



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

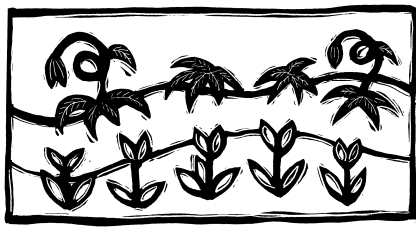
PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

860-761-7456 vocationshartford.org

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

www.credocath.com

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN www.nccw.org



**Fourth Sunday
of
Lent**

March 10, 2013

“Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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 Her Birthday**
(Family)

Sunday, March 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Frank & Helen D’Alessandro *(Family)*

Monday, March 11 – 7:30 a.m.

Helen D’Alessandro – 22nd Anniversary
(Family)

Tuesday, March 12 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Wednesday, March 13 – 7:30 a.m.

John & Louise Olinatz
(Children)

Thursday, March 14 – 7:30 a.m.

Francis Vance
(Pamela Vance & Carol Stacey)

Saturday, March 16 – 4:30 p.m.

Edgar Poirier *(Norman & Edith Daigle)*

Sunday, March 17 – 8:00 a.m.

Dominick Natalie – 3rd Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, March 17 – 10:30 a.m.

Nancy Richmond
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (March 3): \$ 5,483
Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 6,429

My personal thanks for your generous support of our parish. By sharing your time, talent and treasure, you enable us to further the mission of bringing Christ to our families, our young people, our community and our world!

with Gratitude, Fr. Curran

PARISH SCHOOL COLLECTION

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

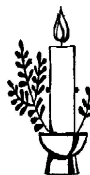


EASTER FLOWERS

Donations for Easter flowers made in memory of loved ones to decorate our altar and church in this beautiful season are now being accepted. For your convenience, a donation envelope has been included with your weekly envelopes for March. Please **PRINT** the name(s) on your envelope and place it in the collection basket or send it to the rectory by **March 24**. You may also print the name(s) on a piece of paper and put in an envelope marked “Flower Fund.” Thank you.

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
Kaitlyn Saunders Derr – 1st Anniversary**
(Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Robert Coyle – 25th Anniversary**
(The Coyle-Gilbertie Family)

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

PENITENTIAL CELEBRATION!

On Monday evening, March 18, we will offer a Lenten Penitential Celebration. As has been the practice this Lenten season, individual confessions will be available from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.. Following that hour, at 7:00 p.m., we will gather as a parish family (friends and extended family most welcome!) and celebrate the gift of forgiveness! Through Scripture, music, dance, and reflection, we will ponder and celebrate the great gift of forgiveness given *freely* by our God! Gather with us for this beautiful and meaningful “mini-mission” which will celebrate the gift that is ours...without conditions!

HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

Last week’s Hospitality Weekend was well attended with wonderful food including pizza and kielbasa after the 4:30 p.m. Mass. Special thanks to the host families and to those who helped them. Thanks to **Harry and Dinora LaCosse, Alex and Tonya Rosario** and their daughters **Tatiana and Juliana, Rebecca LaCosse, Sarah Perez, Anna Rico, Mac McCarthy, Moises Roque** and **Toni Amberg**. It was great to have this time together as a parish family. The next Hospitality Weekend will be April 6-7, the weekend after Easter. See you then!

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

We will pack and deliver the Easter Food Baskets on Thursday, March 28 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street, East Hartford. Please plan to join us!

Our Food Bank is in need of the following items to help us to be able to prepare these baskets:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Cereal | Jello / Puddings |
| Canned Vegetables | Cake Mix |
| Canned Fruit | Frosting |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Potato Buds |
| Baked Beans | Gravy |
| Tuna Fish | Cookies |
| Pasta | HAMS |
| Mayonnaise | |

Non-perishable food items may be left in the area near our candle station. To donate a ham, please contact Dick Domler at 860-569-7396. Thank you for your support.

WE REMEMBER:

A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

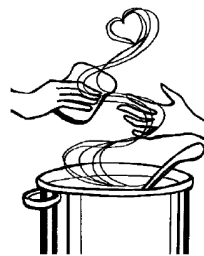
Is not the journey of grieving a parallel journey of Jesus' Way of the Cross? If you have suffered a loss of a loved one, you know and understand. As each person suffers through grief, we believe that there can be hope, healing, and growth. For anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, we invite you to come join us for a special presentation of the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, March 20, at 12:00 noon in our church. We will begin with lunch and then move into prayer so we suggest you bring a brown bag lunch, maybe with some extra cookies to share. Beverage will be provided.

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.



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.

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.

LENTEN REFLECTION

Fourth Sunday of Lent

This week we have two extremely powerful messages in our readings. We see, in the reading from Paul to the Corinthians the line that has confused many...“For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.” WOW! Once again, consulting with my favorite author Richard Rohr, he offers this for consideration...

Try this...“Christ died for our sins” means that he died in solidarity with – and in loving communion with – all human failure, mistakes, and absurdity – and thus made them non-absurd! (“With our sins” might be the more helpful preposition than “for our sins”.) All human suffering and even our failures can henceforth be seen as part of the entire mystery of transformation into God. Thus he rightly renamed (“redeemed”?) the dark side of everything, which is what always discourages and defeats us. Now we can be both grateful and highly motivated. Life and death are both good! We are now participants instead of spectators. We are still very grateful but now gratitude is the very ground floor of our universe, because nothing, absolutely nothing is wasted in the Divine Economy of Grace. All of your life and all of your dyings are indeed part of the deal!” (online 3/12/2012)

How appropriate that we also see, in the gospel this week, the story of “The Prodigal Son”...or often known as “The Forgiving Father.” We all know this story, we love this story, and we get frustrated by this story! We can relate to the younger son at times and realize that we all make bad choices. We can love the Father and pray that our God forgives and embraces like that Father...yet sometimes, if we really think about it, we are possibly most like the older son. We get jealous, we whine, we complain, and we want what we think is “fair”...not what is “unconditional love!” This week, perhaps sit with the character of the older son and look deep inside to see how often you relate to that character. I often tell my students (and now my clients) that knowing someone’s story doesn’t excuse their poor behavior...but it does help us to understand that behavior.

(continued in the next column)

(Lenten Reflection – continued)

The bottom line...our God became one of us, entered into our world of “sin” (where we are not always true to who we are) to show us that we CAN overcome the negative and “evil” in this world. It is possible! We do not have to seek revenge, resort to violence, desire suffering for those who hurt us. We can... FORGIVE! That is what our God does for us...and that is what we are asked to do for others!

Peace, Charleen

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.

FOOD BANK REPORT

For February 2013

Requests: 26 Adults: 39 Children: 19

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



ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Lunch & Play Date Correction

The correct date is **Saturday June 22 at 12:00 noon**
We apologize for the confusion.

We have been able to reserve 40 tickets, so if you have not already paid, it might be wise to send your check for \$33 made payable to **St. Christopher Social Club** to Joan Perrone, 11 Dean Drive, East Hartford, CT 06118. Deadline for payment is April 1st. **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. Thanks for your understanding.**

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.**



CRS RICE BOWL

CRS Rice Bowl invites us to learn about the Dominican Republic this week, where CRS helps women form savings and lending communities that help them save money and access small loans for new businesses. Pray for these women who have the courage to start their own businesses, and make a contribution to your Rice Bowl to support people working to provide a better livelihood for their families.

OUR COMMUNITY REFLECTS ON GUN VIOLENCE

Sponsored by: St. Bridget Church and MCC - Community Engagement

All are welcome to: Manchester Community College, Wednesday, March 20 from 7:00–8:30 p.m., SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium, in the AST Building.

Forum Panel: Dr. Richard Kisiel (interim Superintendent of Manchester Schools), Rep. Jason Rojas (State Representative for the 9th District), Police Chief Marc Montminy (Town of Manchester) and Sister Linda Pepe CSJ (Collaborative Center for Justice). Panel will also answer written questions from the audience. For more info call John Ryan 860-643-2403, ext.14.

PRAYER LINE

Our Prayer Line is ready to receive your prayer requests! All requests are handled with care and in a confidential manner. You need only share what you wish. E-mail your requests to Beverly Connors, Prayer Line coordinator, at bcrc29@hotmail.com or call her at 860-432-1530.



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Catholic Church, and many others need to continue the fight for religious freedom so that we can promote a culture that is favorable to life from conception to natural death.

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.

LIVING STATIONS

We Got Jesus!

The Living Stations, a dramatic presentation of volunteers from our parish will be held on Good Friday evening at 7:30 pm. We got Jesus!...Alex Murray has come forward to portray our Savior, but we still need everything else. What are the needs? We need folks to portray the various individuals who played a role in the Stations of the Cross: Mary, Simon, Veronica, Pilate, Roman soldiers, and various citizens (adults and children) of Jerusalem. We also need a narrator and numerous readers. We typically have 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, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.



2013 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those with health insurance. Your gift to the 2013 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

If you did not receive the 2013 Archbishop's Annual Appeal mailing, please feel free to pick up one of the extra pledge packets located at the main entrance of the church. Thank you for your continue generosity and support.

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.