

St. Christopher Church  
Account #173360  
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Bulletin Editor: Bonnie Szalay  
Telephone: 860-568-5240





*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](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.stchris-eh.org](http://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](http://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**

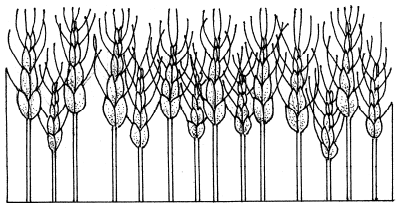
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388

## **COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK**

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

## **COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE**

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



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**Fifteenth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
July 13, 2008**

“You have crowned the year with your bounty,  
and your paths overflow with a rich harvest.”

– Psalm 65:12



Saturday, July 12 – 4:30 p.m.

**Manuel Machado**  
*(Wife & Daughter)*

Sunday, July 13 - 8:00 a.m.

**Joseph Leonardo** *(Mom, Dad & Daughters)*

Sunday, July 13 - 10:30 a.m.

**Gerard J. Lafleur - 9th Anniversary**  
*(Daughter Gloria Jean)*

Monday, July 14 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Patrick J. Curran**

Tuesday, July 15 – 7:30 a.m.

**Jeannine Belliveau**  
*(John & Moira Traynor)*

Wednesday, July 16 – 7:30 a.m.

**Special Intention  
&  
Genowefa and Jan Dmochowski**

Thursday, July 17 – 7:30 a.m.

**John & Louise Olinatz**  
*(Children)*

Saturday, July 19 – 4:30 p.m.

**Elizabeth Boudreau**  
*(Marie & Ray)*

Sunday, July 20 - 8:00 a.m.

**Marjorie Parent**  
*(Jean-Luc & Laurette Belanger)*

Sunday, July 20 - 10:30 a.m.

**Gennaro “Jerry” Viglione**  
*(Betty Doyle & Family)*

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (July 6): \$ 6,073  
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 8,296

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

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

**BEST WISHES, MARCIN!**

It’s hard to believe the our seminarian’s six week summer assignment has come to an end. I would like to thank Marcin Dowejko for his presence and assistance during his stay at St. Christopher’s. Our prayers and best wishes go out to him on his continuing formation and discernment.

Please join us at a parish reception for Marcin in the church hall immediately following this Sunday’s 10:30 a.m. Mass.

In Christ,

Fr. Curran



**SANCTUARY  
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**in Celebration of  
World Youth Day**

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**The Families  
of our Parish**

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

**FRUIT OF THE WORD**

The seed is the word of God. The agricultural metaphors in all of today's readings give richness to the message that the word of God, cultivated in our hearts, bears much fruit in our lives. Creation itself awaits the redemption of all, even as our bodies await the resurrection. Just as we will rejoice in the fulfillment of God's word, so will all of creation sing for joy in the Reign of God. The word of God is effective and holy; it brings about exactly what it says. It is not futile or empty, but rich in meaning for those who hear and are healed. Those who hear the word of God and keep it will, with all creation, bear much fruit and sing for joy.

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**Please pray for:**  
Patrick McGrath  
Rev. Raymond Paul

**SOW THE SEED**

Sow everywhere the good seed given to you. Sow in good ground, sow in sand, sow among the stones, sow on the road, sow among the weeds. Perhaps some of these seeds will open up and grow and bring forth fruit, even if not at once.

– Seraphim of Sarov

**CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ADVOCACY NETWORK**

In an effort to promote the mission and teachings of the Church, the Bishops of our State have created the *Connecticut Catholic Conference Advocacy Network*. The purpose of this Network is two-fold. First, it helps to educate Catholics on current social issues, which it does by sending informational e-mail bulletins to its members. Second, it alerts members about legislative issues which are being considered at

the State and Federal level and allows members with an easy way to contact their elected officials. Become a member today by visiting [www.ctcatholic.org](http://www.ctcatholic.org).



**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

*"For as the rain and snow come down from the heaven and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful... so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth. My word shall not return to me empty, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."*

– Isaiah 55:10-11

Stewardship is what we do with our lives after we say, "I believe." The word of God is only fulfilled when we act on it. Does our faith bear fruit in our gifts of time, talent, and treasure?

**DOMINICAN SISTERS' BAKE SALE**

The Dominican Sisters, who were here at our parish a couple of weekends ago for their annual bake sale, have reported that our parishioners help them to raise \$529. The proceeds will be used to buy medical supplies for their mission to support the lepers. The Sisters are grateful for your support!

**FAMILY LIFE OFFICE**



The Marriage & Family Apostolate – commonly called the Family Life Office – is an agency of the Archdiocese of Hartford that serves as a resource to families and parishes that work with them.

Along with resources and counseling referrals for families affected by unemployment, abuses or other stresses, Family Life Office supports all aspects of Christian family life by offering a wide range of services and programs.

The Family Life Office invites you to visit their new website at [www.hartfordflo.org](http://www.hartfordflo.org) to learn more about their services and programs.

**LIVE TODAY**

Live today the way you will wish you had lived when you stand in judgment before God.

– Anonymous

**GOSPEL INSIGHTS**

*Matthew 13:1-23*

There are three distinct parts in today's Gospel: parable, interlude, and explanation of the parable. A way of looking at this division is to regard the parable as being close to the actual words of Jesus. This is followed by a theological 'interlude' on "hearing" and finally there is an interpretation of the parable emanating from the early Church and, in effect, producing a related but distinct lesson or message.

In the parable itself the emphasis is on God (the sower) who works and produces results. The interpretation of the parable puts the emphasis more on us (the soil) and the ways in which we can respond. The interlude or comment in between gives the key to our response and subsequent fertility of the seed.

In the whole of Scripture God's word is not just a spoken word. It is a doing word, a creating, life-giving word. It is like a life-bearing seed. Where do we encounter that word? If we are sufficiently sensitive, we encounter it unceasingly in every experience of our lives, whether that experience is joyful or sad, a success or a failure, pleasant or painful.

There is clearly, of course, for us, one place in particular where God's word is more clearly experienced and that is in Jesus Christ. For Jesus is the Word of God. Everything that Jesus said, everything that Jesus did was God communicating to us through him. Not just his teaching but his whole life, from the hidden years of Nazareth through his public life to his death and resurrection – in all of this Jesus was, and is for us today, the Word of God.

And yet, as in the parable, much of that Word fell on barren soil. Many refused to hear or to see (hence so many cases of deafness and blindness in the Gospel). Even Jesus' closest disciples did not provide, at first, very promising soil. Jesus' life and mission seemed to end in tragic and dismal failure. There was not a single disciple in sight. His enemies laughed and mocked him. And yet... It was precisely at that moment, as the seed "fell into the

**(Gospel Insights - continued)**

ground and died", (cf. John 12:24) that the Word of God began to take root in people's hearts. Beginning, like the tiny mustard seed, like the small amount of yeast in a large batch of dough, the seed, the Word of God, began to grow and flourish against all odds.

The part that follows contains some apparently alarming words. Is Jesus saying that he spoke in parables so that only his inner circle would understand and that the rest be left in darkness? That hardly makes sense. It does provide a bridge to the interpretation of the parable to follow. There seems, especially in the quotation from Isaiah, a heavy sarcasm. Those who see but never understand; those who hear and hear but never get the message. Why? Not because they are stupid but because they basically do not want to. If they saw, if they really heard, they might be converted, they might have to change their ways radically – and that is the last thing they want to do. In the context of Matthew's gospel these words seem particularly directed at those of his people who rejected Jesus but it applies to all who close their ears in prejudice and fear.

All of this leads naturally into the third part, an interpretation of the parable on the level of different kinds of hearing.

In the long run, as we said at the beginning, the work of God cannot be frustrated either by threats from society or from within the Christian community. But what matters for us as we hear this Scripture is to be aware that we, as individuals, can refuse to provide the fertile patch of soil for God's Word to take deep root. God's plan as a whole will succeed but it is up to us to be part of that plan. We personally can say No or Not yet or Yes, but... We can, like many of the people that Jesus knew, resist the radical change of view that conversion entails. In the process we will also miss out, of course, on the deep healing that the Word of God can bring into my life and, with the healing, a sense of liberation, happiness and peace.

(continued in the next column)

– The Liturgy Committee



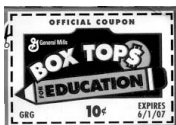
## BLOOD DRIVE

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive in memory of Bryan Judd and Paul Potkaj will be held on **Friday, August 8, from 1:30 – 6:45 p.m.** in the Church Hall. If you would like to make an appointment, please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543). Thank you in advance for participating in this life-saving endeavor.

## 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!

## COME, JOIN OUR BIBLE JOURNEY!

It's time to register for Year 1 of the Archdiocesan Catholic Biblical School! This program is intended for adults who wish to meet the Lord in a deeper way through Scripture, and who seek the assistance that a guided journey provides. In both content and companionship the Catholic Biblical School offers an enriching experience that will bring God's word to life for you! Participants have said that it has changed their lives.

The Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education is now taking registration for classes beginning in September 2008. Registration period: May 15 – August 15. Early registration is advised since the complete registration process takes about two weeks, including mailings. Number and location of classes also depend on registration. For further information, please contact Sr. Jewel Renna at the Office of Religious Education in Bloomfield at (860) 243-9465 or by e-mail at [jrenna@adh-ore.org](mailto:jrenna@adh-ore.org). You may also visit their website at [www.orehartford.org](http://www.orehartford.org). Look under "News" on the home page.



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## CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

### Upcoming Events

Credo, a community of single, widowed and divorced Catholics from throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, announce the following upcoming events. Visit their website at [www.credocath.com](http://www.credocath.com) for more information.

### Mass and Beach Party

Saturday, July 19, 2008 Mass and Beach Party, St. John Vianney 4:00 p.m. The beach party will be held at Savin Rock Conference Center in the Main Room 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Enjoy the sunset and moon over the water at West Haven beaches, rain or shine. If it rains we will have a game night. Dinner is Pot Luck dinner. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share. Last name ending A-G bring dessert, M-Z bring main dish or satisfying side dish. Cost \$10.00 if RSVP is sent to the P.O. Box by July 9. \$15.00 at the door if available. Include your address and phone number. The limit for this event is 65 people so RSVP quickly! Credo will provide paper goods. Ice machine and microwave oven are on site. RSVP to CREDO, PO Box 1236, Glastonbury CT 06033.

### Sunset Cruise

Monday, July 28, Sunset Cruise with Box Lunch, Mystic, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Take a vacation day with us at the St. Edmunds Retreat, Enders Island, Mystic. Meet at 1 p.m. (at Ender's Island) for to relax with water views of the sound, Chapel and gardens. Or meet us at 4 p.m. at the dock of the Argia, an 81-foot schooner. Boarding is at 4:30 prompt. Cost \$40.00 (credit card accepted) call 860-536-0565. Reservation is held with payment only; no refunds. Boat holds 49.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - by Bud Ozar

The stress and anxieties of family life are like "thorns which choke off" any opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Notice in today's gospel Jesus "left the house" so He could connect with His Father. Grasp 5 minutes each day to appreciate God walking with you.