



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

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



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**Sixth Sunday
of Easter**

April 27, 2008

“I will ask the Father,
and he will give you...the Spirit of truth.”

— John 14:16-17

Mass Intentions for the Week

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)

Monday, April 28 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Augustine H. Giusani

Tuesday, April 29 – 7:30 a.m.

Jenny & Frank Vernile
(Granddaughter Jean Walker)

Wednesday, April 30 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul Cavalier, Jr. (The Geraci Family)

Thursday, May 1 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Augustine H. Giusani

Saturday, May 3 – 10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Marriage
Suzanne Gardiner & Sean Hickman

Saturday, May 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Margaret Grogan - In Memory of Her Birthday
(Daughters)

Sunday, May 4 - 10:30 a.m.

Real Grenier - 5th Anniversary
(Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (April 13): \$ 6,292
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 6,588

Many thanks for all you do to support our parish and its many ministries!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Our stewardship is a direct reflection of our faith. It is how we live our lives in response to all that God has given us. It is through giving of our time, talent, and treasure that we express our commitment to God. Remember, God will never be outdone in His generosity to us.



SANCTUARY LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Thanksgiving for Reception
into the Third Order of Carmelites**
(Anne Marie Volowski)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Thanksgiving for
the Generosity of the Members of
the St. Christopher Parish Community**

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday, May 1



The Feast of the Lord’s Ascension is Thursday, May 1, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

PEOPLE OF HOPE

In today's Gospel Jesus promises that when he leaves the earth he will not leave us orphaned. Today he promises to send his Advocate, the Spirit of truth who will be with us always. Let us acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and ask the spirit to make us people of hope.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The Adult Social Club will meet on Monday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall. Our special guest will be the members of The Rocky Hill Review who will present *Senior Moments IV*, a fun, entertaining and unique musical-variety show. In January they performed at the East Hartford Senior Center, and they were a big hit! Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Rose Yergeau at 568-4029.



Here is an update on the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal in our parish.

Each parish is asked to raise a target amount - essentially our parish's "fair share" of the total Appeal goal which is \$8,500,000. Our parish goal is \$50,000. As of last week, a total of \$30,888 has been raised in our parish from 198 families.

If you have already made your gift or pledge to this year's Appeal - thank you! If you haven't done so yet, your help is still very much needed. We'd like to have as close to 100% participation as possible. Pledge cards and envelopes are located on the tables at the main entrance to the church.

Please participate in the Appeal to the best of your ability. Pray for its success and let us remember God's love for us and the grace and blessings of sharing that which we have with others. Thank you!



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

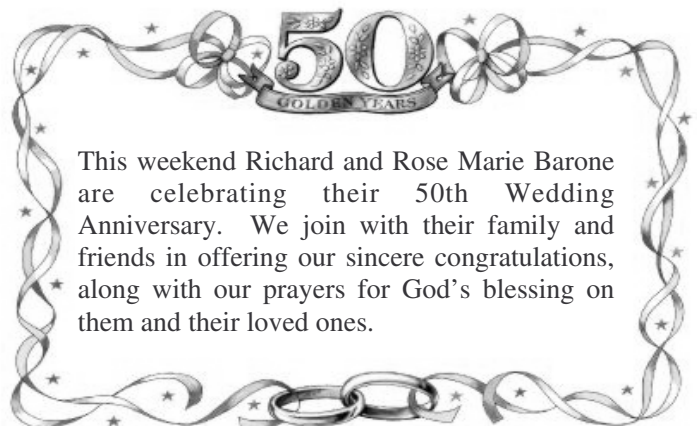
Please pray for:

Marilyn Limburg

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In last couple of bulletins we've made you aware that training sessions called *Protecting God's Children for Adults* are regularly held across the Archdiocese by VIRTUS trained facilitators, and we've shared with you what these training sessions entail. This week, we outline the key points that are critical for the participant to be aware of after attending a VIRTUS training session.

- Child sexual abuse can happen anywhere to anyone.
- Abuse is devastating to a child and sometimes the scars of abuse can last a lifetime.
- Child molesters look for jobs or volunteer opportunities that give them access to children.
- Leaders in the Catholic Church are working to make sure that children are safe from sexual abuse everywhere.
- We must be aware of what is happening in the lives of our own children.
- We must be aware of the warning signs of abuse in our children.
- We can create a safer world for our children when we work together as a Catholic community.



This weekend Richard and Rose Marie Barone are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. We join with their family and friends in offering our sincere congratulations, along with our prayers for God's blessing on them and their loved ones.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS

Sixth Sunday of Easter -

On these intervening Sundays leading to the Ascension and Pentecost, we look at the period of transition between the death of Jesus and the transformation that took place among his disciples. From being fearful fugitives they became fearless champions of the Living Jesus, committed to carrying on the work he had started.

Today's Gospel picks up where last Sunday left off. The context again is the Last Supper. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his coming suffering and death but also for his Resurrection and Ascension when he will still be with them but in a very different way from now.

"If you love me you will keep my commandments," Jesus says to them. The important word here is "my". Jesus is not speaking of "the", the traditional, Ten Commandments. What are these commandments of his? Really, there is only one and that is the commandment to love: to love God with all our heart and soul, and to love others as we love ourselves, to love others as Jesus loves us, as he loves the sinner, as he love his enemies.

They include commands to recognize Jesus in the most needy, in the poor, in the sick, in the marginalized, even in the criminal (*"I was in prison..."*). They include commandments to be agents of healing and reconciliation in a broken and divided world.

As we saw in last Sunday's Gospel, the disciples are rather depressed that Jesus is going to leave them. Today he reassures them that they will not be left alone. They will certainly need help to keep those commandments of Jesus.

Faith is a mysterious gift. It is a privilege to have received it but it also brings with it great responsibilities. Those responsibilities can be summed up in living our lives in accordance with the commandments of Jesus already mentioned.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

Although they cannot understand it in their present depressed mood, Jesus is saying it is better for them that he goes away. Right now, he can only be present to them through the limitations of his human body. He can only be in one place at a time.

After his resurrection-exaltation, he will be with them in a completely new way. This will happen through his new Body, the Church, the community of disciples. Through this Body he can be everywhere in the world and at all times. The life-source of that Body is the Spirit of the Father and Jesus, the Son. Through his Spirit (also the Spirit of the Father) Jesus continues to be really present in his Body, the Church. And he is right here, working in us and through us.

As often as love and compassion are shown to the most needy of the human community, Jesus is both loving and serving and being personally served and loved. We can know by personal experience that *"anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him."* One gets the impression that, for far too many Christians, their "religion" is felt as a burden and that virtue consists in sticking with something that is both boring and far from being a source of joy, satisfaction and liberation.

The good disciple is much more than someone who, out of a dogged sense of duty, just avoids personal sin and tries to stay in the "state of grace". When we truly become loving persons to both friend and enemy, to family and strangers, we know that the Spirit of Jesus is living within and transforming us. Then, in the words of Jesus, we can see and, because we can see, we are fully alive.

– The Liturgy Committee



(III) Suzanne Gardiner & Sean Hickman



FIRST COMMUNION

Children from St. Christopher's Religious Education program and St. Christopher School will receive First Holy Communion at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy next Sunday, May 4 and at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, May 18. Please keep these children and their parents and family members in your prayers.

FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSAL

There is a First Communion rehearsal scheduled for this Wednesday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. This rehearsal is for the parents and children who will receive First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 4.

TONY MELENDEZ CONCERT

When it comes to Catholic music, Tony Melendez is an icon! Tony was born without arms, but learned to do many things with his feet...including playing guitar! In 1987, Tony was randomly selected to perform for Pope John Paul II. After the performance, the Pope jumped down from the stage and kissed Tony's feet and said he was an inspiration to us all. Since then, Tony has toured internationally, continuously.

We were fortunate to have witnessed Tony's talent here at St. Christopher's back in 2005. If you were not able to attend the concert then or if you enjoyed it so much you'd like to see him again, Tony will be returning to the Hartford area on Sunday, June 8. He will perform a concert at Our Lady of Sorrow parish, 16 Greenwood Street in Hartford from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tickets are only \$10 per person and can be purchased online or at the doors. Children age 12 and under are FREE with adult admission! Tony appeals to all ages!

For more information or to order tickets, please go to www.Proud2BCatholicTour.com or call Peter at 888-700-2046, ext. 207.



GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

We are happy to remind you that volunteers from our parish school will have gift cards available every weekend, after every Mass (with occasional exceptions). Gift cards will not be available after the following Masses:

- Sunday, May 4 - 10:30 Mass
- Sunday, May 11 - 8:00 & 10:30 Masses
- Sunday, May 18 - 10:30 Mass

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!



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

Thomas Arthur Glinski

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Because family relationships are imprinted in our hearts, today's gospel reminds us our loved ones "always remain with you." Even death and distance cannot erase this presence. We only need to pause and remember and our loved one is present to us again. It is a different presence, but a REAL presence.



It is always springtime in the heart that loves God.

— St. John Vianney