



First Holy Communion

*May the Holy Spirit light the way
as these young people receive
the Body of Christ for the first time.*

St. Christopher Church

May 19, 2013

Ethan Araujo

Julia Ayala

Amber Braga

Faith Crawford

Brady Dodge

Andrew Edwards

Samantha Etim

Sophia Figueroa

Jacob Flores

Iringo Ilyes

Emma Lindsay

Lindsay Mowel

Richard Oliveira

Isabella Rivera-Rowe

Cheyenne Schworm

Andrew Tran

Lindsay Tryon

Joshua Willis

*Body of Christ, true Bread of Life,
stay always in my heart.*





**Pentecost
Sunday
May 19, 2013**

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“[I]n one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”
—1 Corinthians 12:13a

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 18 – 4:30 p.m.
Roland L. Pepin – 2nd Anniversary
(Children)

Sunday, May 19 – 8:00 a.m.
Edward Paolino
(John & Sheryl Kupec)

Sunday, May 19 – 10:30 a.m.
Elizabeth Peck
(Al & Sally Labieniec)

Monday, May 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. John S. Ahern

Tuesday, May 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Wednesday, May 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Veronica Vance
(Pamela Vance & Carol Stacey)

Thursday, May 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. John P. Tracy
(Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Saturday, May 25 – 4:30 p.m.
Dorothy M. Pepin – 2nd Anniversary
(Children)

Sunday, May 26 – 8:00 a.m.
Emile Laprise – 41st Anniversary
(Family)

Sunday, May 26 – 10:30 a.m.
John Klien
(Al & Sally Labieniec)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (May 12):	\$ 5,261
Same Sunday in 2012:	\$ 6,460
The Ascension of the Lord:	\$ 1,088
Parish School Support:	\$ 1,448

Your generosity to our parish is appreciated. Many thanks for all you do to help our parish and school!

With Gratitude, Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The readings for this Pentecost Sunday abound with stewardship messages and imagery. The second reading from 1 Corinthians includes two phrases that absolutely capture the quintessence of stewardship. St. Paul asserts: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit.” This is tantamount to the oft-quoted declaration, “Everything we are and everything we have comes from God.” All of the readings on Pentecost emphasize the Holy Spirit and how this Spirit pervades our lives and imbues us with all that is holy.

St. Paul adds: “To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” Benefit to whom? Certainly, it is a benefit to us as individuals, so that we can use those gifts to help God and assist others. That is stewardship — using the gifts we have received to build the Kingdom of God and to serve and comfort others. Our challenge is to identify those gifts; channel those gifts in ways they can be shared; and, develop those gifts so they enrich all of those around us.

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
Charles Bernard – 8th Anniversary**
(Wife Cathy & Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week
**For the Children of our Parish Who Are
Making Their First Holy Communion**

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) provides content the way you need it, in podcasts for daily readings, on websites to connect with other faithful, and on social media sites, and always with the New Evangelization in mind. Please be generous in this weekend's Collection and help support this important work. Remember, half of your donations stay in our archdiocese to support our communication needs.

A HOMEFRONT THANK YOU

We are pleased to share with you the following note we received from this year's HomeFront recipient.

Thank you! Your kindness may seem simple to you, but it meant everything to me. Glad to meet everyone and many thanks.

God bless each and everyone and their families also.

Love, Blanche Silva

HOMEFRONT LOST & FOUND

If you can help get these items back to their owners who participated in this year's HomeFront project, please call Phil Gosselin at 860-568-5001.

- Found: Spading fork
- Black plastic shovel on a wooden handle

WE REMEMBER

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

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Our parish's Pro-Life Committee wishes to thank all the families who took a baby bottle after Mass last weekend. On behalf of Birthright we will collect the bottles filled with coins, cash or check. You may place your bottle in the specially marked basket by Sunday, June 2. This is an opportunity to support a project that saves the lives of unborn children and makes a lasting difference in the mothers' lives. Any help you can give is much appreciated!



GIFT CARDS

This Weekend – May 18 and 19



Please help support our parish school by buying gift cards for gifts and everyday purchases. Card will be available for purchase after all Masses next weekend, May 18 and 19. **This is the last weekend for card sales for this school year.** We will resume after Mass sales again in the fall. For more information, or to purchase gift cards during the summer months, please contact Kathy at 860-569-8451 or by e-mail at kasimeone95@comcast.net.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Registration Deadline Drawing Near!

Vacation Bible Camp at St. Christopher's is being held this year from June 24 - June 28, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It is a great way to begin this year's summer vacation. Each day children will sing songs, play fun games, make exciting crafts, and immerse themselves in a bible story. We also have a mid-morning snack and learn valuable lessons that help us to "Stand Strong with God!" 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. **Registration deadline is Friday, May 31.** We hope to see you there!

COME TO US, SPIRIT OF HOLINESS

Holy Spirit,
 you banish fear from our hearts;
 you bear witness in us
 that we are children of God;
 we pray to you:

Remove from our hearts the spirit of slaves;
 place in us the spirit of adopted children
 to make us cry out, "Abba, Father!"

– From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 184

CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

The last Can and Bottle Drive of this school year will be held on Saturday, June 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please bring your pre-rinsed cans and bottles to the front of our school. Thank you for supporting our parish school!



REFLECTION

Last weekend our Music Director Charleen Miele read during our 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass the following reflection she wrote. We felt it warranted publishing in our bulletin for those who were unable to hear it.

Mother's Day 2013

This weekend we mark the long standing traditional holiday of Mother's Day! Let me start by wishing all those who are mothers a blessed and happy day. Let me also wish a blessed and happy day to all those fathers who have had to be both mother and father... to those women who've longed and those who still long to be mothers...to those who have taken on the role of Mother or Godmother...to those who have mothered students...and even to those who have mothered their furry four legged children. The bottom line...we are all mothers...whether we have birthed or adopted children...we are all mothers.

What does it mean to be mother? It means to love, to care for, to nurture, to keep safe, to stand behind, to lift up, to comfort, and to be present to those who need us. Our God is both Mother and Father...and we are created in the image of that God. So we too are both mother and father! We are all mothers.

This weekend, for me, holds a double celebration. Tomorrow I will not only celebrate Mother's Day, but I will walk for my Graduation ceremony and "officially" receive my Master's degree. I mention this, not because this brief reflection is about me... but because it is about what we teach our children. Next weekend, my daughter will walk for HER graduation and officially receive her Undergraduate degree. At 44 years old...some thought I was a bit old to be embarking on a degree program. Six years later...at 50 years old...some think I am a bit too old to be receiving such a degree (yes...it took me almost 6 years to complete my program.) However, when it comes to what we teach our children...I believe we need to first and foremost teach them that NO age is too old to follow a dream; a dream to be not only the hands and feet of Christ, but the eyes and ears as well.

This Mother's Day I hope that all of us can remember a time when we have been mothered and mothered.; a time when we have been loved and

(continued in the next column)

(Reflection: Mother's Day 2013 – continued)

when we have loved; a time when we have followed our dreams, and a time when we have encouraged others to follow their dreams. We are all children of God...and God is both mother and father. Our God encourages us to follow our dreams, to become all the wonderful things God has created us to be. No age is too old, no age is too young. Dream, live, laugh, love...celebrate.

And so...I wish you ALL a blessed a happy day tomorrow and every day that follows.

Peace, Charleen

SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

The Archdiocesan Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will host its **FOURTH ANNUAL Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference**, "Rooted in Faith: Growing Just Communities," on **Saturday, June 8** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. (Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.) A Keynote presentation by Alexie Torres-Fleming, founder of *Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice* and nationally recognized justice advocate, will launch the day. Over 25 workshops will cover a wide range of topics, from prison ministry to the environment to non-violence; seven workshops will be offered in Spanish. The conference fee of \$40 for Adults and \$20 for Students (aged 14-21) includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials. A special "team" rate is also available. For information, visit www.catholicocialjustice.org/conference or call (203) 777-7279.



2013 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Your support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is encouraged. Every dollar makes a difference to those who are without shelter, adequate food, health care or mental health services, those without access to education; and those who are ill. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Appeal. Extra appeal packets are located at the main entrance of our church. You may also make your donation online by visiting: appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org.



YEAR OF FAITH

Meditation

During May, in this Year of Faith, Easter Time culminates in Christ's ascension and the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost. Trinity Sunday helps us make the transition back into Ordinary Time, that long stretch of "green" Sundays and weekdays when we celebrate the Father's providential care, the Son's redeeming love, the Holy Spirit's abiding guidance. But May, the lovely month of nature's motherhood, is always dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. With Mary, the apostles and first disciples kept prayerful vigil for the Spirit's coming, the culmination of Mary's faith-filled lifetime. In Door of Faith, Pope Benedict celebrates Mary's faith, shown forth in her acceptance of the angel's word at the Annunciation, her charity in the Visitation to Elizabeth, her trust in Joseph during the flight into Egypt, her steadfast vigil beneath her Son's cross. Throughout these joyful and sorrowful mysteries of her life, Mary's faith-filled heart embraced God's will, making her an instrument for the accomplishment of God's plan for our salvation, and a living model for us of trust and perseverance. For Mary's undaunted faith and the selfless love it inspired, all generations shall call her blessed.

Mission

Imitate Mary's trusting faith in God and selfless charity toward others; honor Mary's faith by reciting the Angelus; seek Mary's intercession by praying the Rosary. – Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Archbishop Mansell and pilgrims from across Connecticut will be participating in a Year of Faith Pilgrimage to Italy. Defending religious liberty will be remembered in their prayers. To follow their spiritual journey or to follow the Archbishop's blog, Facebook or Twitter, please visit www.archdioceseofhartford.org.

The time is now to contact the White House and let them know that the federal health care mandate violates the First Amendment, which guarantees every American freedom of religion. Call the White House at: 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414 or visit www.whitehouse.gov/contact.

YEAR OF FAITH MASS

An Archdiocesan Mass celebrating the *Year of Faith* will be celebrated on Sunday, June 2, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. The *Year of Faith* offers us a unique opportunity to gather together as the Archdiocesan family in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, the mother church of the Archdiocese, which calls people from all our parishes and institutions throughout Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven counties, and as one family of believers to profess our faith in the Risen Lord. This is expected to be a glorious celebration and we hope many of you will be able to attend.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

We are seeking parishioners and others who would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith and Church - or to share their faith. With enough interest we will begin in the Fall and meet regularly through the Spring, learning and sharing together. Suitable candidates will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), as appropriate, at the Easter Vigil. For more information, please call Deacon Tom Breen at 860-643-7268 or you may leave your name with Bonnie at the parish office by contacting her at 860-568-5240 or at stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net.

HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM AT MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

Who: for girls rising to 7th & 8th grade

What: The HAP program assists and prepares students for high school, reinforcing Reading, Language and Math skills needed for the HSPT (High School Placement Test) in the morning and the girls participate in on-site recreational time (sports, arts, crafts, robotics, science is fun, and community service projects) in the afternoon

When: July 8- 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Mercy High School, Middletown

Why: Get your skills on and have fun in the sun!

For more info and registration call 860-346-6659 or visit www.mercyhigh.com. Reduced registration fee if registered by May 24.