



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



**Eighteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

August 3, 2008

“All who are thirsty, come to the water.”

– Isaiah 55:1a

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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)*

Monday, August 4 – 7:30 a.m.

Jeannine Belliveau

(Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry)

Tuesday, August 5 – 7:30 a.m.

Dominic & Nancy Viglione

(Niece Jean Walker)

Wednesday, August 6 – 7:30 a.m.

Catherine Sullivan

(Daughter)

Thursday, August 7 – 7:30 a.m.

Jeremiah Sullivan

(Daughter)

Saturday, August 9 – 4:30 p.m.

Dinis Leonardo

(Wife & Family)

Sunday, August 10 - 8:00 a.m.

Vivian Matava

(Carol Eckert)

Sunday, August 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Helen Martocci - 9th Anniversary

(Husband & Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (July 27): \$ 6,991

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,043

Many thanks for all you do to support our parish and its many ministries!

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over -- twelve wicker baskets full." (Matthew 14:19-20)

If we follow Jesus' example, there will always be more than enough because others will join us with their generosity. The young man gave his loaves and fishes and no one went without.



Please pray for:

Rita Fitzgerald



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Carolyn Brand**

(Sister-in-Law Ruth Sheehan & Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Susan Stark Vincek**

*(Connie's Fellow Members of
St. Christopher's Prayer Tree/Line)*

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

THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Some of the most comforting words in scripture come to us today in these readings. The passage from Romans is particularly comforting when we are worried about our spiritual life and fretting about it. "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:35) Of course, nothing can! Christ's love, manifested in his life, death, and resurrection, was wholly for God and us, and he will not permit anything, great or small, to separate us from him. Our longing, our hunger for him is sustained by the Eucharist, and even in the darkest of times, when God seems absent and it is difficult to pray, we know by faith that God is with us. God's fidelity to us is absolute, especially when we are in darkness and confusion.

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PRAYER

One prays best who does not know that one is praying.

– St. Anthony of Padua

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.

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.



BLOOD DRIVE

The 10th Annual Blood Drive in memory of Bryan Judd and Paul Potkaj will be held this **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.

PLEASE NOTE: *The American Red Cross Connecticut Blood Services Region has declared a blood emergency and is making an urgent appeal for donors.* Walk-ins are always welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Make yours today!!

CT CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

The Connecticut Catholic Conference is the public policy and advocacy office of the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut. At the request of the Bishops, the Connecticut Catholic Conference has started a process of surveying candidates for public office concerning their positions on several specific issues. This process is vital to identifying the position of the candidates regarding issues of importance to the Catholic Church *prior* to the primary on August 12; a similar survey will also be circulated to all candidates prior to the November general election. Please know that this process is in full compliance with the laws governing involvement of faith communities concerning election activities, and it is reflective of the USCCB's *Faithful Citizenship Campaign*.

Enclosed in this weekend's bulletin is information we have been asked to share with you. This effort is a major undertaking of the Connecticut Catholic Conference, and it reflects the high priority given to this project by our Bishops.

Please visit www.ctcatholic.org for more information about the CT Catholic Conference.



Faithful
Citizenship

GOSPEL INSIGHTS

Matthew 14:13-21

This Sunday's Gospel passage is in two sections. The first two verses tell a story which typifies Jesus' ministry. We can read it from two perspectives. On the one hand, we can see Jesus as he was experienced by the people. He was the kind of leader people feel drawn to; they "go after him" even if they have to go "on foot" and even when he and his disciples are saddened by bad news and "withdraw by boat to a lonely place where they can be by themselves". On the other hand, we can see Jesus as he is in himself: sensitive, so that when he hears that John has been martyred, he feels the need to withdraw to a lonely place; selfless, so that even in a time of personal distress he finds the resources to reach out to those in need; he lets them bring out the best in himself. The story invites us to celebrate leaders like Jesus. It also calls us to repentance so that we can be more like him, as individuals and as a Church.

The story of Jesus' miraculous feeding (verses 15 to 21) is unique in that it is told five times in the gospels – twice in St Matthew (here and in 15:32-38) and once in each of the other gospels. Clearly, the early Christians considered the incident crucial for understanding the person and ministry of Jesus. Each of the five accounts has details which are special to it and bring out its particular emphases.

We can read the story as a teaching on the Eucharist (and this is how it is often read in the church) but it is better to read it in a wider sense, as a general teaching on Jesus' mission in the world. Reading the story in this way reminds us that the Eucharist is itself a living lesson ("sacrament") of Jesus' mission – and ours too.

It is significant that the story does not lay emphasis on the miracle itself but on the gestures which precede and follow it. Being followers of Jesus does not mean having to "work miracles" as he did. Though we may occasionally do extraordinary things, we must always see them as exceptional. What we are called to do always is to adopt his attitudes, expressed by his gestures in today's story.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

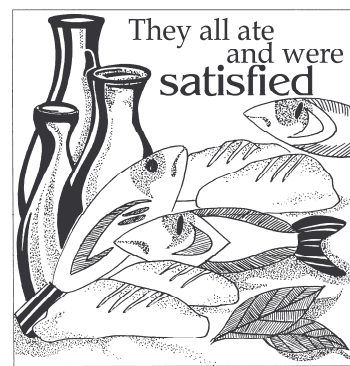
We can identify three stages in the miracle story. There is a preliminary stage in verses 15 to 17. These verses present a striking contrast between Jesus' approach and that of his disciples: the disciples want Jesus to "send the people away" and he says, "give them something to eat yourselves"; they speak disparagingly of their situation, "all we have is five loaves and two fish" and he welcomes what they have – "bring them here to me".

As always, we are invited to recognize that we have lived both stories. Jesus is our story of grace which we celebrate; the disciples are our story of sin for which we repent.

The miracle itself is in verses 18 and 19. Here the focus is on Jesus alone: he orders the people to sit down on the grass; he is in control and does things in an orderly way: he takes the five loaves and two fish, raises his eyes to heaven and says the blessing; he is humble and reverent in the presence of the Giver of all gifts. He breaks the loaves and hands them to his disciples who give them to the crowd; he shares the food and shares his authority.

Two points are made about the miracle itself: "They ate as much as they wanted." This reminds us that the Eucharist "contains in itself all sweetness," according to an ancient antiphon; it also reminds us that in "Jesus communities" the needs of all are looked after. "They collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full." This brings out two things: the food is abundant, true of the Eucharist and of Jesus' ministry in general; the people receive it with reverence, also true of the Eucharist and of Jesus' ministry; the leftovers are not wasted, but rather are gathered up. In "Jesus communities" people appreciate what they receive, and do not waste it (contrast that with the fast food world).

– The Liturgy Committee



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LISTEN HEEDFULLY

The invitation to come and satisfy our hunger and thirst in Christ offers a great comfort to us who sometimes ache with longing for God or feel emptiness when we want to feel full of God's love. This longing is God's gift and call to us to withdraw from all the noise and racket of our lives and our world and pay attention to the quiet voice of God within us. How do we respond to such a loving invitation? By paying attention, by stilling ourselves; not by struggling and striving to make some spiritual experience happen, but just by sitting still and listening for God's delicate promptings. Our desire for prayer, even if we feel our prayer to be too distracted and ineffective, is effective because the call is from God and our response is a willingness to hear and be fed by God's holy word to us.



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

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The next gathering of the members of the Adult Social Club will be the annual summer picnic which will be held this **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. Please call Rose Yergeau at 568-4029 with any questions.

Reminder: Non-perishable food donations are accepted at every monthly meeting. Donations help support the St. Christopher/South Congregational Food Bank.

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. You may also visit their website at www.orehartford.org. Look under "News" on the home page.



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PRAYER TREE NETWORK

Our Prayer Tree Network is available to receive your prayer requests! All prayer requests are handled with care and in a confidential manner. Requests can be called in or sent by e-mail to our coordinator, Bev Connors. 432-1530 or bcrc2@hotmail.com.

