



*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

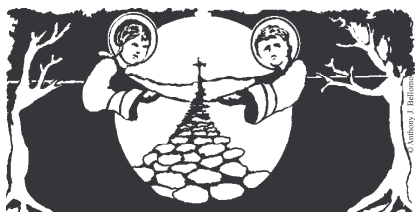
[brcr2@hotmail.com](mailto:brcr2@hotmail.com)

## **COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK**

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

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

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



Second Sunday  
of  
Advent  
December 7, 2008

“Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill shall be made low.”  
– Isaiah 40:4

Mass  for the  
Intentions  Week

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  
(Evangalina Sousa)  
Antonio & Maria Jacinta Sousa  
All Deceased Members of the Sousa Family  
(Jose M. Sousa)

Monday, December 8 – 7:30 a.m.  
Charles George Verotsky - 10th Anniversary  
and Mary Rogosky Verotzsky  
(Daughter Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Monday, December 8 - 5:30 p.m.  
Margaret H.L. Lafleur - 18th Anniversary  
(Daughter Gloria Jean)

Tuesday, December 9 – 7:30 a.m.  
Antoinette Corona - 15th Anniversary  
and Bernard Corona (Daughters)

Wednesday, December 10 – 7:30 a.m.  
Paul E. Franklin (Wife Claire)

Thursday, December 11 – 7:30 a.m.  
Fr. John Edwards

Saturday, December 13 – 4:30 p.m.  
Stanley Corbin (Family)

Sunday, December 14 - 8:00 a.m.  
Carolyn Brand (Madeleine Bradstreet)

Sunday, December 14 - 10:30 a.m.  
Jeannine Belliveau (Norman & Edith Daigle)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (November 30): \$ 6,932  
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 7,787

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Monday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day  
of Obligation. Masses on Monday, December 8, will  
be celebrated at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Please pray for:  
Regina Lysik  
Lucille Serruto



SANCTUARY  
LAMPS



The candle in the church burns this week

In Loving Memory of  
Felicia Chesery - 11th Anniversary  
(Daughter Madeline & Santo Cassarino)

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.

### WELCOME, ARCHBISHOP MANSELL!

We extend a warm welcome to Archbishop Mansell who is with us this weekend to celebrate our 10:30 a.m. Mass in observance of our parish school's 45th anniversary. Archbishop Mansell's presence adds greatly to the joy and pride we experience on this special occasion. We express our sincere appreciation to Archbishop Mansell and offer our prayers for God's blessing on him and his ministry.

### VISITS/COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

I am happy to announce that long-time parishioner Barbara Casey will be helping to coordinate our ministry to those in our parish who are no longer able to worship with us on Sunday. If you know of a family member or friend who would like a visit or who is sick and in need of the Sacraments, please call Barbara at 568-4638. I am thankful to Barbara and to all our Eucharistic Ministers who help to provide such important and needed pastoral care to our sick and homebound parishioners.

– Fr. Curran

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

"We are a small community with a median age of nearly 80. During the past year we found it necessary to engage home health aides. The care has been wonderful but the costs staggering. We deeply appreciate your assistance," writes a Michigan prioress for benefits made possible by your donation to the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please give generously to the second collection next weekend, December 13/14. For more information about this appeal, please see the insert in this weekend's bulletin.

### CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD)

Additional donations were received this past week, bringing the total amount collected to \$3,113 (including one family's donation of \$1,200). 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.

### 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 needed for the 4:30 Vigil on December 13 and 20 and for the 8:00 a.m. Mass on December 14 and 21. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 568-5240.

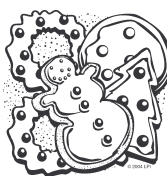


### HEARTS AND HANDS

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 this 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 donating 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!!



### 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.

**FOOD BANK**

On Thursday, November 30, the food boxes for Thanksgiving were packed with the help of the following people:

Jack & Bernie Burnat	Phil Gravel
Melissa Bush	Sue Kleva
Dick & Ellie Domler	Charlotte Turner

On Sunday, November 23, with the help of the following people, we completed the boxes by adding the perishable items – bread, carrots, eggs, margarine, milk, onions, pears and turkeys.

Dick & Ellie Domler	Jonathan Hayes
Alex Flynn	Ashley Leonard
Corinne Freeman	Helen Little
Scott & Madelyn Gay	Denise Rioux
Roch & Jeanine Girard	Howard Wilmes

With the help of the following people we delivered food boxes to 62 families comprised of 100 adults and 93 children. We supplied enough food for approximately 1,930 meals. The drivers for delivery were:

Sam Boccaccio	Kathy & Ashley Leonard
Dick & Hazel Brimley	Helen Little
Alex Flynn	Eddie Lackard
Corinne Freeman	Harold Martin & Ken
Scott & Madelyn Gay	Mac McCarthy
Roch & Jeanine Girard	Barbara McNamara
Steve & Sue Kleva	Penny Necca
Lucien & Joan Lavertu	Rita Schaefer &
Michelle Lawrence	Walter Forrest
Ray LeBrun	Debbie Wall
John & Marge Leonard	

Thanks to all who helped by supplying food, monetary donations, packing and/or delivering.

God bless you all, Kay McNamara

**FOOD BANK**

Due to your overwhelming generosity of food items and monetary donations made during the month of November, our Food Bank is in a great position to fill the Christmas boxes that will be provided to our neighbors in need. We are most grateful to everyone for such an outpouring of support. God bless you!

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY**

The next monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. All are invited! (Please note: Hospitality will not be held after this month’s liturgy; rather, we invite you to attend Breakfast w/Santa - see article below for all the details.)



**BREAKFAST W/SANTA & MRS. CLAUS**

Our parish school is hosting Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus next Sunday, December 14 in the school gym. There are two serving times: 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Pancakes, bacon, sausage, muffins, coffee and other assorted breakfast items will be served. Please bring juice to share. There will be fun activities for the kids and pictures with Santa will be available for a nominal fee. Adults and children in grades 5 and above are \$5.00; children in grades 4 and under are \$3.00. Family total not to exceed \$20. Reservations are encouraged, but tickets will be available at the door. To make your reservation or to get more information, please call Bridget at 202-3692.

**EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT  
OUR PARISH SCHOOL**

**Gift Card Program**

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!!

**Funding Factory Recycling**

Students of our parish school have been earning money by participating in the Funding Factory Recycling Program. We collect empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones from the community and send them to the Funding Factory in exchange for cash. All proceeds are used to support our technology program. Please help us by donating your used cartridges and cell phones. A blue collection bin has been placed in the church wing for your convenience. Thank you for your support!

### **CREDO SINGLES EVENT!**

#### ***Advent Evening of Reflection and Prayer***

**Saturday ~ December 13**

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.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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

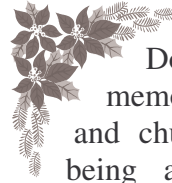
Congratulations to the following new members:

Nicholas Duva	Ernest Mintel
Keith Garabedian	James Sobestanovich

More members are needed before the council is official. Membership requires as little as 24 hours a year to participate. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining this month. A special initiation ceremony is being planned for this month at the church. For more information, call Bob Falkevitz, DD at 568-5452.

### **SWING A HAMMER FOR JESUS!**

HomeFront is a one day project of neighbor helping neighbor. It will be held on a Saturday in May 2009. 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. We need one more tradesperson to step forward to join our leadership team. Please, if you are a carpenter, a roofer, an electrician, a plumber, etc., and would like to help us create this little miracle, please give me a call. Thank you! For more information or to volunteer, please call me, Phil Gosselin, at 568-5001.



### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Donations for Christmas flowers made in memory of loved ones to decorate our altar and church in this beautiful season are now being accepted. For your convenience, a donation envelope has been included with your weekly envelopes for December. Please **PRINT** the name(s) on your envelope and place it in the collection basket or send it to the rectory by **December 14**. You may also print the name(s) on a piece of paper and put in an envelope marked "Flower Fund." Thank you.

### **SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM...**

***Entertainment Books will be  
available at the Pancake Breakfast!!***

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!

### **WHAT IS THE MEN'S RETREAT?**

I want to share some of the events you will experience at the Men's Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center. The weekend experience, while it is a peaceful and reflective time, is also energizing and stimulating. Each day starts out with a short prayer session and then we all meander down to the cafeteria for a great breakfast; both spirit and stomach are fed. The remainder of the day is a combination of excellent workshops on various topics, inspirational talks, attending Mass, free time to read, listen to music or walk the beautiful grounds and of course, more good food. The workshops always cover topics that are timely and relevant. Lastly, enough cannot be said about the Retreat Team; they are funny, inspirational and thoughtful. I would encourage all the men of our parish to consider going this year, January 9-11, 2009. I assure you, you'll be glad you did. Registration forms can be found on the bulletin boards. If you have any questions, please call Phil Gosselin at 568-5001.