



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

OFFICE MANAGER

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

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

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

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

COORDINATOR OF PRAYER TREE and TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

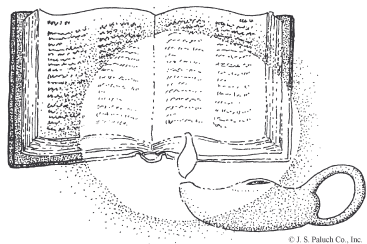
Bev Connors – 432-1530 or 966-1388
bcrc3@hotmail.com (*new address*)

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 569-7396

COORDINATOR OF PRO-LIFE

Phil Gosselin – 568-5001



**First Sunday
of
Lent
March 1, 2009**

“Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths.”

– Psalm 25:4

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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)

Monday, March 2 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Raymond Paul

Tuesday, March 3 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Wednesday, March 4 – 7:30 a.m.

Helen Peruccio
(Anne)

Thursday, March 5 – 7:30 a.m.

Tina Dudek
(Jean Walker)

Saturday, March 7 – 4:30 p.m.

Helen D’Alessandro
(Husband & Family)

Sunday, March 8 – 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo
(Mom, Dad & Daughters)

Sunday, March 8 – 10:30 a.m.

Harriet Reynolds
(Small Christian Community Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (February 22): \$ 6,392
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 7,122

Your generosity to our parish is appreciated.
Many thanks for all you do to help our
parish!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

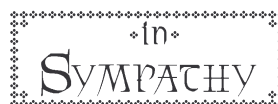
STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming God's good news: ‘This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the - good news!’” Mark 1: 14-15

The good news of stewardship is that giving *can change our lives*. Countless Christians have discovered the joy that giving can bring into their lives.

Please pray for:

Marianne Harden
Rose C. Monnerat
Pearl Ponchak



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 for

**God’s Blessings for
John St. Onge**
(The St. Onge Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

Our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

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

NOTE FROM OUR PIN COMMITTEE

Dear Parishioners,

Our sacred space during the season of Lent will be simple, so we have temporarily removed our heart shaped flowers to the hall. Over 1,000 petals were placed these past two weeks to represent your generous response to Margaret Bennett and her family and to our newly established *Parishioner In Need* (PIN) fund. In fact, another 1,000 were prepared, but have not yet been placed! For now, the flowers are 'gone, but not forgotten'. Your considerate contributions will not be forgotten either....not for a very long time.

We thank all those who have contributed in some way and invite those who would like to contribute, to do so. Our PIN campaign continues. Contributions of all kinds are welcome, and we encourage those with legal, medical, health and home care professions to consider serving as a resource for the future. Our PIN envelopes will continue to remain in the foyers for your contributions, commitments or referrals. Our bulletin board in the hall will continue to provide Archdiocesan, community and parish resources that may assist one in need. Whatever service is needed....whatever service can be provided....we hope to offer help in some way.

During this season of Lent, with the simplicity of the environment that we worship in, may we remember that even simple expressions of care are welcome. May we learn from the example set by Mrs. Hannon's 4th grade class at our parish school whose handmade cards can 'touch' someone in need in ways that Hallmark could never express. Thank you to these students, whose creative cards brought laughter and smiles to Margaret, and thank you again to all who have responded so kindly. Please continue to do so. God bless,

- PIN Committee

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 can be purchased in advance at www.mercyhigh.com or by calling 860-346-6659.

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.

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES EVENT!

*Memorial Candle Lighting Prayer Service
Wednesday ~ March 4 ~ 7:15 p.m.*

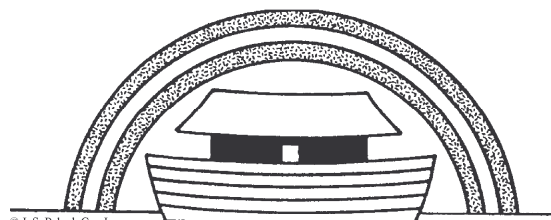
Credo Catholic Singles will hold their annual memorial candle lighting prayer service here at St. Christopher's parish following our Stations of the Cross. All Catholic singles - single, widowed, divorced - are invited to attend. For more information, call Rose at 860-229-4405 or visit www.credocath.com.

PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

If there is one word that stands out in today's readings, it is "covenant." God's faithfulness and goodness serve as examples to us of how to live. Genesis tells the story of Noah and of God's covenant not only with all people, but with all of nature. Never will the cleansing waters of the flood bring their destructive power to all the earth again. The sign, the reminder to both God and nature, is the rainbow in the heavens.

The psalm reminds us of this compassion of God, and begs God to remember us, not because of our goodness, but because of God's goodness and fidelity to the promise. God shows us how to be good, not by decree, but by example.

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I will Establish
my Covenant with You

SWING A HAMMER FOR JESUS!

◆◆◆ HomeFront Recipient Selected ◆◆◆

HomeFront is a one day project of neighbor helping neighbor that links St. Christopher Church with AmeriCares to create a little miracle for an East Hartford neighbor in need. It will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2009.

Our leadership team recently met with the homeowner we will be assisting this year; she is a very nice seventy-three year old lady and her beloved cat, Simba. We have assessed the scope of work that we hope to achieve in this one day repair blitz; we hope to repair and paint the exterior of her home, repair her front and back cement steps and extend the hand railings for safety, replace her bathroom sink and toilet, replace a number of light fixtures, replace her kitchen faucet and perform some outdoor cleanup, such as raking, pruning trees and maybe plant some flowers if we can get some donated.

Lastly, her stove only has one burner that is functioning; if we could find a way to get her a modest, very basic electric stove, I am sure she would be most grateful. Appliance replacement is beyond the scope of the HomeFront project, so we would need to address this need ourselves. If anyone has any connections that could help us address this need, please let me know.

Now that we have a handle on the need, we now need to assemble our St. Christopher HomeFront crew to create this little miracle.

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

– Phil Gosselin, HomeFront Volunteer Coordinator

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel tells us “the Spirit DROVE Jesus into the desert.” Evidently, Jesus was reluctant to go! We all have areas in family relationships which we avoid. During this Lent let the Spirit lead you into those areas you have been avoiding. The gospel promises us: “This is the time of fulfillment.” Don’t miss the opportunity.

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL PRESENTS Our 10th Annual Auction ~ At The Hop! with WTIC’s Ray Dunaway as Guest Auctioneer

St. Christopher School is proud to announce its 10th 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!!



Operation Rice Bowl began in 1975 as a response to a food crisis in Africa and continues to raise millions of dollars to assist our brothers and sisters around the world and locally who are affected by the current global food crisis.

The Season of Lent

Here are a few things to watch for during the season of Lent:

“Soup and Stations”...a sharing of simple soup and bread followed by the Stations of the Cross. Please see the insert in this weekend’s bulletin for more information.

Way of the Cross booklets will be available at the church entrances during the Lenten season for our parishioners who wish to reflect on the Stations of the Cross in our church at a time more convenient to them. We do ask that these booklets remain in the church. Thank you.

Penance Service...Monday, March 30 at 7:00p.m. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to prepare for Easter by receiving Christ’s healing power in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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!

Living Stations...will be presented on Good Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church. We have been blessed with some wonderful people who have helped make this an inspirational event in the past. We’re inviting you to become a part of the Living Stations of the Cross. What a great way to share your time and talents this Lent. **If you would like to participate in this spirit-filled dramatization**, please contact either Phil Gosselin at 568-5001 or Sandy Bonfiglio at 659-3099.

THE WOMEN’S AUXILIARY

of St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center

2009 is our 83rd Anniversary and we just made a \$5 million pledge to the hospital! Help Us Help Saint Francis by becoming a part of our proud tradition. Our annual membership drive begins March 2 and runs through April 17. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of the Women’s Auxiliary, please call Jo Picone, a parishioner and a community ambassador, at 568-6925 or the Women’s Auxiliary at 714-4558. You may also visit www.saintfranciscare.com. Locate link on the left.



Our Food Bank shelves are in desperate need of non-perishable food items, such as:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Cereal | Jello / Puddings |
| Peanut Butter | Cake Mix |
| Jelly | Frosting |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Potato Buds |
| Baked Beans | Gravy |
| Tuna Fish | Cookies |
| Mayonnaise | Pasta |

Donations may be left in the area of our church below our statue of Mary. Thank you in advance for your support.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Catholic Graduates Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. will award two scholarships of \$1,000 each to Catholic students who are high school seniors and who plan to attend a four-year college in the fall of 2009. It is not necessary that the student attend a Catholic college. The applicants must reside in Hartford County. Students are chosen on the basis of financial need, scholarship, character, leadership and achievement.

Information can be obtained by contacting guidance counselors or principals in area high schools or going to www.catholicgraduatesct.org

Deadline for submittal of scholarship applications is March 15, 2009.

“NEW DAY” PROGRAM

If you are recently bereaved because of the loss of a loved one, you need to give yourself some time to work through the natural process of grieving. “New Day” is a 10-week program in which you can deal with the pain in an atmosphere of care and understanding. St. Bridget’s in Manchester will be hosting a “New Day” program at their parish beginning Tuesday, March 17, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. To register, please call 643-2403, x-13 or 643-5530. This program is sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford.