

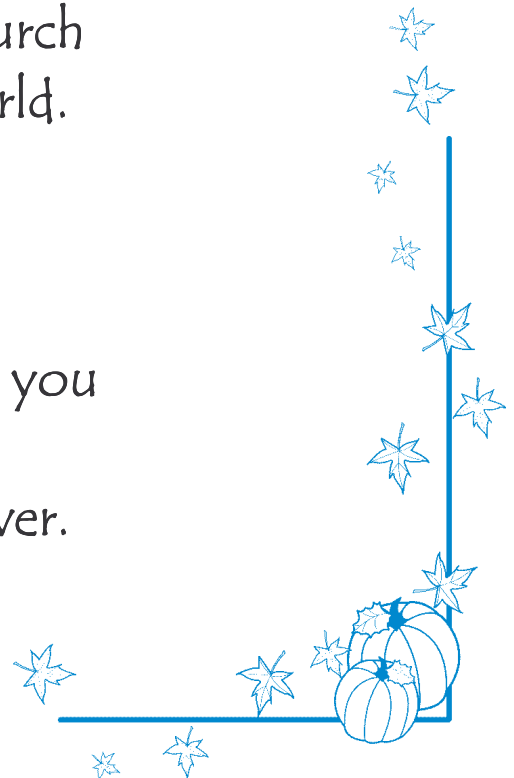
STEWARDSHIP PRAYER



O God, our loving Creator and Giver
of all our good gifts,
bless our parish,
strengthen our faith
and grant us the spirit
of Christian Stewardship
so that we may
give generously
of our
time, talent and treasure
to the spreading of your
kingdom here in our church
and throughout the world.

This we ask
through Jesus Christ,
your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Time, Talent and Treasure





**Our Lord
Jesus Christ
the King**

November 23, 2008

*“I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink.”*

– Matthew 25:35

*Mass for the
Intentions Week*

Saturday, November 22 – 4:30 p.m.
Henry Therrien (Family)

Sunday, November 23 - 8:00 a.m.
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Cyr
(Lucien & Joan Lavertu)

Sunday, November 23 - 10:30 a.m.
**In Celebration of Their
25th Wedding Anniversary
Edward J. & Beverly Miller, Jr.**

Monday, November 24 – 7:30 a.m.
**Fathers Howard Nash, Thomas Culotta,
Joseph Krukowski and Eric Blind**

Tuesday, November 25 – 7:30 a.m.
Dick Whalen
(Rose Yergeau)

Wednesday, November 26 – 7:30 a.m.
Elizabeth Joseph

Thursday, November 27 – 9:00 a.m.
Parish Mass of Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 29 – 4:30 p.m.
Paul Crowley - 3rd Anniversary
(Wife Irene)

Sunday, November 30 - 8:00 a.m.
Steven R. Zocco - 7th Anniversary
(Mom & Family)

Sunday, November 30 - 10:30 a.m.
Ann & Donald Sheldon
(Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (November 16): \$ 6,586
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,070

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I'm thankful for your continuing support of our parish! As you might have noticed, due to the economy, our income is down somewhat.

Your end of the year gifts and bequests to the parish will be especially helpful and appreciated.

with Love,

Fr. Curran

**THANKSGIVING DAY
Parish Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

The parish Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. Come and join us as we give thanks for all of the Lord's blessings to us.



Please note: There will be no daily Mass offered on Friday, November 28.



**SANCTUARY
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
John & Agnes Shannon**
(The Shannon & Lawson Families)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Helen Mintel**
(Bev Connors & Family)

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

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the East Hartford Interfaith Ministries will be held Sunday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 1120 Silver Lane, East Hartford. Fr. Curran invites you to join him and fellow St. Christopher parishioners at this service.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

We invite you to pray for a loved one in a special way during this traditional month of remembrance by writing your loved one's name in the Book of Remembrance. The Book is located in the front of the church next to the Easter candle.



Please pray for:

Grace Lobdell

Helen Mintel

(Mother of Ernie & Toni Mintel)

Harriet Reynolds

(Mother of Richard & Cathy Reynolds)
(Sister of Beverly Connors)

Bertha Skowronski

(Mother of Debi & Steven Kearns)

CHRIST, KING OF ALL

On this, the final Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King. By concluding the year with this feast we are proclaiming our faith that Jesus Christ is the one and only king over all seasons, all peoples, and all of creation.

At the end of time as we know it, Christ's work of restoring all things to unity and harmony with their Creator God will be completed. This Sunday, when we claim Christ as both our Shepherd and our King, we recognize our own calling to participate in Christ's saving work by caring for those whom Jesus calls "the least ones" (Matthew 25:45).



**ADVENT
WREATH LIGHTING**

We are looking for individuals and families who would be interested in coming forth at the beginning of Mass to light the candles of our Advent Wreath. Individuals and families are invited to sign-up for one of the weekend Masses beginning next weekend, November 29/30. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 568-5240.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, Nov. 30 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will be held in the church hall after Mass. Donations of food items are always appreciated. All are invited!

CREDO SINGLES EVENT!

Advent Evening of Reflection and Prayer

Credo Catholic Singles will hold their Annual Advent Evening of Reflection and Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13 here at St. Christopher Church. Single persons of all ages are invited to attend this service. Bring a friend or two and let your hearts and souls be filled with the peace of our Lord. Following the service, we will gather in the church hall for fellowship and Christmas carols. Light snacks, finger foods, desserts with coffee, tea, soda, eggnog and wine will be served at a cost of \$10 per person. In the spirit of the season, Credo Catholic Singles will also be accepting donations for Birthright. For more information about this event or about Credo Catholic Singles, please visit www.credocath.com or you can call Harriet at 203-248-3184 or Steve at 203-281-3801.

*O Lord that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.*

-William Shakespeare

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tickets can now be purchased for our annual Christmas Party to be held on Monday, Dec. 1 at 12:00 noon in the church hall. The luncheon will be catered by Krause Caterers and will include roast pork, chicken Marsala, sweet potato casserole, penne pasta w/marinara sauce, fresh vegetables, salad, rolls and butter, and apple crisp. Tickets for members are \$13.00 per person and \$23.60 per person for non-members. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door, so you must purchase your tickets in advance, but no later than Nov. 24. If you have any questions, please leave a message for Joe Martocci at 568-5124.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Christopher Council Forming

Time is one of the most valuable commodities we have in life. The amount of leisure and free time for the average person has decreased in recent years. Many outside influences are vying for the precious time that we have. If you believe in the importance of investing your time in friendship, the Church, and helping others, the Knights of Columbus is for you. Membership requires as little as 24 hours a year to participate. Help us bring a new council to life at St. Christopher. For further information please contact Bob Falkevitz at 568-5452.

HOMEFRONT HELP!

HomeFront is indeed a wonderful project of neighbor helping neighbor. It is a great opportunity to help make a home safe, warm and dry for a member of our community that is physically and/or financially unable to. I received a phone call the other night from a parishioner who renewed my hope that we can resurrect HomeFront here at St. Christopher Parish. This fine gentleman is willing to be part of our leadership team. If we can get one more tradesperson to step forward to serve as a co-House Captain, we will have jumped the biggest hurdle to bring the HomeFront ministry back to our parish! For more information or to volunteer, please call me, Phil Gosselin, at 568-5001.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS *Christ the King – Matthew 25:31-46*

Matthew has been building dramatically to this point. We have heard six parables about living responsibly so that we will be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. The words that we hear today are the last words of Jesus' last discourse. These words do not appear in the other three Gospels – they are unique to Matthew.

Today, we do not hear another parable. Parables begin with familiar themes of this world – it is the ending or the meaning that appears from the other world. Today's pictures arrive from the "other world" – the next world – the one that counts. It begins with Jesus on his heavenly throne with his legions of angels around him and then moves on to talk about the most ordinary acts of kindness and charity in this world.

As much as the Gospels talk about the kingdom of God and the second coming of Jesus Christ, today's Gospel passage is really the only place we find any details about the Last Judgment. It is somewhat surprising that the major criterion is not confession of faith in Jesus. Nothing is said of grace or justification or the forgiveness of sins. What really counts is whether one has acted with loving care for needy people. Doing good deeds is not "extra credit" on top of faith. Instead, doing good deeds, or failing to do them, constitute the very criterion on which we are to be judged. In a sense, the final judgment is based on a confession of faith in Christ – specifically a confession of faith that Christ is in all of our bothers and sisters – even the least of them.

Let us think about the times that we help others. Are we really conscious of the fact that we are helping? If so, maybe that indicates that we need to bring Jesus more fully into our lives. If we live and breathe Jesus and His Good News, then we live and breathe the kingdom of God. In the kingdom of God, there is no hunger because we feed each other. In the kingdom of God, there is no thirst because we are quenched by the living water. There is no homelessness because we are all at home with our Father.

– The Liturgy Committee

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Of the 37 million people considered to be living below the poverty line, 45% work full time but still do not make enough money to feed their families, keep roofs over their heads and pay for health care. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) supports community based projects - founded and managed by the poor themselves - that work toward building a better and more just community where poverty does not exist. You can make a difference. Please donate prayerfully and generously in today's CCHD collection.

RETREAT FORWARD!

Many of the men of our parish have been thinking about making this great men's retreat; I think we all know inside we need this time at the Holy Family Retreat Center to refresh ourselves. JUST DO IT! Fill out the enrollment form and mail it in. Please don't let the cost of the retreat offering keep you from attending; the important thing is that you attend...you need only pay what you can. The retreat will be January 9 - 11, 2009. Reservation forms can be found on the Church bulletin boards. If you have any questions about the retreat, please call Phil Gosselin at 568-5001.



The Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford offers many wonderful programs throughout the year - Day and Evening Retreats, Weekend Retreats, Youth Retreats to name a few. For more information about the programs available, please visit www.holyfamilyretreat.org or call their office at 521-0440.

DID YOU KNOW.....that each week our sanctuary, altar linens and sacred vessels are cleaned and polished by a team of dedicated volunteers: Rita Schaefer, Beverly Connors, Sally Labieniec, Helen Little and Barb Wilmes. We offer our appreciation to them, and we encourage you to take time to thank them for all they do for our parish.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM... BUY AN ENTERTAINMENT BOOK!



Youth Ministry is selling Entertainment Books again this year. In the present economy, who couldn't use an extra coupon to save a dollar or even twenty?! When an entree is free, dinner out is more manageable! Need a gift for that hard to shop for person...why not something practical and fun like an Entertainment book?!

BLOOD DRIVE



The 10th Annual Blood Drive in memory of Bryan Judd and Paul Potkaj will be held on **Friday, December 5, from 1:45 – 6:30 p.m.** in our Church Hall. This blood drive is being sponsored by the teens of our parish who are keeping a promise made ten years ago that Bryan and Paul will not be forgotten – the best way to remember their lives is to celebrate the gift of life by giving blood.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to make an appointment. Thank you in advance for participating in this life-saving endeavor.

THANK YOU!!!

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Margaret Bennett and her family for preparing the lovely display of harvest decorations that have beautified our church during this Autumn season. We also offer our thanks and appreciation to John Leonard who graciously donated and cared for the magnificent mums at the front of our church.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewardship is opening our hearts, schedules and hands to others. It means being available and willing to listen and give our time and our love to our neighbors and fellow parishioners. In doing this, we serve Christ.