



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



**Second Sunday
of
Lent
March 8, 2009**

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”
– Romans 8:31b

*Mass for the
Intentions of the
Week*

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)

Monday, March 9 – 7:30 a.m.

**God’s Blessings & Healing Presence for
Sandra Herold** (Caring Supporters)

Tuesday, March 10 – 7:30 a.m.

Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Wednesday, March 11 – 7:30 a.m.

Helen D’Alessandro - 18th Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Thursday, March 12 – 7:30 a.m.

Helen O. Cadorette
(Roger & Jennie Coleman)

Saturday, March 14 – 4:30 p.m.

My Deceased Brothers & Sisters
(Angelo Barros)

Sunday, March 15 – 8:00 a.m.

Delphis Belanger
(Jean-Luc & Laurette Belanger)

Sunday, March 15 – 10:30 a.m.

Mark Tardiff (Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (March 1): \$ 7,304
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 7,533

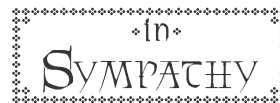
Your tithing generosity is especially helpful in meeting the costs associated with our unusually cold and snowy winter!

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that God who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides?" (Romans 8:31-32)

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You must believe in God's providence and trust that, if you give a just portion of your income to His work, God will help you live on the rest.



Please pray for:
Marilyn Egazarian

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

Anthony Charles Berardone
2nd Anniversary
(Aunt Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

Our Altar Servers

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



THE PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

This weekend, in the Presentation of the Creed, the Church will hand over her statement of Belief to the Elect (Donna Chavez) and to the Candidates (Deb Hampton and Rebecca Cook). Having received that statement of belief, they will ritually demonstrate that they have made it their own by giving it back to the assembled church at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for our Elect and Candidates.

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!!

TEEN MASS - NEXT SATURDAY

The Youth Ministry will be sponsoring its third Teen Mass of the school year next Saturday, March 14, at the 4:30 Vigil. The teens of the parish will be ministering as lectors, greeters, collectors, and musicians during the Mass. This is an opportunity for the youth of our parish to experience liturgy in a way that speaks to them personally. If you have a teen in your house, please consider joining us for this liturgy. The last Teen Mass for this school year will be held in May.

Please note: All confirmation students are required to attend two Teen Masses a year. Please sign-in at the church hall when you enter for Mass that Saturday. Thank you! ~ Youth Ministry Team



Thank You



Rose Yergeau has asked us to extend appreciation on her behalf to all those who have gifted her with cards, best wishes and prayers. She is most grateful for everyone's support!

THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM AND JESUS

God tested Abraham by asking not for an ordinary sacrifice, which would have been a partial burning with the meat divided between God and the people and eaten by those who sacrificed, but for a holocaust, a total burning of the sacrificial animal. This type of sacrifice consecrated the entire offering to God alone. This is what God was asking of Abraham in offering his only son, Isaac. When Abraham demonstrated his obedience, that was enough. This story from today's scriptures foretells the completion of the blood sacrifices of the old covenant in the new covenant: the blood of God's own Son, offered to us on the cross and in the Eucharist. Abraham's obedience foreshadows the obedience of Jesus to God's promise of salvation. The obedience of Abraham is rewarded in the birth to him, through Isaac, of many nations. The obedience of Jesus is rewarded in the salvation of all people for all time. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



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

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 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.

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.

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. (Please see the article on page 4 to find out how you can be involved in this year's Living Stations.)

SWING A HAMMER FOR JESUS!

⇒ Plea for Specific Skills ⇐

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.

Plea for specific skills: Our House Captain and Assistant House Captain have asked me to send out a plea for a mason and a professional painter. They would like to speak with you for your expertise on some of our project tasks, and if possible, to help perform these project tasks. Thank You!

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

– Phil Gosselin, HomeFront Volunteer Coordinator

“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.

ANNUAL ARCHBISHOP'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST

The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) will be hosting its Annual Archbishop's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on Tuesday, March 17 from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

This year's breakfast will also celebrate the 26th Anniversary of FACS. Proceeds from this event provide scholarships and support for the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

This lively event has become a favorite way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and support Catholic education at the same time. The breakfast features great food and Irish themed entertainment by students from our Catholic schools. Chris Godfrey, Esq. will inspire the over 1,000 attendees as this year's keynote speaker. Mr. Godfrey is the President of Life Athletes, Inc. and a member of the Indiana Bar. Prior to graduating from the University of Notre Dame Law School, Chris played nine years of professional football. As the starting right guard for the Super Bowl XXI champion New York Giants in 1987, he earned honors as All-Pro NFL Films and All-NFC (AP, UPI). He was also a member of three Rose Bowl teams with the University of Michigan.

To purchase tickets, please call Shirley Ziolkowski at the Foundation at 860-242-4362, ext. 134.

You don't have to be Irish to join the fun!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus was "transfigured." Change is the only constant in family life. We constantly change clothes, jobs, our minds, diapers and plans. Beneath all the changes, we are still the same person. It is our commitment to each other that binds a family together throughout the inevitable changes of life.

A NEW IDEA

"Everybody thinks of changing humanity; nobody thinks of changing themselves."

– Leo Tolstoy



LIVING STATIONS

Our 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.

EAST CATHOLIC MAKE-UP EXAM

East Catholic High School will give a make-up entrance exam at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18 to all eighth graders who were unable to take a previous entrance exam. The exam will be given at the school. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. A fee of \$25, which covers the cost of processing the exam, is required. ECHS continues to accept transfer students from other high schools as well. Please contact the Admissions Office at 649-5336, ext. 238 or ext. 456 with questions.

CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

A Can and Bottle Drive to support our parish school will be held on Sat., March 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please bring your pre-rinsed cans and bottles to the front of our school. Thank you for your support!



"In the face of the terrible challenge of poverty afflicting so much of the world's population, indifference and self centered isolation stand in stark contrast to the 'gaze' of Christ. Fasting and almsgiving, which together, with prayer, the Church proposes in a special way during the Lenten season, are suitable means for us to become conformed to this 'gaze.'

– 2006 Lenten Message of His Holiness, Benedict XVI