



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

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.

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)

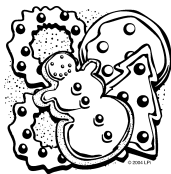
Raffle Prizes

\$.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.

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 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 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. 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