

First Holy Communion



*May the Holy Spirit light the way
as these young people receive
the Body of Christ for the first time.*

St. Christopher Church
May 17, 2009

Jalynne Ambrose
Julia Andrews
Olivia Ashley
Isabella Bafumo
Brianna Cook
Allison Cote
Kyle Dube
Maxine Duva
Ashley Franco
Jaosha Gebo
Dean Grano
Emily Hampton
Victoria Jameson
Veronica Poulin
Kenny Ragna
Jessica Repass
Andrew Reilly
Faith Richard
Becca Wilder



**Sixth Sunday
of
Easter
May 17, 2009**

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.”

– John 15:16

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 16 – 4:30 p.m.
Shirley Carbonneau - 1st Anniversary
(Daughters)

Sunday, May 17 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(Mom, Dad & Daughters)

Sunday, May 17 – 10:30 a.m.
**Special Intention for the Children
of Our First Communion Class**

Monday, May 18 – 7:30 a.m.
Luigi Vignone & Maria Acari
(Assunta Vignone)

Tuesday, May 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff
(Family)

Wednesday, May 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Thursday, May 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Margaret Boisvert
(Raymond Boisvert)

Saturday, May 23 – 4:30 p.m.
Rev. Charles MacDonald

Sunday, May 24 – 8:00 a.m.
Vincent Baltas *(Frank & Denise Kiernan)*

Sunday, May 24 – 10:30 a.m.
Harriet Reynolds *(Sally & Al Labieniec)*

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (May 10): \$ 6,478
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 7,417

My personal thanks for your generous support which is so essential for our parish!

With gratitude, Fr. Curran

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN
The second collection this weekend will support the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Through your generous donations, CCC is able to spread the gospel message in our community and all over the world. To learn more about the CCC, visit www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org.

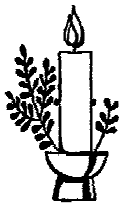


**THE ASCENSION
OF THE LORD
Thursday, May 21**

The Feast of the Lord’s Ascension is Thursday, May 21, a holy day of obligation. A vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m. Masses on Thursday, May 21, will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

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

**In Loving Memory of
Louis Sciarra, Jr.
In Remembrance of His Birthday**
(Wife Jeanne)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

Our 2009 First Communion Class

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

**“ST. PAUL, APOSTLE
TO THE GENTILES” PROGRAM
Final Session - Tuesday, May 19**

CHANGE IN THE DATE! The final session of St Christopher’s program entitled “St Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles” will be held this Tuesday, May 19 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the church hall. This final week we will explore the 1st and 2nd Letters to the Corinthians, two of St Paul’s most pastoral letters which deal with issues that confronted his new communities and which in some ways perplex us today.

Join us as we unravel the mystery and history that surrounds these writings. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this informative and exciting series. You need not have attended the prior session to attend this session. **PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

The St. Christopher School Board would like to extend congratulations to the students of our parish school for once again scoring above grade level on the Iowa National Standardized Test. The Board would also like to acknowledge the outstanding effort and dedication the staff of the school exudes to assist our students in reaching this achievement.

– St. Christopher School Board

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL SCHOOL

Are you or is someone you know ready to explore the Bible? Registrations for the fifteenth anniversary class of the Archdiocesan Catholic Biblical School are already coming in and will be considered through August 15, 2009. Classes will be held at locations around the diocese and both in the evening and during the day.

Coming to know God’s Word in the Bible will have a profound impact on your life and faith – at least, that’s what participants have been telling us for years, and what last October’s Vatican Synod on the Word of God confirmed. For more information about all that the Biblical School has to offer, contact Barbara Jean Daly Horell at cbs@orehartford.org or 243-9465, ext. 11.

Come away and rest awhile

WOMEN’S WEEKEND RETREAT

In January the men of the parish enjoyed their weekend retreat. This golden opportunity is presented to the women over the weekend of June 5 -7 at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford. Not only is it convenient, but you will experience wonderful hospitality, comfortable beds, delicious food (that you don’t have to prepare or clean up after), a variety of presentations, outdoor meditation, a joyful liturgy -- all within reasonable affordability (\$200.00). What’s there not to like!!!!!! Come away to rest in the comfort of prayer and community. It is an opportunity to be Mary, to rest at the feet of Jesus, to just BE, instead of the ever busy Martha.

For more information or to register call Toni Amberg at 568-9069 or the Holy Family Retreat office at 521-4440 or online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

**EAGLE SCOUT
LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT**

Dear Parishioners,

My name is Evan Thorpe. I am 16 and a Boy Scout with Troop 57 in East Hartford. I have also been a member of St. Christopher’s all my life. I attended St. Christopher School and am an alumna of the school. I have also attended the bible camp program since its beginning at this church. As my Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, I am going to landscape the sides and rear of the rectory, planting various shrubs and plants. My troop will be assisting me in this effort. If anyone cares to donate funds to this project for the purchase of plants or has any questions, you can call me at 569-8301. Work is expected to begin at the end of May. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Evan Thorpe



PENTECOST SUNDAY

We are seeking individuals who would be interested and willing to serve as readers at our 10:30 a.m. Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Several readers are needed to proclaim the Old and New Testament readings as well as the General Intercessions in different languages! At Pentecost, from many languages and peoples, God brought together in unity the Church. If you would like to assist us, please call the parish office at 568-5240.



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

In the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter we are met with an extraordinary challenge: Jesus commands us to “love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). The letter from John echoes this command. Of course, we are to love those in our family, those we work with, those we like. But the scriptures make clear that we are also to love those we never notice, those we purposely avoid, and even those we are tempted to despise.

In this Sunday’s selection from the Acts of the Apostles Peter shows us how far God’s love extends, and how far our love should extend in response. Peter realizes that God no longer “shows partiality” to the Jews, sharing divine love exclusively with them. Christ has revealed that God’s love extends to all people, and so should OURS. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

Next weekend is Commitment Weekend at our parish and across the Archdiocese for the 2009 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please pray about your decision and consider making a pledge or one-time gift during Commitment Weekend. Thank you in advance for your support.

19th ANNUAL ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Saturday ~ June 6

Calling all golfers, June 6 is the date for our parish school’s 19th Annual Golf Tournament. The place is the Long Hill Country Club in East Hartford. It’s a great day to get out with some friends, hit a round of golf balls and cap the night off with a great dinner. History tells us this is a great event and not one to be missed!

Teams interested in participating should contact Bob Gionfriddo at 568-5625 or call our school office at 568-4100. The cost for this great day is \$99 per person. The round of golf, cart, beverages, lunch and dinner are all included in this price. What more can you ask for? Oh yes, the prizes! There will also be opportunities to win some terrific prizes during the raffle and with contests like Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and several Team Awards.

Also, there are still opportunities for company and individual sponsorships. Any company or individual interested in being a sponsor may call one of the numbers listed above. Sponsorships will be reflected on attractive signs that are prominently displayed on the course. Each sign will recognize the level of participation and sponsors will receive special recognition in the tournament handbook and in the dinner program. In the past, proceeds from this event have helped to purchase textbooks, library materials and new computers, as well as, provide tuition assistance to deserving families.



45th ANNIVERSARY PICNIC CELEBRATION!

Everyone is invited to attend our parish school’s 45th Anniversary Picnic - rain or shine - on Sunday, May 31 (after the 10:30 a.m. Mass) from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the field behind our school. The Picnic is the last event that will be held in celebration of our parish school’s 45th anniversary. If you would like to attend, please complete a picnic form (located at the church entrances) by May 27. If you have any questions, please call Karen Santacross at 568-4975. We hope to see you there!



Our Parish is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Kaitlyn Sousa Bonfiglio
Izabella Alexis Michelle Boyko
Brody Vaughn Derr

2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Half-Price Sale!

Our Youth Ministry office has a small supply of 2009 Entertainment Books. These books, which are filled with tons of coupons, are still good for five more months...so there is still plenty of time left to take advantage of the money-saving offers! Get yours today for only \$15! Books are available at our parish office during normal business hours or by calling the parish office at 568-5240. All proceeds benefits our Youth Ministry program.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"I no longer speak of you as slaves, for a slave does not know what the master is about. Instead I call you friends." (John 15:15)

The good steward is not a servant but a friend of God's. Stewardship flows out of our friendship with God and is primarily a response to that friendship.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Gift cards are available for purchase every weekend after every Mass. Please see our school volunteers after Mass for more information or call our school office at 568-4100 or e-mail Tracy at tcmart@comcast.net. We appreciate the support you have given this program.



St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ June 19, 2009
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to make an app't.

Birthright

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Our parish's Pro-Life Committee wishes to thank all the families who took a baby bottle after Mass last weekend. On behalf of Birthright we will collect the bottles filled with coins, cash or check on the weekend of May 30/31. If you use the insert inside the bottle to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, Birthright will send an acknowledgement card of your gift of life. This is an opportunity to support a project that saves the lives of unborn children and makes a lasting difference in the mothers' lives. Any help you can give is much appreciated!



This past week **Tom and Jill Hurley** celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. We offer them our sincere congratulations and our prayers for God's blessing on them and their loved ones.

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES EVENT

Evening of Prayer

Tuesday ~ May 19 ~ 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.

POSITIVE THINKING

"A positive thinker does not refuse to recognize the negative, [but] refuses to dwell on it. Positive thinking is a form of thought which habitually looks for the best results from the worst conditions."

– Norman Vincent Peale