



*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**

Richard Oliveira – 860-568-2341

**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)



**First Sunday  
of  
Advent**

**December 1, 2013**

*“You . . . must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”*

– Matthew 24:44

*Mass*  *for the  
Intentions* *Week*

Saturday, November 30 – 4:30 p.m.

**Paul Crowley – 8th Anniversary**  
*(Wife Irene)*

Sunday, December 1 – 8:00 a.m.

**Jennifer Ruggiero**  
*(Robert & Susan Falkevitz)*

Sunday, December 1 – 10:30 a.m.

**Timothy Byrnes**  
**In Remembrance of His Birthday**  
*(Mother & Family)*

Monday, December 2 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Brian E. Jeffries**

Tuesday, December 3 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rose Rogosky Pendley – 18th Anniversary**  
**and William L. Pendley**  
*(Niece Carolyn & Joe Kronen)*

Wednesday, December 4 – 7:30 a.m.

**Diane Olinatz**  
*(Family)*

Thursday, December 5 – 7:30 a.m.

**Bill & Kay McCarthy**  
*(Marion Sullivan)*

Saturday, December 7 – 4:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 8 – 8:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, December 8 – 10:30 a.m.

**John Stebbins** *(Family)*

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Due to the early submission deadline imposed by our bulletin company, last weekend’s financial report will be published in next weekend’s bulletin.

**COLLECTION FOR THE PHILIPPINES**

**This Weekend**

A special collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend 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.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

Stewardship is an action word; it is an action concept. It is a reminder that the Lord did not call us to be just a follower; He called us to be a disciple. That means doing things, and this sacred season is a great time to begin doing, or to expand what we are doing, or to improve what we are doing.

Stewardship also calls us to wake up, be ready (not “get ready”), to put on the light of Christ, and to carry out our stewardship in action, not just preparation. It is Advent; He is coming, and the time to change is now.

**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 a Special Intention**

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For Us All This Advent Season  
That We Find Time in Our Busy Lives  
For Quiet and Thought and Prayer**

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

### FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT

This year I am both humbled and grateful that Fr. Curran has supported my endeavors in offering a book of reflections for the entire season of Advent rather than my usual weekly reflections in our parish bulletin. With much help from Bonnie (our office manager and my dear friend!), I have prepared a daily reflection for each day of Advent. The weekday reflections are based on the gospel of the day and the Sunday reflections are based on the message from all three Readings for the day.

During this time of Advent, we invite and encourage you to take time to meditate and reflect on the gift that is given to us every moment of every day...the gift of our God within. Meditation (or Centering Prayer) is a process which does not imply the “emptying” of the mind like we often think. It is about the *return* to the “mantra”, the “object of focus,” which we have chosen. There are many options! It is not something we should think about as something we “do” well or “don’t do” well. We can all *return* to our focus...and if we are practicing that...we are meditating!

During Advent, we will offer opportunities for you to spend some time in meditation, either here at the Church or in your homes. We will also offer some assistance and references that may help. Making time for silence makes room for our God. It creates the Sacred Space within. Watch and listen for more details regarding these opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the reflections and that they assist you in your daily journey through the Season of Advent.

Maranatha! Emmanuel!

Peace,  
Charleen

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

The journey continues on Sunday evenings. Our next gathering is this Sunday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome.



### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

St. Christopher School Cafeteria  
Sunday ~ December 8  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

#### The time has been extended!

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 [stchrishsa@gmail.com](mailto:stchrishsa@gmail.com) by December 5.

### INFLUENZA (FLU) CLINIC

The Town of East Hartford’s Department of Health and Social Services is hosting a Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinic on Friday, December 6 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the South End Senior Center, 70 Canterbury Street, East Hartford. East Hartford residents who are 55 years and older are eligible to receive the vaccine free of charge. (**Proof of age and residency are required.**) For more information, please call 860-568-4281 or 860-291-7324.

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](http://redcrossblood.org).

### ECHS ENTRANCE EXAM

The entrance exam for eighth graders will be given on Saturday, December 7, at 8:00 a.m. at East Catholic High School. Pre-registration for the exam is advised but not required. Visit [www.echs.com](http://www.echs.com) or call their Admissions office at 860-649-5336, ext. 456 for more information.

### LIVING GOD’S WORD

What will it mean for you to “walk in the light of the Lord” this Advent? Will it mean changing an aspect of your life that is darkened by sin, or will it mean noticing and alleviating some of the suffering in our world?



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will not follow the Liturgy this month so our parish families will be able to attend Breakfast with Santa.

### THE SPARKLE BOX

The Liturgy Committee is inviting all parishioners to participate in filling our Sparkle Box, located in the Sanctuary during Advent. This is based on a book by Jill Hardie and illustrated by Connecticut resident Christine Kornacki. The story is about a young boy who is introduced to the idea of preparing for Christmas by not just purchasing gifts, decorating, etc., but by doing for others. It's a beautiful lesson. We are inviting each of you to write down any act of kindness you do during the week and then to bring these pieces of paper to church each week. Fold them up and drop them in the box and we will try to fill the box before Christmas Eve! It's a great visual of how much we DO for others! More information each week of Advent! We have a great parish and we KNOW we will have no trouble filling up our Sparkle Box!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### St. Christopher Council #4

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly business meeting this Thursday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. in our church hall. 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](mailto:scottgay95@gmail.com).



### GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses next weekend December 7/8. 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.

### 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!

### MEN'S RETREAT TIME IS COMING!

#### Nothing Less than Everything

Holy Family's retreat team invites you to experience a dynamic weekend retreat which explores the meaning and the potential of love to transform our lives. Love is our source and our destination. Christ gave us nothing less than complete love on the cross, and we, in turn, are called to love one another. There is no way to love half-way. When we live in the awareness of God's love which flows through us at each moment, we access our own capacity to forgive, serve, and bring peace. The retreat team invites you to be both comforted and challenged by this fresh exploration of the power of love in our lives and in our world.



The tremendous retreat team at Holy Family always choose a theme that is so relevant and powerful. I encourage the men of our parish to give yourself the gift of retreat and there is no time like the present. There will be lots of great food, inspirational and informative presentations and workshops. Please don't let the cost keep you from attending; your presence is more important than anything; you pay what you can. There is some "scholarship assistance" available to encourage first time retreatants to find out what this experience is all about. Please contact me to tap into this great opportunity. The retreat will be January 10 - 12, 2014. You can register online at Holy Family Retreat Center's website with a credit card or you can print off the registration form and mail it in: [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org). If you don't have internet access, please contact me and I will get a form to you. Please call Phil Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or e-mail me at [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto:imgoose@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



**HEARTS AND HANDS**

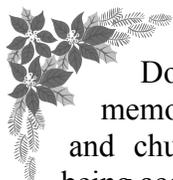
This past week D’Esopo Funeral Chapel delivered their gift of the beautiful Christmas tree that is in the sanctuary of the church. On each colored paper heart and hand that decorates the tree, there is a suggested gift item to benefit this year’s recipients – the babies of the students at Synergy High School, the children who spend time at Catholic Worker House in Hartford, and the babies who receive help from Birthright of Greater Hartford.

**Please note:** We ask that donations be returned UNWRAPPED and placed under the tree by the weekend of December 14/15.

We thank D’Esopo Funeral Chapel and you, our parishioners, for the continued support of our Christmas sharing program.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**  
**Next Weekend ~ November 30/December 1**

*Support elderly religious.* A parishioner writes, “As a Catholic school student from grades K–12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful.” Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next weekend’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Donations for Christmas flowers made in memory of loved ones to decorate our altar and church in this beautiful season are now being accepted. For your convenience, a donation envelope has been included with your weekly envelopes for December. Please **PRINT** the name(s) on your envelope and place it in the collection basket or send it to the rectory **by December 15**. You may also print the name(s) on a piece of paper and put in an envelope marked “Flower Fund.” Thank you.

**ADVENT**

*“Let’s approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.”*

– Anonymous

**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 during Advent. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 860-568-5240 or send an e-mail to the parish office at stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net.

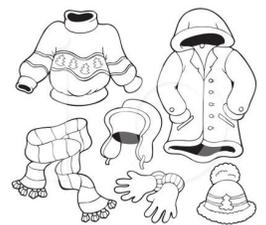


**HOMEBOUND MINISTRY**

Our Homebound Ministry is ready to bring Communion to our parishioners who are homebound or are at home recuperating. Please call Barbara Casey at 860-568-4638 to make the necessary arrangements.

**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!



**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

The Archdiocese of St. Louis and Catholic Charities of St. Louis have joined with others in refiling a lawsuit against the federal government challenging the federal health care mandate stating that “...no citizen should be forced to pay for or provide products or services they find morally objectionable. We will continue to demand that conscience rights of every citizen are protected.”

If you haven’t done so already, please voice your opposition to the mandate by calling President Obama at the White House at 202-456-1111 or Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius at 202-205-5445. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.