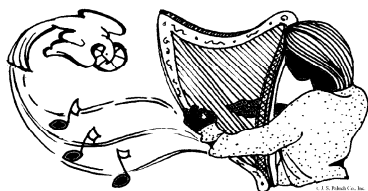




November ~ Religious Education Month

We are so very blessed to have talented and generous teachers in our parish and school community. Please take a moment to pray for and thank the following teachers of our children:

Laura Bloch	Phil Gosselin	Julie Munley
Deacon Tom Breen	Paula Hannon	Kimberly Murphy
Lori Brunette	Jennifer Ehrhardt	Sally O'Brien
John Byrnes	Debra Jenkins	Shannon O'Brien
Nancy Cadwallader	Diane Johnston	Diane Oliveira
Steve Cadwallader	Tanina LaRosa	Margaret Paradis
Saida Carrero	Nicole Lauer	Joseph Park
Jacque Crusoe	Mary Lawson	Kristie Sargent
Nicole Cumento	Anelia Maciolek	Maria Sousa
Fr. Vincent Curran	Teresa Maciolek	Tony Sousa
Michelle DeDominicis	Tricia Maciolek	Hilary Stevens
Eileen DiFilippo	Kathleen Madej	Ellen Tanguay
Shannon DuVerger	Alicia Mazzone	Daniel Valente
Madelyn Gay	Charlene Miele	Sharon Walker
Deacon Ed Giard	Lisa Muller	Heather Weber



**Thirty-third
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

November 17, 2013

“Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song.”

– Psalm 98:5

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 16 – 4:30 p.m.

Eileen Telesmanick
(Clayre & Bob Hall)

Sunday, November 17 – 8:00 a.m.

Mr. & Mrs. John Hebert
(Adrien Hebert)

Sunday, November 17 – 10:30 a.m.

Eugene “Gene” Wager
(Joe & Jean Martocci)

Monday, November 18 – 7:30 a.m.

Gennaro Viglione – 5th Anniversary
(Jean Walker)

Tuesday, November 19 – 7:30 a.m.

Special Intention of Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 20 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Thursday, November 21 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Brian A. Shaw

Saturday, November 23 – 4:30 p.m.

Marianne Harden (Mom & Family)

Sunday, November 24 – 8:00 a.m.

Lucille Serruto – 5th Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Sunday, November 24 – 10:30 a.m.

Della Samiento (Chickie Amberg)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (November 10): \$ 5,899

Same Sunday in 2012: \$ 5,993

Parish School Support: \$ 1,454

My personal thanks for your generous support which is so essential for our parish and parish school!

With Gratitude, Fr. Curran

**COLLECTION FOR THE
ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY
SERVICES**

This Weekend – November 16 and 17

Last year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a new national collection, to be taken up once every three years to support the Archdiocese for the Military Services – the only arm of the Church responsible for supplying priests to serve as chaplains in the U.S. military around the world. The first collection will be taken up this weekend. This collection offers each of us a substantial way to “*serve those who serve.*” Those who wish to support this collection will find an offering envelope and information sheet at all entrances of our church. Funds raised will help bring the Church’s full range of pastoral services to the men and women in uniform as well as to their families.

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
Harriet Reynolds – 5th Anniversary**
(Beverly Connors)

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For the People Affected by Typhoon Haiyan
and For Those Who Will Bring Them Comfort**

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

**COLLECTION FOR
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
November 23/24**

Next weekend's Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) needs your help. CCHD was founded to end the cycle of poverty throughout America by funding organizations that help individuals help themselves. With a tradition of improving education, housing, and community economic development, CCHD continues to make a positive impact in communities nationwide. **Defend human dignity. Take poverty off the map. Please give to the CCHD Collection.**



**ST CHRISTOPHER
SOCIAL CLUB**

It's Bingo time at the Social Club!

Feeling lucky? Our November meeting will take place on Monday, Nov. 18. Join us at 1:00 p.m. for our annual Bingo Games. First card is free, additional cards are \$1 each. Don't miss the fun. As usual, the meeting will be accompanied by some delicious pies and other refreshments.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 2 at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$5 for members; \$15 for non-members. Please plan to sign up at the membership table before or after this month's meeting so we may have a head-count for the food.

We are always eager to welcome new members, and it's a bargain at only \$10 per year. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

**GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE
After All Masses This Weekend**

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



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION FOR ADULTS**



The journey continues on Sunday evenings. Our next gathering is this Sunday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome. (Please note: We will not gather next Sunday, November 24.)

PARISH'S ANNUAL APPEAL

We thank the parish families who have already supported this year's annual appeal and ask those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider supporting this important effort as generously as you can. **Please remember that each gift makes a difference, no gift is too small!** Extra Appeal packets are located on the tables at the main entrance to the church if you did not receive one in the mail or have misplaced your pledge card. Thank you!

**COLLECTION FOR THE PHILIPPINES
November 30/December 1**

A special collection will be taken up at all Masses the weekend of November 30/December 1 to assist Catholic Relief Services in their response to Typhoon Haiyan. Donations collected will go to both immediate humanitarian needs and the cost of long-term reconstruction.

We recognize there are several special collections being taken up at our parish during this time of year, but the tragedy in the Philippines warrants our response. We offer our prayers to the people of the Philippines and may hope not fade from their hearts as nations respond to their needs.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

Packing Help Needed

Volunteers who are able to assist with packing the Thanksgiving baskets are asked to be at South Congregational Church on Forbes Street on Thursday, November 21 by 9:00 a.m.

Delivery Help Needed

Volunteers who are able to assist with delivering the Thanksgiving baskets are asked to be at South Congregational Church on Forbes Street on Sunday, November 24 by 10:00 a.m.

ADVENT 2013

“Do not be afraid...”

Advent is just around the corner...another invitation...a gift from our Liturgical Calendar to “pause.” This year I am going with the theme of “Do Not Fear...” It will be combined with a few other themes...like not being afraid to face and climb the mountains in life...and perhaps even more importantly, not being afraid to come back down; not being afraid to say “yes” like Mary did; not being afraid to believe and accept like Elizabeth (and eventually Zechariah) did; not being afraid to just “be” in the silence...to “wait” in silence... and so much more. Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the Church (along with Lent!) I guess you could say for me it is much more about the *process* rather than the *destination*. Isn’t that the lesson of life? How many times do we see “waiting” as a “waste” of time. I think not! Even John Lennon is quoted as having said “Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans.”

Advent is an invitation to be present. How ironic that we spend most of Advent *SHOPPING* for *PRESENTS* rather than *BEING PRESENT* with our God. It is not a time to just look forward to Christmas. Even Christmas is not an “event,” it is an “experience” that lasts forever. Society tells us to start now...shop, decorate, cook, send out cards, host and attend parties...and get it all done by Dec. 25. Then...tear it all down and get ready for New Years Eve! UGH! The sad part is that we let a lot of that attitude spread into our Liturgical attitude as well. No...we don’t sing Christmas carols during Advent...we wait for them and in the meantime we fully embrace and enjoy the music of the Advent season. Then...we bring in those Christmas Carols with full force as we commemorate the day our God became one of us...fully human. Wow! Pretty amazing!

In the next few weeks, I invite you to be mindful and aware of how things are changing. How nature is telling us that different things are to come. How we have to accept that the beautiful leaves have fallen and the trees will soon be bare. The temperatures are getting colder and soon the snow will fly. Yes! It’s all exciting! And...before we know it the blanket of

(continued in the next column)

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white will cover our grounds and all will appear to be dormant. But, just like our God, great and wonderful things are happening if we just pay attention. Bulbs and roots are still growing and changing under the dark earth. Animals are creating warmer habitats for themselves and developing warmer coats to help them endure the cold. Stars become more visible with the cold clear nights. Life is happening. Life doesn’t stop. Our God doesn’t stop. God is a force that is active around us, in us, and perhaps most importantly through us. WE are the Incarnate God in this world. Christmas reminds us of that. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. Nothing is more exciting than that. Nothing is more challenging than that. And for that reason...we need to hear our God say over and over...”Do not be afraid!”

Peace my friends, Charleen

St. Christopher Church Hall

Friday ~ December 6, 2013

1:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Please call **1-800-Red Cross** (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.



SOCIAL ACTION

Advocacy and Education

Campaign Nonviolence

Imagine a world with dignity, justice, and peace for all – a world with the tools to challenge the spiral of war, poverty and ecological devastation – a world where we apply these tools to our own lives as well as our larger society. We can transform our lives and our world through nonviolence: nonviolence education, resources, and action. Nonviolence must be more than just a principle for effective protest – it must be our way of life.

Save the date. On April 10, 2014, John Dear, S.J., will be speaking at St. Bridget in Manchester on his latest book, *The Nonviolent Life*. Fr. Dear has devoted his life to teaching, preaching and writing about nonviolence, in addition to his many actions against violence and war, some of which have landed him in jail. Read more about John Dear and nonviolence at <http://paceebene.org/>.

VENDOR FAIR

Our parish school is hosting a Vendor Fair this Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. Admission is free. Join us for a night of holiday shopping, home décor, jewelry, barware, raffle, door prizes and more. We will be offering Roma's pizza, finger foods, refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there!



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

St. Christopher School Cafeteria
Sunday ~ December 8
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

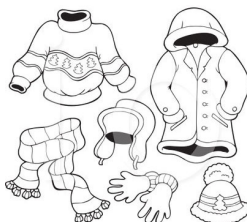
Admission fee: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, \$20 for family (2 adults and 4 kids); fee includes pancake breakfast, crafts, activities. Pictures with Santa available for purchase. Pre-registration requested at stchrisa@gmail.com by December 5.

LYMAN ORCHARD PIE SALE

The numbers are in and we broke the record again!!! \$15,232 worth of pies and cookie dough were sold during the Lyman Orchard Pie Sale. That yields a profit of \$6,549 for our parish school. WOW! Congratulations to everyone on a very successful pie sale! We couldn't have done it without you. Once again there was a large number of families who participated. Even just buying one or two items makes a huge difference in our sale. Thank you so much for your support of this and other fundraisers!

HELPING THE HOMELESS

The 6th grade students in our parish school are collecting new and gently used winter clothing to help the families living in the East Hartford Community Shelter stay warm this winter. They are collecting clothes for girls, boys, men and women as well as winter jackets, boots, hats, mittens and pants. Items can be left in the collection boxes in our church hall through December 6. Please help our 6th grade students make Jesus and the Homeless smile. Thank you!



BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

It has come to our attention that there are many capital improvement projects which need doing, not the least of which is a new roof for the church. The engineering firm of Denis O'Sullivan was hired to do a thorough evaluation of our campus needs and to prioritize these needs. The report is quite detailed.

We need members to volunteer to serve on the Building and Grounds Committee. This is an extremely important ministry. Anyone with knowledge of engineering, and/or the building trades, is especially needed. Someone from the Parish Council will serve on this committee also.

If you are willing to help out, please contact the Parish Office at 860-568-5240 with your information and someone will get back to you. Thank you.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

We are looking for individuals and families who would be interested in coming forth at the beginning of Mass to light the candles of our Advent Wreath. Individuals and families are invited to sign-up for one of the weekend Masses beginning the weekend of November 30/December 1. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 860-568-5240 or send an e-mail to the parish office: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net.



TRIP TO LA SALETTE SHRINE

The Ladies Guild of St. Isaac Jogues in East Hartford is hosting a bus trip on Sunday, December 15 to the La Salette Shrine in North Attleboro, MA. The cost is \$40. The Shrine offers a Christmas Concert with Father Pat mid-afternoon followed by Mass. Then 350,000 holiday lights will adorn the entire grounds. For more information or to register, please see the blue flyers on the tables at our church's main entrance.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Christopher Council #4

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly social gathering this Thursday, November 21. If you are a practicing Catholic man, 18 years of age or older and are interested in learning more about becoming a Knight, please contact Scott Gay, Grand Knight, at 860-670-8898 or at scottgay95@gmail.com.