



*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](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.stchris-eh.org](http://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**

To be announced

## **HOME / SCHOOL ASSOC. PRESIDENT**

To be announced

## **SCHOOL'S WEBSITE**

[www.saintchristopherschool.org](http://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-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 31, 2008

“Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. – Romans 12:2

Mass Intentions for the Week

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)

Monday, September 1 – 9:00 a.m. - Labor Day

Parish Mass for the People

Tuesday, September 2 – 7:30 a.m.

Lucia & Gennaro Viglione

(Daughter Jean Walker)

Wednesday, September 3 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Charles J. McDonald

Thursday, September 4 – 7:30 a.m.

Antoine Martel - 11th Anniversary

(Family)

Saturday, September 6 – 4:30 p.m.

Roger Gagnon

(Sister & Brother-in-Law

Omerine and Elmer Gendreau)

Sunday, September 7 - 8:00 a.m.

John Vignone - In Memory of His Birthday

(Wife & Family)

Sunday, September 7 - 10:30 a.m.

Dorothy Gravel - 7th Anniversary

(Michele Hurteau)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (August 24): \$ 6,611

Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 6,252

My sincere thanks for all you do to make our parish a place where Christ is encountered and where His joy and life are shared with and for others!

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

LABOR DAY MASS

There will be a parish Mass celebrated on Labor Day, September 1 at 9:00 a.m. (There will be no 7:30 a.m. Mass on that day.)

In observance of Labor Day, the parish office will be closed on Monday, September 1. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 2 at 8:30 a.m.



SANCTUARY LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week

In Loving Memory of Mary R. Verotsky & Charles G. Verotsky (Daughter Carolyn and Joe Kronen)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

For the People of St. Christopher's Living and Deceased

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



Our Parish is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

**Brennan Joseph Buckley**  
**Avery Joseph Tiso**

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2*

The bishops in their pastoral letter on stewardship warn us about conforming to the destructive "isms" at work in our culture -- materialism, individualism and consumerism. Stewardship calls us to generously share what we have with others. Stewardship focuses on our dependence on God. This focus goes against our culture's focus on independence and individualism.

## 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.

### CUB SCOUT REGISTRATION

Cub Scout Pack 161 will be holding a registration for the coming year after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 7. There will also be registrations on Tuesday, Sept. 16 and Tuesday, Sept. 23 in St. Christopher's Church Hall. Registration will be from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. each evening. Boys in grades 1 – 4 are welcome to join. Cub Scouts is a fun, family oriented activity that lasts throughout the year. Your son will make friends and memories that will last a lifetime! For more information please contact Tracy Martinez at 568-0464.



### ATTENTION PRAYER WARRIORS!

St. Christopher Church will be joining with parishes all around the country and 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 in our church building. We wish to get 2 people per hour to be at St. Christopher Church to pray 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. I can be reached at 568-5001 or imgoose@msn.com

Peace,

Phil Gosselin

### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

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.

## GOSPEL INSIGHTS

*Matthew 16:21-27*

In last week's Gospel, we saw the disciples riding high. They had, through Peter, acknowledged that Jesus, their teacher and friend, was no less than the long-awaited Messiah-King of Israel.

The euphoria was not to last very long! The Passion and Death of Jesus was not at all part of the scenario for the coming of the Messiah! So, it is not surprising that at this point, Peter, still flush with his newly-acquired status, takes Jesus to one side, speaking to him almost on equal terms. The angry reaction of Jesus must have come as somewhat unexpected, to say the least. Turning to face Peter, Jesus says: "*Get behind me, Satan!*" These are strong words for someone who just now was being given leadership of the community Jesus would leave behind. Unwittingly and with the best of intentions, Peter is doing the devil's work – trying to steer Jesus away from the path laid out for him by his Father. How often have we been such a temptation or stumbling block to others?

Jesus is angry – though his disciples may have acknowledged that he is the Messiah, they clearly have no idea whatever what kind of Messiah-King Jesus is going to be. They are, as he says, thinking in purely human terms and have not yet got "*the mind of Christ*" (Philippians 2:5).

Yes, Jesus will be a King, but he will be a King of love, a King who will rule by serving. Because he loves and serves them, he will, if necessary, be prepared to die for them, for this is the greatest love that a person can show for his friends. This is not to say that Jesus wants to die on the cross but he is totally prepared to suffer and die, if the service of love demands it – and it will.

Today's Gospel goes further than just asking us to understand why the glory of Jesus our King and Lord was to be found in the way through suffering and the shameful death of the Cross. There is a further call for us to walk the same road with Jesus. "*If anyone (not just the heroic martyr or the saint) wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.*" Jesus is asking each one of us to dedicate our lives in totally loving and serving others even if, at times, this involves misunderstanding, ridicule, pain and even death itself.

(continued in the next column)

## (Gospel Insights - continued)

It would be altogether wrong to think that Jesus is asking us to lead miserable lives in order to be good Christians, although one gets the impression that some people interpret the passage in that way. To follow Jesus fully, we must be able to see life as he sees it, we must have that "*mind of Christ*".

When we have the mind of Christ then we can only see our lives in terms of loving and serving others and not in the pursuit of purely self-centered or even family-centered ambition. When we have the mind of Christ, the whole direction of our life changes. Our whole concept of happiness changes. Jesus is calling us not to a life of sacrifice and suffering but rather to a life of total love and freedom. The person who can go to jail for his beliefs is more free and usually a lot happier than the one who is tied to the pursuit of material things, social position, pleasure and the fear of pain.

"*Renouncing oneself*" is not a suppression of one's personality. It is a letting go of oneself so that one can really find oneself.

This is what today's readings are saying, namely, that Jesus is calling us to where true success and happiness are. Maybe when we walk the way of Jesus there will be people who criticize us, think we are stupid and even attack us. Yet those who have chosen the way of Jesus again and again confirm that their lives are full of freedom, happiness and peace. Isn't that what we all would like to experience?

– The Liturgy Committee

**Take up your cross  
and follow me**



## “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.

## MEASUREMENTS

When I die, God won't measure my head to see how clever I was. God will measure my heart to see how loving I was.

– Anonymous



*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.



- 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.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

A special Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. All couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and other special wedding anniversaries are invited to attend. Archbishop Mansell will be the main celebrant, and he sees this annual event as one specific way to positively support sacramental marriage.

A simple reception will follow. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. Please call the rectory at 568-5240 to respond to this invitation and to register. **All registrations received by September 25 will be in the program booklet.**

## THE ABC'S OF ANNULMENTS

“The ABC'S of Annulments”, an informational program designed to answer questions about the process of Annulments, will be held on Thursday, September 18 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the church hall at the Most Holy Trinity in Wallingford. Brother Larry Lussier, CSC, Pastoral Associate at St. Gabriel Church, Milford, will be the presenter. There will be a question and answer period following the presentation. The event is open to all seeking an annulment in the Catholic Church. Attending this session is required to attend the five follow up Annulment Writing Sessions. For further information, please call Brother at (203) 937-7040 or Deacon Eyles at (203) 467-3538, or Deacon Macaluso at (203) 488-0195. Sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford.