



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

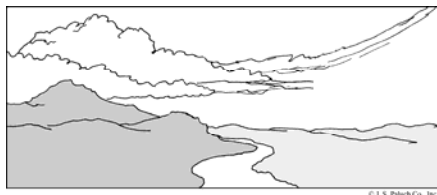
Toni Amberg—860-568-9069

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Phil Gosselin – 860-568-5001

COORDINATOR OF FOOD BANK

Eleanor Domler – 860-569-7396



**Second Sunday
of
Advent**

December 6, 2009

*“God has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low.”*

– Baruch 5:7



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)

Monday, December 7 – 7:30 a.m.

Denis O’Leary
(Rose Yergeau & Family)

Tuesday, December 8 – 7:30 a.m.

Antoinette Licitra & Thomas Ceniglio
(Lydia Ciccarello)

Wednesday, December 9 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Thursday, December 10 – 7:30 a.m.

Raymond O’Neill (John & Moira Traynor)

Saturday, December 12 – 4:30 p.m.

Manuel Machado (Wife & Daughter)

Sunday, December 13 – 8:00 a.m.

**Charles George Verotsky - 11th Anniversary
and Mary Rogosky Verotsky**
(Daughter Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Sunday, December 13 – 10:30 a.m.

Mark Tardiff (Family)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (November 29): \$ 5,918
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 6,932

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

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



Tuesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses on Tuesday, December 8, will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Giving is more than a responsibility – it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience – it is evidence of our faith.”

– William Arthur Ward

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
Bill McCarthy**
(Wife Kay)

The candle in the chapel burns this week for

**God’s Healing Presence
for a Parishioner**

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

HEARTS AND HANDS

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!!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Retirement Fund helps senior religious. "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next weekend's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

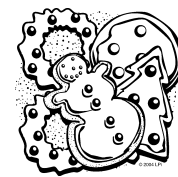
A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

Parents feel outclassed by Twitter, FaceBook and MTV as they battle for their children's attention. Our high-tech culture can make a parent feel like an out-dated "voice crying out in the wilderness." As God came to John the Baptist "in the wilderness" God is with you in your "wilderness" moments as a parent.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Please share your Christmas Cookies with our guests at East Hartford's Friendship Center Soup Kitchen. Cookies may be placed on the table in the church hall next weekend, December 12/13 or the following weekend, December 19/20. Please do not leave them under the tree. We would appreciate volunteers to come to St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Main St. and Burnside Ave. on Monday, December 21, at 3:30 p.m. to help fill the bags. **This is a great service opportunity for our Confirmation students!** If you have any questions, please call Helen Little at 568-3080.



ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks to all of the Social Club members who have signed up for the December 7th Christmas Party. (Sorry, but no walk-ins allowed.) The food has been ordered, and we look forward to a wonderful time. There will be a short business meeting at 12:00 with a few reports and election of officers, followed by the meal. After the meal, there will be an enjoyable "To Tell the Truth" panel with surprise guests. We hope that everyone is able to stay for this fun-filled event. Members will be asked to participate by guessing who is telling the truth; and prizes will be awarded to the winning table.

Reminders: • Non-perishable food donations will be accepted at this meeting for the St. Christopher Food Bank.

• In order to ease the congestion in the parking lot for the school parents who pick up their children, we ask that those who can to please park in the rear of the church. Thanks!

ADVENT

Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

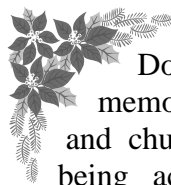
CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES

Evening of Prayer

Credo Catholic Singles continues their monthly gathering of prayer in our Parish Center on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. 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. Visit www.credocath.com for more information about Credo Catholic Singles.

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.



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.

QUIET MASS

Are you or someone you know struggling to find peace in this holiday season? If so, please consider attending a "Quiet Christmas Mass" on Friday evening, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Bridget Church in Manchester. This special liturgy is designed to meet the worship needs of those who are experiencing some kind of loss (job, loved one, health, relationship, etc.) and are unable to feel the joy of the holiday season. Words of strength and hope will be shared as a reminder that God's presence is for those who mourn and God's word comes to give light in darkness. For further information, please contact Sister Marilyn at 860-643-2403, ext. 13. (The snow date is December 18.)

WRAPPED IN SPLENDOR

Today's readings begin with the announcement by the prophet Baruch: "Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever" (5:1). This Advent scripture reading summons us to be wrapped in splendor. During this time of year when we purchase wrapping paper and wrap our Christmas gifts, the Church asks us to look at what has been "wrapped" around us. Are peace and justice, the hallmarks of God's splendor, the wrapping that others see when they see us? Saint Paul reminds us that this "wrapping" should show that our love for one another increases with the passing of each day. As we await the coming of the One who was wrapped in swaddling clothes at his birth, we pray that we will be wrapped in the splendor of God. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



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.

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. **Donations of baked goods would be gratefully accepted and can be dropped off in the church hall just prior to the concert.** We hope you will join us!

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your support of last week's Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Offerings totaled \$3,312. Because of your generosity, more low-income people in the United States will be able to break the cycle of poverty and improve their communities. In these times when everyone's budget is stretched, we are especially grateful for your support.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Due to your overwhelming generosity of food items and monetary donations made during the month of November, our Food Bank is in a great position to fill the Christmas boxes that will be provided to our neighbors in need. In order to complete our boxes, however, we could use additional donations of the following items:

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| TURKEYS | Cereal |
| Stuffing Mix | Cake Mix |
| Gravy | Frosting |

Non-perishable donations may be left in the area in front of the Mary statue. Please DO NOT leave turkeys in this area. Call Dick and Eleanor Domler at 569-7396 to pick them up. We are most appreciative of your continued support and help

CATHOLIC ALUMNI PARTNERSHIP

On his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI said: "No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation" and how, more than ever, we need to come together as a community to ensure that we are able to continue to provide this gift to future generations of children.

Our parish family is excited to report that St. Christopher School is blessed to be one of more than 300 schools, across seven arch/dioceses, participating in the Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP). CAP is enabling us to reconnect with the many alumni who once walked the halls of our school. Kathleen Madej, our parish school principal, has been, and will continually be, working closely with CAP staff to identify our alumni and creating opportunities for those individuals to become active members of our school community.

Whether you are an alumna or alumnus of our school, or another Catholic elementary school, we urge you to be an active member of your elementary school community. Please visit www.clickYES.com to learn if your school is participating in CAP, and to sign up!

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about CAP, please contact Kathleen Madej (860-568-4100) or Karen Santacross, our school's Advancement Director (860-568-4975).

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!