



*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](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.stchris-eh.org](http://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](mailto:stchrisre@gmail.com)

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND  
CONFIRMATION**

Kristina Gillespie – 860-895-8692

E-mail: [stchrisym@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.kofc-ehartford4.org)

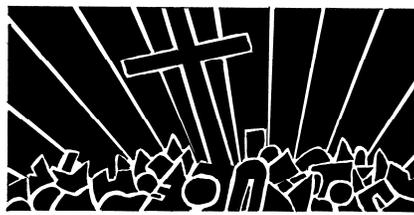
**PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

860-761-7456 [vocationshartford.org](http://vocationshartford.org)

**CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES**

[www.credocath.com](http://www.credocath.com)

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC  
WOMEN** [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)



**Fifth Sunday  
of  
Lent**  
**March 17, 2013**

*"I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*

– Philipians 3:8

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

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)

Monday, March 18 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Doris Tessier**  
(Her Sister Claire Franklin)

Tuesday, March 19 – 7:30 a.m.  
**In Honor of St. Joseph and  
In Memory of Father Ron Osborne**

Wednesday, March 20 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Marie Murha**  
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Thursday, March 21 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Ronald Shinder**  
(Wife Sandra)

Saturday, March 23 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Douglas Fillatti**  
(Mom & Sister)

Sunday, March 24 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Gerry Martin**  
(Wife Jan & Family)

Sunday, March 24 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Victor Goslin**  
(Family)

## OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (March 10):	\$ 6,354
Same Sunday in 2012:	\$ 6,237
Parish School Support:	\$ 1,829

Your generosity is much appreciated. Many thanks for all you do to help our parish and our parish school! With Gratitude, Fr. Curran

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

If there is one consistent message in the readings for this Fifth Sunday of Lent, it is that we must look to the future, not to the past. As Catholic Christians, we are a people of eternity, a people who concentrate on the hope and promise of our Lord and Savior. Jesus reminds us many times that His "Kingdom is not of this world." (Jn 18:36)

Living a life of stewardship places a person with an eye always on that other kingdom. If we truly attempt to live lives of stewardship, we must keep in mind that we follow that way of life as a "calling." However, we are not to condemn others because they fail to live that way. We also must remember to love all regardless of whether we think they are "good" Christians or not. All of this is fulfilled because we understand that our rewards are in Heaven, not necessarily on earth – in the future, not in the present. The eminent scholar, author, and Christian apologist C.S. Lewis put it this way: "When Christians cease to think of the other world in their future is when they become ineffective in this one."

## 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  
Rita Thiery – 1st Anniversary**  
(Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For All Who Are Preparing to  
Receive the Easter Sacraments**

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

## PENITENTIAL CELEBRATION

### *Celebrate Forgiveness!*

This 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, 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!



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, March 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 2 & 7. Everyone is invited!

## 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.

## MUNSON CHOCOLATE BARS

Volunteers from our parish school will have available for purchase after all Masses next weekend, March 23 and 24, Munson Chocolate Bars. The 1.75 oz. chocolate bars are being sold for \$1.50 each. Proceeds from this fundraiser are going towards the purchase of new stage curtains in our school's gymnasium. Your support is appreciated!

## SOUP AND STATIONS

### Last Chance!!!



Our last Soup and Stations for this Lenten season will be held this Wednesday, March 20. If you have not attended one of these evenings, we strongly encourage you to attend this last one. It is a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) beginning at 5:30 p.m. in our church hall followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. This Lenten event has again been proven to be most successful, and we hope you will be able to experience it. **Offerings of soup and bread would be most welcome.** No desserts please.

## THANK YOU NOTE

Dear St. Christopher Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your generous donations of baby supplies and baby items to help out Birthright of East Hartford and St. Gerard's Center in Hartford. Your generosity truly helps babies and parents. Yours is a witness to truly being a pro-life people. God bless you and thank you!

Sincerely,

Grade 8 students from the Pro-Life Service Project Team: Morgan Landry, Grace LaChance, Paulo Darocha, Noah Burby, Marianna Codianni, Bruno Casanova, Amber Hebert, Olivia Platinitis-Vu, Sara Hohenthal

## GIFT CARDS



Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses next weekend, 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](mailto:kasimeone95@comcast.net). Orders are placed every Monday, so call Kathy if you would like to receive cards at other times.

## LOVE AND DEEDS

*“God doesn't want our deeds; God wants the love that prompts them.”*

– St. Teresa of Avila

**LENTEN REFLECTION**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Today we hear Paul try to explain his newfound love for Christ...the “supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus” and his acknowledgement that having Jesus is all he needs! Wow! Can we say that? Have you had even a moment where you have glimpsed that amazement that ALL you need is God? Sadly, I believe few have. But, to find true happiness...that is what we should be striving for. Paul tells us that he has “indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus.” The excerpt of the letter we see in our second reading closes with “Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.” To truly be who we are intended to be...we too have to be “possessed” by God...and by nothing and no one else!

Our gospel today is the very familiar story of the woman caught in the act of adultery. We have to remember that in her society...the man was rarely considered guilty of adultery...only the woman. People tend to get caught up in imagining what Jesus was writing in the sand as we often think it is what he wrote that caused the people to go away “one by one.” For me, the fascinating part of the story is not WHY they left...but the image of them leaving...one by one...and then what remained...just Jesus and the woman. Think of that as an image of each of us, and our minds. We often feel condemned, and the thoughts in our minds are a constant reminder of that. In the book we recently read, “The Four Agreements” it is referred to as the “mitote”...the many voices we listen to non-stop throughout our days. The doubts, the criticisms, the reminders of how often we think of ourselves as “less than.” Through the presence of Jesus...we too can let those go “one by one” and be left with just Jesus and us! Now that’s powerful! The conversation between Jesus and the woman...which is an image of what can be a conversation between each of us and Jesus...has him asking: “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” and we too can reply as she did: “No one sir.” The hardest part for us seems to be accepting the last line Jesus speaks:

(continued in the next column)

(Lenten Reflection – continued)

“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.” If we remember sin as those times we are not true to who we are...and if we remember Paul’s goal of allowing Jesus to completely possess us, then today’s gospel reminds us to let go of anything else that possesses us...especially those condemning thoughts that we are so good at listening to! One by one...let them go...and be left with just Jesus and each of us...no condemnation...just love...and the command: “Go, and from now on do not sin any more.” Does Jesus expect us to never make a poor choice again? Of course not. What Jesus does expect from us is that we try very hard to remember that we are the God who dwells within us, we are NOT the “mitote.” Go...and be the person you were created to be! Go, and be true to who you really are...The God who dwells within you!

Peace, Charleen

**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.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Do you know why a car’s windshield is so large and the rear view mirror is so small? Because our past is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on. – Unknown



### LIVING STATIONS UPDATE

The Living Stations, a dramatic presentation of volunteers from our parish will be held on March 29, Good Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. We still need folks to portray Simon, Pilate, at least 2 Roman soldiers, and various citizens (adults and children) of Jerusalem. We also need a few more readers. Our organizational meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall (due to our confession schedule) and the dress rehearsal will be Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the church. If you are willing to help, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or e-mail at [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto:imgoose@comcast.net).

### WE REMEMBER

We remember in prayer the following person of the military who bravely fought and gallantly died during the week of March 4—10 while serving our country. We also remember all those who are caught in the crossfires of war. May they rest in peace.

Technical Sergeant Bunn, Larry D. - 43

Specialist Suggs, Cody D. - 22

### DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

As we move forward on our Lenten journey with prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the coming of Christ, let us pray for our religious freedom that it will continue to be our most cherished and inalienable right.

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

### PILGRIMAGE TO SICILY & ROME

Fr. Fontana, the pastor of St. Anthony Church in Bristol, is hosting a Pilgrimage to Sicily & Rome, November 12-20, 2013. Cost is \$2,969 per person and includes round trip transatlantic air from New York to Italy, 8 nights at wonderful 4-star hotels, buffet-style breakfast daily, 3 dinners, full-time local tour escort, papal audience with our new Pope and much more! A \$450 non-refundable deposit per person is due by April 1. For more information, please call St. Anthony Church at 860-583-1349.



### CRS RICE BOWL

This week we focus our prayers, fasting and almsgiving on Pakistan, where poor communities often do not have access to clean water. CRS helps communities build water pumps so they can have clean water nearby for use at home and on their farms. This week, consider fasting from all beverages except for water, and donate what you saved to your Rice Bowl. We will begin collecting Rice Bowls next weekend, March 23 and 24. You may place your Rice Bowl in the specially marked container at the front of the church which will be available until April 14. Thank you!

### 2013 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal provides help to those in need! This year's Appeal goal is a challenge, but it is nothing compared to the challenges many suffer each and every day of their lives. Please consider supporting this important effort. Every gift makes a difference.

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. You may also make your donation online by visiting the following website: [appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org](http://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org). Thank you for your continue generosity and support.

### 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.

# HOLY WEEK

## *Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion ~ March 24*

Saturday Vigil Mass (March 23): 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Masses (March 24): 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

## *Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday ~ March 25, 26 and 27*

Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m.

## *Holy Thursday ~ March 28*

Confessions – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00 p.m.  
(Please note: according to ancient tradition,  
there is no morning Mass Thursday or Friday.)

## *Good Friday of the Lord's Passion ~ March 29*

Morning Prayer – 9:00 a.m.  
Confessions – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion – 3:00 p.m.  
Living Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m.

## *Holy Saturday ~ March 30*

Confessions – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
(No afternoon Confessions)  
  
The Great Easter Vigil – 8:00 p.m.  
(Please note: that in keeping with the solemnity,  
this is an extended Vigil – No 4:30 p.m. Mass)

## *Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord ~ March 31*

Masses at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.