



**Palm Sunday
of the
Passion of the Lord**
March 24, 2013

“The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.”

– Isaiah 50:7a



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)

Monday, March 25 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Tuesday, March 26 – 7:30 a.m.

Veronica Vance
(Pamela Vance & Carol Stacey)

Wednesday, March 27 – 7:30 a.m.

Doris Tessier
(Her Sister Claire Franklin)

Sunday, March 31 – 8:00 a.m.

Carol Colby – 1st Anniversary
(Daughter & Family)

Sunday, March 31 – 10:30 a.m.

Albert & Antonietta Pettinato
Justin Todd Briere
(Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (March 17): \$ 6,364
Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 5,710

My sincere thanks for all you do to make our parish a place where Christ is encountered and where His joy and life are shared with and for others!

With Gratitude, Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The steward understands that she/he travels with the Lord every step of the way, from the highs to the lows, from triumph to evident disaster. Like Peter, nonetheless, we may become reluctant. What are we really following and what are we really believing and practicing? We may proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Throughout Lent we have been striving to deepen our relationship with Him. Nevertheless, when it comes right down to it, we may resist His invitation to us because it can mean pain, sacrifice, and suffering. That is why we must experience Lent. That is why we must experience His Passion. And that is why next week on Easter Sunday we will arise with the Lord in triumph, joy, and celebration. Truly, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”



Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Belle Marie Bradley

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

**For Improved Health
for a Parishioner**

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For Our Faith Community
That We All Enter Fully Into
the Mysteries of Holy Week**

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

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF... Raymond Bain and Frank Swider. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that in observance of the Easter holiday, our parish office will be closed on Good Friday, March 29 and Easter Monday, April 1.

ATTENTION: COUNTERS

The Easter weekend collection will be counted on Tuesday, April 2, beginning at 9:00 a.m. It will not be counted on Easter Sunday. Please call Tom Hurley at 860-568-6263 with any questions.



PASTA DINNER

With the news of Pope Francis' election we have never been more excited to be attending World Youth Day in Brazil this July. We are over half way to reaching our goal but need your help to get us the rest of the way. We will be holding another pasta night on Saturday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the school gym. This event is shaping up to be a great evening for all who attend. Tickets are just \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$25 for a family. We already have some great prizes lined up for our tea cup raffle including dining certificates and a Pandora Bracelet, so make sure you get your tickets after Mass today!

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

We are most grateful to those who have been participating in this special Lenten program. We will begin collecting Rice Bowls this weekend. 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!

GIFT CARDS



This Weekend After All Masses

Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses this 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. Orders are placed every Monday, so call Kathy if you would like to receive cards at other times.

MUNSON CHOCOLATE BARS

This Weekend After All Masses

Volunteers from our parish school will have available for purchase after all Masses this 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 greatly appreciated!



ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday ~ April 1 ~ 1:00 p.m.

It's our pleasure to have the two-woman group "One Achord" with us for our April meeting entertainment. As usual, this will be followed by light refreshments.

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 bring your payment of \$33 to the meeting, as this is the final deadline.

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.**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Several weeks back we shared with you information about how our Prayer Shawl Ministry was reaching out to help those who were affected by the Newtown tragedy. We now share with you the following thank you note our Prayer Shawl Ministry and other participating Prayer Shawl Ministries received from St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Monsignor Robert Weiss, Sister Mary Ellen Genova, myself and St. Rose of Lima Parish, thank you for your generosity and prayers. Through your kindness we have received over 1,000 shawls, blankets, pocket shawls and other items that we distributed to people all over Newtown including families of the victims of the Sandy Hook school shooting, grieving friends and families, bus drivers, neighbors and friends who were troubled, the First Selectwoman, firefighters, the staff of a pre-school next door to Sandy Hook School, people who attended services aimed at helping them with grief, other churches in town, etc. One hundred of your shawls were taken to everyone who works at the relocated Sandy Hook School.

Currently, we are collecting shawls for employees at the other schools in town. St. Rose of Lima delivered 300 of your shawls to four grammar schools. We have our 5/6 school and high school left. Pray for us that we reach our goal of sharing love and support with all these people.

In closing I want to tell all of you that the Mom of a little girl who was killed asked me to tell the person who made her shawl that as soon as she put it on, she felt peace. You have shown an incredible outpouring love to people in their darkest hours. Saying “thank you” does not seem like enough.

Love and God’s Peace,

*Kathleen Chrusciel-Desrosiers
Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator
St. Rose of Lima Church – Newtown*

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry here at St. Christopher’s meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in our church hall. We invite you to come. Experience not needed – we will help you learn. For more information, please contact Chickie Amberg at 860-568-9069.

2013 ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2013 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please consider prayerfully supporting the many good works of the Archdiocese. Every gift will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated.

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. Thank you for your continue generosity and support.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Chairman of the USCCB’s Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, welcomed the introduction of the Health Care Conscience Rights Act of 2013. Its passage, he said, would make more effective federal laws that are on the books protecting conscience rights in health care.

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.

WE REMEMBER

We remember in prayer the following persons of the military who bravely fought and gallantly died during the week of March 11–17 while serving our country. We also remember all those who are caught in the crossfires of war. May they rest in peace.

- Staff Sergeant Blass, Steven P. - 27
- Chief Warrant Officer Henderson, Bryan J. - 27
- Captain Knutson, Sara M. - 27
- Captain Pedersen-Keel, Andrew M. - 28
- Chief Petty Officer Pike, Christian Michael - 31
- Specialist Proctor, David T. - 26
- Staff Sergeant Schad, Rex L. - 26
- Staff Sergeant Scialdo, Marc A. - 31
- Specialist Shannon, Zachary L. - 21

HOLY WEEK



Monday ~ March 25

Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m.

Confessions – 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday ~ March 26 and 27

Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday ~ March 28

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.

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)

(Participation at the Mass of the Easter Vigil fulfills the obligation for Mass on Easter.)

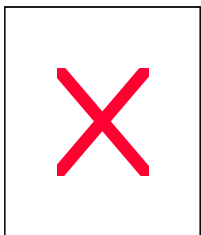
Easter Sunday:

The Resurrection of the Lord ~ April 8

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

LIVING STATIONS

Our Living Stations will be presented on Good Friday, Mar. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in our Church. Touching scenes, meaningful music...this is such a beautiful way to round out your Lenten devotions.



• Rehearsal Schedule •

Rehearsals are scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the church.

If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net

THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL

We would like to encourage those who have never experienced the Great Easter Vigil to come celebrate with us Saturday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m. The lighting of the Easter fire, the singing of the Exsultet (The Easter Proclamation) and the diverse and rich readings from the Sacred Scriptures are just a few of the highlights.

– Fr. Curran

ST. CHRISTOPHER’S

6th ANNUAL EASTER HUNT

We will hold our 6th Annual Easter Hunt following our 10:30 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday, March 31. We invite all our families to celebrate with us the Lord’s Resurrection on Easter morning, and we invite all the children to participate in the Easter Hunt.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

It is now officially spring and summer is just around the corner. St. Christopher’s will be holding Vacation Bible Camp from **June 24 – June 28**. The Theme this year is *Kingdom Rock*. If you would like more information or if you would like to register, please visit our new website at stchrisvbc.weebly.com or pick up a registration

form at the back of the church. We hope to see you there!



**Kingdom Rock:
Where Kids Stand Strong for God**

“The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.”

– Robert Flatt