



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

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 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



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Third Sunday
of
Lent
March 3, 2013

“The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed.”

– Psalm 103:6

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

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)

Monday, March 4 – 7:30 a.m.

Grace Gaio
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Tuesday, March 5 – 7:30 a.m.

Louise Martel
(Suzanne Martel)

Wednesday, March 6 – 7:30 a.m.

Rosemary Leone
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Thursday, March 7 – 7:30 a.m.

Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Saturday, March 9 – 4:30 p.m.

Velma Castonguay
(Sister, Adrienne Brumbaum)

Sunday, March 10 – 8:00 a.m.

**Rita Thiery – 1st Anniversary and
In Remembrance of His Birthday**
(Family)

Sunday, March 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Frank & Helen D’Alessandro (Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (February 24): \$ 5,984
Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 7,513

Many thanks for your generous support of our parish! Together we make St. Christopher’s the vibrant and welcoming faith community Christ calls us to be.

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

It would seem appropriate during Lent that Holy Scripture would issue some warnings to us. In effect that is what occurs throughout the readings for this Third Sunday of Lent. Each reading contains a caution to us, or a strong suggestion.

St. Paul does not mince words in his letter to the Corinthians. In Paul’s last statement in this scriptural passage, he issues a warning that is so applicable to us for Lent — “Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.” Living as a Christian steward is a response to Jesus’ call to discipleship and holiness. The steward nonetheless must be on constant watch — constant preparation. Stewardship, like our foundations for Easter throughout Lent, is an ongoing journey — a daily exercise and challenge. We, too, must take care “not to fall.”

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
Frank McMahon**
(Beverly Connors)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For God’s Comfort & Healing Presence for
Shirley Politis**
(Her Sister Beverly Connors)

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

HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

This Weekend ~ March 2 and 3

Our parish will be offering Hospitality Weekend for our parishioners after all Masses this 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.



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**.

2013 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

This weekend marks the start of the 2013 Archbishop's Annual Appeal in our parish. You will receive a letter from Archbishop Mansell seeking your support. Together we can impact the lives of thousands. Our work as a Church in social services, healthcare, and pastoral services is exciting, challenging, and fulfilling. It is work we must do together in **Charity: Our Witness to Faith** out of love for one another and for God. *May our prayers and our contributions make a difference and bring the love of Christ to those in need in our parishes and our communities. May God bless us all and our efforts.*



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.

LIVING STATIONS

The dramatic presentation of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection has become a beautiful tradition here at St. Christopher parish; we hope this tradition will never cease. The Living Stations cannot happen without the involvement of many people from our St. Christopher community. What are the needs?



We need folks to portray the various individuals that played a role in the Stations of the Cross: Jesus, Mary, Simon, Veronica, Pontius Pilate, Roman soldiers, and various citizens of Jerusalem. We also need a narrator and numerous readers.

The presentation will be Good Friday evening, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. We typically have a an organizational meeting at the start of Holy Week and a dress rehearsal in the middle of Holy Week.

If you are willing to help make this a reality, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

LENTEN REFLECTION

Third Sunday of Lent

This week we hear the story of Moses and the burning bush, and God’s declaration of “I am who am.” I have read and heard many different interpretations of this “name” for God...and at a conference I attended, Richard Rohr (once again!) suggested that some believe that the Hebrew letters that make up that statement...that name... “Yawheh” (YHVH) were possibly not meant to be spoken like a name...but rather a sound...the very sound of breath! Something to consider! God is the very breath we breathe!

In the gospel this week, we hear the parable of the fig tree and the gardener who is considering cutting the tree down due to the fact that it has not produced fruit for three years (a symbolic number in scripture!) The person tending the garden asks the gardener to please leave it for the year and he will cultivate the ground around it, fertilize it, and hopefully it will bear fruit in the next year. Wow! Are we willing to say that to God? Are we willing to offer to help those around us, to fertilize the soils of their lives and HELP them to bear fruit? Thankfully, our God is willing to do that for us...and to wait. Our God is gracious, merciful, kind, and loving. Our God is willing to give us all the time we need to become the people we are intended to be. Our God does not “cut us down” or tell us “it’s too late!” Rather, our God tells us, I am here, I am waiting, I am within you, I am here, I am here, I am here! May we carry that message through this Lent and through our lives. It is never too late. Our God is a patient God.

Peace, Charleen

**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

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

Saturday ~ March 16 ~ 6:00 p.m.

St. Christopher Church Hall

The Knights of Columbus St. Christopher Council #4 will be holding a Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m. in our church hall. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children age 10 and under. Advanced reservations are being requested. To make your reservations, please contact Scott Gay at 860-670-8898 or at scottgay95@gmail.com.

WE REMEMBER

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

Staff Sergeant Davis, Jonathan D. - 34

GIFT CARDS



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

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF...

Joseph Arbercheski, Michael Hafele. John Macken and Kathleen Skoglund. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

“Choose being kind over being right and you’ll be right every time.”

– Richard Carlson

PARISH SCHOOL COLLECTION

The monthly collection to support our parish school will be taken at all Masses next weekend. We are grateful for your support!



CRS RICE BOWL

This week we focus our prayers, fasting and almsgiving on Lesotho, where many children lack access to quality education. Only 73% of primary school-age children in Lesotho are enrolled in school. Give to your Rice Bowl this week to support communities working with CRS to provide educational opportunities for children.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – by Bud Ozar

The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don't live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don't cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Obama administration's accommodation for religious institutions in the dispute over the federal healthcare mandate includes a stipulation that says once a religiously-affiliated (or believing individual) employer purchases insurance (as it must by law), the insurance company – not the employer – will be responsible for contacting the insured employees to advise them that the terms of the policy cover morally objectionable procedures and medications. How does such an accommodation preserve religious freedom? Obviously, it does not.

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.

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.



YEAR OF FAITH

Meditation

March, in this Year of Faith, leads us by Lent's journey of conversion to the Paschal Triduum: Holy Thursday's foot washing and Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday's celebration of Jesus' life-giving passion, the Vigil and Easter morning's joy at Jesus' glorious resurrection. The Gospels invite us to let the Lord "prune" us of sin that we may bear fruit while there is time; to return as prodigals to our Father's house and ease the welcome home for fellow sinners; to embrace as our own the pardon Jesus so graciously offered the woman caught in adultery. These Gospels bid us open our hearts to God's gentle but powerful grace slowly purifying and transforming our thoughts and relationships, our mentality and conduct. But if at Easter we find ourselves disappointed at the incompleteness of our transformation, Lent's yearly recurrence reminds us: conversion, like the journey of faith, is indeed a journey that lasts a lifetime.

Mission

Seek forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of penance and offer forgiveness and reconciliation to those with whom I am not at peace.

– Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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.