



*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 (ACTING PRES.)**

Madeline Cassarino – 860-568-4073

**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 – Thursday: 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)



**Thirty-first  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

**November 3, 2013**

*“The LORD lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.”*

– Psalm 145:14

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, November 2 – 4:30 p.m.

**Frank & Vince Carrubba**  
*(The Miano Family)*

Sunday, November 3 – 8:00 a.m.

**Benoit “Ben” Landry**  
*(Family)*

Sunday, November 3 – 10:30 a.m.

**Ken Johnson**  
*(Leah Dumez)*

Monday, November 4 – 7:30 a.m.

**Mollie & Bill McGlinchey**  
*(Daughter & Family)*

Tuesday, November 5 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Stanley J. Sikora**

Wednesday, November 6 – 7:30 a.m.

**Paul E. Franklin**  
*(Wife Claire)*

Thursday, November 7 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Raymond Barry**

Saturday, November 9 – 4:30 p.m.

**Dinis Leonardo**  
*(Wife & Family)*

Sunday, November 10 – 8:00 a.m.

**Francis J. Kiernan**  
**In Remembrance of His Birthday**  
*(Wife Denise)*

Sunday, November 10 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Louis Sciarra, Jr. – 8th Anniversary**  
*(Wife & Family)*

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (October 27): \$ 5,741

Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 5,504

My sincere thanks for your generosity to our parish! Together we bring Christ’s saving presence to our community and to our world.

With Gratitude, Fr. Curran

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

In today’s gospel we hear about Zacchaeus, a wealthy man; he was wealthy because he had over-collected taxes from the people. They hated him, but as Jesus reminds us all at the end of the Gospel passage, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” Zacchaeus was not a good steward of his blessings. Jesus was aware of that when he went to Zacchaeus’ home to be fed. Something important happened to Zacchaeus; he went through a conversion experience – an encounter with Christ, an event that changed his life. He began to share with special regard to the poor. He began to reach out to those whom he had mistreated. That’s what stewardship can do for us, too. We must undergo a transformation of mind and heart. Then we must reach out to God, to one another, and especially to those who are destitute, both spiritually and actually. As Blessed Mother Teresa once said, “Love is not patronizing, and charity isn’t about pity; it is about love.”

**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  
Scott John Hatje – 1st Anniversary**  
*(Mom’s Love Forever & Family)*

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For the Families of the  
St. Christopher Community**

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

## HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

### This Weekend

After all the Masses this weekend, we hope that all parishioners will stop in the church hall for togetherness and hospitality. It is fun when we as a parish family can share food and friendship. After the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, pizza, salad, appetizers, finger foods and beverages will be served. On Sunday morning after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, baked goods and beverages are being served. Please make it a point to stop by and make "Hospitality Weekend" a big success!

## ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Every parish family should have received this past week a letter from our Finance Council Chairman, Michael Munley, asking for a contribution to our Annual Parish Appeal to help reduce our operating deficit and enable us to continue to make needed repairs to our buildings and grounds. The participation of all parishioners is essential for the success of this effort. Please return your gift card today. Thank you!

## ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

Due to the church hall being used as a polling place this coming week, this month's meeting will be held on Monday, November 18. Information about this month's meeting will be published in next weekend's bulletin. If you have any questions, please call Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

## THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

Our Food Bank is in need of the following food items to fill this year's Thanksgiving food baskets.

Canned Vegetables	Coffee	Stuffing Mix
Mayonnaise	Gravy	Canned Tuna
Instant Potatoes	Pasta	Cake Mix
Cranberry Sauce	Jello	Frosting
Spaghetti Sauce	Soup	TURKEYS
Pudding Mix	Cereal	
Graham Cracker Pie Crust		

Non-perishable donations may be left in the area near our Candle Station. **If you are able to donate a turkey, please let Dick Domler know by November 22.** You can reach him at 860-569-7396.



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

The journey continues on Sunday evenings. Our next gathering is this Sunday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome.

## COUNTERS MINISTRY

In a few short weeks we will be working on preparing the 2014 schedule for our Counters Ministry. This is a great time to express your interest in joining this ministry. This dedicated group of volunteers are responsible for counting our weekly collections. Members meet on their scheduled Sunday mornings for approximately two hours. If you would like to join this ministry and be included on next year's schedule, please call Tom Hurley at 860-568-6263 or Bonnie at the parish office at 860-568-5240. *(Current members will be automatically scheduled unless we hear from you otherwise.)*

## THANK YOU

The Guild of St. Agnes wishes to thank you for your support during their 2013 drive. We will remember you at our monthly Masses. Thank you again,

– Marion Sullivan



## PIES ARRIVE THIS WEDNESDAY!

November 6  
1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Pick up for the Lyman Orchard pies is this coming Wednesday, November 6, from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. If you placed an order through the school's Lyman Orchard fundraiser, please stop by the church hall on Wednesday to pick up your order. If you have any problems or questions about picking up your order, please call Sarah Poirier at 860-568-0632. Thanks for your support!

## LOST AND FOUND

A ring was found in the church. If you suspect this ring might be yours, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 to identify.

## SOCIAL ACTION

Advocacy and Education

### ‘The Lord your God loves the stranger...’

On August 7, 2010, Bishop Leonard P. Blair, newly appointed Archbishop of Hartford, wrote:

“If hospitality is part of who we are and what God expects of us, then . . . we are obliged to practice hospitality toward strangers. . .

“In our country today there is much controversy about how to deal with new immigrants, especially illegal immigrants. People can disagree, even strongly, about how to remedy the situation, but we can never forget the fundamental moral principles that flow from both faith and reason.

“. . . people have a right to a decent life in their own homeland so that they don’t have to leave, but if that fails people also have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families, just as so many of our ancestors did. Another principle is the rule of law and the right that sovereign nations like the United States have to control their own borders, but this does not abolish the duty every country has not only to grant asylum to the persecuted and to war refugees, but also to respect the basic human dignity and human rights of every immigrant, even the undocumented.”

Complete statement can be read by visiting: <http://www.catholicchronicle.org/index.php/Columns/the-lord-your-god-loves-the-stranger.html>

## GIFT CARDS

Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses the weekend of November 16 and 17. Please help support our parish school by buying gift cards for gifts and/or for your everyday purchases. Please note: A large selection of gift cards are available that would make excellent Christmas gifts. For more information contact Ania at 860-569-0686 or by e-mail at [simpsonania@sbcglobal.net](mailto:simpsonania@sbcglobal.net). Orders are placed every Monday, so contact Ania if you would like to receive cards at other times.



*“First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.”*

– Thomas à Kempis

## DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome Archbishop-designate Leonard P. Blair with respect and appreciation for the distinguished record he has already accomplished. Pope Francis appointed him on October 29th, and he has my heartfelt congratulations, prayers, and assurance of support as he moves forward. With this said, I am confident that Bishop Blair will join us in our crusade to protect religious liberty. Like all of us, he is very concerned about the health care mandate and its disregard for religious freedom, and has quoted Thomas Jefferson by saying, “The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.”

– Archbishop Henry J. Mansell

To voice your opposition to the mandate, please call the Capitol switchboard in Washington, D.C. at 202-224-3121 and urge your Congressmen or Congresswoman and/or U.S. Senators to support legislation that will overturn the mandate. You can also write to the White House at: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500.

## HOMEFRONT 2014

As part of a 27 year tradition, HomeFront, Inc. announces that possible free home repair assistance to qualified neighbors in need may be available in May of 2014. Fueled by a mission of keeping deserving neighbors in their homes with an improved quality of life, HomeFront invites members of the community to consider someone who may be in need of our assistance. If you know any homeowners who could benefit from free home repairs this Spring, please let them know that applications are now being accepted. **Deadline to submit an application is November 15, 2013.** All requests for help will remain confidential. To find out more about the HomeFront project or to request an application, please call them at 1-800-887-HOPE (4673). Applications are also available on their website at [www.homefrontprogram.org](http://www.homefrontprogram.org).

## WE REMEMBER

We remember in prayer the persons of the armed services 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.

**FROM THE DESK OF  
OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

On October 22, my husband Anthony and I were happy to attend the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry's annual awards dinner. We have attended this function for three years as the guests of Deacon Bill and Eileen Gilles who are quite active in the ministry. This year's keynote speaker was Mr. Jack Jezreel, the founder and president of the JustFaith Ministries, a conversion-based justice formation program created in 1989. The title of Mr. Jezreel's talk was "St. Francis, Pope Francis and a Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church." The presentation was wonderful and I thought it warranted a mention of the challenge he presented to all of us.

Mr. Jezreel noted that the "church" which is "us" basically has two functions...to Gather and to Send forth. In Gathering, we worship together, we learn, we share, we sing...basically we "prepare." This is wonderful and is most necessary. However, it is nothing without the second function, which is The Sending Forth. The sending forth is our call to ACT...it is our Mission...it is what we prepare for! The challenge that comes with this is that Parishes are doing a great job at gathering...but not always doing a great job at the sending forth, the acting, the mission. When our gathering becomes disconnected from our sending forth...there is a problem!

Mr. Jezreel noted two problems: First, we become static...we lose our mission. Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it "cheap grace" and more recently Pope Francis called it "theological Narcissism." Both are dangerous. Mr. Jezreel called us to ask the question: "What heroic thing is our parish doing and what can I do to become part of that?" The second problem is that we lose a sense of WHY we gather in the first place. We begin to believe that our mission is to "go in peace to return next week" rather than to "go in peace to love and serve."

We were reminded that there are hundreds of organizations we can join with to accomplish this service. We need not create something new. And, at the same time, we are challenged to see where our resources are being used. He suggested that half our budgets go towards gathering (salaries, building

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expenses, supplies, etc.) and half of our budget go towards sending (serving, outreach programs, etc.) This would apply to half our staff, half our building use, as well as half our funds. It sounds impossible, but really, when you think about it...it is why we are church in the first place! Jesus called us to proclaim liberty to captives, recover of sight to the blind, and allow freedom for the oppressed. It's wonderful, and necessary that we gather, learn, worship, sing, and share...but it is meaningless if we do not respond to the call to serve. Our new Pope reminds us not only through his choice of name, but in his actions. What will be our response?

– Peace, Charleen

**PUT YOUR STAMP ON ST. CHRIS**

**Help Us Help the Children**

To help keep costs down, our parish school has brought their Annual Fund mailing process in-house. Over the past 10+ years, the Annual Fund has helped collect over \$500,000 for the school. You have always been there to help us whenever we needed you and we hope you can help us with this important endeavor. We will need a lot of stamps to get our message out. In the past few years, many of you have come to our rescue. We were extremely grateful. If you have an extra book of 46 cent or Forever stamps hanging around or even 5 or 6 stamps, would you be willing to donate them to our cause? The kids would really appreciate it. Just place your stamps in an envelope addressed to Parish School and drop it in next weekend's collection basket. Thank you!



**ROCK FOR GRANDMA CONCERT**

St. Bartholomew Church in Manchester is hosting a "Rock for Grandma" benefit concert featuring musician Sean Forrest, founder of Haiti180. The concert will be held on Saturday, November 16. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online for \$15 at [www.rockforgrandma.com](http://www.rockforgrandma.com). Tickets will be sold at the door for \$20. Proceeds from this concert will be used to build a loving home for Haiti's forgotten elderly. The 7th and 8th grade students at our parish school support the ministry efforts of Haiti180 through their prayers and in-class community service learning projects. Learn more at [haiti180.com](http://haiti180.com).