



*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 – 860-966-1388  
[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)

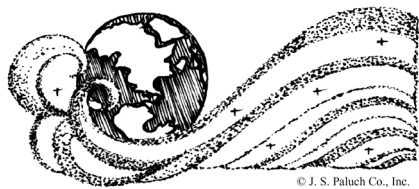
**PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

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)



**Second Sunday  
of  
Advent**

**December 8, 2013**

*“The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.”*

– Isaiah 11:9

*Mass for the  
Intentions for the  
Week*

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*)

Monday, December 9 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Rev. Robert P. Ricciardi**

Tuesday, December 10 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Paul E. Franklin**  
(*Wife Claire*)

Wednesday, December 11 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Veronica Vance**  
(*Pamela Vance & Carol Stacey*)

Thursday, December 12 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Charles George Verotsky – 15th Anniversary  
and Mary Rogosky Verotsky**  
(*Daughter Carolyn & Joe Kronen*)

Saturday, December 14 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Maurice Harden – 13th Anniversary**  
(*Wife & Family*)

Sunday, December 15 – 8:00 a.m.  
**John Francis** (*Richard & Mary Burke*)

Sunday, December 15 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Mass of Thanksgiving for  
Rev. James H. Smith’s  
50th Anniversary of Ordination  
to the Priesthood**

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (December 1):	\$ 5,074
Same Sunday in 2012:	\$ 6,004
CRS Collection for the Philippines:	\$ 1,088
Weekly Collection (November 24):	\$ 5,444
Same Sunday in 2012:	\$ 6,236
Campaign for Human Development:	\$ 1,399

Your generosity to the needs of our parish and to the needs of others is much appreciated. Many thanks for all you do!

With Gratitude, Fr. Curran

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS  
This Weekend**

*Help aging sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.* Your donation through this weekend’s second collection helps provide necessities such as prescription medication and nursing care for our aging religious. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Thank you.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

This year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9. The obligation to attend Mass, however, does not transfer, so it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. A Mass for this Feast Day will be celebrated on Monday, December 9, at 7:30 a.m. in our church hall.

**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  
Millie Lombardo**  
(*Beverly Connors & Millie’s Many Friends*)

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For All Who Are Grieving**

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



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

St. Christopher School Cafeteria

**This Sunday**

December 8

**9:00 a.m. - 12:30 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. **Tickets are available at the door.**

## MASS OF THANKSGIVING

**Sunday ~ December 15 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

Next Sunday, December 15, our parish will welcome Rev. James H. Smith who will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m. Fr. Smith, a retired Archdiocesan priest, was ordained in Rome in 1963 and celebrated his first Mass in the United States here at St. Christopher's. Fr. Smith is the brother of our parishioner and Homebound Ministry coordinator, Barbara Casey. We are honored to be celebrating this milestone with Fr. Smith and his many invited guests. We are grateful for his 50 years of dedicated priestly life and service and we ask the Lord's blessing on him now and always.

## 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!

## GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

**Available After All Masses this Weekend!**

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.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM

### Christmas Tree Festival

Each year the Knights of Columbus Museum located at One State Street in New Haven invites area schoolchildren to craft ornaments and decorate one of its many Christmas trees. We are proud to announce that our parish school is participating in this year's Christmas Tree Festival. Students from our parish school traveled down to the Museum this past week to decorate their tree. Bus transportation was provided by our Knights of Columbus Council #4. Each school's tree is judged by museum staff in hopes of taking one of the top awards. Christmas Trees will be on display until Sunday, February 2. Visitors to the Museum will be able to cast their vote for the "People's Choice" Christmas tree award. The Knights of Columbus museum is open daily (except on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) and both admission and parking are always FREE. What a great destination for your family during the Christmas break!

## WELCOME NEW ALTAR SERVERS!

We are pleased welcome the following young people of our parish to our Altar Server Ministry. They are:

Aryanna Birdseye  
Aaron DuVerger  
Allie Long

We appreciate their response to our call for new servers. If you have a child in grade 4 and above and he or she is interested in joining this ministry, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 or by e-mail at [stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net).

**BISHOP  
LEONARD P. BLAIR**

**to be Installed as**

**Archbishop of Hartford**

**on December 16 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Mass of Installation will be broadcast live on EWTN, Catholic TV, Fox 61, WCCT-TV/Chan. 20, as well as our Catholic radio station, WJMJ/88.9 FM, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Mass will also be streamed live at: [archdioceseofhartford.org](http://archdioceseofhartford.org). We hope that you will be able to join us for this historic broadcast event.



**THANK YOU!**

Our parish school students in grades 7 & 8 want to thank all the parishioners of St. Christopher Church for their generous contributions to the "We're the Change" Haiti water project and the Veterans' Stars Project. Because of your generosity, we raised \$1,336 for the Haiti 180 ministry and \$210 for three veterans' organizations: the Friends of Fisher House, CT; the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. Thank you again!

**OUR 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!

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

We are looking for individuals and families who would be interested in coming forth at the beginning of our 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses 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](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net).



**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS,  
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

We're taking off Friday evening, January 10, 2014 for our Parish Men's Retreat at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. It'll be a relaxing weekend of peace and quiet. Good rest, good food, inspiring talks to bring you closer to Christ. You'll come away with a new perspective on your life. A wonderful inner peace to face problems with new courage. Come on out! 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, 860-568-5001 or e-mail me at [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto:imgoose@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

**Advocacy and Education**

*Pray to End Hunger – Tuesday, December 10*

Exciting news! Pope Francis is calling on people around the world to pray to end hunger. On December 10, people are asked to pray at 12:00 noon local time in what will become a wave of prayer across time zones. We hope that not only we Catholics, but also other Christians, will join this faith-filled effort to end hunger in the United States and around the world. This global wave of prayer could be a means by which God touches many, many hearts – and perhaps moves our nation to get serious about hunger and poverty.

This wave of prayer comes at a particularly critical time in our country. Congress will be finalizing a decision on the farm bill and the harmful cuts to nutrition programs that will impact millions of families that struggle to put a plate of food on the table.

Please call 800-826-3688 or email Rep. John Larson and Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Sen. Chris Murphy today. These simple acts can make the difference. Tell them not to cut SNAP (formerly food stamps) but to take actions that will help end hunger in our country and around the world.

Caritas Internationalis (of which CRS is a member), the lead organization for the event, has prepared a special prayer for the day ([www.bread.org/prayerwave](http://www.bread.org/prayerwave)), but feel free to use another prayer of your own liking.



**HEARTS AND HANDS**

On each colored paper heart and hand that decorates the tree in our sanctuary, there is a suggested gift item to benefit this year’s Hearts and Hands 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. We invite you to take a heart or a hand and purchase the item noted. **Please note:** We ask that donations be returned UNWRAPPED and placed under the tree by next weekend, December 14/15.

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



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS**

The journey continues on Sunday evenings. Our next gathering is this Sunday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome.

**FOOD BANK REPORT**

**For November 2013**

Requests: 32 Adults: 55 Children: 38

Thank you for your continued support of our food bank so we can continue to help feed those in need!

**ST. CHRISTOPHER**

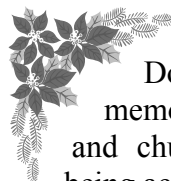
**SOCIAL CLUB THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to our Social Club members for their generous donation of toys at our recent Christmas Party. Half of the toys were delivered to Social Services in East Hartford; where they were received with heartfelt gratitude. The staff members look forward to giving them to deserving children in town. The rest of the toys are being donated to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Farmington as part of a project being undertaken by the grandson of one of our members. There will be many children whose lives will be made a little brighter on Christmas Day because of your kindness. **Merry Christmas!!**



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

**Dylan James Moore**



**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.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS**

Our Food Bank is in need of the following food items to fill this year’s Christmas food baskets. 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 December 18. You can reach him at 860-569-7396.

- |                          |        |              |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 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 |        |              |

**Packing & Delivery Help Needed**

Volunteers who are able to assist with packing and delivery of the food baskets are asked to meet at South Congregational Church on Forbes Street on the following dates and times:

**Packing:** Thursday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m.

**Delivery:** Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m.