



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



**Twenty-first
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

August 24, 2008

“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” – *Matthew 16:19*

Mass Intentions for the Week

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)

Monday, August 25 – 7:30 a.m.

Ethel B. Hart - 5th Anniversary
and **Harold L. Hart**
(Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Tuesday, August 26 – 7:30 a.m.

Tina Dudek
(Friend Jean Walker)

Wednesday, August 27 – 7:30 a.m.

John Shea - 16th Anniversary
(Family)

Thursday, August 28 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Saturday, August 30 – 4:30 p.m.

Marilyn Limburg (Lorraine Wolk & Family)

Sunday, August 31 - 8:00 a.m.

Fr. Charles McDonald (Barbara Pomarico)

Sunday, August 31 - 10:30 a.m.

Angelo Ciccarello (Stan & Joan Czerwinski)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (August 17): \$ 6,778

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 6,615

Assumption of the Virgin Mary: \$ 1,359

Your generosity to our parish is appreciated. Many thanks for all you do to help our parish!

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Who do people say that I am?" Matthew 16:13

The answers the disciples gave varied because they recognized some of the attributes of individual prophets in Jesus. Peter saw what the Messiah was supposed to be because Jesus reflected who he was. A steward reflects generosity and this is immediately recognizable to all that he meets.



Megan Blaschke
and
Matthew Metzger



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Carolann Cusmano**
In Remembrance of Her Birthday
(Daughter Lisa, Mike, Michael & Nicholas Evans)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

For Our Parish Ministries

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

A BLESSING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A new school year begins on August 27. We offer the following blessing for all students and teachers as they begin this new academic year.

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways.

Look upon the students. Let them enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon the teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, for ever and ever. Amen.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

Attention: Board Members

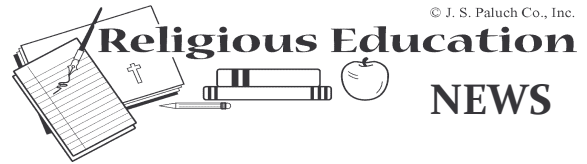
A meeting will be held for the Adult Social Club board members this Monday, August 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

The next monthly gathering of all members will be held on Monday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. Fr. Curran will be our guest speaker. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Yergeau at 568-4029.



In its effort to help Catholic voters balance the positions candidates may hold on issues with

Catholic social and moral teaching, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has developed a program know as *Faithful Citizenship*. Please visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org to learn more about this program and Catholic teaching on many issues.



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- An orientation for all Religious Education teachers and aides will be held on Sunday, September 14 in the Church Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- Classes will begin on Sunday, September 21 from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. for students in grades K – 8. All students are required to pre-register. Please call Maria Sousa, Coordinator of Religious Education, at 895-8692 to obtain a registration form.

Choir News

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ADULT CHOIR

New Members are Needed and Welcome!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Adult Choir, please join us for rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The first rehearsal is Thursday, September 18 in the church. The adult choir welcomes all adults and high school students. For more information, please call Carol Waterman at 521-7411.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

For Children Grades 2-8!

If you're a student interested in becoming a member of St. Christopher's Children's Choir, please join us on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. The first rehearsal is Thursday, September 18 in the church. For more information, please call Carol Waterman at 521-7411.

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!



GOSPEL INSIGHTS

Matthew 16:13-20

In today's Gospel, we recall a high point in Jesus' relationship with his disciples. It represents a quantum leap in their understanding of Jesus. It took them quite a while to become aware of just who Jesus really was. And even here, as subsequent events in the rest of the Gospel clearly indicate, they still did not fully understand the implications of what they had just begun to realize. We will see a clear indication of this in next Sunday's Gospel reading.

In a way, of course, today's passage really is an expression of the faith of the early Church rather than just that of the disciples at the time of the event described. The passage today begins with Jesus asking his disciples who people think he is. In reply the disciples give various answers: the prophet John the Baptist, the prophet Elijah and the prophet Jeremiah. (Only Matthew among the Synoptic Gospels mentions Jeremiah.) What is clear is that while Jesus is seen by the people as a prophet, a spokesperson for God, he is no more than that to them.

Then Jesus asks his disciples directly who they think he is. Peter, assuming his recognized leadership role in the group, replies: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is indeed a high point in their relationship with Jesus. For they have now acknowledged that their rabbi, their teacher and guide, is no less than the long-awaited Messiah, the anointed king of Israel. (In the Greek, Messiah is translated as Christos, which means the 'Anointed One'.)

There now follows a passage which will be the foundation for the authority given to the disciples and to Peter in particular in the post-Resurrection community. In response to Peter's declaration of faith, Jesus now says, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." In the English translation, the play on words here is lost. In the Greek, 'Peter' is Petros (Petros)' and 'rock' is petra (petra) while, in the Aramaic language which Jesus and his disciples normally spoke, both words would be represented by kepa. Hence, Peter is called

(Gospel Insights - continued)

Cephas in some New Testament letters. cf. for example, Galatians 2:11.

Peter is the rock, the foundation of the community which will carry the name and the authority of Jesus to the whole world. On him, together with his Apostolic companions as the faithful communicators of Jesus' life and message, will be built the Church. Then there is the promise of endurance against all assaults of evil. A promise that has been remarkably kept through 20 centuries down to our own day. It is a testimony to the firmness of a foundation whose strength basically comes from Truth and Love. As long as these divinely originating qualities are in the Church, and any part of it, there is nothing to fear.

Peter is then given a special stewardship and responsibility for the community. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." We have spoken often in these weeks about the Kingdom. The Church is not itself the Kingdom but it does have the "keys", in the sense of both authority and access, to the building of that Kingdom.

"Whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven [i.e. by God himself]..." God's own authority passes through Jesus to the community he will leave behind. Peter's successor, the pope, is our point of reference, whom we must always take into account, as we search for new understandings of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in a constantly changing world. He is the shepherd that keeps us in fellowship with Christians everywhere but who must not stifle the creativity of the Spirit in living out the Gospel in such a huge variety of contexts. For we are simultaneously one Church and many churches. For us here in our own church, our concern will be to remain in close union with fellow-disciples everywhere while at the same time living a Christian life in a way that most effectively will bring the spirit of the Kingdom among us in these challenging times.

– The Liturgy Committee

(continued in the next column)



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. Christopher Church will be joining with parishes all around the country and world! A 40 Days for Life Campaign will be from conducted 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 in our church building. We wish to get 2 people per hour to be at St. Christopher Church to prayer for an end to abortion and 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. We need some hardy folks to step forward to take some of the "non-primetime" hours for perpetual adoration in the church; midnight to 7:00 am in particular. We also have great need of prayer warriors at the abortion clinic for all the time slots. 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 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



**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.

BE A ROCK

As the letter to the Romans points out to us today, we have not known the mind or the wisdom of God, but God knows us and still chooses to manifest the reign of justice, joy, beauty, and peace through us. Let this be our vocation. Let us always strive to be solid ground on which the church of Jesus Christ can be founded and on which it can continue to be built. (c) Copyright, J. S. Paluch

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.