



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

E-mail: religioused@stchris-eh.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

E-mail: 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

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

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Toni Amberg – 568-9069

COORDINATOR OF EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Cathy Reynolds – 214-9287

COORDINATOR OF HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Barbara Casey – 568-4638

COORDINATOR OF PRAYER TREE and TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388
bcrc2@hotmail.com

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



**Third Sunday
of
Advent**

December 14, 2008

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Mass Intentions for the Week

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)

Monday, December 15 – 7:30 a.m.

Claire Newhouse
*(Members of St. Christopher’s
Adult Social Club)*

Tuesday, December 16 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul Franklin *(Wife Claire)*

Wednesday, December 17 – 7:30 a.m.

Mark Tardiff *(Family)*

Thursday, December 18 – 7:30 a.m.

Fr. John Edwards

Saturday, December 20 – 4:30 p.m.

Patrick J. & Gertrude O. Spicci
(Daughters Patricia & Mary and Family)

Sunday, December 21 – 8:00 a.m.

Deceased Members of the Lavertu Family
(Lucien & Joan Lavertu)

Sunday, December 21 – 10:30 a.m.

Gene Tirinzone
(Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (December 7): \$ 7,274
Same Sunday in 2007: \$ 8,244

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

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

This weekend the second collection will be for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. More than 96 percent of your donations are used for the retirement needs of elderly Religious. Women and men Religious thank you for each action you take on behalf of others and pray for your spiritual peace and simplicity of heart.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

There will be a penance service at St. Paul’s in Glastonbury this Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Feast of Christmas.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The lamps beside our tabernacles remind us of the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.



The candle in the church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Thomas T. and John J. McNamara
In Remembrance of Their Birthdays**
(Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**In Thanksgiving for the
45th Anniversary of our Parish School**

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

THANK YOU!

To the Parishioners of St. Christopher Church,

I can't thank you enough for the support you have given St. Christopher School over the forty-five years of its existence. This community has been so kind and generous to the children. Last Sunday, we were honored to have Archbishop Henry J. Mansell celebrate our 45th Anniversary Mass. Once again, the St. Chris community was there providing us support through their presence, prayer and wonderful offerings of food. Thank you for all that you have done and may you have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Sincerely,

*Kathleen E. Madej
Principal
St. Christopher School*

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Gift cards are available from our parish school volunteers every weekend after every Mass in the church hall. Gifts cards are available for hundreds of major retailers and restaurants and make perfect Christmas gifts. Purchasing these gift cards is a great way to take care of the people of your Christmas list while at the same time supporting our parish school. If you have any questions, you may call Tracy at 568-0464. Thank you!!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PRAYER TREE

We extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our prayer tree: Frank McMahon, Jean Nowik and Sharon Walker. Our prayer tree is always prepared to receive your prayer requests. All requests are handled in a confidential manner and you need to tell us only what you are comfortable with sharing. To request prayers, please contact Bev Connors at 432-1530 or at bcrc2@hotmail.com.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

A parent is meant to be a "witness to the light." To be effective, light must be in front of our children, not behind them. A parent must lead, not follow to "make straight the path of the Lord" for their children.

OUR BELOVED DECEASED

You will find pictures and photos of our loved ones, parishioners and friends who have died during the past year displayed in the church wing. We thank Toni Amberg for this display and for her ministry with our bereaved.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Curran

ARE THERE ANY WHO ARE SICK AMONG YOU?

If someone you know is hospitalized, recovering at home or homebound and would like a visit from a member of our pastoral team, please call Barbara Casey at 568-4638.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Volunteers are invited to come to St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Main St. and Burnside Ave. this Monday, December 15, at 3:00 p.m. to help fill the bags with Christmas cookies. This is a great service opportunity for our Confirmation students! Any questions, please call Helen Little at 568-3080.

YOUTH GROUP EVENT

Open to all High School students!

Movie Night!

Monday, December 15th

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Youth Group Room in the Parish Center

\$3 suggested donation for candy and popcorn.

Bring a friend!

CREDO - EVENING OF PRAYER

Credo Catholic Singles continues their monthly gathering of prayer in the Community Room at our Parish Center on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. This is an evening of prayer, reflection and conversation led by Credo member Andrea M. who has an MA in Spirituality and is a Spiritual Director trained through the Mercy Center. All are welcome. No RSVP necessary. Come and deepen your faith and experience of God in a safe, supporting group. Visit www.credocath.com for more information about Credo Catholic Singles.



BREAKFAST

W/SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

Our parish school is hosting Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus **this 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. Tickets are available at the door. We hope to see you there!

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 or a family are needed for the 4:30 Vigil next Saturday, Dec. 20. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 568-5240.



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.

When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives.

– Rich Miller

SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE 84th ANNUAL TRAVELERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE BUSHNELL

Celebrating an annual holiday tradition dating back to 1924, the Travelers Choral Club (TCC) will once again present a memorable evening of Christmas music performed in joyous 4-part vocal harmony. You and your family are warmly invited to attend the *84th Annual Travelers Choral Club Holiday Concert* at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17. Concert admission and outdoor parking are FREE of charge and tickets are not required. **In lieu of paid admission and in keeping with the caring spirit of the season, the TCC asks that you bring a nonperishable food item to the concert for donation to FoodShare.** This year's holiday music program will feature a Premiere Composition by the ensemble's accompanist Stacy Cahoon and inspirational performances by special musical guests The Hockanum Valley Ringers (handbell ensemble) and The Travelers Sprites (youth choir). The TCC is professionally directed by Dorothy Barnhart who has assembled a stirring holiday music program featuring: *Angels' Carol, A Rhapsody of Christmas, Away in a Manger, God Rest You Merry, Masters in This Hall, Ring Those Christmas Bells, Santa's Job is a Snap!, Three Spanish Carols, What Child, Whisper! Whisper! and Winter Wonderland.* For more information, visit the TCC at www.TravelersChoralClub.org or contact Randy Walker at (860) 461-2050. Merry Christmas!

QUIET MASS

Are you or someone you know struggling to find joy in this holiday season? If so, please consider attending a "Quiet Mass" on Friday evening, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Bridget Church in Manchester. This special liturgy is designed to meet the worship needs of those who are experiencing loss or difficulty at this holiday time. Coming together we can receive words of strength and hope that speak to us in the midst of our sorrow. Please plan to join us as we find God's presence in the darkness. For further information, please contact Sister Marilyn at 643-2403.

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. Names of loved ones that are received at the Parish Office by Tuesday, Dec. 16, will be listed in our Christmas bulletin. Thank you.



**SCHEDULE FOR
MASSES
AND CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday - December 24 - Christmas Vigils

(The 7:30 a.m. daily Mass will not be celebrated.)

4:30 p.m. (A Carol Sing, led by the Children's Choir, begins at 4:00 p.m.)

10:00 p.m. (A Carol Sing, led by the Adult Choir, begins at 9:30 p.m.)

Thursday - December 25 - Christmas Day Masses

8:00 a.m. (A Carol Sing will begin at 7:45 a.m.)

10:30 a.m. (A Carol Sing will begin at 10:15 a.m.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 20: 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23: 11:30 a.m – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

**LOOKING FOR A
LAST-MINUTE GIFT IDEA?**

Consider purchasing a 2009 Entertainment Book. It makes the perfect gift for your family or friends. The book is full of discount coupons for many area restaurants and stores and can be used immediately. Each Entertainment Book is \$30, and they are available at the Rectory during normal business hours. All proceeds benefit the Youth Ministry fund. For more information, please call the Youth Ministry office at 895-8692.

Note: Entertainment Books will be available at this weekend's Pancake Breakfast.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council Forming

More are needed before the council is official. Membership requires as little as 24 hours a year to participate. Our members have the opportunity to earn money towards their child's parochial school tuition by having their family, relatives and friends work concession activities at Rentschler Field events. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining this month. For more information, call Bob Falkevitz, DD at 568-5452.

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.