



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 – 860-568-5023

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



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**The Holy Family
of
Jesus,
Mary
and Joseph**

December 29, 2013

“Over all [other virtues] put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”

– Colossians 3:14

Mass Intentions for the Week

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)

Monday, December 30 – 7:30 a.m.

Francis Vance
(Pamela Vance & Carol Stacey)

Tuesday, December 31 – 7:30 a.m.

Marguerite Nadeau
(The Tardiff Family)

Wednesday, January 1 – 10:30 a.m.

**In Honor of
Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Thursday, January 2 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Robert P. Ricciardi

Saturday, January 4 – 4:30 p.m.

Stan Traynor *(Wife & Family)*

Sunday, January 5 – 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Arthur J. Audet

Sunday, January 5 – 10:30 a.m.

Bonnie St. Onge *(Family)*

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (December 15): \$ 2,938

What We Need: \$ 7,317

Monthly Parish School Support: \$ 1,182



Due to the early submission deadlines imposed by our publisher for our bulletins during this Christmas season, we will report all collections taken up during this time as soon as we are able.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Today’s readings encourage us to appreciate the importance of family life. They prompt us to never forget the essential attributes of being a good family member: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and most vital, love. Those, of course, are also the principal facets of stewardship.

As we have followed the birth of Christ and the establishment of the Holy Family over the past several weeks, we need to recognize the example set for us by that Holy Family — from the humility of our Blessed Mother in accepting God’s will to the love of St. Joseph in protecting his family at all costs to the incredible compassion and kindness of our Lord Jesus in giving His life to us and for us. Love is, as Paul reminds us, “the bond of perfection.” Like the Holy Family, we need to strive for holiness in all we are and all we do.

(Taken from www.thecatholicsteward.com)

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

**That Peace, Love and Understanding
Reside in All Families**

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week

For Peace and Justice for All Nations

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



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Wednesday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. A Mass will be celebrated on January 1 at 10:30 a.m.

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.



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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – By Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel says Joseph “made his home in Nazareth.” A “home” is built on the foundation of love, commitment and a shared history and is decorated with forgiveness, acceptance, rituals, discipline and mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today: Don’t live ‘anyplace’, live at HOME!

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES**

The Archdiocese of Hartford is seeking committed, energetic, visionary principal candidates interested in leading Catholic elementary education into the future. Successful candidates will possess at a minimum the following qualifications: Practicing Catholic in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church; Master’s Degree from a regionally accredited college/university; Five years successful teaching and/or administrative experience.

Interested candidates should contact Deputy Superintendent Mrs. Maria Maynard via Diane Newell at diane.newell@aohct.org, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002, 860-242-5573. Available openings will be listed at: <http://catholicschoolshartford.org>.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The University of Notre Dame is among the many institutions refiling their lawsuits in opposition to the HHS mandate, because it would require the university to authorize insurance coverage that violates Catholic moral teaching. In a statement, Notre Dame’s President, the Rev. John Jenkins, said: “Going along with the administration’s plan would require us to forfeit our rights, to facilitate and become entangled in a program inconsistent with Catholic teaching, and to create the impression that the University cooperates with and condones activities incompatible with its mission.”

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.



**ST CHRISTOPHER
SOCIAL CLUB**

Monday, January 6

1:00 p.m.

What better way is there to begin the New Year? After a short business meeting, we will be joined by Jeff Wieselberg who will be offering some beautiful piano music, vocals, and delightful entertainment. This will be followed by yummy desserts and coffee. If you have been thinking of joining the social club, now is the time. Dues are only \$10 a year, and are due in January. This small amount will give you months of pleasant interaction with our members and lots of interesting things to see and do. I urge you to speak with any member of our group, and they will certainly encourage you to be part of this vibrant, friendly group.

If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact **Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4**

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly business meeting this Thursday, January 2 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.

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.

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 those who died in the helicopter crash on December 17 in Afghanistan, those who bravely fought and gallantly died while serving our country, and all those who are caught in the crossfires of war. May they rest in peace.

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.



SOCIAL ACTION

Advocacy and Education

Care of the Poor

In his apostolic exhortation Pope Francis denounced the “the idolatry of money” and criticized “trickle-down economics,” which the Pope writes, “expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power.” Some people have rushed to condemn him as devoid of knowledge of economics and a Marxist.

However, the Dow-Jones index and the Forbes list of billionaires indicate that wealth is expanding while the poverty index shows us that there are more and more poor people and middle-class wages are stagnant. Where is the “trickle-down?”

What can we do to listen to people in need – needy people of all stripes – young people, singles and young families, parents taking care of adult children, adult children taking care of parents, older people at home or in institutions? How do we know their needs if we don't listen?

Pope Francis has asked for a survey of the whole Church about how we reach out to serve people. How will we at St. Christopher's respond to his survey?



CHRISTMAS LETTER

A couple of weeks ago we mailed out a Christmas letter to all families on record. We extend our appreciation to Jackie Luizzi, Jeanne Sciarra, Vivian Tardiff and Fran Tebecio for their help with this mailing. **If you did not receive the Christmas mailing, please let us know.** We would like to be sure you receive our Easter mailing. You may call the parish office at 860-568-5240 or send an e-mail message to us at stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net.

This Holy Family Sunday presents a great opportunity for us to share with you some information we have received from the Archdiocesan Family Life Office. The Family Life Office is the agency that serves as a resource to families and parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Please feel free to call them or visit their website for information on all the programs they offer.



FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

412 Ridge Road
Hamden, CT 06517-2941
(203) 230-2460; FAX (203) 230-2472

www.hartfordflo.org

Before Marriage:	To Enrich Your Good Marriage:	For a Troubled Marriage: (Retrouvaille)
 <p><u>For More Information:</u></p> <p><i>Archdiocese of Hartford:</i> (203) 230-2460 www.hartfordengagedencounter.com</p> <p><i>at the Archdiocesan Center of St. Thomas Seminary Bloomfield</i></p>	 <p><u>For More Information:</u></p> <p><i>For English Marriage Encounter contact:</i> Paul & Kim Gilbert (860) 376-0440 http://wwme.org meweekend@gmail.com</p> <p><i>For Spanish Marriage Encounter contact:</i> Cluber & Martha Marin (203) 754-6706</p>	 <p><u>For More Information:</u></p> <p><i>Russ & Kathy Held</i> (413) 525-1634 <i>e-mail: 3001@retrouvaille.org</i></p> <p><i>(all calls strictly confidential)</i></p> <p>www.retrouvaille.org or 800-470-2230</p>
2014 Weekends		
<p><i>March 14-16</i> <i>November 7-9</i></p>	<p><i>January 24-26</i> <i>March 7-9</i> <i>July 11-13</i> <i>November 7-9</i></p> <p><i>For dates, visit the area Marriage Encounter schedule at http://wwme.org/find-a-weekend.html</i></p>	<p><i>January 17-19</i> <i>April 25-27</i> <i>September 19-21</i></p>