

## St. Christopher Parish Welcomes Our Newly Confirmed

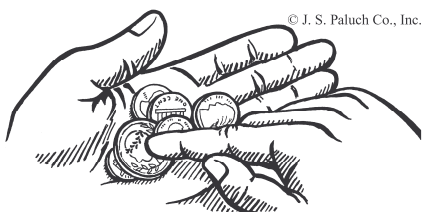
Raquel Bafumo  
Frank Bartold  
Caroline Brasa  
Michael Brochu  
Julissa Carrero  
Sara Claffey  
Kelsey Derohanian  
Kevin Derohanian  
Kelly Dionne  
Nick Fleming  
Jaclyn Flores  
Rachael Fogarty  
Joshua Frey  
Ryan Frey  
Joseph Garabedian  
Joycelyn Gionfriddo  
Molly Gosselin  
Christina Hannon  
Nicole Kaminski  
Alex Lackard  
Alycea Landry  
Zacharie Landry  
Danielle Miller  
Kara O'Leary  
Savannah Quental  
Mitchell Rataic  
Melody Rosas-Granda  
Kara Scherer  
Alison Silva  
Kelsey Sobestanovich  
Sara Szalay  
Evan Thorpe  
Heather Trinks  
Sara Truszkowski  
Jeff Veilleux  
Dave Veilleux  
Alex Williams  
Giuliana Zaccardelli

# Confirmation

Those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar  
on wings like eagles;  
they will run  
and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31





**Twenty-ninth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

**October 19, 2008**

*“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar,  
and to God what belongs to God.”*  
- Matthew 22:21

*Mass*  *for the  
Intentions* *Week*

Saturday, October 18– 4:30 p.m.  
**James F. O’Keefe** (*Wife & Family*)  
**James J. O’Keefe** (*Mother & Family*)

Sunday, October 19 - 8:00 a.m.  
**Anne & John Coffey**  
(*Daughter Johnet & Son John*)

Sunday, October 19 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Boleslawa Potkaj**  
(*Lorraine Wolk & Family*)

Monday, October 20 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Elvezia Labanauskas & Ferminia Tavoloni**  
(*Marcella Tavoloni Palumbo*)

Tuesday, October 21 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Bernice Tardiff**  
(*The Tardiff Family*)

Wednesday, October 22 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Paul E. Franklin** (*Wife Claire*)

Thursday, October 23 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Constance LaRosa**  
(*The Tardiff Family*)

Saturday, October 25– 4:30 p.m.  
**Leena V. Johnson**  
(*Daughter Carol & Family*)

Sunday, October 26 - 8:00 a.m.  
**James Migliore**  
(*Eugene & Anne Morin*)

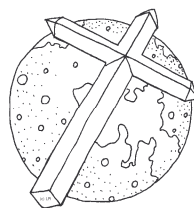
Sunday, October 26 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Gordon Gilles** (*Dave & Chickie Amberg*)

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (October 12): \$ 7,350  
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,360

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



**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

Today, World Mission Sunday, with Catholics of the world, we are called to offer, at this Eucharistic celebration, our prayers and our financial support, through the *Propagation of the Faith* (today’s second collection), to continue the mission of our Lord – to help the poor and suffering experience the healing love and peace of Jesus.

**ONE MORE REQUEST**

O Thou who has given us so much, mercifully grant us one thing more – a grateful heart.

– George Herbert



**SANCTUARY  
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week for  
**For God’s Blessings and Healing Presence for  
Jan Pecott and Rose Yergeau**  
(*Members of St. Christopher’s Prayer Tree*)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for  
**For Those Engaged in the  
Missionary Work of the Church**

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

### CT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

The first CT Catholic Men's Conference is set to be held on November 15, 2008 at the Convention Center in Hartford. Please see a copy of Archbishop Mansell's letter promoting this event in this weekend's bulletin. For more information, please contact our parishioner Bob Mazurkivich at 568-5030 or visit [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org).

### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The next gathering of the Adult Social Club will be Monday, November 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall. The later date is due to the hall being reserved for Election Day. More information about the November gathering will be provided in next weekend's bulletin.

### FLU CLINICS

The Health & Social Services Department of the town of East Hartford is sponsoring two flu clinics for residents of East Hartford who are 65 years of age and older (proof of residency and age is required). There is no cost to receive the flu vaccine. The clinics will be held at the South End Senior Center on 70 Canterbury Street on the following dates and times:

Tuesday ~ November 4: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Friday ~ November 14: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.\*

\* Based upon availability of vaccine

For more information, please call the Department of Health & Social Services at 569-5659 or 291-7324.

### ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL'S 2nd ANNUAL ONLINE AUCTION Sept. 29 thru Oct. 26

[www.saintchrisauction.cmarket.com](http://www.saintchrisauction.cmarket.com)

Get a head start on Christmas shopping and help our parish school at the same time! Please take a moment to browse through the above website and bid on some great items! All funds raised in our 2nd Annual Online Auction will be used for the purchase of new classroom desks for our students. Thank you for your support and happy bidding!

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The next monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m. All are invited!



### POWER WITHIN

We are to give praise and pay tribute to God as the one and only source of true power in our lives. When we do, our ordinary power struggles can more easily be resolved. Like the Thessalonians, we discover the power within ourselves. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live in faith, hope, and love. We no longer feel we must dominate others. We are compelled neither to resist those who have power over us nor always to give in to them. We stop fearing our own power. God's power within us and over all human powers gives us confidence, courage, and humility in every power struggle we may encounter.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### St. Christopher Council Forming

The Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney's wish was to have a council in every parish. We seek to broaden the ranks of the Order to provide still greater service to the Church, by forming a new council to serve this parish. A man's time investment is as little as 24 hours per year. Want to learn more? Simply leave your name and number on the card available at the poster on the church bulletin boards located at the exits. You will be notified of an information meeting in the near future.

### OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULED

Xavier High School, a Catholic college preparatory school for young men in Middletown, will hold its annual Open House for all interested 8th grade young men and their parents on Sunday, October 26 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. to tour the school and meet with Xavier faculty, staff and students to learn about all that Xavier has to offer.

Xavier's sister school, Mercy High School, will hold their annual Open House for all interested 8th grade young women and their parents on Sunday, November 2 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm.

## GOSPEL INSIGHTS

### Matthew 22:15-21

Every three years we are presented with today's gospel, one that interests many of us because it deals with the question of separation between Church and State.

The first thing we should note is that the question put to Jesus was a tricky lawyer's question. It was not a question that sought enlightenment; it was not put to Jesus in order to learn from Him. No. It was put to Jesus to trap Him. Was He to be seen as an insurrectionist revolutionary and an enemy of the government, or was He to be seen as a collaborator with the hated Roman authorities who so brutalized the Jewish people?

The Pharisees, the religious fundamentalists of the day, hated the tax. The Herodians, those Jews who supported the Roman puppet King Herod, supported the tax. Both groups hated each other. But here we find them joined together in a combined effort to trap Jesus, to discredit Him, and thus do away with Him, each having their own reasons.

With a canny response Jesus discredits them both. Both the Pharisees and the Herodians were Jews. Both groups, as Jews, rejected graven images as violations of the First Commandment. No Jew of any stripe would countenance the idea that idols were to be worshipped. Statues and images were totally forbidden as false, man-made gods.

Here we find Jesus in his response to their tricky question asking them for a coin, which they gave Him. Note that both they and Jesus were in the temple area when this incident took place. Note, too, that the Roman coin had carved upon it the image of the infamous Tiberius Caesar, the one who had so desecrated their Jewish Temple. The coin also bore the inscription: "Tiberius Caesar – Son of the Divine Augustus". On the other side it designated him as "Pontifex Maximus", supreme priest. For Jews, this was blasphemous idolatry.

The fact that they had carried that coin with them into the Temple precincts tells us that they thereby discredited themselves. No good Jew would be caught with such a coin on the Temple's grounds.

(continued in the next column)

## (Gospel Insights - continued)

Furthermore, we need to realize that Jesus' response was directed at the precise issue of whether or not the Roman taxes should be paid. Jesus said nothing about the autonomy of Caesar in his secular role. Nor was Jesus making any statement at all about separating religion from society.

So these questions remain: What is Caesar's, and what is God's? Is there anything at all that is not God's – is there anything at all in human activity that does not stand under God's judgment? Are we, as modern day Americans, exempting anything from God's purview?

Separation of church and state has served us well here in the United States. We have a democracy, not a theocracy, and that has served us well. We do not have a state religion; we have freedom of religion. We are free to practice our religious beliefs as we choose.

But where is it written that freedom of religion means freedom **from** religion? Are people of faith obliged not to express their beliefs and put them into practice in the public domain? We must remember that while rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's we must still render to God what is God's.

Does God have expectations of us with regard to our civic order? Are our public policies to be exercised freed from God's norms and apart from God's will? What is to be kept from God's purview?

– The Liturgy Committee



 *In Loving Memory*

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS**

Our parish will celebrate the memory of those who have died since last November during our 10:30 Mass on Sunday, November 2. A candlelight service within our Eucharistic Liturgy will commemorate each of the deceased.

In preparation for this celebration, we invite parishioners who have lost a family member this past year, even though they may not have been buried from St. Christopher, to put a photo of your loved one with a name card on our Memory Board in the church hall.

– Toni Amberg, Bereavement Coordinator

**FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP**

Mary Ellen O’Driscoll, former pastoral associate for St. Bridget’s, will speak on Faithful Citizenship and Immigration on Monday, October 20. Ms. O’Driscoll’s talk will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Bridget School’s cafeteria at 80 Main Street in Manchester. For more information, please contact John Ryan at 643-2403.

**CONNECTICUT RIGHT TO LIFE’S  
34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The Connecticut Right to Life Corp. is holding its 34<sup>th</sup> annual convention on Saturday, November 1 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. The banquet speaker is Vicki Thorn, the foundress of Project Rachel, a post abortion ministry. Mary Ann Kuharski, president of PROLIFE Across America, the Billboard People and Teresa S. Collette, Esq., an expert concerning parental involvement laws regarding abortion, will also speak. There will be a 12:15 Mass followed by the program. The cost, which includes dinner, is \$40 for adults, \$70 for married couples and \$22 for students. To register, call Janet at 203-878-4097.

**2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS**

We are pleased to announce that our Youth Ministry will again be offering Entertainment Books for sale. We will let you know as soon as they are available. Please save your sale for us!

**LYMAN ORCHARD  
PIE SALE!**

*Last call for Orders!!*

*Please see our  
school volunteers  
at the TCP table after all  
Masses this weekend.*



Our parish school is selling pies and cookie dough from Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, CT. The pies will arrive frozen, ready to be baked (except for pumpkin, coconut and pecan which are pre-baked and simply need to be thawed). Orders will be available for pick up on Wednesday, November 19 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the church hall (just in time for the holidays!!). Please stop by the TCP table after Mass. Your order will not only help our school, but will be very delicious, too! Any questions, please call Sarah Poirier at 568-0632. Thank you for your support!

**ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL  
45<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DANCE  
Saturday ~ November 22, 2008  
7:30 p.m. - Midnight**

St. Christopher School is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2008-2009 school year. One of the first events marking this occasion is a dance taking place in our school’s gym. It’s a casual, adults-only event where you can kick off your shoes and dance the night away. There will be a DJ playing the songs we remember, a 50-50 raffle and a chance to laugh about the good ’ole days. It’s BYOB and set-ups will be provided. Just bring an hors d’oeuvre or dessert you can share. The tickets are \$15 per person/\$25 per couple if you buy before November 1 and \$20 per person/\$30 per couple after the 1st. If you are interested in attending, there are flyers at the church entrances or you can call Karen Santacross at 569-4975. We hope to see many of our friends at this fun event!

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE  
by Bud Ozar**

Jesus was exasperated when he scolded: "Why do you put me to the test?" It is natural for children to test parents; this is how they learn and how we teach limits, rules and values. Be like Jesus in today's gospel; he was firm, honest and direct.