



*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](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.stchris-eh.org](http://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](mailto:religioused@stchris-eh.org)

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Sarah Poirier and Kevin Hadyka –  
860-895-8692

E-mail: [youthministry@stchris-eh.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

[brcr3@hotmail.com](mailto:brcr3@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



**Third Sunday  
of  
Advent  
December 13, 2009**

“With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.”  
– Isaiah 12:3



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)

Monday, December 14 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Walter A. Vichas**

Tuesday, December 15 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Mario P. Pepe**

Wednesday, December 16 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Bradford Colton**

Thursday, December 17 – 7:30 a.m.

**Krystyna Knap** (Gabriela Backiel)

Saturday, December 19 – 4:30 p.m.

**Dinis Leonardo** (Wife & Family)

Sunday, December 20 – 8:00 a.m.

**Felicia Chesery - 12th Anniversary**  
(Daughters Madeline & Santo Cassarino  
and Cynthia & Daniel Weiss)

Sunday, December 20 – 10:30 a.m.

**Manuel Tinta - 1st Anniversary**  
(The Pulito Family)

### OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (December 6): \$ 6,516  
Same Sunday in 2008: \$ 7,274

### 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

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

*Religious care rising costs.* Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for our religious and give generously to today's second collection. For more information, you may visit [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

### 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**

**Maurice Harden**

**In Remembrance of His Birthday**

(Wife Mary & Family)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

**In Loving Memory of**

**Ann Melody - 14th Anniversary**

(Her Small Christian Communities)

For information on scheduling a weekly dedication, please call 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!



### PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday ~ December 13

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Tickets available at the door!

**Santa from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Pictures \$3 (2 for \$5)

**Enjoy Free Crafts**

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. and again from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
(hosted by the Girl Scouts)

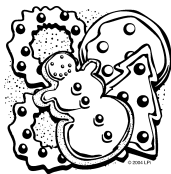
**Raffle Prizes**

\$.25 each or 5 for \$1.00

Cooking by the Knights of Columbus

### 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 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.

### 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 this weekend, December 12/13. The remainder of the items should be returned unwrapped by December 19/20.

Thank you for your continued support of this project!

### REJOICE!

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally referred to as Gaudete Sunday. This is the Advent Sunday of joy. Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading call us to express joy in three ways. We are summoned to "shout for joy" (Zephaniah 3:14), to "cry out with joy" (Isaiah 12:6), and to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). Expressing Christian joy is quite distinct from the kind of joy we express, for instance, when our favorite sports team wins an important game. That kind of joy is fleeting. Christian joy is an inner peace and spiritual happiness that is developed throughout our lives and sustains us even when we struggle. It is the kind of joy that is infectious. Others can tell that there is simply something different about us. Let us rejoice this day, for to us shall come Emmanuel. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.





### CHILDREN'S LITRUGY

Our monthly Children's Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grades 2 and/or 6. Everyone is invited!

### DON'T GET SHUT OUT OF THE MEN'S RETREAT!

Many of you men have been thinking about making this Retreat. I think we all know inside we need this time at the Holy Family Retreat Center to refresh ourselves. However, you still have not filled out the enrollment form and mailed it in. 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. Now, although only about a month away from Friday, January 15, 2010, it is still not too late. There are reservations still available. Reservation forms can be found on the Church bulletin boards. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call Phil Gosselin at 568-5001.

### WOMEN: THERE'S A RETREAT SCHEDULED FOR YOU TOO!

Holy Family Retreat Center will host a women's retreat the weekend of January 29-31, 2010. A retreat is a break from our everyday lives and a chance to restore our connection to God, our ultimate source of strength. Holy Family retreats offer prayer services, workshops, private conferences and free time to explore the retreat theme. By remembering that we are part of the Christian community and beloved of God, we become grounded and better prepared to meet life's challenges. We emerge feeling at harmony with others. We are spiritually renewed and revitalized. Registration forms are available on the Church bulletin boards or by calling the Holy Family Retreat office at 860-521-0440. You may also register and get more information by going to [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org).

### MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE

A Mass of Healing and Hope will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. Presider: Rev. James Fanelli. Trained prayer teams will be available after the Mass. Rosary at 6:55 p.m. Call the Charismatic Renewal Office at 860-243-8234 for more information.

### 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](http://www.credocath.com) for more information about Credo Catholic Singles.

### GIFT CARD PROGRAM



Volunteers from our parish school are selling gift cards this weekend (December 12/13) and next weekend (December 19/20) after every Mass. **Still looking for Christmas gift ideas?** Gift cards are available for hundreds of major retailers and restaurants. 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.

Please note: Gift cards will not be sold after Masses the weekends of December 26/27 and January 2/3, so please plan accordingly.

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](mailto:tcmart@comcast.net) with any questions. Your support of our parish school is greatly appreciated!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### It's OK to Say Merry Christmas to Me



The St. Christopher Council #4 of the Knights of Columbus will be selling this button after all Masses at the exits of the church. The buttons are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Supplies are limited.

The proceeds are intended for the maintenance of the ultrasound machine going for St. Gerard's Center for Life, 22 Maple Avenue in Hartford that was recently on the front page of *The Catholic Transcript*. Studies show that if a mother sees her baby through an ultrasound, they are 80 to 90 percent more likely not to kill their own child by having an abortion.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

When the crowds in today's gospel asked "What shall we do?" the Baptist was very clear: SHARE. Resist giving token obligatory Christmas gifts. Instead give NECESSITIES to the poor. If those who have nothing or very little are not on your Christmas list, you missed the point of Christmas.

### GROCERY STORE COURTESY CARDS

Our parish school wishes to thank parishioners for the overwhelming response and support of the *Grocery Store Courtesy Card Campaign*. If you are interested in helping our parish school earn points and cash for every dollar you spend at your favorite grocery store, please fill out the form that can be found on the tables at the main entrance to the church. The form can be placed in any weekend's collection basket. **If you've already signed up, please take a form and ask a family member or a friend to support our school.** Stop & Shop card holders can also join the program by registering online at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus). There is no cost to you to participate in the Courtesy Cards Program and it does not affect any benefits you receive with your cards. Thanks for your support!

### CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

The Christmas food boxes will be packed on Thursday, December 17, and delivered to the designated families on Sunday, December 20. 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



### SCHEDULE FOR MASSES AND CONFESSIONS

#### Thursday - December 24 - Christmas Vigils

(The 7:30 a.m. daily Mass will not be celebrated.)

4:30 p.m. (A Carol Sing, led by the Children's Choir, begins at 4:00 p.m.)

10:00 p.m. (A Carol Sing, led by the Adult Choir, begins at 9:30 p.m.)

#### Friday - December 25 - Christmas Day Masses

8:00 a.m. (A Carol Sing will begin at 7:45 a.m.)

10:30 a.m. (A Carol Sing will begin at 10:15 a.m.)

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 19: 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Thursday, December 24: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon