



*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

## **DEACON / RCIA DIRECTOR**

William Gilles – 633-8997

## **PARISH TRUSTEES**

Kay McNamara  
Stephen Kleva

## **PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Roch Girard – 568-5879

## **FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Michael Munley – 683-8594

## **PARISH SECRETARY**

Bonnie Szalay – 568-5240

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Carol Waterman – 521-7411

## **COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.**

Maria Sousa – 895-8692

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Sandra Bonfiglio, Martha Gaudreau  
and Kevin Hadyka – 895-8692

## **CHURCH CUSTODIAN**

Roger Dube

## **MASSES**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Monday – Friday: 7:30 AM

Holy Days: As announced in the pre-  
ceding Sunday Bulletin

## **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Saturday afternoon: 3:15 – 4:00 PM  
or Anytime by appointment

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Kathleen Madej – 568-4100

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Karen Santacross – 568-4975

## **SCHOOL SECRETARY**

Audrey Bjorkman – 568-4100

## **SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT**

Alice Gosselin – 568-5001

## **HOME / SCHOOL ASSOC. PRESIDENT**

Ellen Rudzis – 289-5598

## **SCHOOL'S WEBSITE**

[www.saintchristopherschool.org](http://www.saintchristopherschool.org)

## **PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT**

Dianne Rumsey

## **ROSARY and MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Chapel

## **PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM**

By appointment with Deacon Bill Gilles  
- 633-8997

## **BAPTISMS**

By appointment with Deacon Bill Gilles  
- 633-8997

## **MARRIAGES**

Please contact Parish Priest at least  
six months in advance at 568-5240

## **BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**

Toni Amberg – 568-9069

## **COORDINATOR OF PRAYER TREE and TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY**

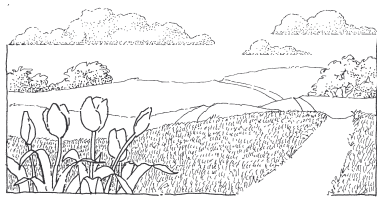
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388

## **COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK**

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

## **COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE**

Sue Sadolfo – 568-4373



**Third Sunday of  
Easter**

**April 6, 2008**

You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

— Acts 2:28

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, April 5 – 4:30 p.m.

**Maria Figueiredo**

*(Angelina Nunes & Family)*

Sunday, April 6 - 8:00 a.m.

**Charles Bernard**

**In Memory of His Birthday**

*(Wife Cathy Bernard)*

Sunday, April 6 - 10:30 a.m.

**Elsie Bosco**

*(Sister, Mary Harden & Family)*

Monday, April 7 – 7:30 a.m.

**Gennaro Viglione**

*(Daughter Jean Walker)*

Tuesday, April 8 – 7:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, April 9 – 7:30 a.m.

**Maura McKeever** *(The Traynor Family)*

Thursday, April 10 – 7:30 a.m.

**Sonny Kelly** *(The Traynor Family)*

Saturday, April 12 – 4:30 p.m.

**Shirley D’Aloisio—2nd Anniversary**

*(Husband & Family)*

Sunday, April 13 - 8:00 a.m.

**Joseph Leonardo**

*(Mom, Dad & Daughters)*

Sunday, April 13 - 10:30 a.m.

**Ann Sheldon** *(Gail Barrett)*

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (March 30): \$ 7,215

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 9,453

My sincere thanks for your generosity to our parish! Together we bring Christ’s saving presence to our community and to our world.

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

**PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION**

*Let us make sure that none of  
God’s children ever feels alone.*

Each year, the annual Peter’s Pence Collection, in support of the works of the Holy Father, is held in parishes throughout the world. The proceeds from this Collection fund emergency relief assistance to those who suffer from war, oppression, disease and natural disasters. Through works of charity, Catholics provide a powerful witness of love and deeds to empower the weak, the defenseless, and the voiceless, and to sustain those who suffer.

This year, the collection in our diocese is scheduled for next weekend, April 12 and 13. Please consider contributing to the collection this year. Together let us ask the Lord to bless the Holy Father and us, as well as those in need throughout the world.



**SANCTUARY LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of**

**Mark Tardiff**

*(Requested by the Tardiff Family)*

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**The People of St. Christopher’s  
Living and Deceased**

For information on scheduling a weekly dedication, please call the Parish Office at 568-5240.

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Child Abuse Prevention Month will be marked in parishes and dioceses around the United States in April.

To assist church groups, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has developed resources in English and Spanish to facilitate activities to highlight the need for prevention efforts. They include posters, liturgical guides, articles on church efforts to reach out to abuse victims and to protect children, and bulletin announcements. Many of the materials are available on a CD to enable church personnel to further distribute them.

The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has made care for minors a key priority and spearheaded nationwide safe environment programs through which 5,683,940 minors already have been educated on how to protect themselves from harm and 1,844,681 adults have undergone background screening and training on appropriate relationships with youth in their care.

"We can never rest when it comes to protecting children and teenagers," said Bishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. "They are gifts entrusted to us by God and our future is in their hands. The prevalence of child abuse in our society calls for vigilance of parents, pastors, teachers, indeed, all responsible adults. Child Abuse Prevention Month deserves our attention in both prayer and action."

**ADULT SOCIAL CLUB**

The Adult Social Club will meet on Monday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall. Our guest will be Cathy Aboumrad, a St. Christopher parishioner. Cathy will speak about the Barnard House Residential Program in Hartford, one of the recipients of our Hearts and Hands program. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Rose Yergeau at 568-4029.



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

**Bryce William Hoynes**  
**Gavin James Hoynes**



**Please pray for:**

August "Gus" Audibert  
Elsie Krause  
Margaret Phelan

**THE CATHOLIC WORKER**

A few copies of the Spring 2008 issue of The Hartford Catholic Worker are available on the Free Materials Rack in the Church Hall. The Hartford Catholic Worker is published bi-monthly by the St. Martin De Porres Catholic Worker community, a lay community of Catholics, and like minded friends, living in the north end of Hartford, working and praying for an end to violence and poverty.



*Helping a mother and her baby  
is Birthright's work.*

Birthright of Greater Hartford invites you to join them at an orientation on Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. at their office at 914 Main Street, Office 216, East Hartford. Learn how you can be blessed with the opportunity to nurture life! At Birthright we realize no woman wants an abortion but she might resort to it if there seems to be no other answer. As a friendship counselor volunteer (training provided), you can show her there is another answer through loving care and practical support. There is always an alternative to abortion. Please call 290-8800 to let Birthright know you'll attend the orientation.

**PRAYER SERVICE**

A Prayer Service in observance of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be held on the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), April 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield. The Prayer Service, which is sponsored by the Serra Club of Hartford, is open to all.

**GOSPEL INSIGHTS**  
*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*Luke 24:13-35*

Today's Gospel passage begins with two people on a journey. Life, as depicted in the Scriptures, is a journey. We are called a 'pilgrim people'. Jesus calls himself the Way. The early Christians, too, are called in the Acts "followers of the Way".

The problem is that many of us are quite lost. Many are going the wrong way. Others are going round in circles. In this story it was becoming a journey to nowhere. They were not going to any place in particular. They were in flight from anticipated danger and difficulties. For Luke, Jerusalem was the place where it was all happening; it was the focal point of God's saving work. Yet these two people (it has been speculated that they might be husband and wife) were distancing themselves from the city as quickly as they could. They were lost and they were confused.

It is precisely at this point that God in Jesus re-enters their life, unexpected and unrecognized. Just as so often we fail utterly to recognize him. He may come in the form of a friend, a colleague, or a complete stranger. It may be someone we love, admire, fear, hate, despise, or want to ignore. He may come, not as a person, but in the form of a happening or even an inanimate object. Through these he has something to say to us. But our prejudices and expectations can totally blind us to his presence, his coming into our life at this point.

They are then given a lesson in Scripture. Jesus shows them how all the happenings which to them indicated the total failure of Jesus' work were, on the contrary, stepping stones to triumph and glory. "*Was it not ordained that the Christ [Messiah, King] should suffer and so enter into his glory?*"

As they reach their destination, Jesus indicates he will continue on his own. He really would have done so, if they had not invited him to stay with them. Jesus never forces himself on us.

(continued in the next column)

**(Gospel Insights - continued)**

But out him, a real darkness, much more than the darkness of evening would have come down on these two people. This contrast between darkness and light when speaking of Jesus is a favorite theme of Luke, John and Paul.

And as they sit at table, the stranger becomes the host and Master. He takes the bread, breaks it and distributes it to them. For the early Church, this pointed clearly to their own Eucharistic celebrations. The disciples are now meeting the third mode of Jesus' presence among us - in the Eucharist, in the sharing together of the blessed and broken bread. And so their eyes are opened. They now really see the stranger for who He is - the Jesus they had been talking about all the time. At that moment, he vanishes. Is this to say his miraculous appearance is now no longer necessary once his presence is recognized in the sharing of the Eucharistic bread?

And, after all these experiences, what do Cleopas and his companion do? They go straight back to the Jerusalem from which they were fleeing. They simply must share their experience of the Risen Jesus with their fellow-disciples, who, in fact, have also seen Him. They go back to the city which saw the climax of Jesus' work and which will be the starting point of the continuation of that work through the Church. There may still be dangers and difficulties but, now that they can see, now that they know that their Jesus is Lord and is with them, they want to be part of it all, part of the work of building God's Kingdom.

– The Liturgy Committee

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**  
by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel the disciples were returning home so "downcast" they did not recognize Jesus walking with them. In our homes we can also be so overwhelmed we don't see God with us. Today's gospel tells us to stop each day and open our eyes to the blessings we are to one another in our families.

### NEW BULLETIN PUBLISHER

We are happy to announce that our church bulletin is now being published by J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. This change will be beneficial to our parish, and we look forward to working with the people of J.S. Paluch. We'd like to express our gratitude to those who advertise on our bulletin and extend our appreciation to them for their patience during this time of transition. We welcome our new advertisers and welcome back those who've renewed. Our advertisers make this bulletin possible, so please take a moment to see who's advertising on our bulletin.

### NEW DAY PROGRAM

*Beginning Monday - April 7th*

In his book Everything Belongs, Richard Rohr says of grief, "It should be the work of Christians who believe in the paschal mystery to help people when they are being led into the darkness and the void. The believer has to tell those in pain that this is not forever; there is a light and you will see it. This isn't all there is." As believers, we place our hope and trust in each new day.

If you are experiencing darkness and grief because of the loss of a loved one, we can offer a ray of light in a parish-based grief support program called New Day. Held in the Parish Center, trained parishioners will facilitate weekly sessions for 10 weeks beginning Monday, April 7 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. By listening, offering support and understanding, and holding your grief with you in confidence, we can help you move through your grief. The fee of \$15.00 is solely for the cost of the guide book. To register or to learn more about this program, please contact our Bereavement Coordinator, Toni Amberg, at 568-9069 or Marie Beaulier at 569-6436.



Our Youth Ministry will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in our school's gym. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, and children 3 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased in

advance by calling the parish center at 895-8692 or can be purchased at the door. Proceeds from this breakfast will support our Youth Ministry activities.

### ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal provides help to those in need! This year's Appeal goal is a challenge – but nothing compared to the challenge many suffer each and every day of their lives. Please consider supporting this important effort. Every gift makes a difference – every single gift.

If you did not receive the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal mailing or have lost or misplaced the pledge card and envelope that was mailed to you at home, there are extra pledge cards and envelopes on the tables at the church's main entrance. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

### NO-EXCUSE SUNDAY

(Author Unknown)

- Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in."
- Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late Saturday night.
- We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for church services.
- Blankets will be furnished for those who complain the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say it is too hot.
- We will have hearing aids for those who say, "The pastor talks too softly." There will be cotton for those who say he is too loud.
- Scorecards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites present.
- Relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting Sunday.
- TV dinners will be available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner too.
- One section of the church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the golf course.