



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

DEACONS

Deacon William Gilles (RCIA Director)
Deacon Edward Giard

PARISH TRUSTEES

Kay McNamara / Stephen Kleva

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Roch Girard – 860-568-5879

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Michael Munley – 860-683-8594

OFFICE MANAGER

Bonnie Szalay – 860-568-5240

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Carol Waterman – 860-521-7411

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.

Maria Sousa – 860-895-8692

E-mail: religioused@stchris-eh.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sarah Poirier and Kevin Hadyka –
860-895-8692

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 – 860-568-4100

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Karen Santacross – 860-568-4975

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Audrey Cesana – 860-568-4100

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Corrinne Lomazzo – 860-214-3500

HOME / SCHOOL ASSOC. PRESIDENT

Bridget Messier-Cooke – 860-202-3692

SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

www.saintchristophersschool.org

PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

Dianne Rumsey

BAPTISMS / PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM

By app't. w/Deacon Bill Gilles 633-8997

MARRIAGES

Please contact Parish Priest at least six
months in advance at 860-568-5240

PRIESTHOOD-OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

860-761-7456 vocationshartford.org

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Toni Amberg – 860-568-9069

Jean Nowik – 860-568-8873

COORDINATOR OF EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Cathy Reynolds – 860-214-9287

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Barbara Casey – 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE

and TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

Bev Connors – 860-432-1530

bcrc3@hotmail.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Toni Amberg—860-568-9069

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Phil Gosselin – 860-568-5001

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 860-569-7396



**First Sunday
of
Advent
November 29, 2009**

*"I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the land."*

– Jeremiah 33:15

*Mass  for the
Intentions  Week*

Saturday, November 28 – 4:30 p.m.

Lucille LaBonte Serruto - 1st Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Sunday, November 29 – 8:00 a.m.

Steven R. Zocco - 8th Anniversary
(Mom & Family)

Sunday, November 29 – 10:30 a.m.

Josephine Miele
(Al & Sally Labieniec)

Monday, November 30 – 7:30 a.m.

Anna Kruczek
(Veronica Vance)

Tuesday, December 1 – 7:30 a.m.

Walter Cutler (Sister)

Wednesday, December 2 – 7:30 a.m.

Sonia Sadosky
(Small Christian Group)

Thursday, December 3 – 7:30 a.m.

Bill McCarthy (Marion Sullivan)

Saturday, December 5 – 4:30 p.m.

Bill McCarthy - 7th Anniversary (Wife Kay)

Sunday, December 6 – 8:00 a.m.

**Rose Rogosky Pendley - 14th Anniversary
and William L. Pendley**
(Niece Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Sunday, December 6 – 10:30 a.m.

Josephine Miele (Howard & Barbara Wilmes)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (November 22): \$ 6,263
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 7,215

END-OF-THE-YEAR GIFTS

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 gratitude,

Fr. Curran

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In addition to supporting our parish school, St. Christopher supports East Catholic High School. Our contribution to East Catholic this year for children of registered families totals \$6,450. We are able to make this payment through your continued support of our parish.

– Fr. Curran

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"May the Lord increase you and make you overflow with love for one another and for all, even as our love does for you."

– I Thessalonians 3:12

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
Florence Grondin - 10th Anniversary**
(Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Thanksgiving for
Our Parish and School Families**

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



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 and families are invited to sign-up for one of the weekend Masses during this Advent season. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 568-5240.

ADVENT - A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Advent is the season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas. It is a time to slow down and reflect in this busy season as we prepare for Christ to come in our hearts and in our world. Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. We encourage you to take time daily to relax, meditate or pray. Inserted into the bulletin this weekend are a couple of items we hope will help you during this Advent season.

We have also made available for you a booklet entitled Living in Hope, daily Advent reflections from the writings of Henri Nouwen. These booklets can be found at the entrances to the church. You are invited to take one home with you.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Volunteers from our parish school are selling gift cards every weekend, after every Mass. Gift 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 on your Christmas list while at the same time supporting our parish school.

If you are unfamiliar with this program and want to learn more about how easy it is to help our parish school, please see one of our volunteers after Mass next weekend. You may also contact our school office at 568-4100 or Tracy Martinez at tcmart@comcast.net with any questions. Your support of our parish school is greatly appreciated!

CONCERT

Sunday ~ December 13 ~ 4:00pm

Advent Lessons and Carols



St. Christopher's Adult and Children's Choirs will present a concert of readings and music to celebrate the Advent Season and our time of preparation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The concert will include some participation by the congregation.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall following the concert.

We hope you will join us!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

The Christmas season pressures families to buy and consume. Today's gospel warns: "Be on guard and alert" lest you get caught up in the buying frenzy. The most important shopping you can do is in your own heart to discover what you can change. It is not what you get or give which makes the difference this Christmas, it is who you become.



American Red Cross

St. Christopher Church Hall

Friday, December 4

BLOOD DRIVE

1:45 – 6:30 p.m.

This December the American Red Cross is teaming up with Best Buy to help maintain an adequate blood supply in our communities. Best Buy is proud to partner with the American Red Cross and is 'giving back' to the blood donors who give so much.

Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE to make your appointment today and to find out more about this exciting partnership with Best Buy. (Appointments are preferred, but **walk-ins are always welcome!**)

ADVENT

"Advent – the four-week period that leads up to Christmas – is a series of events designed not to delay the celebration of Christmas, but to enhance it."

– Joan Chittister

ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

The annual Christmas party will be held on Monday, December 7, at 12:00 noon in the church hall. Pasta, meatballs and sausage, salad, bread, and desserts will be provided at no charge for paid members. Members who have not paid their 2009 dues will be charged \$15, which includes dues for the upcoming year. Entertainment will be provided by a guest "To Tell the Truth" panel.

For food planning purposes, please call Frank or Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229 or Nedra Gallo at 860-432-1793 by December 1st if you are planning to attend.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Drama Club at Mercy and Xavier High Schools will be presenting *A Christmas Carol* on December 9 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. The performance will be held in the Mercy High School auditorium at 1740 Randolph Road in Middletown. Admission is free, however, we will be taking donations of non-perishable food items for St. Vincent DePaul's Place, and toiletry and undergarments for girls or boys to support Mercy Housing and Shelter and St. John's Home for Boys in Deep River. Please call 860-346-6659 for tickets. Seating is limited to the first 700 guests. We hope you will join us!

MEN'S RETREAT 2010!

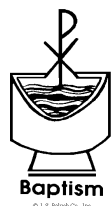
The Holy Family Retreat Team always comes up with a vibrant retreat theme, and this year's retreat is no exception. The theme this year "Be Not Afraid: Living in God's Care." Too often in our lives, we do what we do because we are afraid. Fears can run deep in our lives and cause us to doubt our abilities, our gifts and even our faith. It is amazing to realize the power we give to our fears. The antidote to fear is **hope!** On this retreat we will walk the journey of hope with Christ and lead one another into the realm of new possibilities through the faith we share as authentic Christian people. Please don't let the cost of the retreat offering keep you from attending; the important thing is that you attend...you need only pay what you can. The retreat will be January 15-17, 2010. Reservation forms can be found on the Church bulletin boards. If you have any questions about the retreat, please call Phil Gosselin at 568-5001.



Please pray for:

George Caron
(Stepfather of Jill Hurley)

Richard Wilson



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

Leana Thanh Nguyen

SEASONAL FLU VACCINE CLINIC

When: Tuesday, December 1, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Where: South End Senior Center
70 Canterbury Street

Eligibility: Residents of East Hartford age 55 years and older (proof of residency and age required)

Information: 860-569-5659 or 860-291-7324

Please note: This clinic provides the seasonal flu vaccine which will not protect you against novel H1N1 Influenza.

PRAYER LINE

Our Prayer Line is available to receive your prayer requests! All prayer requests are handled with care and in a confidential manner. Requests may be called in or sent by e-mail to our Prayer Tree coordinator, Bev Connor: 860-432-1530 or brc3@hotmail.com.



HEARTS AND HANDS

On November 27, D'Esopo Funeral Chapel delivered their gift of the beautiful Christmas tree that is in the sanctuary of the church. On each colored paper heart and hand that decorates the Christmas tree in our sanctuary, there is a suggested gift item to benefit this year's recipients – the Barnard Group (young men assisted by DCF), Birthright of East Hartford, Hartford Catholic Worker House and the mothers and babies at Synergy High School.



Please note: Because the Catholic Worker House has its Christmas party on December 19, the gifts marked CWH should be returned unwrapped and placed under the tree by December 12/13. The remainder of the items should be returned unwrapped by December 19/20.

We thank the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel for their generosity in purchasing and setting up the tree for our Christmas project. Their continued support is most meaningful to this project. We also thank you, our parishioners, for your continued support of our Hearts and Hands project. God bless us all!!

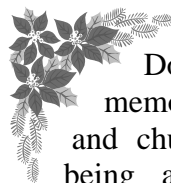
DON'T BOTHER COOKING

Join Us at McDonald's Night



Please join us on Wednesday, December 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the McDonald's on Main Street in Glastonbury for an evening out to benefit our parish school. Our school receives between 10 and 20% of the proceeds depending on the turn-out. You don't even need to come inside, the drive thru business counts towards our total earnings for the evening. Call the school office for more information at 568-4100. Thank you for your support. Together we make a difference!

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. For your convenience, a donation envelope has been included with your weekly envelopes for December. Please **PRINT** the name(s) on your envelope and place it in the collection basket or send it to the rectory **by December 13**. You may also print the name(s) on a piece of paper and put in an envelope marked "Flower Fund." Thank you.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

We are grateful for the generosity of everyone who gave food and monetary donations to this year's food bank and to those who helped in the following ways. On Thursday, November 19, the food boxes for Thanksgiving were packed with the help of the following people:

Marjorie Articola	Deacon Bill Gilles	Prudy Hodder	Helen Little	George & Elaine Tryon
Jillian Berrieau	Jeanine Girard	Gayle Juliano	Mac McCarthy	Charlotte Turner
Dick Domler	Phil Gravel	George Lindenberg		

On Sunday, November 22, with the help of the following people, we completed the boxes by adding the perishable items – bread, carrots, eggs, margarine, milk, onions, pears and turkeys.

Dick & Ellie Domler	Roch & Jeanine Girard	Helen Little	Jay & Debbie McNamara	Velma Peila
Caitlin Bartold	Benjamin Green	Sarah Mahoney	Jill McNamara	Denise Rioux
Rachel Conboy	Mary Lawson	Mac McCarthy	Sabrina Munley	Ashleigh Sargent
Alex Flynn	Lou & Joan Lavertu	Chris McCue		

With the help of the following people we delivered food boxes to 62 families comprised of 89 adults and 104 children. We supplied enough food for approximately 2,316 meals. The drivers for delivery were:

Stephen Allen & Friend	Walter Forrest	Mrs. Goding	Lou & Joan Lavertu
Sam Boccaccio	Corinne Freeman	Roch & Jeannine Girard	Helen Little
Dick & Hazel Brimley	Scott Gay	Ray LeBrun & Family	Mac McCarthy
Donna Chavez	Lee Griffen & Family	John & Marge Leonard	Rita Schaefer