our church hall. Refreshments will be served and we hope that all who attend Mass will stop by for food and togetherness.

We would appreciate donations of hors d'oeuvres and finger foods for the hospitality after the 4:30 p.m. Mass. Donations of baked goods would be appreciated for the hospitality on Sunday after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses.

Please bring your donations to the church hall prior to Mass. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you next weekend!

SOUP AND STATIONS

Our *Soup & Stations* is a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) at 5:30 p.m. in our church hall followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. in our church. 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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – by Bud Ozar

Jesus "went up the mountain to pray" and he was "changed." Prayer has the power to change us. This Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for members of your family.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

We welcome to our parish this weekend Kenneth and Marybeth Walter. (They were originally scheduled to be here the weekend of the Blizzard.) They will say a few words at all our Masses 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.

"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.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), stated that the latest proposal set forth by the administration concerning the federal healthcare mandate fails to preserve the religious liberty of Catholic individuals and Catholic institutions. According to him, the government continues to base its policy on an "exceedingly narrow" definition of what qualifies as a religious employer.

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.

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.

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

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, contact Laura Bloch at 860-324-2498.



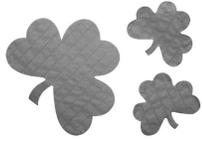
SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

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.



**ST. CHRISTOPHER
SOCIAL CLUB**

**Monday ~ March 4
12:00 Noon**

It's time again for our members' **Corned Beef or Turkey Sandwich Luncheon**. Be Irish for a day. Enjoy delicious food and the great music again by "**Irish to the Last Drop**." They entertained us last year, and are a wonderful group.

Reminder: On **Saturday June 22**, we will **lunch at the Publick House** before attending **Fiddler on the Roof** at the **Stageloft Theater** in Sturbridge. If you have not already done so, please let me know at this meeting if you wish to attend. We have only 36 tickets reserved, and they are on a first come, first served basis.

If you have been thinking of joining the social club, now is the time. Dues are only \$10 a calendar year. This small amount will give you months of pleasant interaction with our members and lots of interesting things to see and do. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact **Joan or Frank Perrone** at **860-568-6229** or **Nedra Gallo** at **860-432-1793**.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Vicariate Outreach Program

In the spirit of stewardship the Archbishop's Annual Appeal initiated the Vicariate Outreach Program in 1997. The Program offers support to local organizations that, by their efforts, are a meaningful extension of the mission of the Catholic Church and its teachings.

The Archdiocese and its faithful have received broad acclaim for the principles they demonstrated by this effort, and we remain enthusiastic about continuing and improving the Program for this year as well.

If you wish to suggest a worthy local charity for funding by the Vicariate Outreach Program, please contact the parish office. An outreach program of this scope to be fair, effective and equitable is a time consuming project so please be sure to provide as much information on the program as possible. Not all nominations may be eligible for final selection. The ultimate decision will be made by an Appeal Committee.

CRS RICE BOWL

In the small West African nation of Burkina Faso, 80% of the population are farmers. Frequent droughts make it difficult to produce enough food for the entire year. Often, farmers can only grow enough to feed their families for seven months. The rest of the year is called "the hungry season." This week, we pray for families in Burkina Faso and give to CRS Rice Bowl to help small-scale farmers.



CRS Rice Bowl also invites us to learn about East Timor, where tuberculosis is a major health crisis. CRS works in communities where access to medical care is limited. This week, we also pray for families in East Timor and give to CRS Rice Bowl to help people who are struggling with illness.

THE MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE

This second week of Lent we hear the Gospel story of the Transfiguration. When we first read that story, we may not understand how it can speak to us...for we are not there, on that mountaintop with Peter, James, John, and Jesus...and we have not physically "seen" the transfigured Jesus in dazzling garments! But...we have had our own experiences of Transfiguration! Each time we have a moment that takes our breath away...each time we are on a vacation that is just "too good to be true," each time we are just so happy we could burst! What then is our desire? To stay in that moment? To have that moment last forever? However, Jesus reminds us that those moments cannot last forever...we cannot "make three tents" and just stay there, in that moment of happiness. We have to return to the valley...return to our daily lives and carry that mountaintop experience with us! This week... cherish each and every mountaintop experience you are fortunate to have. It may be as simple as a smile, a wonderful dinner, a moment of laughter with your children, a get together with a friend, a walk in nature... Cherish it, be grateful for it, accept it for the gift it is. For...we are given these moments not because of who we are or what we have done...but because of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done! Ahhhhh...let us all be transfigured by that reality!

Peace, Charleen