



*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 – 860-568-5023

**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](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)



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**Eighth Sunday  
in  
Ordinary Time  
March 2, 2014**

*“Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.”*

– Isaiah 49:15

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, March 1 – 4:30 p.m.

**Reparation to the  
Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Sunday, March 2 – 8:00 a.m.

**Irene Laprise  
(Renaud Laprise)**

Sunday, March 2 – 10:30 a.m.

**In Celebration of  
Our Parish School’s 50th Anniversary**

Monday, March 3 – 7:30 a.m.

**Tina Dudek (Jean Walker)**

Tuesday, March 4 – 7:30 a.m.

**Paul E. Franklin (Wife Claire)**

Wednesday, March 5 – 7:30 a.m.

**Mark Tardiff (Family)**

Thursday, March 6 – 7:30 a.m.

**Manuel Machado  
(Wife & Daughter)**

Saturday, March 8 – 4:30 p.m.

**James & Yolanda Gusy  
(Family)**

Sunday, March 9 – 8:00 a.m.

**Pia Bertone  
(Josephine Briggs)**

Sunday, March 9 – 10:30 a.m.

**Kaitlyn Saunders Derr – 2nd Anniversary  
(Family)**

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (February 23):	\$ 5,841
What We Need:	\$ 7,317

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which is continued in today’s Gospel reading from Matthew, is the Lord’s longest sermon recorded in all of Holy Scripture. It is included in two of the four Gospels — Matthew and Luke. The important aspects of the sermon are that the Lord lays out for us what we must do to be His disciples. Jesus has high expectations of us, such hopes for us, as a matter of fact, that we cannot possibly fulfill them. The point is not that we can achieve perfection in the Lord’s eyes, but that we diligently work to do so. Following stewardship as a way of life is that kind of an effort.

Today’s Gospel includes one of the most quoted statements of the entire Sermon. “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” Sometimes we struggle with exactly where to start. Jesus’ point is that we start with God, place our trust in Him, and the rest will follow. “Tomorrow will take care of itself.”

**MERCY**

*“Dost thou wish to receive mercy?  
Show mercy to thy neighbor.”*

– St. John Chrysostom

**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 the Students, Staff and Alumni  
of Our Parish School**

✠ The candle in the chapel burns this week  
**For Our Parishioners Who So  
Generously Support Our Parish School**

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

**WELCOME ARCHBISHOP BLAIR!**

We are pleased and honored to welcome Archbishop Blair to our parish this weekend. Archbishop Blair will be the principal celebrant of our 10:30 a.m. Mass as we celebrate our parish school's 50th Anniversary. A reception will be held after the Mass in our parish school. All are invited!

**"CATHOLICISM" SERIES**

You're invited, ALL are invited (yes, **you** reading this!). Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in our church hall from February 25 – April 29. Join us anytime! We'll join Fr. Robert Barron for an amazing journey around the world and delve deeply into the Catholic faith. "Catholicism," a ten part series, was filmed on location in 15 countries on six continents. "Catholicism" first aired in 2011 on both PBS and EWTN and received rave reviews. This is the most vivid illustrated teaching tool ever created about Catholicism. On this global journey brought to us now so close to home, we'll learn more about the living culture of the Catholic Church.

More information about each week's episode can be found on our website at [www.stchris-eh.org](http://www.stchris-eh.org). Select the "Catholicism Series" link on the left. The evenings are being hosted by Dan Valente, a teacher in our parish school. You can contact Dan at 860-384-5097 or at [valentedmsc@yahoo.com](mailto:valentedmsc@yahoo.com).

**TAX STATEMENTS**

We are happy to provide tax statements to our parishioners who request one. If you regularly use your envelopes to make your offerings to our parish and wish to receive a tax statement, then please contact Bonnie at the parish office at 860-568-5240 or at [stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

**FOOD BANK COORDINATOR NEEDED**

We are seeking a Food Bank Coordinator for our parish. The Coordinator position can be filled by an individual, a couple of friends or a married couple. This is an important ministry serving those in need in our community. The responsibilities of our Food Bank are shared with the members of South Congregational Church. If you would like to learn more about the responsibilities of the Coordinator, please contact Dick Domler at 860-569-7396.

**ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB**

**Monday – March 3 – 12:00 noon**

Mark your calendars for our next gathering. Following a short business meeting, we will be treated to a delicious corned beef or turkey sandwich luncheon, and yummy desserts. Remember, we will meet at **NOON**. Following our lunch, we will be having some fun Irish entertainment.



Also on March 3, don't forget to bring your new or gently used item for April's auction. This should be a fun time, and a great money-raiser for the club.



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

**WELCOME FR. PIUS!**

We are pleased that Fr. Pius will be able to assist us here at St. Christopher's while he's in the country for an extended visit. Fr. Pius is the son of our parishioners Boniface and Caroline Eluka and comes to us from the Catholic Diocese of Enugu where he was ordained to the priesthood in July of 2002. Please extend to Fr. Pius a warm St. Christopher welcome.



**ARCHBISHOP BLAIR PRAYER CARDS**

We are pleased to make available prayer cards with a photo of Archbishop Blair. We invite you take one and to pray the prayer on the reverse side for his benefit. Cards available at all entrances.

**GIFT CARDS**

Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards again after all the Masses the weekend of March 15 and 16. 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.



**PLEASE HELP**

We are seeking donors to help cover the high cost of snow removal we are experiencing during this extremely snowy winter. If you are willing to help with a donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 or any other amount that is comfortable for you, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Snow Removal" and drop it in any weekend's collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Thank you!

**RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION**

Registration for the 2014/2015 school year will begin on Sunday, March 9. Maria Sousa, our Religious Education Coordinator, will be in our church hall after the 10:30 Mass on the following Sundays: March 9, 16, 23 and 30.



**FIFTY & FABULOUS  
15th Annual Auction  
Saturday ~ April 5**

Our parish school will be holding its 15th Annual Auction on Saturday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Murphy Hall in St. Christopher School. It's an evening for adults that's full of fun, food and excitement. Silent & Live Auction. Tickets are \$25 per person / \$20 per person for Seniors (65 & up). Call our parish school at 860-568-4100 to purchase tickets or to offer a good or service for the auction. Thank you!

**WELLNESS PROGRAM**

**OFFERED AT THE SACRED SELF, LLC!**

It's time to get up and out again and The Sacred Self, LLC is ready to help make that happen! Our second Wellness Program will begin in March and run for five weeks...ending with optional participation in the Spicy Green Bean Diva run on April 6! The program meets on Saturday mornings beginning March 8 and ends with the final session on Saturday, April 5 and then the race Sunday morning April 6. For details, please see Charleen Miele (at the piano!) NOTE: This program is open to both men and women and there are two options... a running group and a walking group. All fitness levels can participate!

- Charleen Miele ~ The Sacred Self, LLC



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN  
INITIATION FOR ADULTS**

Our RCIA journey will continue today, Sunday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center community room. Light Refreshments will be served. New candidates always welcome.

**CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!**

**Parish Council Members Needed!**

According to the Parish Council Bylaws, it's time to start searching for Council members. We are all stewards of our parish and this means contributing time, talent, and treasure. **We need your time and talent!** We need interested parties to serve in an advisory capacity to our pastor, Fr. Curran. I fully understand the time constraints on everyone these days, I have them too. However, serving on the Council does not require a lot of time. Meetings are held five times a year, usually at 7:00 p.m. and we try to keep them to an hour's length. There is the rare occasion when a special meeting needs to be called.

In every organization, you find the same people stepping up to the plate and volunteering their services. Let's be different. New blood in an organization leads to new ideas and fresh thinking and I'm sure there are many of you just brimming with new ideas. So, don't be shy, join the Council and put your ideas into action.

Please contact Bonnie at the parish office or me (my number is on the front of the bulletin) with any inquires or interest - no obligation. We also invite you to attend a meeting (usually announced in the bulletin) to see us in action first hand.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Madeline Cassarino, Acting President

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

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly business meeting this Thursday, March 6 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.

# Lent 2014



The schedule for Ash Wednesday, March 5, is as follows:

## Mass

7:30 a.m.

## Liturgies of the Word

9:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Ashes will be distributed during the Mass and during the Liturgies of the Word.



Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Here are a few things happening during this season of Lent:

✠ **“Soup and Stations”**...a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. This will take place on the following Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season: March 12, 19, 26 and April 2. Children from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations.

So...dig out your favorite soup recipes and mark your calendars to keep Wednesday evenings free. "Be church" with us and get to know the people in your church family.

**Volunteers will be needed to prepare soup and/or bread for each Wednesday.** You may simply bring with you to the church hall the item you wish to share on the Wednesday evening that works best for you. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

(continued in the next column)

(“Lent” continued)

✠ **Daily Mass**...will be celebrated Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. in our church hall. This is a great way to draw closer to our Eucharistic Lord. Come and join us!

✠ **Lenten Confessions**...

The door of faith is always open for us, ushering into the life of strong Communion with God and offering entry into his Church. This year, prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be open on Mondays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for Lenten Confessions. Let us pray that this Lenten initiative will rejuvenate Catholics of all ages through spiritual reflection and their desire to become one with God.

Resources: Available at all the entrances to our church is *A Guide to Confession* published by the Knights of Columbus. You may also wish to visit the website designed by the Archdiocese of Hartford: [www.Light4you.info](http://www.Light4you.info). Both of these resources provide helpful ways in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Lenten Regulations

The Church gives us the following regulations for the Lenten Season. **Fasting** is required for those 18-59 years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. **Fasting** means eating only one full meal and two light meals. Eating between meals is not permitted, although liquids may be taken at anytime. **Abstinence** from meat is required on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent for those 14 years of age and older. **Abstinence** means not eating meat at all during the day.



As we begin our Lenten journey, you are invited to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. Throughout Lent, pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Materials are available at our church entrances. Materials will be sent home with our religious education students and parish school students. Visit [orb.crs.org](http://orb.crs.org) for additional resources to use at home.