



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

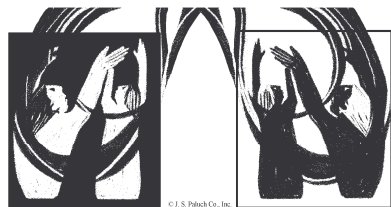
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



**Tenth Sunday
in
Ordinary Time**

June 8, 2008

“I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

– Matthew 9:13

Mass Intentions  *for the Week*

Saturday, June 7 – 4:30 p.m.

Jose Figueiredo (*Wife Maria*)

Sunday, June 8 - 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Botticello - 3rd Anniversary
(*Wife Marianne Botticello*)

Vito Botticello - 2nd Anniversary
(*Sister-in-Law Marianne Botticello*)

Sunday, June 8 - 10:30 a.m.

Michael Serignese (*Family*)

Monday, June 9 – 7:30 a.m.

Ruth Flaherty - 5th Anniversary
(*Daughter Anne*)

Tuesday, June 10 – 7:30 a.m.

Ed McNamara
(*Family*)

Wednesday, June 11 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(*Wife Claire*)

Thursday, June 12 – 7:30 a.m.

**God’s Blessings and Healing Presence
for Deb Derohanian**
(*The Pulito Family*)

Saturday, June 14 – 4:30 p.m.

Deceased Members of the Barone Family
(*Tonie Carrabino*)

Sunday, June 15 - 8:00 a.m.

Bud Meyer (*Daughter Carol*)

Sunday, June 15 - 10:30 a.m.

Fr. William McGrath - 1st Anniversary
(*Family*)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (June 1): \$ 8,271

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,549

Catholic Relief Services: \$ 1,918

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

WELCOME

We welcome Marcin Dajehko, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Hartford, to St. Christopher’s. Marcin is in his second year of studies at Mount St. Mary’s seminary in Maryland and is from Wallingford. He will be spending some time with us this summer as he discerns his vocation. Let’s give Marcin a warm St. Christopher welcome!

– Fr. Curran

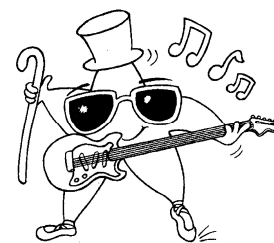
**1st ANNUAL PARISH
TALENT SHOW & POT LUCK DINNER**

**Saturday, June 21
School Gym**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Talent Show at 7:00 p.m.



Talented individuals of all ages are needed.
Contact Scott Gay at 569-0617 or by e-mail at scottgay95@gmail.com.



Please pray for:
Jeannine Belliveau
Marcel Dulude
Deacon William Tanski

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
DEACON BILL**

Please join me in congratulating Deacon Bill and his wife Eileen on Deacon Bill's 17th anniversary of ordination to the diaconate. Deacon Bill was ordained June 8, 1991 and has served the people of the Archdiocese of Hartford faithfully in this important role of service in the Church for the past 17 years, having served here at St. Christopher's since July 1997. We thank Deacon Bill and his wife Eileen for their generous service to our parish and the Church.

in Christ,
Fr. Curran

A DEACON'S MINISTRY

This past week, eight men were ordained to the Order of Deacon for the Archdiocese of Hartford at St. Joseph Cathedral by Archbishop Mansell. Also, this year marks the 35th anniversary of the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Hartford. The deacon's ministry consists of three majors parts.

Ministry of the Word

The deacon's ministry of the Word may include proclaiming the Gospel at Mass, preaching, religious instruction, giving retreats, outreach to alienated Catholics, evangelization of the unbaptized, etc.

Ministry of the Liturgy

The deacon serves and assists the celebrant of the Mass. The deacon also serves in other liturgical and sacramental roles, such as baptizing, witnessing marriages, bringing communion to the sick and dying, and presiding over wake services and burial committals. The deacon assists the people who are preparing for the sacraments. For example, he instructs parents before the baptism of a child, works with couples as they prepare for marriage and prepares individuals for full initiation into the Catholic Church through the RCIA program.

Ministry to Charity and Justice

The deacon has a special responsibility to identify to the Church those who are in need and particularly those who are without power or voice at the margins of our society. He is called to promote charity and to advance the cause of social justice in the Church and community of which he is a part.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER
SCHOOL GRADUATION**



St. Christopher School will hold graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. We ask that you keep these eighth grade students and their families in your prayers.

SOCIAL CLUB BOARD MEETING

A meeting for the Social Club Board Members will be held this Monday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.



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.



- (II) Melissa Lora & Brian Renouf
- (III) Nicola Nall & Andrew Medlock



SANCTUARY LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week for

Ray & Regina Schultz
in Celebration of their
50th Wedding Anniversary
(St. Christopher Prayer Line/Tree)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

Benefactors of
St. Christopher Church and School
Living and Deceased

For information about scheduling a dedication, please call the parish office at 568-5240.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS

Matthew 9:9-13

The Gospel reading describes the call of one Matthew. Is it the evangelist himself? Current scholarship tends to believe that this gospel dates to the period after the disciples and that it was written by an anonymous scribe but, that in the tradition of the time, the name of a well-known Christian was given as its author. In the gospels of Mark and Luke, the man is called Levi.

Matthew was a highly unlikely candidate for discipleship. After all, he was a tax collector. Tax collectors were among the most despised group of people in Jewish society of the time. Tax collectors never can be particularly popular, given their job, but in Jesus' time they were collecting taxes on behalf of a hated and pagan colonial ruler. As such they were seen as collaborators and traitors both to their own people and to their religion. The Romans had the custom of farming out the collection of taxes to volunteer agents. These paid up the amount that the Romans demanded and then had to get back the money from the people. In order to make a living from such work, they needed to collect more than they had paid the Romans. This was their "commission" but there was often an element of extortion and corruption in the whole practice.

Jesus now invites one of these despised people to be one of his chosen followers. We can imagine Matthew's astonishment at being picked out in this way. It is a perfect example of Jesus looking beyond the exterior and the stereotype to the potential of the real person inside. It is a lesson for us who tend so quickly to make negative judgments of people, to stereotype and to scapegoat, to write people off. Matthew, the presumed avaricious tax agent, simply abandons his post, leaves everything behind and, full of trust, goes off after Jesus with little idea of what is in store for him. Our God is indeed a God of surprises.

Immediately after this Jesus is seen sitting "in the house" having dinner with his disciples when they are joined by a number of tax collectors and other public sinners. Some Pharisees, seeing this, are shocked.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

They ask the disciples (not Jesus, whose sharp tongue they had come to fear): "*Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?*" In other words, if Jesus is a man of God and a teacher, how can he be seen in the company of people who are religiously unclean? To be in their company is to become contaminated and unclean also. It is even worse if the meal is being taken in the house where Jesus is living. No rabbi of integrity would invite such ritually unclean people and religious outsiders into one's house.

Overhearing them, Jesus replies: "*It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick.*" And he continues, "*Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'What I want is mercy, not sacrifice'. And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous but sinners.*" Purely religious activities like sacrifices, holocausts and, in our case, Masses, novenas, processions and pilgrimages, have no value unless behind them is a real knowledge and acceptance of God and his Way and unless our hearts are filled with a love for our brothers and sisters which is clearly evident in our actions.

Jesus wants compassion and not sacrifice. In other words, his disciples are those who distinguish themselves in reaching out to those in need not those who spend their time in purely "religious" activities, who are careful to observe their Sunday "obligation" by being at Mass but who do nothing to reach out to those in need, except to drop a few pence in a collection plate.

If we are honest, we too are in need of healing so that the compassion of Jesus may be ours. It is compassion offered to those in whatever need which is the real sacrificial offering that God wants from us. Without that inner compassion, our participation in the sacrifice of the Eucharist becomes an empty sham.

– The Liturgy Committee

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM (TCP)

Gift cards are available this 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 or by contacting Lisa Evans at 568-8944 / lisamarie313@comcast.net.



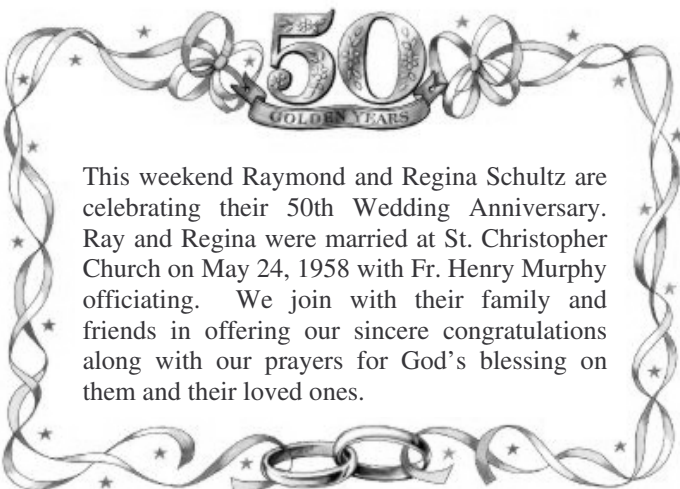
Our Parish is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Zoey Erica Rosario

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

Upcoming Event

Come enjoy the fun, food and great outdoors at Wickham Park for Credo’s annual picnic on Sunday, June 22, beginning at 1:00 p.m.. The park has an aviary, scenic walking trails, beautiful gardens and more! Credo supplies the burgers, hot dogs, soda and water. \$6.00 per person. Attendees are asked to bring: Last name beginning with A-N a salad or side dish; O-Z fruit, snacks or dessert. Park entrance fee of \$4.00 per vehicle is paid at the gate. Bring a friend or carpool. Ask the gate person for directions to Beech Grove III. Look for the blue and white balloons. Credo events are open to all Catholics who are single, widowed or divorced. For more information, please call Rose at 860-229-4405.



This weekend Raymond and Regina Schultz are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Ray and Regina were married at St. Christopher Church on May 24, 1958 with Fr. Henry Murphy officiating. 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.

THANK YOU

Once again I have received an award because of you - the Parishioners of St. Christopher Church. The East Hartford Board of Education honored the “Volunteer of the Year” at each school at the June 2, 2008 meeting. I received the award from Synergy High School because of your generous donations to our Hearts and Hands project during Advent. As I have said previously, one person does not successfully complete a project alone. Thank you for your continued support of our Social Action committee.

– Kay McNamara

CONGRATULATIONS

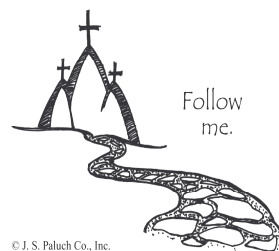
Kevin Hadyka



We congratulate our Youth Minister, Kevin Hadyka, who was recently awarded a Youth Ministry Basics Program Certificate by the Archdiocese of Hartford. Kevin, along with 28 others, completed a 25-hour course in Youth Ministry. This course focused on how to pray, evangelize, catechize and build community with youth as well as how to plan youth ministry programs, and how to get young people involved in leadership development and justice, service, etc. Congratulations, Kevin!

ADMITTING OUR NEED FOR GOD

As often as we hear the message of today’s scriptures, we seem to be able to resist it. The readings invite us, once again, to rely completely and utterly on God’s love and mercy in our lives. And, once again, we continue to find ways around that invitation. It’s for other people, not us. It’s for tomorrow, not today. We can make it on our own talents, goodness, money, hard work, or wisdom. Yet, today’s scriptures call our bluff. They invite us to admit our need for God and put our lives in God’s hands. We who sit comfortably and smugly at the Lord’s Table are beckoned, once again, to follow Jesus in faith and gratitude and love.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.