



*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

## **ROSARY and MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Chapel

## **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 Messier-Cooke – 202-3692

## **SCHOOL'S WEBSITE**

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

## **PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT**

Dianne Rumsey

## **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) 761-7456

[www.vocationshartford.org](http://www.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

[barbbern@earthlink.net](mailto:barbbern@earthlink.net)

## **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**

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



Seventh Sunday  
in  
Ordinary Time  
February 22, 2009

“It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake,  
your offenses; your sins I remember no more.”

– Isaiah 43:25

Mass  for the  
Intentions  Week

Saturday, February 21 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Dennis Daigle** (Mom, Dad & Family)

Sunday, February 22 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Anthony Zizzamia**  
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, February 22 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Harriet Reynolds**  
(The Mintel Family)

Monday, February 23 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Laurentine Turgeon**  
(Jean-Luc & Laurette Belanger)

Tuesday, February 24 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Elsie & Edward Walker**  
(Daughter-in-Law Jean Walker)

Wednesday, February 25 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 a.m.: **Rev. John P. Hannon**

9:00 a.m.: **Mr. Ronald Rivas**  
(Staff & Students at St. Christopher School)

5:30 p.m.: **Rev. John P. Cook**

Thursday, February 26 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Rev. Raymond F. Paul**

Saturday, February 28 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Mary Ravera** (Dale Bycholski)

Sunday, March 1 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Rev. John P. Cook**

Sunday, March 1 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Lucille Serruto**  
(Ken & Joan Johnson)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (February 15): \$ 6,092  
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 6,628

My sincere thanks for your generosity to our parish! Together we bring Christ’s saving presence to our community and to our world.

with Gratitude,

Fr. Curran



The schedule for Ash Wednesday, February 25, is as follows:

Masses

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

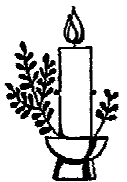
Prayer Service

12:15 p.m.

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses and at the Prayer Service.

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  
**Anthony Zizzamia**  
(Wife & Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**Our Parish Community**

For information on scheduling a weekly dedication, please call the Parish Office at 568-5240.



Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday (please see page 1 for our Ash Wednesday schedule). Here are a few things to watch for during the season of Lent:

✠ **“Soup and Stations”**...a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m.. This will take place on the following Wednesday evenings during the season: March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. Children from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations.

So...dig out your favorite soup recipes and mark your calendars to keep Wednesday evenings free. "Be church" with us and get to know the people in your church family. **Volunteers will be needed to prepare soup and/or bread for each Wednesday.** If you are interested in helping out, please call the parish office at 568-5240 and indicate on which date you are willing to help and whether you will be providing soup or bread. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

✠ **Lenten Aides**...available to you in a few different forms:

- *Christ Our Hope* - This booklet of reflections by Henri Nouwen was written to enhance your Lenten journey and bring you closer to God. Booklets can be found at the entrances to the church.
- *Catholic Update* - This monthly newsletter provides Scripture references and activities for each day of Lent. You will find your copy in this weekend's bulletin.
- *God is Rich in Mercy* - This publication was provided by our bulletin company and contains a Lenten word search and a Lenten List. You will find your copy in this weekend's bulletin.

✠ **Daily Mass**...will be celebrated Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. This is a great way to draw closer to our Eucharistic Lord. Come, join us!

### Lenten Regulations

The Church gives us the following regulations for the Lenten Season. **Fasting** is required for those 18-59 years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. **Fasting** means eating only one full meal and two light meals. Eating between meals is not permitted, although liquids may be taken at anytime. **Abstinence** from meat is required on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent for those 14 years of age and older. **Abstinence** means not eating meat at all during the day.

### **RICE BOWLS**

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, is once again a feature of our parish Lenten observance.



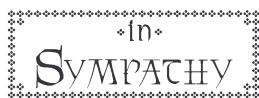
It is a wonderful way for the whole family to foster a Lenten spirit, through the personal stories of people around the world who are served by Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

The Home Calendar Guide is particularly helpful. It is a faith formation tool that families can use each day of Lent for prayer and education. Each week the calendar focuses on a different country where CRS serves.

One of the best features of ORB is that seventy-five percent of our gifts are sent to CRS to help with hunger relief efforts in developing countries. Twenty-five percent of our gifts remain here in the Archdiocese of Hartford to support local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Last year, thanks to participating parishes and under Bishop Rosazza's leadership, we distributed over \$14,000 to local soup kitchens, food pantries and other efforts to alleviate the effects of poverty.

You may find more information on Operation Rice Bowl at [orb.crs.org](http://orb.crs.org).

The Rice Bowls and Home Calendars can be found on the tables at the church entrances. Donations will be collected beginning the weekend of Palm Sunday, April 5.



Please pray for:  
**Helen Cadorette**  
**Margaret McCarthy**  
 (mother of Joan Gentile)

**CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES EVENTS!**

*Evening of Prayer*

*Tuesday ~ February 24 ~ 7:00 p.m.*

Credo Catholic Singles continues their monthly gathering of prayer in the Community Room at our Parish Center. 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.

*Memorial Candle Lighting Prayer Service*

*Wednesday ~ March 4 ~ 7:15 p.m.*

Credo Catholic Singles will hold their annual memorial candle lighting prayer service here at St. Christopher's parish following our Stations of the Cross. All Catholic singles – single, widowed, divorced – are invited to attend. For more information, call Rose at 860-229-4405 or visit [www.credocath.com](http://www.credocath.com).

**DIACONATE INQUIRY SESSIONS**

The Archdiocesan Office of Diaconate Formation is now preparing to admit a new class of candidates for the Diaconate in the fall of 2009. Any Catholic man between the ages of 35 and 60 who may be interested in the Diaconate is encouraged to speak to his pastor.

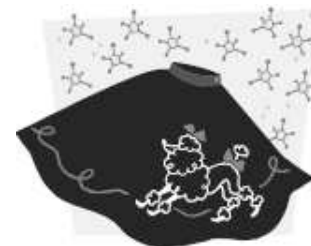
Two inquiry sessions will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield on Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, March 15 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Both sessions must be attended, and spouses must also attend. **Please call the Diaconate office at 860-761-7447 no later than February 26 in order to pre-register.**



**St. Christopher School Presents  
 Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction ~ At The Hop!  
 with WTIC's Ray Dunaway  
 as Guest Auctioneer**

St. Christopher School is proud to announce its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction on Saturday, March 28, 2009 in Murphy Hall at St. Christopher School. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. WTIC's Ray Dunaway will once again be our guest auctioneer. If history repeats itself, there will be a good time for all with fine food, drink and lots of great items to bid on during both the live and silent auctions. You'll be able to find retreat getaways, theater tickets, autographed sports collectibles, framed art, gift certificates to stores and restaurants, and much, much more.

This is an adults-only event. The cost is \$25.00 per person or \$45.00 per couple (cost includes chef-prepared food and an assortment of beverages). It's a great night out. So, mark your calendar now and don't miss out on the fun! Reservations can be made by using the flyer that is available on the long tables at the main entrance to the church or by calling Bridget Cooke at 202.3692. We hope to see you there!



**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 your use for hundreds of major retailers and restaurants, and they make perfect gifts. Please see our school volunteers after Mass for more information or call Tracy at 568-0464. Thank you!!



(III)  
 Margaret Repass  
 and  
 Robert Spak

### HOMEFRONT PLEA

HomeFront is a tremendous project that partners St. Christopher Church with AmeriCares to provide much needed home repairs to a member of our East Hartford community that is financially and many times, physically unable to themselves. Members of our leadership team recently attended a meeting sponsored by AmeriCares that provided us with critical information about the process leading up to the big day...Saturday, May 2, 2009! Within the next week or so, we will know the actual address of our HomeFront recipient and the scope of the repairs that we will be undertaking. In the meantime, please contact me to volunteer to be a member of our St. Christopher HomeFront crew. I will keep the parish apprised of our progress and needs as we move forward to create this little miracle for a neighbor in need.

For more information or to volunteer, please call me at 568-5001.

– Phil Gosselin, Volunteer Coordinator

### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The Adult Social Club will be meeting on Monday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. Our special guest will be Fr. Curran. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Helen Little at 568-3080.

Reminder: Donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted for the town’s Food Bank.

### FORGIVEN

The people of Israel, even in New Testament times, thought of God in a very personal, intimate, and relationship-oriented manner. In our modern times, we have inherited categories about God from Greek philosophy: God as all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present. Not that God isn’t these things, but if we think of God primarily that way, when we get to the end of Isaiah today (“your sins I remember no more”), we are a bit confounded. How can an all-knowing God forget anything? Isaiah’s listeners would have been more inclined to rejoice at what a wonderful, loving relationship God had with them. God—who had the power to forgive their sins—forgave sins, and then completely forgot them! Jesus, in today’s Gospel, is also more interested in the paralyzed man knowing that wonderful, loving, healing presence of God than he is in satisfying the scribes’ pre-conceived notions about God. How often it is we, not God, who remain paralyzed by our past sinfulness, even when we have been forgiven by God and reconciled with others. Let us, instead, give God glory by picking ourselves up from our paralyzed past, and journey on as disciples of Jesus.

### FOOTLOOSE - THE MUSICAL

Mercy and Xavier High Schools present *Footloose - the Musical* on March 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 2:00 p.m. \$10 admission. Tickets available at [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com).

### A “NUN RUN”

A *Nun Run* is a 24+ hour experience during which single women ages 18-45 are invited to visit different Sisters’ houses (convents) to share life with us. You will have the opportunity to pray with us, eat with us, hear our stories and laugh with us. So fasten your seatbelts and plan to join us for a whirlwind weekend that will give you an inside look into Religious Life for women as a Sister! Transportation provided at no fee for the weekend. A Nun Run is scheduled for March 7th at 12:00pm to March 8th at 12:00pm. Call Sr. Maria Iannuccillo, SSND at 203-762-4152 or email [miannuccillo@amssnd.org](mailto:miannuccillo@amssnd.org) to receive a flyer and to register. **Registration must be received by March 2, 2009.** Sponsored by the Connecticut Vocation Council.

### CATHOLIC BOOK STORE



The Catholic Book Store will be arriving on the weekend of Feb. 21/22. There will be spiritual books (on every topic), religious gifts for all occasions, crucifixes, Rosaries, medals, CD's and DVD's, children's books and seasonal items.

Don't miss this opportunity!!

**Bring this ad to the Bookmobile and receive a 20% discount on any item of your choice. Please, one coupon per person.**