



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



**Seventeenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

July 27, 2008

“All things work for good for those who love God.”
– Romans 8:28a

*Mass for the
Intentions*  *for the
Week*

Saturday, July 26 – 4:30 p.m.
Pauline Therrien (Family)

Sunday, July 27 - 8:00 a.m.
Bob Connors - 4th Anniversary
(Wife Bev)

Sunday, July 27 - 10:30 a.m.
Catherine R. Claffey - 5th Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Monday, July 28 – 7:30 a.m.
Madeleine Large
(Mrs. Sonia Ginther)

Tuesday, July 29 – 7:30 a.m.
**God’s Blessings for
Elizabeth Canevari and Her Family**
(Henry & Ann Marie Langenfeld)

Wednesday, July 30 – 7:30 a.m.
Sandra Leonard DeVivo
In Memory of Her Birthday
(Family)

Thursday, July 31 – 7:30 a.m.
Jude Pomerleau - 3rd Anniversary
(Family)

Saturday, August 2 – 4:30 p.m.
Gennaro Viglione
(Fran, Sally, Sarah & Heather Vernile)

Sunday, August 3 - 8:00 a.m.
Bryan Judd - 10th Anniversary (Grandparents)

Sunday, August 3 - 10:30 a.m.
Dodie Brookman (The Casey Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (July 20): \$ 5,951
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 6,865

My sincere thanks for your generosity to our parish! Together we bring Christ’s saving presence to our community and to our world.

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44)

Many times we conceal treasure within ourselves. To what extent will we go to develop the treasure buried within us?



Please pray for:
Susan Vincek
(daughter of Don & Connie Stark)



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Rose & Salvatore Toce**
(Barbara Sander & Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**In Loving Memory of
Albert & Norman St. Arnauld**
(Sister)

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

SOUNDS CLEAR

In response to feedback concerning the quality and amplification of our sound system, the system has been repaired and adjusted. This should help all in the church to hear more clearly God's life-giving Word!

ATTN: ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS

East Catholic High School will be holding a community event, The ECHS Fall Festival, on Saturday, October 4 beginning at 11:00 a.m. This event will include food, entertainment, arts & crafts and games the whole family will enjoy! This event will take place rain or shine. **At this time ECHS is looking for arts & crafts vendors.** Booth space will be available at a nominal fee to sell homemade crafts and accessories at this event. For a vendor application or additional information, please call 649-5336, ext. 234.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR INSPIRATION

When in sorrow call: John 14

When you worry call: Matthew 6:25-34

When your faith needs stirring call: Hebrews 11

When you are lonely and fearful call: Psalm 23

When you need courage call: Joshua 1:1-9



Two parish couples are celebrating special wedding anniversaries this weekend. We congratulate **Bob and Charlotte Judd** who are celebrating 64 years of marriage and **John and Moira Traynor** who are celebrating 50 years of marriage. These couples, through their commitment to each other, are living examples of God's love. 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.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The next gathering of the members of the Adult Social Club will be the annual summer picnic which will be held on **Monday, August 4** at **5:00 p.m.** in the church hall. To help defray the cost of the hamburgers, hotdogs, ice cream and beverages, a \$5.00 per person donation will be accepted at the door. All members are being contacted in order to coordinate the additional food items needed for the picnic. Please call Rose Yergeau at 568-4029 with any questions.



St. Christopher Church will be joining with parishes all around the country and the world! A "40 Days for Life" Campaign will be conducted from September 24 - November 2, 2008. Our day will be Tuesday, October 7, 2008. St. Christopher Church will be engaged in 24 hours of perpetual adoration. We need to get 2 people per hour to be at St. Christopher Church to pray for an end to abortion and for a renewed reverence for life. Also, we need at least 2 people per hour to pray outside the abortion clinic in Hartford between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. If you would be willing to be part of this wonderful campaign of peaceful and prayerful solidarity for life, please contact me with the times you can pray for life. St. Christopher's is a special parish! I know we will step up and not break the chain of 40 days of continuous prayer for life. All will benefit from this powerful display of faith and love! Please spread the word!!! I can be reached at 568-5001 or imgoose@msn.com.

Shalom,

Phil Gosselin

THE RIGHT DIRECTION

If we walk one step toward God, God will run ten steps toward us.

– Anonymous

GOSPEL INSIGHTS*Matthew 13:44-52*

Today, we have the third and final set of readings centered on the parables of the Kingdom from Matthew Chapter 13. We are again presented with three parables, two of which are closely linked in meaning but with slight differences.

The first and second parables are in effect saying that to know God and to live according to the Gospel are the most precious things in life. Through Jesus and the Gospel we come to know and understand the real meaning of life and the most important things in life.

In the first parable Jesus compares entering the Kingdom to a man who finds treasure in a field. The idea obviously is that when one really discovers Jesus and his vision of life everything else becomes secondary. In the service of the Kingdom there are no half measures and in that service there is a special kind of liberating joy.

To have a personal relationship with Christ and to have made his view of life one's own is the most beautiful, the most precious thing in the world. It is not enough, of course, just to say this; one must personally experience it as a fact – as many have done and many, unfortunately, have never really tried to do.

The second parable is similar. A businessman looks for fine pearls. When he finds the one he wants, he sells everything else he has in order to acquire it.

A slight, if significant, difference has been pointed out between the two stories. For, in the first, the man was not actually looking for the treasure. Perhaps he found it while digging the ground or plowing the field, that is, in the course of his ordinary working day. Jesus – and the real meaning of Jesus – may come to me unexpectedly through some daily experience. Many people have described their

(Gospel Insights - continued)

conversion to Christ as happening in such an unexpected way. There is a need, as the Gospel constantly urges, for us to be ready whenever and however Jesus comes into our lives.

In the second parable, however, the man is on the lookout for the "*pearl of great price*". He knows it must exist and he uses all his energies to find it. Although we are baptized Christians, we still need to pursue constantly the true and full meaning of the Gospel which can escape us for many years. We always need to understand more, to love more, to serve more.

While the first and second parables speak of the total commitment and dedication which are the ideal of every follower of Christ, the third parable helps to put our two feet firmly back on the ground. While the ideals are valid and still beckon us, they must not lead us into any form of elitism. This parable reminds us that the Church and even the Kingdom in the process of its evolution is full of all kinds of people. There will be always be a temptation on the part of some who feel they are more "faithful," to separate themselves from the "bad eggs", from the weeds, but Jesus is here telling us that that is the work of God in his own good time. In the meantime, it is for us to learn to be tolerant, compassionate and understanding of those who seem to fall far below the requirements of the Gospel and the Kingdom. There are very few of us who are not, in the one person, a mixture of the good and the rotten. If there are some who clearly do fall by the wayside we can sincerely say, with Saint Augustine, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

Judgment is for later. Right now, it is for us to use the time given to us to go in search of the treasure and the pearl of great price, of the gift to be able to identify, with Jesus, the really true, the good and the beautiful, and to help others too in the same search.

– The Liturgy Committee

(continued in the next column)

LISTEN TO OUR DREAMS

God visits Solomon in a dream, and the scripture story nowhere tells us that Solomon awoke to have this conversation with God! So, still in his dream, Solomon answers God's question about what he desires most, and God grants his request for wisdom in abundance.

In our waking hours, we are much distracted by work, home, family, traffic, entertainment, and many worries. When we try to think about what we really want out of life, we have trouble even imagining what that might be. But deep inside, our real longings dwell, known to God and to the Holy Spirit. Our dreams, unencumbered by defenses, may hold clues to what our deepest needs are, or what bothers us most. They could be God speaking.

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BLOOD DRIVE

The 10th 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. The teens of our parish are sponsoring this drive to keep a promise made 10 years ago that Bryan and Paul will not be forgotten, and the best way to remember their lives is to celebrate the gift of life by giving blood. 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.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is beginning in Hartford. It is series created especially for young adults in their 20's and 30's and the issues they face in the "real" world. ToT-Hartford includes an informal presentation and the opportunity to explore and discuss topics of the Catholic Faith in a casual environment. The first ToT-Hartford will be on Tuesday, August 5 at the Firebox Restaurant in Hartford beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please e-mail tothartford@gmail.com.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A GODPARENT OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

One of the most disappointing events that can occur is when you have been asked to be a godparent or a confirmation sponsor and you find out that you are not eligible because you have not received the sacrament of Confirmation.

If you are 18 years of age or older, a baptized Catholic who has received your First Communion but have not been confirmed, you can attend six sessions of adult education classes and then celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, October 20, 2008 in the chapel at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary at 7:30 p.m. with registration at 6:30 p.m.

Classes will be held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield on Tuesdays (9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14) from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. or on Thursdays (9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16) from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc in Hamden.

There is a \$15 book fee that is payable at the time of registration.

If you are interested in registering for either of these classes, you may call the parish office at 568-5240 to obtain the registration form. Additional information can be found at www.orehartford.org.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - by Bud Ozar

The man in today's gospel "sold all he had" for the treasure he found. Family relationships are "treasures" and demand our total personal investment. Invest yourself in the "treasure" of your family.

OUR ADVERTISERS

We thank the individuals and businesses who presently advertise on the back of our bulletin. These advertisers make our weekly parish bulletin possible. We encourage you to patronize them when possible and to thank them for their support of this ministry of communication.

