



*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)



**Third Sunday  
of  
Advent**  
**December 15, 2013**

*“Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.” – Isaiah 35:10a*

*Mass for the  
Intentions for the  
Week*

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**

Monday, December 16 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Mark Tardiff (Family)**

Tuesday, December 17 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Paul E. Franklin (Wife Claire)**

Wednesday, December 18 – 7:30 a.m.  
**John & Louise Olinatz**  
*(Children)*

Thursday, December 19 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Margaret Gallo**  
*(Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gallo)*

Saturday, December 21 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Ken Harrison, Jr. (Family)**

Sunday, December 22 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Felicia Chesery – 16th Anniversary**  
*(Daughter Madeline & Santo Cassarino)*

Sunday, December 22 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Albert & Antonietta Pettinato**  
**Justin Todd Briere**  
*(Family)*

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (December 8):	\$ 6,102
What We Need:	\$ 7,317
Retirement Fund for Religious:	\$ 2,147

**PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT**

The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend is the monthly collection to support our parish school. Thank you.



**PARISH FINANCES**

Though we have tried to be frugal, our parish has about a \$30,000 deficit as we finish our fiscal year. Are there any Secret Santas out there who would be willing to give our parish some end of the year gifts? \$1,000, \$500 or any gift amount?

These gifts can be mailed to our parish office or dropped in our offertory basket. Thank you!

**PREPARE...**

*“Christmas has lost its meaning for us because we have lost the spirit of expectancy. We cannot prepare for an observance. We must prepare for an experience.”*

– Handel Brown

**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  
John St. Onge  
For a Merry Christmas**  
*(Wife Simone & Family)*

✠ 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS FR. JAMES SMITH!**

We congratulate Rev. James H. Smith as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Mass of Thanksgiving this Sunday 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.

**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.



**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!

**BREATHE...**

This past weekend, Deacon Tom invited us to take a deep breath during his homily and imagine that we are breathing in the same air that Julius Caesar... Jesus...and others have breathed...in and out! Amazing! The breath is such an integral part of our lives and yet it's something we rarely pay attention to. How amazing that the very thing we need to sustain life is something we don't have to think about...God has designed us so that it just happens...breathing...in and out...in and out.

This week, as we mark the halfway point of Advent, I invite you to take time to just breathe. Just sit in silence and breathe. Use the breath as your "mantra" or focus during your meditation. You can imagine breathing IN something you feel you are lacking (peace, calm, happiness, love) and breathing OUT something you want to free yourself of (stress, anxiety, sadness, anger.) Remember...meditation is not about clearing your mind...it is about the shift back to your object of focus...your mantra.

This weekend is the third Sunday of Advent..."Rejoice Sunday!" or "Gaudete Sunday!" Perhaps a perfect mantra for all of it is JOY! Breathe in joy and breathe out...whatever needs to be released. Ahhhh...I can feel the peace already!

Happy Advent everyone. May we all continue to "wait in silence" and birth our God!

Peace, Charleen

**GIFT CARDS**

Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses the weekend of January 25 and 26. Please help support our parish school by buying gift cards for gifts and/or for your everyday purchases. 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.



**2014 CALENDARS**

We are most grateful to the Newkirk & Whitney and Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Homes for supplying us with calendars for 2014. They can be found at the entrances to the church.

**DON'T GET SHUTOUT  
OF THE MEN'S RETREAT!**

Many of you men have been thinking about making this Retreat; I think we all know inside we need this time at the Holy Family Retreat Center to refresh ourselves. However, you still have not registered. Please don't let the cost of the retreat offering keep you from attending; the important thing is that you attend...you need only pay what you can. **There is a scholarship available for a first time retreatant, so please consider joining us; the first newcomer who contacts me will get to go at no cost!** Now, only about a month from Friday, January 10, it is not too late to register. 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.. If you have any questions or need any additional information call Phil Gosselin at 860-568-5001.



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

**Caelan Christopher Jones**  
**Lylah Anne Jones**

**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 next weekend 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).

**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, at 860-670-8898 or at [scottgay95@gmail.com](mailto:scottgay95@gmail.com).

**THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS**

On Thursday, November 21, we packed the food baskets for the Thanksgiving delivery with the help of:

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Dick Domler   | Frank Perrone    |
| Gary Hickey   | Deb Piersa       |
| Gayle Juliani | Peggy Schoen     |
| Marge Leonard | Charlotte Turner |

On Sunday, November 24, we finished packing the baskets by adding the perishable items. Our helpers were:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| The D'Attilio Family | Jill McNamara        |
| Lise Charron         | Denise Rioux         |
| Lucien Lavertu       | Judy & Jonathan Vann |
| Chris McCue          |                      |

The drivers and helpers for delivery were:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Steven Allen          | Lucien Lavertu       |
| Pat & Caitlin Bartold | John & Marge Leonard |
| Sean Daniher          | Neil Lynch           |
| Susan Dexter & Friend | The Sargent Family   |
| Al Labieniec          | Judy & Jonathan Vann |
| Gary & Pat Hickey     |                      |

Our thanks also go to Bob Handel for his helping hand which is offered to Dick Domler frequently and for his help in moving turkeys from the Homestead Dairy to South Congregational Church's Charrier Hall. We delivered to 51 homes which included 53 families comprised of 58 adults and 79 children for a total of 137 people to feed. Our delivery served 411 meals for one day and 1,233 meals for 3 days.

Our thanks go to all of you who so generously offered your time for all of us to successfully complete this task. We are sure we left off some helpers from the lists above, but we appreciate the help of each helper – named or not. God Bless!!



**RCIA**

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults journey continues. Our next gathering is this Sunday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome. Please note: Our weekly gathering will resume again on January 6.

**Schedule of  
Masses & Confessions**



Tuesday ~ December 24 ~ Christmas Vigils

4:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday ~ December 25 ~ Christmas Masses

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Saturday ~ December 28

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Vigil

4:30 p.m.

Sunday ~ December 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Masses

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday ~ January 1

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Christmas

Saturday, December 21: 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

Advocacy and Education

*Remembering the Least Among Us*

Last Sunday (12/8), Pope Francis said:

"There is an original dignity of every man and woman that cannot be suppressed, that cannot be touched by any power or ideology. Unfortunately, in our epoch, so rich in many accomplishments and hopes, there is no lack of powers and forces that end up producing a throwaway culture; and this threatens to become the dominant mentality. The

Victims of such a culture are precisely the weakest and most fragile human beings – the unborn, the poorest people, sick elderly people, gravely disabled people... who are in danger of being 'thrown out,' expelled from a machine that must be efficient at all costs. This false model of humanity and society embodies a practical atheism, de facto negating the Word of God that says: 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness' (cf. Genesis 1:26)."

In our Christmas giving and receiving let us remember those in need.

**WHAT DOES *MARANATHA* MEAN?**

You may have noticed that during Advent many of our songs contain the "word" *maranatha*. It was brought to my attention that many people have no idea of what we are saying/singing when we use that word! So...what exactly does it mean and where does it come from?

Maranatha is a two word Aramaic formula that occurs only once in the New Testament and is transliterated into Greek letters rather than translated into a "word." It is found at the end of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians (1Cor 16:22). The difficulty comes in trying to figure out exactly what two words it comes from! Depending on how we split the word, it can be an imperative verb...which would imply almost a command for the Lord to Come...or into the possessive "Our Lord" and a preterite verb "has come"...which would make it more of a statement of belief. Very interesting! It seems the "word" was used as a greeting (replacing the *Shalom* greeting the Jewish people would have used) during times of persecution. It was a message of hope for fellow believers!

There is much debate over the exact meaning of the word, and I believe that how we interpret the word can have a strong impact on what we are actually "praying" when we speak it or sing it! Doesn't that just make it more fun?! Are we asking, begging, commanding God to "come" into our lives? Or, are we proclaiming that Jesus Christ has come? You decide! What we can agree on is this greeting is one of Hope.

So, if you are feeling discouraged today...**MARANATHA!** If you are worried today...**MARANATHA!** If you are filled with sadness, anxiety, distress...**MARANATHA!** Our Lord has come and continues to come into our lives every day.

Maranatha, Charleen

(Information compiled from Internet Sources)