



Congratulations on Your  
First Communion

Alea Bassett  
Bryan S. Castillo  
Sophie Chadwick  
Thomas Cloutier  
Dianne Delgado-Vega  
Angelo Dombek  
Christina Hall  
Benjamin Hall  
Austin Heath  
Isabella Hernandez

Molly Hyman  
John Marcin  
Samantha McAvoy  
Christina Nguyen  
Alexander Ojide  
Adam Richardello  
Mallory Sander  
Olivia Spada  
Macey Vidal  
Jeffrey Zadroga

St. Christopher Church  
May 18, 2008





**The Most Holy Trinity**

**May 18, 2008**

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

– John 3:16a

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

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*)

Monday, May 19 – 7:30 a.m.

**John Stochmal**

(*Sally, Frank, Sarah & Heather Vernile*)

Tuesday, May 20 – 7:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, May 21 – 7:30 a.m.

**Louis Sciarra, Jr. - In Memory of His Birthday**  
(*Wife Jeanne*)

Thursday, May 22 – 7:30 a.m.

**Deborah Loranger**

(*Frank & Sally Vernile*)

Saturday, May 24 – 4:30 p.m.

**Jose Figueiredo**

(*Wife Maria*)

Sunday, May 25 - 8:00 a.m.

**Charles Bernard - 3rd Anniversary**  
(*Wife Cathy*)

Sunday, May 25 - 10:30 a.m.

**Mark Tardiff** (*Family*)

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (May 11): \$ 7,417

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 10,196

Many thanks for your generous support of our parish! Together, we make St. Christopher’s the vibrant and welcoming faith community Christ calls us to be.

with Gratitude,  
Fr. Curran

**TEEN RETREAT AND VIGIL**

This weekend a group of teens from our parish are on retreat at the Trinita Retreat Center in New Hartford, CT. These retreats are made possible through your support of such fundraisers as the yearly Entertainment Book sale and the pancake breakfasts. Please keep the teens of our parish in your prayers. Thank you!!



The Vigil Mass next Saturday, May 24, will be the last Teen Vigil that will be celebrated this school year. These Teen Vigils were designed to encourage the teens of our parish to take an active role in the ministries at the Mass. We thank you for embracing the involvement and faithfulness of our teens.

**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**

Gift cards are available this weekend after the 4:30 and 8:00 Masses. They will be available next weekend after all Masses. We invite you to learn more about this fundraising program that benefits our parish school by seeing our volunteers after Mass.



**Please pray for:**

Thomas Cirone  
Marjorie Parent



**SANCTUARY LAMPS**



**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

*"Because children are the hope of our world...and we are entrusted with their protection and welfare."*

During the month of April – designated Child Abuse Prevention Month by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops– we shared with you information about programs administered by our Archdiocesan Office of Safe Environment. More information about these programs and how to report an incident of sexual abuse to the Archdiocese can be found in a full-color brochure that has been provided to us by the Office of Safe Environment. These brochures can be found on the long tables at the main entrance to the church.

**ADULT SOCIAL CLUB**

The Adult Social Club will meet on Monday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall. Our special guests will be East Hartford Police Officer Dave Rhoades and his K-9 companion Charlie. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Rose Yergeau at 568-4029.

Please Note: A Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

**CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES**

The Credo Catholic Singles will meet again on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in our Church Hall for their monthly gathering of prayer, reflection and conversation with fellow Credo members. (This is the last gathering until September.) It is 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](http://www.credocath.com).

The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of  
Louis Sciarra, Jr  
In Remembrance of His Birthday  
(Wife Jeanne & Family)**

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.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

*"The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." (Exodus 34:6)*

Stewardship is a response to the goodness of God. We give out of gratitude to a gracious God, not out of fear that God will be vengeful.

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2008**

As National Police Week comes to a close, we remember and pray for the men and women of law enforcement who have courageously given their lives in the line of duty. It is also a time to honor and pray for those men and women who continue to fulfill their duty to protect us and to restore order. May God's blessings be poured out upon them and upon their families and friends.



In Memory of  
Scott Cattanach  
St. Christopher Church Hall  
**Friday ~ June 20**  
**1:45 – 6:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to make an app't.

## GOSPEL INSIGHTS

### The Most Holy Trinity - John 3:16 - 18

On the Sunday after Pentecost we always celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity. From now on until Advent and the beginning of the next Church year at Advent we will return to celebrating the “ordinary” Sundays of the Year, more or less picking up where we stopped before Lent.

The teaching about the Trinity is one of the most fundamental in our Christian faith. It is not found as such in the Hebrew Testament. It is also a teaching that many would prefer not to have to explain. We often refer to it as a ‘mystery’ and therefore something which can be affirmed but cannot be fully understood, still less fully explained. But we can understand something about it.

In the Christian Testament, the word ‘mystery’ primarily refers not to something which is obscure and difficult to understand but, on the contrary, to something, formerly hidden, which is now being made known to those on the “inside”, something which we otherwise would not know.

The Trinity, namely, that in one God there are three Persons, is really a mystery in this sense. We could not know about it, if we had not been told. Of course, it is also difficult for us to see how one being can be three persons just as it is difficult for us to understand how Jesus can be both God and human (the ‘mystery’ of the Incarnation).

We can react to this situation in three ways: one, by saying it is all nonsense anyway; two, by just not thinking about it at all; three, by trying to reduce it to categories which are within our human comprehension.

None of these approaches is really very helpful. Rather, we should try to understand it as well as we can, and say as much as we can while acknowledging that we can only go a certain distance in our comprehension. However, it is possible to go far enough to satisfy our hunger for truth and our desire to have a deeper understanding of our God.

### (Gospel Insights - continued)

One thing we can say right at the beginning: we are not dealing with outright contradictions or trying to believe the impossible. We are not being asked to accept that 3=1.

We are asked to believe that, in the one being we call God, there are three Persons. Of itself, this is a statement we can neither affirm or deny on the basis of reason alone. We can only listen humbly to the statement in today’s Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer where God is addressed as “*three Persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored*”.

Rather than getting ourselves tied up in theological knots, we would do far better by reading prayerfully the beautiful Scripture readings of today’s Mass. Here there are no abstruse theological explanations or speculations. Rather, the emphasis is not on what, or how, or why, but, in very practical language, on the tangible way the persons in the Trinity relate to us.

The message coming loud and clear through these readings is that our God is not far away, that he is not “up there somewhere”, a kind of scary, long-bearded policeman ready to jump on us the moment we set a foot wrong. The message is rather that our God is close by and cares, and that he shares the life of the Trinity with us.

Let us then pray today with Paul in the Second Reading: “*Try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you*”. And then he concludes with this lovely Trinitarian prayer we often use as a greeting at the beginning of Mass: “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God [Father] and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit with you all.*”

– The Liturgy Committee

(continued in the next column)

**CONNECTICUT  
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

Archbishop Mansell and the other Bishops of Connecticut are seeking to increase the number of parishioners who are members of the Connecticut Catholic Conference Advocacy Network. The Network makes it easy for you to stay informed on topics of interest to people of faith, and easily enables you to contact your elected representatives. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for information on how you can easily become a member of the Connecticut Catholic Conference Advocacy Network.



**SUMMER VACATION  
BIBLE CAMP**

**June 23 - June 27, 2008  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Registrations are now being accepted for this year's Summer Vacation Bible Camp – *Power Lab* – being held here at St. Christopher's. Children entering grades K-6 this coming fall are invited to register as Lab Crew Members. Registration deadline is June 1st. For more information or to obtain a registration form, please call Steve DiMotta, Camp Director, at 895-8692 or 558-3413. Register today so your child can discover Jesus' miraculous power this summer at Vacation Bible Camp!!

**Birthright**

**BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER**

Our parish's Pro-Life Committee wishes to thank all the families who took a baby bottle after Mass last weekend. There is still a large supply of bottles remaining, so we encourage all of our families to take one home. On behalf of Birthright we will collect the bottles filled with coins, cash or check on the weekend of May 31/June 1. If you use the insert inside the bottle to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, Birthright will send an acknowledgement card of your gift of life. This is an opportunity to support a project that saves the lives of unborn children and makes a lasting difference in the mothers' lives. Any help you can give is much appreciated!

**2008 ARCHBISHOP'S  
ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE**

**As of May 5, 2008**

Parish Goal:	\$50,000
Parish Pledge Total:	\$32,818
Average Gift/Pledge:	\$154.08

Families Participating: 213  
 Percentage of Families Participating: 22.0%  
 Percentage of Goal Achieved: 65.6%

Next weekend we will have "Commitment Weekend" for the 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please pray about your decision and consider making a pledge or one-time gift during "Commitment Weekend." Your support of the Appeal is much appreciated!

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar**

Today's gospel teaches "love" is the result of our "giving." The selfless giving of spouses, parents and children for one another is not only the sign of a happy and holy family. Selfless giving is the gift and the challenge of family life.



**Catholic  
Communication  
Campaign**

**How the Good  
News  
Gets Around!**

The second collection this weekend will be for the Catholic Communication Campaign. Your generosity helps provide for Catholic programs of faith, inspiring radio programs, children's videos and movie reviews.

The Good News is just a few clicks away. Visit the Catholic Communication Campaign website at [www.catholiccommunicationcampaign.org](http://www.catholiccommunicationcampaign.org) to download streaming video of current programming and events, weekly movie and TV reviews, and more.



(I) Kimberly Gaughan & Christopher Collibee