




Congratulations on Your
First Communion

Audrey Adams-Mejia
Antonia Rose Beaumont
Vincent Cafazzo
Bruno Casanova
Drake DePatty
Isabella Figueroa
Ajay Francis
Morgan Geres
Samantha Gilnack
Alexa Gramuglia

Samantha Kelly
Matthew Kiro
Alexis Kvasdas
Brittany Leonard
Gabriela Lombari
Matthew Mahoney
John Pintavalle
Clare Poirier
Emily Potvin

St. Christopher Church
May 4, 2008





**Seventh Sunday
of Easter**

May 4, 2008

“They have kept your word.”

— *John 17:6b*



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)

Monday, May 5 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Augustine H. Giusani

Tuesday, May 6 – 7:30 a.m.

Tracy Ann Martin
(The Geraci Family)

Wednesday, May 7 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin *(Wife Claire)*

Thursday, May 8 – 7:30 a.m.

In Thanksgiving

Friday, May 9 – 7:30 a.m.

Bud Meyer - 6th Anniversary
(Daughter Carol)

Saturday, May 10 – 4:30 p.m.

Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, May 11 - 8:00 a.m.

Rita Meyer
(Daughter Carol)

Sunday, May 11 - 10:30 a.m.

Dennis Daigle - 6th Anniversary
(Mom, Dad & Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (April 27): \$ 7,402
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 8,097

My personal thanks for your generous support of our parish. By sharing your time, talent and treasure, you enable us to further the mission of bringing Christ to our families, our young people, our community and our world!

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said... ‘I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.’” (John 17:4)

Christ fulfilled his vocation by finishing the work God gave him. An important part of our stewardship is the discernment of our unique vocation. Stewardship is not just a matter of doing more volunteer work. It is a response to the personal call God makes to each of us -- to fulfill the unique tasks that God has given to us.



SANCTUARY LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Michael Evans, Sr.**
in Remembrance of His Birthday
(Son Mike, Lisa, Michael and Nicholas Evans)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**Our First Communicants
and Their Families**

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. 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.

Reminders:

- We encourage those who are able to park in the back lot to please do so. This would help to ease the congestion in the parking lot at the time the school parents are picking up their children. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the town's Food Bank will be accepted at this meeting.

Birthright

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Next weekend we have the opportunity to support Birthright's service to pregnant women in crisis. Members of St. Christopher's Pro-Life Committee will distribute baby bottles (one per family) after Masses next weekend, Mother's Day weekend, as part of a fundraiser for Birthright.

We ask that you take the bottle home, fill it with coins, cash or a check and return it to a Birthright volunteer stationed after Masses the weekend of June 1. As you will see from the insert inside the bottle, you may make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one. Birthright will send an acknowledgement card of your gift of life.



This is an opportunity for our church families to have hands-on involvement in a project that saves the lives of unborn children and makes a lasting difference in the mothers' lives. Birthright thanks you for any help you can give.

Some of us have been especially blessed by the Lord, and we must consider how to respond to the needs of those less fortunate. The Archdiocese of Hartford is unique. We are a community of people that share a commitment to God, everlasting faith in each other. The 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, *Sharing God's Gifts*, presents each of us with an opportunity to give back to the Lord.



Please respond generously to this year's Appeal and continue to pray for its success. So many are counting on us. Thank you!

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

This seventh Sunday of Easter is somewhat like the proverbial "calm before the storm." The Lord Jesus has ascended into heaven and Pentecost has not yet occurred. Rather than immediately taking up Jesus' command to go out to all the nations, the disciples gather in the upper room "with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers" (Acts 1:14). There they all devote themselves to prayer. The Gospel recounts the great prayer for the disciples that Jesus offered to his Father in heaven. If the words of Jesus while he was on earth finally began to sink in for the disciples, then gathering to pray was certainly the right choice, for the second reading lets us all know that to follow Christ means to have a share in his sufferings.

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WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

Dear St. Christopher Church,

It is with sincere gratitude that I write to thank you for your generous donation of \$186.00. We really appreciate all that you do for the Friendship Center [Soup Kitchen]. Your generosity and service has blessed us tremendously over the years and is still blessing us in the fight against hunger.

Gratefully,

*Mrs. Pamela L. Douglas
Program Director*

Note: This donation was made possible through offerings given during our Lenten Soup & Stations.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS

Seventh Sunday of Easter - John 17:1-11a

The pervading theme of the readings today is prayer, prayer which brings us closer to God and to his Son, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel gives us the first part of Jesus' magnificent prayer at the Last Supper. It is Jesus' final act before he leaves the upper room and begins the drama of his passion. The whole prayer is addressed to God his Father and is divided into a number of distinguishable parts.

Jesus prays first for the success of his mission. "Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you." This glory of the Son will, of course, come in a very strange way. It will not be the glory of overwhelming power and dazzling success. On the contrary, it will come through what, at first sight, looks like utter failure and disaster. To the casual onlooker it looked like the end of a flash-in-the-pan phenomenon. "He saved others; he cannot save himself." And so he was put through a series of courts, punished by scourging, mocked with a crown of thorns, dragged through the streets of Jerusalem and finally nailed to a gibbet and set up for all to see as an example of what happens to those who commit crime.

Here is the Son being glorified and giving glory to the Father? To the unbelieving eye...No. But an officer in the Roman army, a pagan, seeing the way that Jesus died, said in awe, "Truly, this man was son of God". Maybe not a full profession of Christian faith, but he was more than half way there.

There comes now one of those wonderful statements that sums up everything in our faith. "Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Of course, everything hangs on the meaning of the word 'know'. Knowing in the biblical sense goes far beyond the ordinary meaning of the word as we use it in daily conversation, as when we might ask someone, "Do you know what day it is? Or do you know how to get to the city hall? Or do you know who is saying the Mass today?" These are mere requests for facts and do not really impinge on our lives. We might be getting a bit closer to the biblical meaning when someone asks us, "Do you know John and Mary?" And, if the answer is, "Yes", the questioner might push us further, "But do you really KNOW them?" And then we might not be so certain.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

In today's context, to know God and to know Jesus means much more than knowing all about them, knowing everything that is said about them in the Bible, or even being able to give an erudite paper on some theological problem. To know God in the Gospel sense is to have had a deep personal experience of God working in your life. It involves a close, intimate, person-to-person relationship which matures eventually into a mutual love.

Jesus now goes on to speak to his Father about the men that had been given to him and prays for them too. They have accepted the word of God as it has come to them through Jesus. They have done this in three ways: 1, they have fully accepted (though not yet fully understood) the teaching of Jesus, unlike the Pharisees and others who also heard but refused to accept; 2, they have acknowledged the divine origin of Jesus, as Messiah, as Son of God; 3, they have believed - in the sense given above. Their relationship with their Master is one of loving fidelity, even though there are still weaknesses to be overcome.

Finally, Jesus says that he is no longer in the world, but his followers are. They are to be in the world in both senses, as Jesus himself was. That is, they are to be fully identified with our planet and all that goes on in it. They are also to be in touch with, though not identified with, the world of sin and corruption. They are not to run away from that world. They are to act as agents of truth and love within it. They are to be the leaven in the dough. Penetrating to every corner and bringing about change. They are to be purifying salt. They are to be lights shining in the darkness.

Only in this way will people see that there are alternative ways of living. "Your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" just as the good deeds of Jesus brought glory to the Father by leading more people to identify with him. "By this will all know that you are my disciples, that you have love one for another." But this can only happen when Christians are visible as Christians in the midst of the "world", of secular society.

– The Liturgy Committee



PENTECOST SUNDAY

We are seeking individuals who would be interested and willing to serve as readers at next Sunday's 10:30 a.m. Pentecost Mass. Several readers are needed to proclaim the Old and New Testament readings as well as the General Intercessions in different languages! At Pentecost, from many languages and peoples, God brought together in unity the Church. If you would like to assist us, please call the parish office at 568-5240.

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



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18th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Saturday ~ June 7, 2008

Please see the flyer in this weekend's bulletin for more information about this year's golf tournament and sponsorship opportunities. All proceeds from this event will benefit the young people of our parish school. Your support is needed and essential!



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

Gift cards are 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. These cards are not just for gift giving. They can be used to purchase everyday items.

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!

ST. CHRISTOPHER STUDENTS RECYCLE!

Students of our parish school have been earning money by participating in the Funding Factory Recycling Program. They collect empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones from the community and send them to the Funding Factory in exchange for cash. All proceeds are used to support the school's technology program. Please help our students by donating your used cartridges and cell phones. A blue collection bin has been placed in the church wing for your convenience. Thank you for your assistance!



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

Mia Isabella Fagan

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Parents should read today's gospel as: "Make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don't worry, I am with you always." Parents are appointed by Jesus to represent Him to their family.