



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

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
preceding 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

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



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**Fourth Sunday
of Easter**

April 13, 2008

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross,
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

— 1 Peter 2:24a

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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*)

Monday, April 14 – 7:30 a.m.
**Deceased Members of the
Traynor & Divane Families**

Tuesday, April 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Kathleen Jones (*Ralph & Peg Viola*)

Wednesday, April 16 – 7:30 a.m.
**Stanley W. Kronen - 55th Anniversary
and Helen K. Kronen**
(*Son Joe & Carolyn Kronen*)

Thursday, April 17 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff (*Family*)

Saturday, April 19 – 4:30 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo (*Wife Maria*)

Sunday, April 20 - 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Chesery - 13th Anniversary
(*Daughters Madeline & Santo Cassarino
And Cynthia & Daniel Weiss*)

Sunday, April 20 - 10:30 a.m.
Eudore Nadeau & Joseph Tardiff
(*The Tardiff Family*)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (April 6): \$ 7,557
Same Sunday in 2007*: \$ 12,188

* Easter Sunday 2007

Your generosity to our parish is appreciated.
Many thanks for all you do to help our
parish!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

Thank You

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Many thanks to our “Snowbirds” who have continued
to support St. Christopher’s throughout the winter
months. Your continued support which is so essential
to the ongoing needs of our parish is very much
appreciated!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION

Today our parish participates in the 2008 Peter’s Pence
Collection for the Works of the Holy Father. Please help
the Pope provide immediate disaster relief and
emergency aid to those suffering the effects of war,
natural disaster, or oppression throughout the world. In
doing so, we join one billion Catholic brothers and
sisters in acting to share God’s love in the world.



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SANCTUARY LAMPS



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The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Salvatore & Concetta Cassarino**
(*Madeline & Santo Cassarino*)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**Those Who Suffer as a Result of
War, Oppression, Disease and Natural Disasters**

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



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.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT DAY

The members of our 2008 First Communion class and their parents will be participating in a First Communion Retreat Day on Saturday, April 26.

Our Office of Religious Education is seeking donations of yarn, fabric, sequins, beads, lace, ribbon, etc. to be used at this Retreat. As you do some spring cleaning, please keep us in mind! Donations may be placed in the specially-marked box in the church hall before April 26. Thank you!!

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

The Credo Catholic Singles will meet again on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Christopher's Church Hall for their monthly gathering of prayer, reflection and conversation with fellow Credo members. It's an evening of listening, learning and sharing in order to deepen our faith and experience of God. Andrea M. who has an MA in Spirituality and is completing training in Spiritual Direction at the Mercy Center in Madison will lead the program. We invite Catholics who are single, widowed or divorced to join us. For more information, please call Harriet at 203-248-3184 or visit www.credocath.com.



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

Cavan Edward Balda
Gentiano Paolo Peci



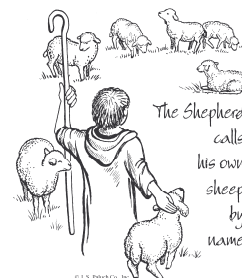
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Please pray for:

Nicholas L. Santacross, Jr.
(Father-in-law of Karen Santacross)

THE CALL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Twenty-third Psalm, today's responsorial psalm, is arguably the best known of all the psalms. The line that reads "Even though I walk in the dark valley / I fear no evil; for you are at my side / with your rod and your staff / that give me courage" (Psalm 23:4) connects this week's scriptures to the wonderful story of the road to Emmaus, which we heard last week. The Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is constantly at our side. He calls us each by name, beckoning us into a deeper relationship with him. That call, issued to each of us at the moment of our baptism, carries with it the promise of the Good Shepherd: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).



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Birtright

Helping a mother and her baby is Birtright's work.

Birtright 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 Birtright 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 Birtright know you'll attend the orientation.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS
Fourth Sunday of Easter
John 10:1-10

Today is commonly known as “Good Shepherd Sunday”. The image of God as the shepherd of his people has a long tradition in the history of God’s people. The image of the shepherd is one which appears several times in the New Testament. It is one that would be immediately understood by the people of the time.

In some parts of the world, especially in hotter climates, the sheep is a rarity. Some have never seen a sheep (except perhaps on television, in a zoo or as lamb on the dinner plate!) and still less shepherds. And the shepherd of the Middle East is somewhat different from, say, sheep ranchers of the Australian outback, rounding up on horseback thousands of animals. If one goes missing, it is hardly noticed.

The shepherd of the biblical Middle East had a much more intimate relationship with a much smaller flock. He would bring them out to pasture each day and spend all his time with them. In the evening he would bring them back to the enclosure where they would be safe from preying animals. He knew each one individually and would notice immediately if even one was missing. Jesus’ parable of the Lost Sheep would have resonated perfectly with his hearers. In the Middle East, the shepherd walks in front of his sheep and they follow him - and only him (“They know his voice”).

In today’s Gospel passage, which consists of the first 10 verses of Chapter 10, there seem to be two separate parables. The first is a warning against people who would want to steal the sheep and the second focuses on the relationship between the sheep and their shepherd. The central image, too, is not so much that of the shepherd as of the gate. In fact, later on in the passage, Jesus says, “*I AM the Gate*”. Here it would seem that Jesus is the Gate of the sheepfold, while the shepherds who come in

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

and out are pastors who are faithful to Jesus. Anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, for instance, by climbing over the fence or breaking through it, is dangerous and should be avoided. He is “*a thief and a brigand*” who comes to steal and do harm to the sheep. The genuine shepherd, however, enters by the Gate (Jesus). He is recognized and admitted by the watchman (the leader of the community?) at the gate.

The sheep hear and recognize and follow their shepherd’s voice. In a sheepfold where there are the sheep of many shepherds, the true shepherd knows which ones belong to him. He calls them out one by one. They, recognizing the voice of their own shepherd, follow him. They will not follow other shepherds, even if called by them. It is a free relationship. The sheep go in and out. They follow, not because they are forced to but by their own choice. The other sheep (belonging to other shepherds) stay behind.

When the shepherd has brought out his sheep to pasture, he goes ahead. And they follow because “*they know his voice*”. They will not follow a stranger but run away from him, because they do not recognize his voice.

– The Liturgy Committee



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Awareness training sessions called *Protecting God’s Children for Adults* are regularly held across the Archdiocese by VIRTUS trained facilitators. As of 11/01/05, when the USCCB Audit of the Archdiocese of Hartford was conducted, a total of 14,500 people have been trained, beginning in September 2003. This number includes priests, deacons, diocesan teachers, parish employees, and adult volunteers who work with children. In addition, over 15,000 background check investigations have been performed.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Donations increased by
46%!



We are pleased to report that a total of \$1,328.06 was donated to support Operation Rice Bowl. This represents a 46% increase over last year's donations. We thank those who participated in the Operation Rice Bowl program during Lent. Your participation will make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters here in the Archdiocese of Hartford and in areas around the world. May God bless you!

School News

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GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Beginning this weekend, we are happy to announce that volunteers from our parish school will have gift cards available EVERY weekend, after EVERY Mass. Our parishioners have responded well to this program, and we hope this new schedule will make it easier and more convenient for you.

Please keep in mind there are many gift-giving occasions coming up...First Communion, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation, etc. We have gift cards available for hundreds of stores and restaurants...a selection to suit everyone! You pay only the face value of the card...there are no service charges.

Gift cards are not just for gift giving. They can be used to purchase everyday items - groceries, health and beauty aids, etc. They are the same as cash.

We invite you to learn more about this fundraising program that benefits our parish school by seeing our volunteers after Mass or by calling Lisa Evans at 568-8944. We appreciate your support!



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I Suzanne Gardiner & Sean Hickman

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

If you have not yet returned the pledge card asking for your support to this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal with a gift or pledge, please prayerfully consider your response. Please know that your financial sacrifice will touch the lives of thousands of people who are served through the Annual Appeal.

ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR CHILDREN

The annual Mass of Remembrance for children who have died will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 321 Circular Drive in Hamden. The Reverend James A. Cronin, Pro-Life Director, will be the celebrant. This Mass is sponsored by the Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford. There will be a Memorial Book at the entrance of the church where people may sign the names of the children who have died. People who grieve for a child who has died as the result of illness, accident, miscarriage or abortion have expressed how important and meaningful it is for them to have this opportunity of prayer in the context of the Mass. Questions may be directed to the Pro-Life Ministry office at 203-639-0833.

EVENING RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

The Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center will be hosting an evening retreat for married couples on Wednesday, May 7. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a buffet dinner, followed by the conference at 7:00 p.m. and Liturgy at 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$60 per couple.

The theme for the retreat is *Finding Acceptance and Connection in your Marriage*. The evening will help you to accept the differences in your spouse more graciously, deal with conflict more openly and honestly, express who you are and what you need, and celebrate the presence of God in your marriage.

Call 521-0440 to register for this evening.