



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



**Twentieth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

August 17, 2008

“Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come, my justice,
about to be revealed.” – *Isaiah 56:1*

Mass Intentions for the Week

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*)

Monday, August 18 – 7:30 a.m.

Louise Olinatz - 6th Anniversary

(*Children*)

Tuesday, August 19 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Patrick J. Curran

Wednesday, August 20 – 7:30 a.m.

Margaret H.L. Lafleur

and **Gerard J. Lafleur**

In Memory of His 88th Birthday

(*Daughter Gloria Jean*)

Thursday, August 21 – 7:30 a.m.

Austin Violette (Marcella Hunter)

Saturday, August 23 – 4:30 p.m.

Salvatore Carrabino - 14th Anniversary (Wife)

Sunday, August 24 - 8:00 a.m.

Manuel Machado (Wife & Daughter)

Sunday, August 24 - 10:30 a.m.

Gordon Gilles

(*Howard & Barbara Wilmes*)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (August 10): \$ 6,240

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 6,968

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

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed." Isaiah 56: 1

A steward is keenly aware of the need for justice. It is the Lord's justice practiced by a steward that delivers the poor.



Wedding Banns

Megan Blaschke and Matthew Metzger



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Richard Csaszar
(Family)**

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Rita Fitzgerald
(Bev Connors & Family)**

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



***Want to Become a Catholic
or Know Someone Who Does?***

Want to Receive Communion and Be Confirmed?

The Rite of Christian Initiation is for non-Catholics (baptized or unbaptized) who wish to become confirmed Catholics. It is also for those who were baptized in the Catholic Church who didn't continue on to First Communion or Confirmation. Classes will begin here at St. Christopher's in September. We will meet until just after Easter. If RCIA is for you or for someone you know, please contact Deacon Bill at 633-8997.

“NEW DAY” PROGRAM

A Journey from Grief to Healing

Grieving the loss of a loved one is one of the most emotional and traumatic events we experience in life. By finding healthy ways to manage and face our grief, over time, we can accept the loss and continue to live.



“New Day” is a 9-week program for those who have lost a loved one in death. It is a time to come together to pray, to understand the grieving process and to experience the support of a caring community.

The sessions will be held on Monday evenings starting September 8 and will take place in the Parish Center from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. For more information and/or to register, please contact Toni Amberg, our Bereavement Coordinator, at 568-9069.

WEEKDAY LECTORS NEEDED

If you are a parishioner who is available during the week and are interested in serving as a Lector for liturgies celebrated during the week, we'd like to speak to you. Please call Tammy Stone at 569-4216 or Toni Amberg at 568-9069. Thank you!



IMMIGRATION ISSUES

***You've Heard What the Politicians Say,
Find Out About Catholic Teaching on Immigration***

Immigration is a complex issue that is changing the face of cultures worldwide. In the United States, it is often a controversial issue with many social, economic, political and even religious implications. In the midst of the debate, what often gets lost are the human issues at stake. Come join fellow Catholics at St. Bridget's (80 Main Street, Manchester) on Monday, August 18, to listen and discuss Church teaching on immigration issues. The session begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information please call Deacon Bill at 633-8997.



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

GOSPEL INSIGHTS

Matthew 15:21-28

We see in the Gospel today Jesus entering non-Jewish territory, something he very seldom does. We find him in the district of Tyre and Sidon— two coastal cities on the Mediterranean coast (now in present-day Lebanon). Suddenly a Canaanite woman from that region comes and begins shouting at Jesus. We need to realize that the Canaanites were the traditional enemies of the Jews. They were regarded as pagans and idolaters and ritually unclean.

This does not discourage this woman in her desperate need. She cries out, *“Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”* Her prayer expresses both helplessness and faith. Basically all of us are also helpless and without God there is little that we can do by ourselves. Her faith is expressed in the titles she gives Jesus: ‘Lord’ and ‘Son of David’. They indicate that she sees in Jesus someone above the ordinary, someone very special. And the title ‘Son of David’ has Messianic overtones.

In spite of that Jesus simply ignores her, as if she did not exist. The disciples are not much better. As the woman keeps shouting after them, they ask Jesus to get rid of her. *“For heaven’s sake, give the woman what she wants.”* Do they say this out of compassion for her plight? No, but *“because she is shouting after us”*. To them she is merely a nuisance, and a pagan nuisance as well. How often have we given in “charity” just to get rid of a bothersome beggar?

Jesus’ reason for not listening to her is that *“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”* He seems to be saying that, since she is an outsider, her problem is of no concern to him. In fact, Jesus’ mission and work was almost entirely centered on his own people. The task of passing on his message to others would be left to his disciples. And, as we know from the Acts of the Apostles, they did not realize that at first. It took some special experiences before they realized that the Gentiles could also be filled with the Spirit of God and were being called to be followers of Jesus.

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(Gospel Insights - continued)

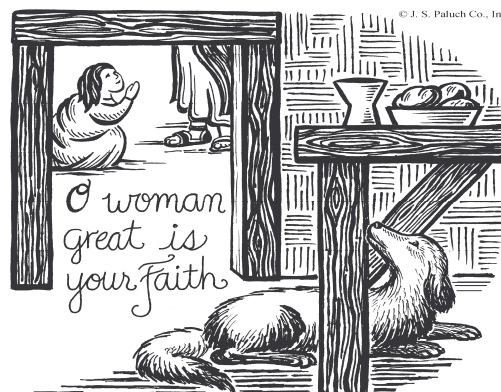
The woman is not discouraged by any of this. She comes and kneels before him, an act of worship, and prays simply, *“Lord, help me.”* Jesus’ answer seems quite shocking: *“It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”* On another occasion Jesus told his disciples not to cast pearls before swine.

The term “dogs” was a common one for the Gentiles. Dogs were regarded by the Jews as unclean, because they would eat anything given to them, including pork, for instance. The Gentiles, in the eyes of the Jews who were very particular about what was clean and unclean, were no better than dogs. Everything depends on the tone of voice with which Jesus uttered these words. They could have been spoken with arrogance, contempt and racial superiority. But that would be completely contrary to everything else we know about Jesus.

On the other hand it could have been said in a testing and joking way. The woman, totally unfazed and taking her cue from his tone of voice, throws back: *“Oh yes, Lord, but even the dogs (that means us!) can eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table.”* (The “master’s table”: a little touch of satire on her part? You people, of course, are superior to us.)?

Now, Jesus is completely won over by her faith, her confidence and her wit: *“Woman, great is your faith!”* This is obvious from her tenacity. She will not take No for an answer. Jesus’ response is almost inevitable: *“Let it be done for you as you wish.”* And her daughter was healed instantly.

– The Liturgy Committee



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING

Do you still need to do some back-to-school shopping? Our parish school's TCP Program has gift cards available just for you! Cards are available for **Staples, Walmart, CVS, Walgreens** and many more! Please see our volunteer after every Mass this weekend to purchase your card(s). Cards are sold at face value...so there's no extra cost to you. Our parish school benefits by receiving a percentage of every purchase. Thank you for your support!

FAITH & FAMILY DAY at New Britain Stadium

The New Britain Rock Cats are hosting a Faith and Family Day with a post-game Christian Rock concert by Tower of Praise on Sunday, August 24 at 1:35 p.m. (Gates open at 12:05 p.m.) Special entertainment and activities throughout the day, T-shirt giveaway, and all kids get to run the bases after the game! For more information about this event, please visit www.rockcats.com or call 860-224-8383.



SALVATION FOR ALL

More severe than the other readings, the Gospel nonetheless asserts that salvation is for all people. It is the amazing and intense faith of the Canaanite woman that catches our attention in the Gospel. The disciples saw her as a nuisance and someone to remove from Jesus' presence. Jesus clearly considered his mission at this point particularly to the Israelites. Yet the woman knew that Jesus could heal her daughter and God's healing is, indeed, for all of us. The woman was so sure of Jesus and God's love that she recognized that something greater than crumbs would come someday to those outside the Jewish faith. Each of us in our own calling is challenged to multiply and supplement the crumbs generously, making a nourishing meal to show all people of the world God's great love.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Staying Connected at College

The Archdiocesan Office of College Campus Ministry would like to let you know that there is a Catholic presence on college campuses throughout our Diocese helping students in their journey through the college experience. If you or a member of your family is or will be attending a College or University within the Diocese, we would encourage you to contact the Catholic Campus Minister at the school to find out about all the activities that are available to help live and keep your faith alive, in your world, today. Please visit <http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/ministries.htm> to find links for more information about the Catholic ministries at several colleges and universities.



MUSIC TEACHING POSITIONS

The Future Musicians, Inc., who provide music education programs to private and parochial schools throughout the state, is seeking individuals to fill Instrumental Music Teaching Positions in the greater Waterbury and New Haven areas. Full and part-time available. Grades 4-8 band. Please call (860) 342-4485 for more information.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

The mother in today's gospel persisted, even when she was ignored and insulted. She would do whatever was necessary to bring relief for her child. Parenting is more than bringing life into the world; it is also about laying down your life.

A GOOD EXAMPLE

A faithful Christian, illumined by the rays of grace like a crystal, ought to illumine his neighbor with the light of good example, through word and deed.

—St. Anthony