



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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T.

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

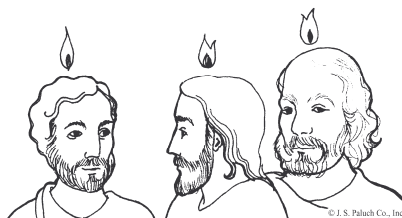
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE

Sue Sadolfo – 568-4373



Pentecost

May 11, 2008

“There appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest
on each one of them.”

— Acts 2:3

*Mass for the
Intentions*  *Week*

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*)

Monday, May 12 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff (*Family*)

Tuesday, May 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Gerry Martin
(*Wife Jan & Family*)

Wednesday, May 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Susan Viglione (*Sister, Jean Walker*)

Thursday, May 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Joseph Bernard Burns - 17th Anniversary
(*Carolyn & Joe Kronen*)

Saturday, May 17 – 4:30 p.m.
Maria Figueiredo
(*Rose Bairos & Family*)

Sunday, May 18 - 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(*Mom, Dad & Daughters*)

Sunday, May 18 - 10:30 a.m.
Henry & Anna Langenfeld
Philomena Ann Giansanti - 1st Anniversary
(*Henry R. & Anne-Marie Langenfeld*)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (May 4): \$ 7,998
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,513

My sincere thanks for all you do to make our parish a place where Christ is encountered and where His joy and life are share with and for others!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran



**Catholic
Communication
Campaign**

*How the Good News
Gets Around!*

Next week’s second collection supports the Bishops’ Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). For more than 25 years, the CCC has been spreading the Gospel message locally and nationally on radio, television, in print, and on the Internet. It is only through donations from Catholic parishioners that the work of the CCC is possible. Please contribute generously to the Campaign in the upcoming parish collection. **Half of the collection will remain in the Archdiocese of Hartford** to fund local Catholic communication efforts. Visit www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org for national program information. The Catholic Communication Campaign—it’s how the Good News gets around.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." I Corinthians 12:4-7

Each of us has been given unique talents to share with others. Time and treasure are similar for everyone -- they only differ in amounts. The gifts of our talents are the most personal aspect of our stewardship.



Please pray for:
Raymond Molloy
Michelle Lee Paradis

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 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, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. This rehearsal is for the parents and the children who will receive First Holy Communion next Sunday.

THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank all of the children and parents who participated in the First Communion Retreat. It was a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank our school's principal Kathleen Madej and 2nd grade teachers Diane Johnston and Lori Brunette for their dedication to our children. In addition, I would like to thank Toni & Ernie Intel, Tony Sousa, Kevin Hadyka and Angela Brunette for all of their hard work, and Carol Waterman for the beautiful music. Also, we are most grateful to Fr. Curran for his special blessing and for his support. And last, but not least, thank you to all those parishioners who donated craft items for the retreat.

- Maria Sousa, Coordinator of Religious Education

Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. This is an opportunity for us to help the many charitable programs administered in the community that no single parish can operate on its own. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. Every gift makes a difference!



**LAY MINISTRY
FORMATION PROGRAM**

The Office of Religious Education is accepting applications for the Lay Ministry Formation Program that will begin in September 2008. The lay ministry program is an 18-month formation program for Catholic lay men and women over the age of 21 with leadership potential who want to deepen their faith, train for various ministries, become more effective parish leaders, broaden their theological knowledge and improve their helping skills. If you are interested, you are asked to speak to Fr. Curran for sponsorship. For more information please contact Mary Marsan at 243-9465 or by e-mail: mmarsan@adh-ore.org.



SANCTUARY LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Marguerite Nadeau & Bernice Tardiff
(The Tardiff Family)**

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**All Mothers
Living and Deceased**

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

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

On Saturday, May 10 there was an orientation meeting for all students who were interested in joining the Altar Server ministry. Boys or girls, currently in grades 4 and above, who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist are eligible to join. If you were unable to attend the orientation meeting, but wish to express your interest in this ministry, please call the parish office at 568-5240 as soon as possible.



GOSPEL INSIGHTS
Pentecost - John 20:19-23

Today's great and joyful feast rounds off the tremendous mysteries that we have been commemorating since Holy Week – the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus culminates in the sending of the Spirit of the Father and the Son on his disciples. As has been said previously, we are not dealing here merely with separate historical incidents but with one reality – the extraordinary intervention of God into our lives by what we can only call the “mystery” of Christ. And today's feast indicates that it is an ongoing reality, which still touches our lives every single day.

What we said, too, of the Ascension last week applies with equal force to the meaning of Pentecost. In other words, we would be making a mistake to read the Scripture texts too literally, otherwise we will run into unnecessary conflicts. As with the Ascension, our traditional catechisms tends to identify Pentecost only with the version in the Acts (the First Reading of today's Mass). But in today's Gospel, which takes place on Easter Sunday, Jesus, before his Ascension, gives his Spirit to his disciples and the mission which follows from that. The two accounts are two different ways of describing the same reality. Actual time and place are not important.

In the Gospel, it is Easter Sunday. Jesus' disciples are cowering in fear behind locked doors. Suddenly, there is Jesus among them. He gives them the usual Jewish greeting ‘Shalom’ but here it is filled with meaning. “Peace with you” can be taken as a wish (‘Peace be with you’) or more truly (‘Peace is with you’). In the presence of Jesus we experience a kind of peace which only he can give.

Jesus now breathes on them. In Greek the word for ‘breath’ and ‘spirit’ are the same. The breathing recalls God breathing life into the dust and bringing the first human being into existence. Here too there is a kind of creation, as the disciples are re-created into the ‘new person’ that Paul will speak about in his letters, a person filled with the Spirit of Jesus and mandated to continue his work.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

In the second Spirit experience, as it is described in Luke's account in the Acts (First Reading), there is the powerful wind, which, of course, is the Spirit and which, in John's gospel, is translated as “breath”. There is also the fire – the tongues of fire over each one in the place. This indicates God's power and presence. We think of the burning bush from which God spoke to Moses and gave him his mission to his people. It reminds us of the pillar of fire, which, by night, accompanied and guided the Jews on their wanderings through the desert. They knew they were not alone.

And what an extraordinary result this experience had on the disciples! These men, huddled fearfully behind locked doors are almost blown from the room. No longer afraid, they have an almost uncontrollable urge to share what they have experienced, to share their knowledge but, even more, their experience of Jesus. Threats of prison or torture in no way intimidate them.

Together with this, they are given a power to communicate. Their message is heard and understood by all. The linguistic barriers of Babel have collapsed. This is less, a miracle of instantaneous language-learning than a way of saying that the message of Jesus is for all and can be understood by all. And this is so because, deep down, the message of God through Jesus speaks to the deepest desires of each one's heart. “Our hearts can find no rest until they rest in you.”

There is no longer a Chosen People. Or, to put it another way, now all are God's people and all are called. The responses, of course, will be uneven because we are invited, not conscripted, into the Kingdom.

– The Liturgy Committee



MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Thank you God for all mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, and those who have provided love, support, time and talents to each of us. We ask for your blessing on those living and not living and for mothers to be. We pray they always turn to you in times of joy and sorrow and that they continue to be a source of strength in leading us to you. May all mothers know your loving and gentle presence. We ask this in your name. Amen.

**Fr. Curran, Deacon Bill Gilles
and the entire parish staff wish
all the mothers of our parish a
Happy Mother's Day!**



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

Connor Blade DePatty

Birthright

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Today we have the opportunity to support Birthright's service to pregnant women in crisis. Birthrights guiding principle is that it is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Birthright is located in East Hartford and is staffed by volunteers dedicated to offering encouragement and practical support to expectant mothers in crisis. Birthright has served our area since 1972!

We ask that each family take a bottle home, fill it with coins, cash or a check and return it to the specially marked basket in the church on the weekend of May 31/June 1.

Birthright thanks you for any support you can give to help them to accomplish their mission.

THANK YOU!!

The Youth Ministry team would like to thank all those who assisted with the pancake breakfast, especially:



Scott, Patrick and Madelyn Gay
Jim Sobestanovich
Michael Aboumrad
Tony Sousa

We would also like to thank the teens who helped to serve and all the parishioners who attended. Thank you so much for your continuous support!



© J. S. Paltech Co., Inc.

18th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Saturday ~ June 7, 2008

Brochures are available at the entrances to the church and provide 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 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!