



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

Website: 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

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION

Kristina Gillespie – 860-895-8692

E-mail: 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

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

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

PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

860-761-7456 vocationshartford.org

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

www.credocath.com

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN www.nccw.org



**Fourth Sunday
of
Advent
December 22, 2013**

*“They shall name him Emmanuel, which means
‘God is with us.’” – Matthew 1:23*

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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)

Monday, December 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Angelina & Thomas Viglione
(Jean Walker)

Saturday, December 28 – 4:30 p.m.
Frank Vallone
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, December 29 – 8:00 a.m.
Lucille Fogarty
(Her Children)

Sunday, December 29 – 10:30 a.m.
Kevin Walsh
(Sonia Ginther)

DAILY MASS

Our daily Mass will not be
celebrated on Thursday, December 26.

HOLIDAY HOURS – PARISH OFFICE

In observance of the Christmas Holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 26.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

At our Christmas Masses this week the second collection will be a Christmas offering that will benefit our parish.

OUR TITHING PARISH

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

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we are thankful for your stewardship of our parish!

My Dear Friends,

*As we celebrate the
birth of our savior,
we are reminded of
the great mystery that Christmas is, that in Jesus,
God has made his home among us! Let us make
room for him in our lives, in our homes, in our
hearts.*



*On behalf of Deacon Ed, Deacon Tom and our
wonderful parish staff, I would like to wish you
and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy
and healthy New Year.*

*yours in Christ,
Fr. Curran*

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
Maurice Harden & Marianne Harden**
(Family)

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week

**For a Blessed Christmas
for All Our Parish Families**

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

Thank You!

St. Christopher Knights of Columbus Council #4 would like to thank everyone who participated in the Harvest Dinner on October 26. Approximately 90 parishioners and 20 visitors enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, the company and the menu.

I would like to personally thank these generous people who volunteered their time to make this event a huge success. Mike, Eileen & Conor Gay, Joe Beaulieu, Mac McCarthy, Madelyn Gay, John Twarkins, Rene & Collette LeTourneau, Lise Charron, Bonnie Szalay and Roger Dube.

The money raised from this event will be used for parish facility improvements and to support the students of St. Christopher School. Part of the mission of the K of C is to support individuals with developmental disabilities. We presented a check in the amount of \$150 to Lynn Sherman, Residential Director for Tri-County ARC, an organization that provides housing, transportation and job training to hundreds of individuals in Hartford, Tolland and Windham counties.

Mark your calendars – The next Knights of Columbus dinner will be served on March 1, the Saturday before Ash Wednesday, and we will be offering a Mardi Gras themed menu.

Thank you for your continued support.
– Scott Gay

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

As your new Archbishop, I will be grateful for your support in the effort that is being made to uphold religious freedom for all Americans. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reports that there are now at least 84 lawsuits filed by over 200 plaintiffs against the HHS mandate and the heavy burden it places on the free exercise of religion.

Please consider 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 you are opposed to the violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

– Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

PARISH BULLETINS

Did you know that our parish bulletins can be read on our website? Go to www.stchris-eh.org and select the Bulletin link on the left.

AN APPEAL TO WIVES!

I appeal to the wives of our parish to encourage your husbands to attend our parish's Men's Retreat being held January 10-12, 2014 at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. There's a reason there are many more retreats scheduled for men than for women; we need more help! Not only will you enjoy a football free weekend, you'll get a shiny new husband back in return!

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.

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. If you don't have internet access, please contact me and I will get a form to you. Please call me, Phil Gosselin, at 860-568-5001 or e-mail me at imgoose@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Holy Family is also offering a retreat for the women with the same theme *Nothing Less Than Everything*. The Women's 2014 Retreat is being offered January 3-5 and 24-26, February 28-March 2 and May 30-June 1. Registration can be made by going to www.holyfamilyretreat.org or by calling the retreat office at 860-521-0440.

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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – By Bud Ozar

The child born to Jesus and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

SOCIAL ACTION

Advocacy and Education

REJOICE! God be with us—Emmanuel!

We hear the story of Christ’s coming among us; children are wide-eyed with wonder and innocence as they try to remember all that is about to happen and what they’ve waited for all this time. We take time to honor the birth of Christ. We give thanks for all our blessings as we continue to struggle with understanding why others don’t have food, shelter, clothing, clean water, and decent sanitation. We pray for and with those living in war zones or in fear of war or with criminal activity in their communities, and for others just surviving on the streets, young and old. As we pray, we may wonder why it is this way.

As we celebrate our blessings, can we lift up our commitment to interrupting systems of injustice? Can we take time to think about the need for social justice in addition to charitable services? Both are equally important. We share the good news with young and old; we share the way of Christ and how we are all called to give the gifts of peace and justice. Our actions demonstrate strength and faith, and so we must act. This is the journey; it is hard work. Even as we harvest seeds of justice, we must continue to sow seeds of justice as well; we cannot stop. So we pray, “God, help me to see that doing my part to bring justice and peace to others isn’t an optional exercise of religious piety but my fundamental calling as a Christian.”

Let us remember to share the good news this Christmas, our continued dedication to God’s calling.

(Taken from www.paxchristiusa.org)



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!

RCIA

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults journey will continue on Sunday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome.



EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH SCHOOL



Students of our parish school have been earning money by participating in the Funding Factory Recycling Program. **We collect empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones** from the community and send them to the Funding Factory in exchange for cash. All proceeds are used to support our school’s technology program.

How well is our school doing? **Unbelievably well!** Our school consistently places in the top 50 of the over 16,500 SCHOOL organizations throughout the country who participate in the Funding Factory program, This program has so far raised over \$15,000 for our technology program!

Please help us by donating your used cartridges and cell phones. A blue collection bin has been placed in the church wing for your convenience. Thank you!!

Our parish school is grateful for the number of *Box Tops for Education* coupons we receive each week from our parishioners! Clipped coupons can be placed in our offertory baskets any weekend. Thank you for your support!



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. Orders are placed every Monday, so contact Ania if you would like to receive cards at other times.

**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.

**A FAMILY PRAYER
BEFORE THE MANGER**



Loving God,

as we stand before this manger,
help us to make a place for your Son in
our home and in our hearts. Help us to
welcome him by being kind to one another
and reaching out to those who need us.
We thank you for the great gift of Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The Gospel from Matthew proclaims “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God with us’.” St. Paul introduces himself to the Romans, to whom he is writing in the second reading as “Paul...called to be an apostle, and set apart for the Gospel of God.”

That essentially sums up what and where we need to be as we complete our Advent preparations on this Fourth Sunday of Advent with Christmas fast approaching. We, too, are called to be Apostles — the Greek roots of the word “apostle” meant messenger. Thus, there are two important clues for us as stewards as to what Advent and Christmas mean to us personally.

First, is the Good News (Gospel) that God is with us (Emmanuel). The second is that we are called to be messengers of that Good News among all peoples. Christmas is not just a time for us to celebrate the birth of Christ, but it is a time for us to be renewed and to accept our calling to be those messengers, those disciples.

There are often a lot of good feelings at Christmas, but the best is the joy produced by the understanding that God loves us. We join with shepherds and wise men and angels proclaiming, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all people.”

(Taken from www.thecatholicsteward.com)

WE REMEMBER

We remember in prayer the men and women of the armed services who are far away from their families and friends this Christmas season. We also remember **Lance Corporal Matthew R. Rodriguez** (age 19) who bravely fought and gallantly died on December 11 while serving our country, and we remember all those who are caught in the crossfires of war. May they rest in peace.

THIS IS CHRISTMAS

“This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ.”

– Frank McKibben