

STEWARDSHIP

“ A Way of Life”

Parish Ministries ❖ Programs ❖ Activities



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St. Christopher Church

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GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Being good stewards means that we use our gifts and resources to achieve the goals of our faith in our day-to-day lives. Our abilities, time and treasures all can be used to bring the Gospel message to others; a message of faith, hope and love. Using the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a guide, we can look for ways to practice what we preach. To test our stewardship, we can ask a few questions.

- How well do I use my gifts?
- How can I help advance the Gospel?
- How well do I share God's goodness to me with others?

Being good stewards helps keep God first in our lives.

*Creator God, life is your gift to me.
Through Baptism, you invite me to share the gift
of my life in service to others.
Be with me as I choose each day to
show Your Presence in our world.
Give me the courage and generosity
to respond to Your love, to Your call.
I pray especially for those who serve you
in ministry within our parish.
May we bear the "Good News" to those in need.
Keep us close to you.
Open the minds and hearts of many other men,
women and young people that they may accept
your challenge to build the Kingdom in our parishes.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

MUSIC MINISTERS

Adult Choir

This group provides leadership at Sunday Mass and various special liturgical celebrations throughout the year. It is open to ages high school through adult who enjoy singing and have a desire to share their abilities with their faith community. Singers receive basic vocal/choral instruction along with learning music to be sung at Mass and at a special Advent Concert of readings and music.



Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from September through May.

Children's Choir

This group provides leadership at the monthly Children's Liturgies, certain Holy Day liturgies, and a special Advent Concert of readings and music each December. Children in grades 2-8, who enjoy singing, are invited to join this choir where there is an emphasis on learning music for the liturgies, how to sing well, the order of worship at Mass, and a sense of caring for one another.

Rehearsals are every Monday afternoon from September through May.

Teen Music Ensemble

Middle and high school students are encouraged to participate in this group that provides leadership at all Teen Masses, which take place at the Saturday Vigil several times throughout the school year. Students who sing or play an instrument are invited to share their abilities and their love of music at these celebrations.

Rehearsals are organized before each liturgy date on an as-needed basis.

PARISH COUNCIL

Develops parish vision and goals; coordinates all aspects of parish life and activity; reviews parish budget and policies.

Subcommittee: Building & Grounds Committee

A committee that is responsible for advising on the maintenance of buildings and grounds and planning for future use and growth. Parishioners do not have to be members of the Parish Council to become a member of this committee.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Our parish sponsors a Scout program. The goal of all levels of scouting is to develop skills, have fun and learn to do the right thing. The levels of scouting are Tiger Cubs (1st grade or age 7), Cub Scouts (2nd or 3rd grade, or ages 8 or 9), Webelo Scouts (4th or 5th grade or age 10), and Boy Scouts. This ministry can only thrive with a high level of parental involvement. Scouting members are involved in community service, fundraisers, events and field trips.

COUNTER MINISTRY

The ministry of Counters is responsible for counting the weekly offertory and second collections and depositing the funds in the bank. The members strive to make accurate counts, to conduct themselves and their activities in a secure manner and to keep individual donor information confidential. Members of this ministry meet on their scheduled Sunday mornings for approximately two hours.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned to assist the parish clergy in administering the Holy Eucharist by giving Communion at Mass. Eucharistic ministers also, as their schedule permits, administer Holy Communion to parishioners who are in convalescent homes or homebound.

Subcommittee: Homebound Ministry

The Homebound Ministry helps to identify those in our community who are unable to attend Mass due to illness (either chronically or short term) and reaches out to those who are interested in receiving Communion at their home.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Family Life Committee is to promote, among all families, a deeper understanding of Christian family life, and to foster and support its development by encouraging a family perspective in all parish ministries and activities.

FINANCE COUNCIL

The role of the Finance Council is to advise the pastor about financial affairs of the parish. This includes developing the parish budget (which is reviewed by the Parish Council), monitoring the implementation of the budget, recommending ways of controlling costs and improving income. The Council also discusses financial trends and the need for any major fundraising efforts.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The main goal of the Hospitality Committee is to create community, and seek to enrich and expand the social life of the parish and parishioners. One way is through coffee hours after the Masses. All are invited – not only to participate – but to bake and bring some of your favorite goodies to share with the rest of the parish.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4

The Knights of Columbus are Catholic men who are committed to making their community a better place, building up their faith, and protecting and enhancing family life while supporting their local Church. The Knights of Columbus was founded in New Haven, CT in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney to provide financial support to members and their families. These first Knights were bound by the ideal of Christopher Columbus, who helped bring Christianity to the new world - thus the name Knights of Columbus. Our principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Membership is open to men age 18 and older who are practical Catholics in union with the Holy See (the Pope). A practical, or practicing, Catholic accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church in matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accordance with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing with the Catholic Church. The Knights of Columbus also offers highly rated life insurance, annuities and long term care insurance products to members to help them provide a secure financial future for themselves and their families.

St. Christopher Council 4 runs projects in support of our Church, Parish School, community, youth, our Council, and to help protect life in all stages, from conception to natural death. We also support and encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life and provide scholarships for member's children who are attending Catholic schools. In order to fund our many projects, we staff a concession stand during UCONN football games at Rentschler Field. Our meetings are held in the church hall at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of each month.

LECTORS



Lectors are men and women of the parish who proclaim the Scripture readings at Mass and at other liturgical services. They are appointed to share the Ministry of the Word, by reflecting on and praying with the Bible, and by developing their skills in proclaiming the Word of God.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee plans liturgical celebrations and coordinates liturgical ministries. The committee meets on a regular basis to plan ahead for these celebrations.

Subcommittee: Children's Liturgy

This ministry requires the attention of a separate Committee that meets on a regular basis to plan ahead for these celebrations. This committee has the responsibility to develop, plan and celebrate children's liturgy for Sunday Mass. The Children's Liturgy is a monthly occurrence at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy, usually the fourth Sunday of the month, from September to May.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

All Christians are called to be prayerful people, offering themselves to the Lord in prayer each day. Even those who can share in no other ministry can, by prayer, become a great and good influence on our parish and on all those for whom we pray.

Prayer Line

People who commit themselves to pray for specific intentions as requested.



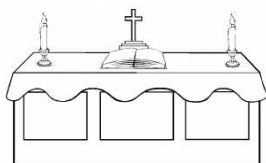
Weekly Rosary

The Rosary is a meditation, a time to recall and think about the life of Jesus as seen and experienced by Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary form a mini-lesson of faith, using the highlights and significant moments of the life of Jesus. We see in brief the events of salvation history that are the core of our belief and the hope of our eternal life. The Rosary and Miraculous Medal Novena are recited at the Parish Chapel each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to join in this prayer time.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

This club brings adults together for social activities and informational programs. Regular monthly meetings are held in the church hall on the first Monday of each month, with some exceptions.

ALTAR MINISTRY



A group of men and women who prepare the sanctuary and sacristy for Sunday Mass each week, taking care of the sacred vessels and linens, cleaning the sanctuary, etc.

ALTAR SERVERS

Servers assist the celebrant at Mass and at other liturgical services. Girls and boys in grade 4 through high school are eligible to become altar servers.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY



A committee of persons willing to provide support to families at the time of death, help them to prepare for the Funeral Liturgy, and assist them in the period of grieving afterwards. Also included in this ministry are altar ministers who support the family and represent the community at the Funeral Liturgy.

Subcommittee of the Parish Council: Safety and Health Committee

The purpose of the Safety and Health Committee is to develop, coordinate, and assess facility-wide safety programs and activities. The committee develops facility-wide safety policies that affect all unit operations, serves as a clearing house for safety operations between facility departments and outside organizations, and provides support and assistance to individual departments by helping them solve their safety problems and concerns. Parishioners do not have to be members of the Parish Council to become a member of this committee.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

During March of 2003, we introduced this new ministry to our parish. Within a period of three months, 11 women gathered twice a month in the Parish Center community room and created 30 shawls that were gifted to offer comfort and to bless the recipient. This ministry meets the second and fourth Monday in the church hall. Everyone is welcome to join and be a part of this community of faith as we grow together through prayer, conversation and the joy of knitting/crocheting. No knitting experience required.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE

This committee's objective is to coordinate pro-life information, prayer and activities. They currently assist Birthright with their Baby Bottle Fundraiser at our parish and encourage participation at St. Christopher's in the *40 Days for Life* Campaign.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the process by which people become members of the Catholic Church. The process is concerned with the total formation of the person into believing with the Church community (doctrinal formation) and living with the Church community (apostolic formation). This gradual development culminates in the celebration of the initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Small Christian Communities are groups of 8-12 parishioners who meet weekly to read and reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings, pray and share their faith together, provide mutual support, and engage in outreach to others.

MASSES

Saturday Vigil	4:30 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Weekdays (M-F)	7:30 a.m.
Holy Days	As announced in the preceding Sunday Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM

By appointment with Deacon William Gilles 860-633-8997 (days & evenings)

Deacon William Gilles instructs the parent and Godparents regarding the pre-Baptism and Baptism procedures.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are arranged with Deacon William Gilles and are usually performed following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish priest at least six months before the desired wedding date.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Action Committee seeks to foster an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, and to take appropriate action in the light of that teaching and the Gospel.

Subcommittee: Committee for Direct Service

The Committee for Direct Service coordinates efforts to assist the needy in our parish and neighborhood through a variety of outreach programs. These include the Food Bank (in cooperation with South Congregational Church and the town of East Hartford), Holiday Food Baskets, Homeless Shelter, Friendship Center Soup Kitchen, Hearts and Hands Project, Homefront and the Crop Walk.

Food Bank: A committee with the responsibility to promote the monthly “Food for the Needy” collection, food baskets for special holidays and the transportation of the food collected.

“Giving Tree”: A committee with the responsibility for planning and executing the annual Christmas gift tree for needy children and adults. It is also known as “Hearts and Hands”.

PIN Ministry (Parishioner in Need): A committee with the responsibility to provide all parishioners the opportunity to “get a hand” and the opportunity to “lend a hand.” Our committee reviews requests for assistance and matches those in need to fellow parishioners or outside organizations who can provide the needed support.

Subcommittee: Advocacy and Education

The Advocacy and Education Committee promotes our Christian call to faithful citizenship. We are committed to carrying the values of the Gospel and church teachings into the public square. As citizens, we can and must participate in the debates and choices over the values, vision, and leaders that will take our town, state and nation through this century. Our goal is to educate ourselves and thus share this information with the members of our parish so that they can be informed and be encouraged to take appropriate action as well.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



This committee coordinates parish efforts encouraging sharing of time, talent and treasure by making Stewardship an ongoing process and “a way of life.”

TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

Our Teddy Bear Ministry brings comfort to people suffering from physical, mental, or spiritual stress. These Teddy Bears represent our love and caring as a congregation. A card signed by members of our parish accompanies each Teddy Bear.



USHER / GREETER MINISTRY

Our ushers/greeters are the first persons that our parishioners and guests meet when they come to church. Their job is to make sure all people who enter our church feel welcome. They escort people to a pew if needed, handout material as necessary (i.e., bulletins, Palms, Easter Vigil candles), are responsible for the annual October count, and provide assistance to any person requiring it. At the appropriate time during the liturgy, our ushers process down the aisles where they are stationed to take up the collection(s).

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Vincent J. Curran.....	860-568-5240
<i>Pastor</i>	
William Gilles & Edward Giard.....	860-568-5240
<i>Deacons</i>	
Kathleen Madej	860-568-4100
<i>Principal – St. Christopher School</i>	
Maria Sousa	860-895-8692
<i>Coordinator of Religious Education</i>	
Kristina Gillespie.....	860-895-8692
<i>Director of Youth Ministry & Confirmation</i>	
Charleen Miele	860-561-5394
<i>Music Director & Organist</i>	
Dianne Rumsey	860-568-5240
<i>Accountant</i>	
Bonnie Szalay	860-568-5240
<i>Office Manager</i>	
Roger Dube	860-568-5240
<i>Custodian</i>	

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

570 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT 06118
 (860) 568-4100 www.saintchristopherschool.org
 Mrs. Kathleen Madej – *School Principal*
 Mrs. Karen Santacross – *Development Director*
 Mrs. Audrey Cesana – *School Secretary*

Saint Christopher School's mission is to educate children from Preschool through Grade 8 in a Catholic environment that provides academic excellence, enlightened by faith. Our purpose is to help students develop understanding, attitudes, values, and behaviors that reflect the life and teachings of Christ.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mission of Saint Christopher's Religious Education program is to assist and support families with the religious formation of their children in the Catholic faith, by providing a program of religious instruction and activities.



Kindergarten – Grade 5

Grades K-5 meet Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in our parish school. Classes meet from September through April. This program is a systematic effort to help the children in faith and in their relationship with God.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist begin in the first grade.

Junior High – Grades 6 - 8

Junior High students meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in our parish school. Classes meet from September through April.

High School – Grades 9 -10

The Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred after a two-year process of preparation has been completed. It is celebrated in the fall of the third year. Candidates work with our Youth Ministry staff which schedules the appropriate classes to be taken, provides service opportunities and organizes weekend retreats for the teens.

Subcommittee: Vacation Bible Camp

This annual program is for the children of the parish. It provides an opportunity to learn Christian truths and values in a fun and interesting way. Older students are encouraged to participate as camp counselors. The camp runs one week during the summer on weekday mornings.

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We are called



to be Christ-bearers