

*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

E-mail: [religioused@stchris-eh.org](mailto:religioused@stchris-eh.org)

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Sarah Poirier, Martha Gaudreau and Kevin Hadyka – 895-8692

E-mail: [youthministry@stchris-eh.org](mailto:youthministry@stchris-eh.org)

## **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**

Corrinne Lomazzo – 214-3500

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

Bridget Cooke – 202-3692

## **SCHOOL'S WEBSITE**

[www.saintchristophersschool.org](http://www.saintchristophersschool.org)

## **PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT**

Dianne Rumsey

## **ROSARY and MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Chapel

## **BAPTISMS / PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM**

By app't. with Deacon Bill Gilles-633-8997

## **MARRIAGES**

Please contact Parish Priest at least six months in advance at 568-5240

## **PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

(860) 286-7670 / [vocationshartford.org](http://vocationshartford.org)

## **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  
[bcrc2@hotmail.com](mailto:bcrc2@hotmail.com)

## **COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK**

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

## **COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE**

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



**First Sunday  
of  
Advent  
November 30, 2008**

*“Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when the time will come.”*  
– Mark 13:33

*Mass for the  
Intentions for the  
Week*

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)**

Monday, December 1 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Claire Newhouse**  
*(Her Friends - the “Walkers”)*

Tuesday, December 2 – 7:30 a.m.  
**John Gwozdz**

Wednesday, December 3 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Elizabeth Barno (Grandchildren)**

Thursday, December 4 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Bill McCarthy (Marion Sullivan)**

Saturday, December 6 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Bill McCarthy - 6th Anniversary**  
*(Wife Kay)*

Sunday, December 7 - 8:00 a.m.  
**John Stebbins (Family)**

Sunday, December 7 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Antonio & Filomena Freitas**  
**All Deceased Members of the Freitas Family**  
*(Evangelina Sousa)*  
**Antonio & Maria Jacinta Sousa**  
**All Deceased Members of the Sousa Family**  
*(Jose M. Sousa)*

**OUR TITHING PARISH**

Weekly Collection (November 23): \$ 7,215  
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 5,954

As we approach Christmas, I’m thankful for your continuing support of our parish!

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

with Love,  
Fr. Curran

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

In addition to supporting our parish school, St. Christopher parish supports East Catholic High School. Our contribution to East Catholic this year totaled \$6,600. We are able to make this payment through your support.

– Fr. Curran

*Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush,  
rather than a last-minute rush.*

– Anonymous



**SANCTUARY  
LAMPS**



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of  
Ernest St. Arnauld  
In Remembrance of His Birthday**  
*(Sister)*

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**Margaret Bennett and Her Family**

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

### HEARTS AND HANDS

On November 28, D'Esopo Funeral Chapel delivered their gift of the beautiful Christmas tree that is in the sanctuary of the church. On each colored paper heart and hand that decorates the tree, there is a suggested gift item to benefit this year's recipients – the Barnard Group (young men assisted by DCF), Birthright of East Hartford, Hartford Catholic Worker House and the mothers and babies at Synergy High School.

**Please note:** Because the Catholic Worker House has its Christmas party on December 13, the gifts marked CWH should be returned unwrapped and placed under the tree by next weekend, Dec. 6/7. The remainder of the items should be returned unwrapped by Dec. 13/14.

We thank the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel for their generosity in purchasing and setting up the tree for our Christmas project. Their continued support is most meaningful to this project. We also thank you, our parishioners, for your continued support of our Hearts and Hands project. God bless us all!!

### ADVENT MEET & GREET

#### *Getting to Know You*

During the four weeks of Advent, Fr. Curran will invite us to get to know each other better. At the beginning of Mass we will be invited to introduce ourselves to those we do not know by name, during our Advent season.

### CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD)

Thank you! The national and diocesan offices of the CCHD wish to thank you for your generosity in this year's collection which totaled \$1,731. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers living below the poverty line and for the community groups funded by CCHD that work to end the cycle of poverty.

### SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY MASS

Next weekend we will welcome Archbishop Henry J. Mansell to our parish. Archbishop Mansell will celebrate our 10:30 a.m. Mass in honor of our parish school's 45th anniversary. All are invited!

### 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 an available Mass during the Advent season. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 568-5240.



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

**Daniel Lawson Glezen**

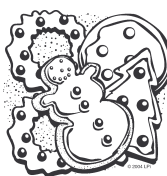
**Augustine Afeamefuna Okonkwo**

### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

Our annual Christmas Party is being held this Monday, December 1 at 12:00 noon in the church hall. This event is open to ticket holders only. Tickets will not be available at the door.

#### Reminders:

- ◆ Members who are able to are asked to park in the lot behind the church.
- ◆ Members are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the town's Food Bank. Thank you!!



### CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Please share your Christmas Cookies with our guests at East Hartford's Friendship Center Soup Kitchen. Cookies may be placed on the table in the church hall on Saturday, December 13 or Sunday, December 14. Please do not leave them under the tree. We would appreciate volunteers to come to St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Main St. and Burnside Ave. on Monday, December 17, at 3:00 p.m. to help fill the bags. This is a great service opportunity for our Confirmation students! If you have any questions, please call Helen Little at 568-3080.

### ADVENT - A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Advent is the season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas. It is a time to slow down and reflect in this busy season as we prepare for Christ to come in our hearts and in our world. Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. We encourage you to take time daily to relax, meditate or pray. Inserted into the bulletin this weekend are a couple of items we hope will help you during this Advent season.

We have also made available for you a booklet entitled Living in Hope, daily Advent reflections from the writings of Henri Nouwen. These booklets can be found at the entrances to the church. You are invited to take one home with you.

### EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

#### Gift Card Program

The support of this program by our parishioners has been wonderful, and we are most grateful to you!! Gift cards are available for purchase every weekend after every Mass. Cards are available for hundreds of major retailers and restaurants, and they make perfect Christmas gifts. Please see our school volunteers after Mass for more information or call Tracy at 568-0464. Thank you!!

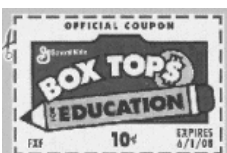
#### Labels for Education™

This program is new to our parish school and it's a great way for our school to get FREE merchandise. To meet our goals, we need to collect 4,000 points. Participating in the program is easy – simply save proofs of purchase (the UPC and logo) from participating Campbell products and place them in the weekly offering baskets. Thank you!!



#### Box Tops for Education

Our school can earn up to \$20,000 per year from the Box Tops you clip! Please look for products with the official coupon, clip and place in the weekly offering basket. Please Note: The official coupon is the only part of the packaging that is accepted. Thank you!!



### ADVENT AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian.

First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us.

When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

## BLOOD DRIVE



The 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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](http://www.credocath.com) or you can call Harriet at 203-248-3184 or Steve at 203-281-3801.

## 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.

## 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?! Books are on sale thru the middle of December. Buy them now in the Parish Office or by e-mailing us at [youthministry@stchris-eh.org](mailto:youthministry@stchris-eh.org). Thanks in advance for your support!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### **St. Christopher Council Invitation**

This new council will complement many of the ministries now in existence in our parish. We invite all former members and non-member men to join this council and become part of "the strong, right-arm of the Church." Membership requires as little as 24 hours a year to participate. Help us bring a new council to life at St. Christopher. **An initiation ceremony is planned for Tuesday, December 2, and there is still time to signup if you act immediately.** Please contact Bob Falkevitz at 860-558-1502 for an application.

## 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.