



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 – 214-9287

COORDINATOR OF PRAYER TREE and TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

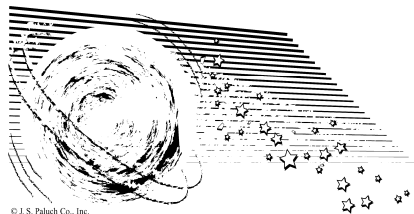
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



**Solemnity of
Sts. Peter & Paul,
Apostles**

June 29, 2008

“Through all the earth their voice resounds,
and to the ends of the world, their message.”

– Psalm 19:5

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 28 – 4:30 p.m.

Bill McCarthy - In Memory of His Birthday
(Wife Kay)

Sunday, June 29 - 8:00 a.m.

Charles Stebbins
(Family)

Sunday, June 29 - 10:30 a.m.

**Mass of Thanksgiving for
Fr. Curran’s 10th Anniversary of Ordination**

Monday, June 30 – 7:30 a.m.

James Mulholland
(John & Moira Traynor)

Tuesday, July 1 – 7:30 a.m.

Edmond Guerin
(Wife & Family)

Wednesday, July 2 – 7:30 a.m.

Jeannine Belliveau and Marcel Dulude
(Rose Yergeau)

Thursday, July 3 – 7:30 a.m.

Elsie & Edward Walker
(Daughter-in-Law Jean Walker)

Saturday, July 5 – 4:30 p.m.

Patricia Clark - 3rd Anniversary
(Family)

Sunday, July 6 - 8:00 a.m.

Maurice DeMerville (Darlene Graham)

Sunday, July 6 - 10:30 a.m.

Paul F. Giansanti
(Henry & Anne-Marie Langenfeld)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (June 22): \$ 6,494
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,522

Your generosity to our parish is appreciated.
Many thanks for all you do to help our parish!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

A STEWARDSHIP SUMMER REMINDER

For those families who summer “away” from St. Christopher’s, please remember our parish relies on your support even during the summer months. Envelopes can be mailed or a summer offering can be made directly to the church at 538 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. Thank you for your stewardship of our parish!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...” (Matthew 12:18)

Christ entrusted Peter and the Apostles with the continuation of his ministry on earth. As stewards, we recognize our role to follow in the footsteps of the early church community to ensure that Christ’s ministry and work continues on today.



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

In Loving Memory of Marion Connors
(Bev Connors)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**The Priests of the Archdiocese
Living and Deceased**

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

WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Curran's family who join us this weekend for the 10:30 a.m. Mass being celebrated in thanksgiving of Fr. Curran's 10th anniversary to the Priesthood.

The Parish Council is sponsoring a reception honoring Fr. Curran immediately following the Mass in the church hall. Refreshments will be served. Please plan to join us!

DOMINICAN SISTERS' BAKE SALE

This weekend after all Masses, the Dominican Sisters will be offering for sale homemade breads, apple pies, blueberry pies, and brownies. Everything is baked accordingly to the Dominican community recipe.

The proceeds of their sale will be used to buy medical supplies for their mission to support the lepers. Your support is greatly appreciated.



THANK YOU!

On June 20, in our Church Hall, there was a blood drive in memory of Scott Cattanach. On behalf of the American Red Cross, we thank everyone who came out to donate blood. It was a successful drive!

If you couldn't make it to this blood drive, perhaps you'll consider participating in the next blood drive being held here at St. Christopher's on Friday, August 8. This next drive will be the 10th annual blood drive in memory of our parishioners Bryan Judd and Paul Potkaj.

As vacation season arrives, you are encouraged to not take a vacation from giving the gift of life. To keep our hospitals at a safe inventory, the Red Cross must collect 650 units of blood each and every day!

Won't you please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (800-448-3543) to make your appointment today? Remember: a single blood donation costs you nothing, and can save up to three lives! The American Red Cross thanks you on behalf of patients throughout the state!

PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dear Lord,

There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin and death that you have provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful.

On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty meet their needs and watch over their families.

Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ.

Amen

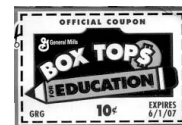
INDEPENDENCE DAY MASS

In keeping with our holiday schedule, our daily Mass on Independence Day, Friday, July 4, will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in our Chapel. (There will be no 7:30 a.m. Mass on this day.)

SUPPORT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Would you throw away a dime?

Box Tops for Education coupons help to support our parish school. Coupons can be deposited into the collection box in the church hall or in the weekly collection basket. Thank you!



Gift Card Fundraising Program

Gift cards are available this weekend after all Masses. We invite you to learn more about this fundraising program by speaking to our volunteers.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS*Matthew 16:13-19*

On this day we celebrate a special feast of the Church, symbolized by the two great apostles, Peter and Paul. They were the two men around whom the mission of Jesus to establish the Kingdom was centered and from whom it grew and spread to every corner of the world. As the preface for today's Mass puts it: "Peter raised up the church from the faithful flock of Israel. Paul brought your call to the nations, and became the teacher of the world. Each in his chosen way gathered into unity the one family of Christ." Each one represents two very distinct roles of the Church in its mission to the world.

Peter represents that part of the Church which gives it stability: its traditions handed down in an unbroken way from the very beginnings, the structures which help to preserve and conserve those traditions, the structure which also gives consistency and unity to the Church, spread as it is through so many races, cultures, traditions, and geographical diversity. Peter today is represented by the pope, who is the great symbol of unity and continuity.

Paul, on the other hand, represents another key role, the prophetic and missionary role. It is that part of the Church which constantly works on the edge, pushing the boundaries of the Church further out, not only in a geographical sense but also pushing the concerns of the Church into neglected areas of social concern and creatively developing new ways of communicating the Christian message. This is the Church which is *semper reformanda*, a Church which needs to be constantly renewed.

This renewal is spurred on by the Church's contact with the surrounding world. This world is itself changing and, in our own times, changing with bewildering speed. Not only new technologies but new knowledge and new ideas continue to surface. Our rapidly changing societies call on us to express the core of our faith in new ways.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

As one Asian theologian used to say, "The world writes the agenda for the Church." That does not mean that the Church is to conform to the ways of the world. Quite the contrary. What it does mean is that the Church's evangelizing work has to be in response to where people actually are. It is no good just handing out the same old things in the same old way. If the Church is to remain relevant, if it is to continue speaking in a meaningful way to rapidly changing world, if it is to keep up with the new knowledge and ideas which change our ways of understanding the world in which we live, it has to renew itself constantly in the way it expresses its message, in the way it structures itself, in the way it communicates its message, in the way it dialogues with the world.

As we celebrate this feast today, let us both remain faithful to the traditions which have come down to us over 2,000 years but, at the same time, be ever ready to make the necessary changes and adaptations by which the message of Christ can be effectively communicated to all those who still have a hunger for that truth and love which over the centuries never changes.

✠ Let us pray today for the whole Church all over the world;

✠ Let us pray for our pope as the focus of unity for Christians everywhere;

✠ Let us pray for those who, while remaining faithful to the core traditions, are creatively finding new ways to proclaim the message of the Kingdom to people everywhere;

✠ Let us pray for those places where the Church is working under great difficulties;

✠ Let us pray for our own parish community that it may truly be both loyal to the faith of our fathers and have a true missionary spirit effectively to proclaim Christ to all those among whom we live.

– The Liturgy Committee



Please pray for:

Richard Luko
Anna Mosher
William Sander

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The Adult Social Club will not meet in July. Updates about our picnic on Monday, August 4, will be published in a few weeks.

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

Olivia Ana Miranda



**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Last Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass two more parishioners were welcomed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during a brief Commissioning Ceremony. They are **Mary Priest** and **Maria Sousa**. We offer our congratulations and prayers to each of them. May God bless them in this ministry.

JESUS FOR PRESIDENT

The speaking tour of Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw, authors of *Jesus for President*, **will stop in Hartford this weekend**. The vision of the tour is to provoke the political imagination and challenge followers of Jesus to envision what it will look like when the Kingdom of God rules in our neighborhood, in our city, and in our country. More info on the tour and the book can be found at www.jesusforpresident.org. Please join us at the Clark Elementary School auditorium at 75 Clark Street in Hartford's northend at **7:00 PM on Sunday, June 29**. Thanks to Shane, Chris, & their publishers at Zondervan, the event is free to all. No tickets are needed - all seating is first come, first serve. The Hartford stop on the Jesus for President tour is organized and sponsored by Hartford City Mission and the Hartford Catholic Worker.

A PERSON?

As American Catholics, it is important to be aware of the Supreme Court logic in deeming abortions legal.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun cited in the majority opinion that, "The Constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy" and "The Constitution does not define "person" in so many words"; despite their admitted lack of preciseness in the Constitution on these terms they were compelled to reach conclusions affecting life and death. Justice Blackmun cited the recentness of abortion laws in the U.S. (mid to latter part of the 19th century) as justification for their conclusion; in response, I cite Amendments XIII and XV, which banned slavery and allowed non-whites to vote, respectively! Both Amendments were ratified in the latter part of the 19th century. Are slavery and restrictive voting rights any less wrong because of the timing of the corrective action? Further, Justice Blackmun speaks of the acceptance of abortion during Greek and Roman times as some justification for their majority conclusion. While this may be an "interesting" factoid, it is difficult to see how this is relevant to the Constitutionality of abortions.

Dissenting Justice Rehnquist declared, "...the Court necessarily has had to find within the scope of the XIV Amendment a right that was apparently completely unknown to the drafters of the Amendment. [By] the time of the adoption of the XIV Amendment in 1868, there were at least 36 laws enacted by state or territorial legislatures limiting abortion. [The] only [reasonable] conclusion possible from this history is that the drafters did not intend to have the XIV Amendment withdraw from the States the power to legislate with respect to this matter..."

As Americans, with such a fundamentally vital issue at hand, to give or take life, you would think we would err on the side of caution where The Constitution is unclear, and as Catholic Christians there is no such ambiguity on the matter.

Sincerely,

Phil Gosselin
Pro-Life Coordinator