



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

## **PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT**

Dianne Rumsey

## **ROSARY and MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Chapel

## **BAPTISMS and PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM**

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 EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Cathy Reynolds

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

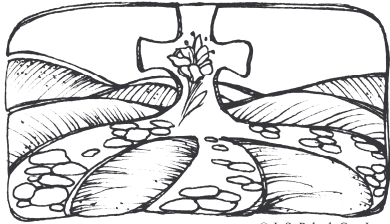
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388

## **COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK**

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

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

Sue Sadolfo – 568-4373



**Fifth Sunday  
of Easter**

**April 20, 2008**

“I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.”

— John 14:6

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

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*)

Monday, April 21 – 7:30 a.m.

**Mary Rogosky Verotsky - 11th Anniversary  
and Charles G. Verotsky**  
(*Daughter Carolyn & Joe Kronen*)

Tuesday, April 22 – 7:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, April 23 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Thomas P. Quinn**

Thursday, April 24 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Chester A. Bieluch**

Saturday, April 26 – 4:30 p.m.

**Robert “R.J.” Fillatti - 2nd Anniversary**  
(*Wife Mary & Daughter Kathie*)

Sunday, April 27 - 8:00 a.m.

**Anthony Gallo and Eugene Jensen**  
(*Family*)

Sunday, April 27 - 10:30 a.m.

**Ann Sheldon**  
(*Staff and Students of  
St. Christopher School*)

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (April 13): \$ 7,225

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 8,850

My personal thanks for your generous support which is so essential to our parish!

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

*“... the one who believes in me will do the works that I do, and in fact will do greater ones than these.”*

—John 14:12

Stewardship is a faith response. The good works we perform are the *result* of our faith, not the *cause* of our faith. Stewardship flows from a genuine faith conversion.

**PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION**

Thank you for your generous contributions to the 2008 Collection for the Works of the Holy Father which totaled \$1,789.50. Your participation is an act of love and solidarity and we are most grateful. May God bless you.

For information on the collection and where your money goes, please visit [www.usccb.org/ppc](http://www.usccb.org/ppc).

**ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**

The Archbishop’s Annual Appeal changes lives through service to the Lord. Your gift helps to provide formation and education to those whose vocation is vital to our faith and our Church. Your gift to the Annual Appeal is an investment in the future of our Archdiocese.

Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2008 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. Although we need a number of extraordinary commitments to meet our goal, please know that your gift will have a major impact regardless of the gift level.



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



### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In last week's bulletin we made you aware that training sessions called *Protecting God's Children for Adults* are regularly held across the Archdiocese by VIRTUS trained facilitators. This week, we share with you what this training entails.

An awareness session is facilitated by a trained volunteer who has devoted their time and talents to visit parishes and schools to present the program to teachers, catechists, clergy, parish staff, volunteers, etc. The three-hour presentation consists of two videos; the first one deals with interviews of four actual victims of child sexual abuse and two convicted perpetrators. After viewing the films, the facilitator conducts an in-depth discussion within the group. The participants are given the opportunity to discuss their emotions, concerns, questions, etc. The program is designed to bring about an acute awareness of how child sexual abuse can occur, the effects of abuse on the child, the mode of operation of the perpetrator, and what we can do to prevent child sexual abuse in our environment.

I am pleased to announce that Cathy Reynolds, who has been responsible for scheduling our Communion ministers for the past several years, has agreed to assume the role of Coordinator of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. We thank Cathy for assisting in this important ministry.



with Gratitude in Christ,  
Fr. Curran



Please pray for:

Mary A. Pasek

### 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 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon in our school's gym. The First Communicants are reminded to bring to the retreat their completed banner and a picture of themselves that can be cut for portrait making. Parents are reminded that at least one parent should attend this retreat with their child.

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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!!



### SANCTUARY LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week for

**God's Blessings for  
Staff Sergeant James R. Riley  
on his 3rd Deployment to Iraq  
(The Riley Family)**

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**Children and Young People  
who are Victims of Abuse**

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

### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The Adult Social Club will meet on Monday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall. Details about next month's meeting will be provided next week. If you have any questions, please call Rose Yergeau at 568-4029.

## GOSPEL INSIGHTS

### *Fifth Sunday of Easter - John 14:1-12*

The context of the Gospel is Jesus' long discourse with his disciples at the Last Supper. They are aware that Jesus is about to leave them. There is a heavy air of gloom and anxiety as the enemies of Jesus close in around him. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," are the encouraging words he speaks to them. "Trust in God still, and trust in me" is a call to total faith in the Father and in Jesus. It is a single act of trust, for to have faith in the one is to have equal faith in the other. And, towards the end of the passage, Jesus appeals to the evidence of all they have seen him say and do. "You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason."

We can be grateful to Thomas for drawing out of Jesus one of the great sayings of John's Gospel: "I AM the Way – I AM Truth and Life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

To follow the Way of Jesus is not to go anywhere. It is to become a special kind of person, a person whose whole being reflects the Truth and Life that Jesus reveals to us. It is to be a person who is totally identified with the vision and the values of Jesus. To be such a person is to be a person of Truth and Life.

Truth here is that complete integrity and harmony which Jesus himself revealed not only in what he said but in the total manifestation of his life and person. Truth for Jesus was not just something he knew or accepted or believed in; truth for Jesus was what he was in his whole person: thoughts, feelings, actions, relationships. It was that total conformity between his inward self and his outward behavior. For us to live Truth in that way is also to be fully alive, to be a "fully-functioning person", responding totally to that abundance of life which Jesus came to give us.

And God the Father is, of course, also Truth and Life. But we go to God the Father through Jesus and we call Jesus the "Way" because he is the visible

(continued in the next column)

## (Gospel Insights - continued)

manifestation in human form of all that his Father is. It is this incarnation of the Father's being in the human person of Jesus, a man "like us in all things", which makes him the accessible model for us to grow ever more in the likeness of our God and to experience to the full his love and life in us.

Jesus, in his humanity, is but the palest reflection of the infinite Truth, Goodness and Beauty of God. When we see Jesus, we see God but... there is much that we do not see. And so we speak of Jesus as the Way. We go through him to find the total reality of God. A reality that mystics have been given glimpses of but which most of us will have to wait for until after we have left this earth. It is important that we understand this for many people tend to speak rather loosely of the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. If we make Jesus, not the Way, but the End, we can find ourselves with a very reduced God. Philip thought he knew Jesus very well, spending every day with him. Yet he had not come to recognize God in the words and works of Jesus and so he did not really know Jesus.

Today, perhaps, our problem is not so much recognizing God in Jesus. In fact, as mentioned, we can go too far in doing so. Our problem is not being able to recognize God in the world and people around us. At the beginning of today's Gospel, Jesus says that there are many "rooms", many dwelling places in his Father's house. This is to say, that not only in Christian communities, but indeed in people everywhere and in the whole of our created environment, God's presence is shouting out to us. Every little flower, every singing bird can say to us, "Who sees me sees the Father".

Lastly, Jesus said "Without me you can do nothing". It is important for us to realize that opposite is also largely true: without us Jesus can do little.

– The Liturgy Committee



II Suzanne Gardiner & Sean Hickman



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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. (Exceptions will be noted in our bulletin.) 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!

### 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. This book is kept at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. 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.

The monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. All are invited! Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the Church Hall.



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Baptism

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

**Shane Patrick Donston**

### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOC.

Choosing a family cemetery lot is inevitable. Instead of leaving this decision to a loved one, a friend or perhaps even a stranger, why not make this a family decision now?

The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, for a limited time, affords all Catholic families the opportunity to purchase pre-need graves with upright monument rights or shrine graves with interest-free installment payments up to 4 years at St. Mary Cemetery in East Hartford, Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury and St. James and St. Bridget Cemeteries in Manchester. Mausoleum entombment space is also available at St. Mary and Holy Cross Cemeteries.

This offer will conclude on May 15, 2008. Please call the office at St. James Cemetery at 646-3772 for more information or to schedule an appointment

