



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

Sarah Poirier, 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

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

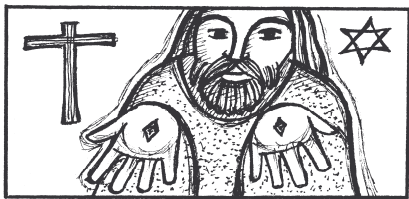
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388
bcr2@hotmail.com

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



**The Exaltation
Of the
Holy Cross**

September 14, 2008

“Christ Jesus . . . emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.”

– Philippians 2:7

Mass  *for the
Intentions* *Week*

Saturday, September 13 – 4:30 p.m.

Joseph & Eva Bergeron
(Daughter Irene)

Sunday, September 14 - 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo
(Mom, Dad & Daughters)

Sunday, September 14 - 10:30 a.m.

Marie Rita Burbank
(Don & Jackie Luizzi)

Monday, September 15 – 7:30 a.m.

Maria Gaetana DeSiano
(Richard & Mary Burke)

Tuesday, September 16 – 7:30 a.m.

Cecilia Lyons

Wednesday, September 17 – 7:30 a.m.

**In Recognition of
Frank & Mary Scelza’s
60th Wedding Anniversary**
(Ralph & Peg Viola)

Thursday, September 18 – 7:30 a.m.

Sandra Leonard DeVivo - 2nd Anniversary
(Family)

Saturday, September 20 – 4:30 p.m.

Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Sunday, September 21 - 8:00 a.m.

Mary Allaire (Niece)

Sunday, September 21 - 10:30 a.m.

Angelo Ciccarello (Terri Czerwinski)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (September 7): \$ 7,396
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,097

My sincere thanks for your generosity to our parish! Together we bring Christ’s saving presence to our community and to our world.

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” John 3:16

Christ became the perfect sacrifice on the cross so that we might have eternal salvation. What sacrifices are we willing to make?

MERCY

Dost thou wish to receive mercy? Show mercy to thy neighbor.

– St. John Chrysostom



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Jose Figueiredo**
(Wife Maria)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

Victims of the September 11, 2001 Attacks

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

HOPES COLLECTION

◆ Next Weekend ◆

“Research has proven that Catholic schools provide a uniquely powerful education for the child’s spiritual, intellectual, physical and social growth. I ask you to help make the benefits of Catholic school education accessible to all who seek them by participating in the HOPES (Help Our Parish Elementary Schools) Collection next weekend, September 20 - 21. [25% of the total collection remains here to benefit our parish school.] Your support of Catholic schools will make the future of our children, and our Church, all the more promising.”

– The Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell

Please Note: The HOPES collection has been moved to September 20 - 21 from its original collection date of September 27 - 28. This change was necessary in order for us to accommodate our missionary priest on the weekend of September 27 - 28. Please see below for more information.

MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE PLAN APPEAL

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is established in every diocese to organize support for the missions. The Society brings to each parish one of the groups working in the missions to speak about their particular work. This year our parish will welcome Fr. Filbert Mhasi from the Archdiocese of Gulu on the weekend of September 27 - 28. The Archdiocese of Gulu is in northern Uganda in East Africa where their missionary work has been seriously affected by an ongoing war in northern Uganda and southern Sudan. We will have a second collection that weekend to support their work.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

The Law of Christianity in today's gospel is the Law of Gravity in reverse. "No one goes up ... except the one who has come down." Today Jesus teaches us to lay "down" our self interests so we, and those we love, might have life more abundantly. Self interests can be obstacles to our happiness and the happiness of others.

BECOMING BREAD FOR OTHERS

At the same time that energy prices are going through the roof, we have seen an increase in food prices as well. In the world, where many people spend 60% or more on food, this is devastating. The Office of Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Hartford is presenting a workshop on how to multiply the effectiveness of Food Ministry with new ideas and opportunities to lessen hunger around the corner and across the globe. The workshop is being offered on three dates over the next few weeks: St. John the Evangelist, Watertown (Sept. 18), Our Lady of Fatima, Hartford (Sept. 30) and Westville Senior Center, New Haven (Oct. 2). All of the sessions are at 7 pm. For more information and directions, call Deacon Bill (he will attend the session in Hartford) at 633-8997. When did we see you hungry Lord?



FOOD BANK

During the past few months, we have seen a large increase in requests for assistance from the St. Christopher/South Congregational Food Bank. Non-perishable food items, such as those listed below, are desperately needed.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Soup | Baked Beans |
| Cereals | Beef Stew |
| Peanut Butter | Tuna |
| Canned Vegetables | Spaghetti Sauce |
| Pasta | |

Anyone who is interested in volunteering their time to provide assistance at our Food Bank is asked to call the parish office at 568-5240. Thank you for your support!

Choir News

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Rehearsals begin September 18 in the church.

ADULT CHOIR

(adults and high school students)

Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

(students in grades 2 - 8)

Thursday afternoons from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS

John 3:13-17

We find the origins of today's Mass back in the year 335 A.D. when, on September 14th of that year, a basilica built by the Emperor Constantine was consecrated. The site was that of Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher. Earlier, the Roman Emperor Hadrian had leveled the site, covering it with earth and building a temple to the Roman goddess Venus along with a statue to Jupiter on top of Calvary's site. A few years later, the Emperor Constantine encouraged Christianity to flourish in the Roman Empire. Constantine's mother, whom we know as St. Helen, subsequently searched for and found the presumed remnants of our Lord's Cross after excavating Hadrian's temple terrace to get down to the site of Calvary.

The lesson of the Cross for us is obvious. We must ask ourselves what burdens us, what weighs us down, and keeps us from spiritually moving forward? The Cross is not so heavy that we cannot carry it or move under its weight. Christ, after all, said "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..." If He is yoked with us then there is no burden too heavy that you and He cannot carry together. But if you are burdened by the weight of this world's glitter and gold, you will soon be immobilized by it. It will not only weigh you down, it will crush you.

Moreover your heart will be crushed by the struggle against others who want to take it all away from you. You will be heart-broken by the family feuds over who will get your fortune when you die. So-called friends, while managing your money for you, will betray you and strip you of your money. Think of all of the heavyweight boxers who have died in poverty because their managers and agents behind their backs stripped them of their fortunes. Rock stars, Hollywood stars, and professional athletes have suffered the same fate. So have corporate moguls. In all of their glitter and sumptuous life-styles they were crushed and buried. No Roman Emperor did this to them – their so-called friends and even family members did it to them.

(continued in the next column)

(Gospel Insights - continued)

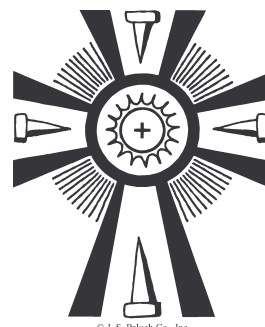
The Cross teaches us another lesson. Not only did Christ die in order that we might be freed from this world's bondage, His death also reveals to us the length and depth to which God has gone to give Himself to us. We've all heard the words of love songs: "I will do anything for you." Well, so it is with God -- He has done everything for us.

The remedy for suffering is to be self-giving. Are not people who are self-giving among the happiest people we know? Think of those you know who are happy and ask yourself if they are not self-giving. One of the greatest paradoxes of life is that the more we give, the more we get. Those who love the most are those who are loved the most. Self-giving can be buried underneath the temples of this world's false gods and goddesses.

The secular world's religion is one of getting, acquiring, buying, and filling ones life with more and more things, loading us down with gadgets, glitz and glitter. Competition is valued more than community. Being Number One, on top of the heap, and the top of this world, seduces us away from the sort of life that Jesus calls us to live. For those who lust for power, God is thought of more as All Powerful than He is as Self-Giving.

The Cross tells us that if we live life as Jesus did, if we live in His way, His truth and His life we will find a freedom that this world cannot give. For God has called us to "live in the glorious freedom of the sons and daughters of God", to live a life high exalted, a life above and beyond anything this world's gods and goddesses can ever hope to offer us.

– The Liturgy Committee





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

Kaylah Marie Rodriguez

THANK YOU AND HELP!

As you all likely know by now, St. Christopher Church is participating in 40 Days for Life; prayers will be offered for respecting life at all stages. During this 40 day campaign, parishes will be engaging in 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration, as well as, 12 hours of prayerful vigil at the abortion clinic in Hartford during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our day to pray for life is Tuesday, October 7. Thank you to all the wonderful people who have signed up so far, but we still have time slots unfilled: For the 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration that will be held in our church building, we need a prayer warrior for 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., Noon, 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., Midnight, 1:00 a.m., 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. For the 12 hours of prayer at the abortion clinic, we need prayer warriors for all time slots except 6:00 a.m. Thank you! For more information or to reserve a time slot, please call me at 568-5001 or e-mail me imgoose@msn.com. Shalom, Phil Gosselin

ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MASS

Come to the Respect Life Mass being celebrated on Sunday, October 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Archbishop Henry J. Mansell will offer the Mass celebrating the gift of life as we join all dioceses in the United States who will be commemorating Respect Life Month.

CUB SCOUT REGISTRATION

Cub Scout Pack 161 will be holding a registration for the coming year 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.



CONFIRMATION MEETINGS BEING HELD THIS WEEK

9th Grade Students & Parents

Tuesday - 9/16 - 7:00 p.m. - Church

There will be a Confirmation meeting on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the church for teens who will be starting the program this fall. Due to the changes that have been made to the Confirmation program, we are requiring attendance at the meeting by all 9th grade students and at least one parent. If your child has not yet registered for the Confirmation program, please call the Youth Ministry office as soon as possible at 895-8692.

10th Grade Students & Parents

Wednesday - 9/17 - 7:00 p.m. - Church Hall

There will be a Confirmation meeting on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall for teens who are returning to the program this fall. Many changes have been made to the Confirmation program, so we are requiring attendance at the meeting by all 10th grade students and at least one parent.

- The Youth Ministry Team



CLASSES BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY FOR GRADES K-8

Classes will begin next 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.



In a growing marriage the little things are the big things. It's not only marrying the right person. It's BEING the right partner. How are you doing in the little things of your marriage? For more marriage tips, visit www.ForYourMarriage.org.