



You are cordially invited to attend
St. Christopher's



Soup and Stations

being held on the following
Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season:

February 24

March 3

March 10

March 17

March 24

Soup & Bread: 5:30 p.m. (in our church hall)

Stations of the Cross: 6:30 p.m. (in our church)



Please plan to join us for an evening that will begin with simple soup and bread and an abundance of warm fellowship with members of our St. Christopher parish and school community.

If you have a favorite soup or bread you'd like to share on one of the evenings, please call the parish office at 568-5240. Thank you! (No desserts, please)

We will end the evening with the children of our parish school and Religious Education program leading us in the Stations of the Cross as we prayerfully recall the tremendous love of Jesus Christ as He suffered and died for our salvation.





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
Richard "Mac" McCarthy

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 Lent**
February 21, 2010

*“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart.”*
– Romans 10:8

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

Saturday, February 20 – 4:30 p.m.
Marianne Harden - 1st Anniversary
(Mom & Family)

Sunday, February 21 – 8:00 a.m.
Barry Sweeney
(Richard & Mary Burke)

Sunday, February 21 – 10:30 a.m.
Josephine Miele
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Monday, February 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Joseph A. Graziani

Tuesday, February 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Paul E. Franklin (Wife Claire)

Wednesday, February 24 – 7:30 a.m.
Edward & Elsie Walker
(Jean Walker)

Thursday, February 25 – 7:30 a.m.
Elizabeth B. Bastow - 10th Anniversary
(Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Saturday, February 27 – 4:30 p.m.
Marcel Girard
(Fr. Curran & The People of St. Christopher’s)

Sunday, February 28 – 8:00 a.m.
Hazel Forte - 1st Anniversary (Family)

Sunday, February 28 – 10:30 a.m.
Marilyn Egazarian - 1st Anniversary
(Husband Harry)

OUR TITHING PARISH

Weekly Collection (February 14): \$ 5,585
Same Sunday in 2009: \$ 6,092

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

with Gratitude,
Fr. Curran

**REMEMBERING
ST. CHRISTOPHER’S PARISH**

Please consider remembering St. Christopher Church
by making a tax deductible donation or including us
in your will.

Benefits:

- Provide a spiritual legacy
- Provide a tax deduction
- Avoid Capital Gains Tax

Your contribution will enable St. Christopher’s
to continue to bring Christ to our parish family!



Please pray for:
Nicholas Duva
(father of Nick Duva)

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 a

Special Intention
(Joan & Lucien Lavertu)

The candle in the chapel burns this week

For All St. Christopher Families

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

The Season of Lent

Here are a few things to watch for during the season of Lent:

“Soup and Stations”...a sharing of simple soup and bread followed by the Stations of the Cross. Please see the insert in this weekend’s bulletin for more information.

Way of the Cross booklets will be available at the church entrances during the Lenten season for our parishioners who wish to reflect on the Stations of the Cross in our church at a time more convenient to them. We do ask that these booklets remain in the church. Thank you.

Daily Mass...will be celebrated Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. This is a great way to draw closer to our Eucharistic Lord. Come, join us!

Living Stations...Mark your calendars to attend the Living Stations to be held on Good Friday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. Touching scenes, meaningful music..this is such a beautiful way to round out your Lenten devotions. **If you would like to participate in this moving event,** please contact Phil Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229.



CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

A Can and Bottle Drive to support our parish school will be held on Saturday, February 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please bring your pre-rinsed cans and bottles to the front of our school. Thank you for your support!

Lent demands that we examine our choices in life. What is really important? What has lasting value? The traditional penitential practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving help us refocus our lives on our relationship with God, and with our brothers and sisters who are also children of that same Father. The Church asks us to make the Option for the Poor a commitment in our lives.



ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

The March meeting has been changed to **March 8 at 12 noon** because of a primary being held in the hall the previous week.

Join us for our delicious corned beef or turkey sandwiches and dessert. Lively Irish musical entertainment will be provided by the O’trajus Brothers! This should be a fun day. There is no charge for paid Social Club members. The public is cordially invited to join us. The charge is \$5 for non-members — reservations required for non-members only. If you have any questions about the club, or wish information about joining, please call Frank or Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229 or Nedra Gallo at 860-432-1793.



CHILDREN’S LITRUGY

Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, February 28 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grades 4 and/or 8. Everyone is invited!

REMEMBER

Once again the Church invites us to enter the desert of repentance. That desert, as today’s first reading reminds us, is also a desert of remembrance. This holy season summons us to remember all that God has done for us. Like the Israelites who recalled their captivity and God’s work to free them from the Egyptians, we, too, recall those times when we were held captive by sin and experienced freedom through the gift of God’s redeeming love.

Saint Paul tells us that the word of God is near us; it is in our mouths and in our hearts. May that sacred word prompt us to remember God’s great work of reconciliation in our lives and in our community. As this season of Lent unfolds, let us take to heart these words of Saint Paul and spend these forty days calling upon the name of the Lord, asking for forgiveness and healing.

CREDO CATHOLIC SINGLES EVENTS

Evening of Prayer

Credo Catholic Singles continues their monthly gathering of prayer in our Parish Center on Tuesday, February 23 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.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Volunteers from our parish school resume selling gift cards every weekend, after every Mass beginning this weekend. 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!



CATHOLIC BOOK STORE

The Catholic Book Store will be visiting our parish the weekend of March 6 and 7 with their large inventory of products. This is a great opportunity to purchase books or others items for Lent and Easter. ***A 20% discount coupon will be published in next weekend's bulletin.*** Please plan to stop by our church hall before or after all Masses that weekend.

MERCY AND XAVIER HIGH SCHOOLS PRESENT...

Guys and Dolls

Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Mercy High School Auditorium
1740 Randolph Road ~ Middletown

Admission: \$10.00

For more information visit www.mercyhigh.com

ST. CHRISOTPHER SCHOOL'S ANNUAL AUCTION

Party at the Mardi...Gras!

Saturday ~ March 27



Our parish school is hosting a wonderful adult-only event that is packed with loads of fun. Admission is only \$25 per person or \$45 per couple and includes delicious food and open bar (beer, soda and wine). A silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. in the school with a live auction to follow. Come party with Gina J from 96.5 TIC! Gina J is the host of the *At Work Mix* on weekdays, 10am - 3pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling the school office at 860-568-4100 or Bridget Messier-Cooke at 860-202-3692. ***Purchase your tickets now and your name will be entered into a drawing to win \$1,000 in cash!*** (*Drawing will be the night of the auction. Must be present to win.*)



SUPPORT ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL'S ANNUAL AUCTION

Support our parish school's Annual Auction with a ***donation of new items***, a ***service*** or place a ***business or personal advertisement***.

Are you a handyman, tutor, musician, babysitter or have some other skill or talent that you would be willing to donate a few hours of your time to be auctioned off to the highest bidder?

Support the auction by placing a business or personal advertisement. A personal ad can celebrate a special birthday, anniversary, promotion, etc. All ads will be printed in the auction catalog. Advertisements are available in the following sizes and costs:

Silver Sponsor - \$50 Half page ad

Gold Sponsor - \$100 Full Page ad

Platinum Sponsor - \$200 Full page ad plus Sign in Lobby night of the auction

Please contact Bridget 860.202.3692 to discuss your donation. A donor receipt will be provided.

The following article was written by Father Michael F.X. Hinkley, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church and the Shrine of St. Anne, both in Waterbury. This article first appeared in a 2008 issue of The Catholic Transcript. It is reprinted here with Fr. Hinkley's permission.

Generous Living: 'The Lord Provides'

There is something different in the person who lives with the spirit of gratitude. Able to view life as an opportunity to celebrate the varied gifts of God, this sort of person is generous and appreciative in an almost boundless way.

I once had the blessing of celebrating the sacrament of the sick for a great-aunt who was facing terminal cancer. She was one of those great people of gratitude. Coupled with the fact that the cancerous tumor had disfigured her face in a disturbing way, she was well aware that her hour was approaching. Still, her spirits were high. She was able, as she always had been, to receive every day as a gracious gift from God for her to enjoy. And enjoy she did! Her love for people was remarkable, and everyone was considered a friend worthy of passing small talk and a shared laugh. In fact, with the tears of God's grace, she was able to articulate her gratitude for the gift of faith to everyone who visited her bedside.

It may well be true that those who appreciate God's gifts are able to be more generous in return. Such people are eager to develop and employ their gifts out of love for God. They face life as an opportunity to give thanks. With this understanding, one can see Christian stewardship as maturation of the disciple in love. Such good people mirror the generosity of God in what they say and do for others. A person of gratitude knows himself or herself to be a blessed caretaker of God's gifts in service to others. These are the kind of people who make our local parishes wonderful communities of warmth and care.

To live a life of generosity is attractive to most of us. We are edified when we hear of another's kindness and goodness. And yet, does this not beg the question of why more people aren't given over to the spirit of generosity and Christian stewardship? Somehow there is one big "but," spiritually, for many people. For some their time is so sacred, they can't volunteer even once a year for a worthy cause in which they believe. Others will find that offering their talents in an attempt to help their local community isn't important. Still others will donate all their time and make their talents available for any need, yet when it comes to tithing their income, they

are shocked or even insulted by the idea: "How can you really ask that of anyone?"

To enjoy the blessings that come with being generous, one must welcome the experience of a personal conversion. Disciples will fail to appreciate the Lord's grace and goodness if they are still living according to their own perceptions and understandings. Stewardship as a way of life requires a profound and personal change in the believer's heart. All life is now a gracious gift. Whether one knows a long life or a short one, good health or illness, a professional career or a trade, these are all God's gifts. In this way of life, no one is solely responsible for being "self"-made. It becomes folly for someone to cling to his or her gifts as if God will somehow run out of generosity.

Truth be told, no one will outdo God in generosity. It is countercultural to accept the view that all that you have as time, talent and treasure is a result of God's goodness to you and your family. While much can be said for the strong faith of the American people, there is a dominant secular culture that contradicts the principles of the Gospel. The American bishops have observed: "This is a culture in which destructive "isms" – materialism, relativism, hedonism, individualism, and consumerism – exercise seductive, powerful influences." Thus, there are strong forces that pull even good people of faith away from the generous example of the Lord into a personalized and more self-centered notion of discipleship. In the end, if the destructive forces adversely affect the believer, he or she will find it nearly impossible to mirror the generosity of God.

While the disciple must dwell in the world as it is, in order to remain faithful to Christ, he or she must choose to remain distinct from the secular culture. Here, the generous person is not only seen as enjoying a blessed life, but he or she is courageous in addressing the secular and surrounding culture. By the sharing of his or her time, talent and treasure, the disciple of Christian stewardship brings the grace of a generous heart to his or her brothers and sisters and, in turn, glorifies our loving Father. How different our parishes would be if we further celebrated those among us living generous lives!