



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



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**Nineteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

August 10, 2008

“Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.”

– Psalm 85:12

*Mass for the
Intentions*  *for the
Week*

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*)

Monday, August 11 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Patrick J. Curran

Tuesday, August 12 – 7:30 a.m.
Henry Bourque
(*Joanne & Ronald Cloutier*)

Wednesday, August 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Paul E. Franklin (*Wife Claire*)

Thursday, August 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff (*Family*)

Friday, August 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Harriet Garvey (*Niece*)

Saturday, August 16 – 4:30 p.m.
Dale Corbin (*Family*)

Sunday, August 17 - 8:00 a.m.
Carolyn Brand
Sister-in-Law of Ruth Sheehan
(*The Choquette Family*)

Sunday, August 17 - 10:30 a.m.
Marie Rita Burbank
(*Rosette Curtin*)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (August 3): \$ 5,949
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 6,915

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



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**FEAST OF
THE ASSUMPTION**

Vigil Mass: August 14 - 5:30 p.m.
Holy Day: August 15 - 7:30 a.m.

Friday, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a holy day of obligation. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, August 14, at 5:30 p.m. The Mass on Friday, August 15 will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. Both Masses will be celebrated in the church.



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**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



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The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of the Deceased Members
of the Bairos & Nowik Families**
(*Eugenia Nowik*)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Celebration of
Stella A. Girard
on the Occasion of her 95th Birthday**
(*Her Loving Family*)

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

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

We wish to thank everyone who helped to make our summer picnic such a success. Thanks to all the wonderful cooks for the delicious side dishes, to the men who operated the grills, to our custodian Roger Dube for setting up the hall, to Kay McCarthy and Rose Chitwood for making all the calls to our members, and to everyone who helped to clean up the hall. It was a wonderful evening!

– Rose Yergeau & Board Members

Notes:

- There will be a meeting for all Board Members on Monday, August 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall.
- Due to Labor Day, the next gathering of the Adult Social Club will be Monday, September 8.

NOTHING TO FEAR

A rabbi was asked why God sends trials and troubles into human lives. "Because God gets lonely for his people" was the reply. There is some resonance with this wisdom in today's Gospel, as Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat without him and goes off alone while they venture into stormy waters. Of course, neither Jews nor Christians believe that the Almighty plays this sort of whimsical game with them, but there is some truth in the statement that we don't turn to God for saving help until we're in a bind. Peter's role today, as it is throughout the New Testament, is to be a sign or to represent each member of the church and the whole church. Our story is the tale told about Peter's faith today. What can bolster our faith is that even when Christ calls us to face bravely the tempests of life, if we are walking through them with our eyes fixed on him in faith, we have nothing to fear. Even when we falter or sink, simply crying "Lord, save me!" is enough to help us know the steady grasp of God's hand. Then, sheltered inside the walls of faith, the storms we endure lose their power over us.

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GOING HOME

Life is a voyage that's homeward bound.

– Herman Melville

FAITH AND CITIZENSHIP TALK

Father J.B. Pesce will present "Faithful Citizenship and Conscience" on Monday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria at St. Bridget's, 80 Main Street in Manchester. Father Pesce is a deeply spiritual and thoughtful man with insights for all. For more information, please contact John Ryan at 643-2403.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is expressed in many different ways. We thank Roch Girard who has been taking such good care of the flower gardens in front of the rectory and the church. We thank as well Rudy Tardiff, Frank Tebecio and Mac McCarthy for their work in pruning the bushes around the church and the Parish Center, and we thank the Leonard family for their donations of flowers which have beautified the parish grounds during this summer season. We are also thankful to George Agnelli who has kindly coordinated many of the landscaping projects at the church, rectory and parish school.



with thanks and gratitude,

Fr. Curran & the People of St. Christopher's

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up to the mountain by himself to pray." Matthew 14:22-23

The psychologist Carl Jung once said, "Busyness is not of the devil, busyness is the devil!" Stewardship is not about increasing our activities, but about establishing priorities in how we utilize our gifts. One of those priorities is prayer. Do we take time out to be alone with God?

GOSPEL INSIGHTS*Matthew 14:22-33*

We have today in the Gospel a continuation of last week's story about the feeding of thousands of people by Jesus in the desert. Immediately after the event, we are told that Jesus "made" the disciples get into the boat and go to the opposite shore while he himself sent the crowds away.

The disciples are far out on the lake by now, battling with a heavy sea and fighting a strong headwind. It is quite clear that here we are seeing a parable of the Church itself, represented by the disciples in their fragile boat surrounded by hostile winds and waves. It was the common experience of the Church during its first centuries and, in many parts of the world today, continues to be the case. It was a situation to create, then as now, much fear and anxiety.

Then, all of a sudden, they see Jesus approaching them, walking on the lake. Far from feeling reassured, they become even more terrified. "*It is a ghost!*" Then out of wind and wave and terror comes a comforting voice. "*Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.*" The disciples need courage whose source is their confidence and trust in the protection of their Lord. Through the words "*It is I*", Jesus identifies himself with the saving power of God himself. They are the words spoken to Moses from the burning bush. As such, there is no need for fear or anxiety in spite of the apparently threatening dangers around them.

Characteristically, Peter is the first to respond. He is the impulsive one but he is also the group's leader. Peter starts to make his way to the Lord, who is in the wind and the waves, but his fear is too much and he begins to sink. "*Lord, save me!*" is the cry, a cry echoed by Christians all down the ages who have felt that the world was ready to crush them. There is something for us to reflect here: Jesus is not in the boat; he is in that hostile environment into which we often fear to enter and instead huddle in the security of our church. It is significant that Jesus is also found outside the boat in the middle of the stormy sea, the world. And we have to go out there to meet him in spite of the dangers and possible setbacks. Too often we Christians spend much, if not all, of our time in the shelter of the boat, taking care of ourselves and neglecting those in the stormy sea who need to hear the words of life.

(continued in the next column)

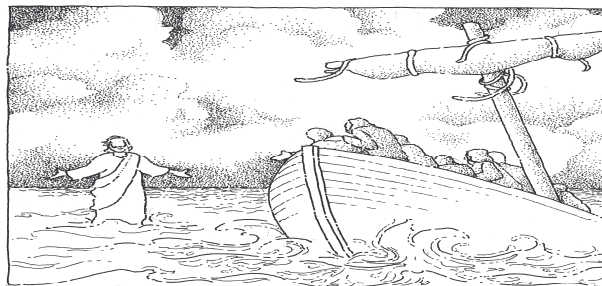
(Gospel Insights - continued)

Jesus and Peter now step into the boat and the wind drops. There is peace and calm. All in all, today's Gospel reflects problems in the early Church, problems which are not unknown to us today. From the inside there were always problems of unity, conflicting opinions, theologies and spiritualities. From the outside, there were persecutions and misunderstandings from both the Jews and the secular powers.

Matthew also here features the special role of Peter, something he constantly stresses. Peter is the leader and so he is the one who steps out of the boat to go and meet Jesus in the midst of the storm. This surely is an image of the Church's apostolic mission to reach out to find and make Christ present in the world, however hostile it may be. It is not the role of the Church to stay cowering in the shelter of their boat. One remembers the disciples after the death of Jesus hiding behind the locked doors. Pentecost soon changed all that and literally blew them out on a mission that would bring them and their successors to the remotest parts of the earth.

Today's readings, then, are saying two things to us. First, there is never any need for fear and anxiety, for Jesus is always close to us and, no matter what may be happening in and around us, his peace is there for us to share. Second, the world which both attracts and threatens us is the arena where we are to live out our mission to build the Kingdom of God. We are called to be "not of the world", a counter-witness to its ways, but to be "in the world", as taste-giving salt and growth-giving leaven. To lead people to that moment when they can fall to the ground before Jesus present and active in their lives and say with full recognition, "Truly, you are the Son of God".

– The Liturgy Committee

**It is I; do not be afraid.**

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CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

Upcoming Event

Port Jefferson Ferry/Music Fest ~ Bridgeport

Sunday ~ September 7 ~ 11:30 a.m.

Join your Credo friends for a fun-filled day of summer fun! Start the day by embarking on a relaxing cruise aboard the Port Jefferson Ferry as it glides across the beautiful Long Island Sound (1hr. 15 min). The ship docks on the shore of the quaint village of Port Jefferson, Long Island. Stroll thru the village, browse the shops or sample one of the many wonderful places to eat. There will be great bands playing at the Port Jeff Music Fest. We'll meet back at the dock at 6:30 p.m. for a sunset cruise back across the Sound. Parking and tram are free. Round trip ferry ticket is approximately \$23.00. (Food and Lounge available on board.) Look for the blue/white balloons at the pier. Ship leaves the dock at 12:30 p.m. & makes its return trip at 6:30 p.m. (or every hr on the 1/2 hr up to 9:30 p.m.).

Credo events are open to all Catholics who are single, widowed or divorced. For more information, please call Rose at 860-229-4405.

VOLUNTEER AT

THE CONNECTICUT HOSPICE, INC.

If you or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to serve others in your community, CT Hospice would like to hear from you. Their patients and families are in need of your care and support. As a CT Hospice Volunteer, you can fill your hours (weekdays/evenings or weekends) by assisting in an administrative capacity or offering direct care as a friendly visitor, provide pastoral or bereavement care, help in the arts or meet transportation needs. You can also use your volunteer work to acquire new job skills and experience; volunteer work is a good addition to your resume. For more information, please call Pat Corradino, Director of Volunteer Services at 1-800-8-HOSPICE ext. 510 or you can e-mail Pat at pnowak@hospice.com.



BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross Connecticut Blood Services Region has declared a blood emergency and is making an urgent appeal for donors.

If you were unable to attend the blood drive that we had here on August 8, the following are other opportunities in East Hartford for giving blood within the next few weeks:

Thursday ~ August 21, 2008

1:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

1st Floor - Ballroom

Holiday Inn

363 Roberts Street - East Hartford

Tuesday ~ September 16, 2008

1:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

First Floor - Recreation Room

Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center

745 Main Street - East Hartford

** Food Provided **

All presenting donors at either of these drives will be entered into a drawing for a Boston Red Sox, Rock Cats, CT Defenders "Blood Donor of the Game" prize pack!

Walk-ins are always welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Make yours today by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

FINDING PEACE

If you want peace, work for justice.

– Pope Paul VI

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

The demands of family can be so overwhelming we feel walking on water would be easier. When Jesus was pressured, He dismissed everyone, so he could be "by himself and pray." When overwhelmed and stressed, go to a quiet place and surrender your pressured feelings to the Lord using Peter's prayer in today's gospel: "Lord, save me."