

Celebrating


Catholic Schools
Education for a Lifetime
www.catholicsschoolshartford.org

January 2011

Open House Dates

St. Matthew (Forestville) • PK-8
 Welch Drive, Bristol 06010
 (860) 583-5214
 Wed. 2/2/11, 10:00 a.m.

St. Mary - St. Michael • K-8
 14 Seymour Avenue, Derby 06418
 (203) 735-6471
 Wed. 1/12/11, 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
 Wed. 1/19/11, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

St. Christopher • PK-8
 570 Brewer Street, East Hartford 06118
 (860) 568-4100
 Tues. 2/1/11, 9-11 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m.
 (Snow date 2/3/11)

St. Vincent de Paul • PK-8
 35 Bishop Street, East Haven 06512
 (203) 467-1606
 Thurs. 2/3/11, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

St. Stephen • PK-8
 418 Ridge Road, Hamden 06517
 (203) 288-6792
 Thurs. 1/6/11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 and 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Assumption • PK-8
 27 So. Adams Street, Manchester 06040
 (860) 649-0889
 Sun. 1/30/11, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Main Campus Grades PK-5
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Upper Campus Grades 6-8
 45 Ludlow Road, Manchester 06040

St. Bridget • PK-8
 74 Main Street, Manchester 06040
 (860) 649-7731
 Sun. 1/23/11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. James • PK-8
 73 Park Street, Manchester 06040
 (860) 643-5088
 Tues. 1/25/11, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel • PK-8
 115 Lewis Avenue, Meriden 06451
 (203) 235-2959
 Wed. 1/19/11, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 (Snow date, Thurs. 1/20/11)
 Sat. 1/22/11, after 4:00 p.m. Mass
 Wed. 1/26/11, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 (Snow date, Thurs. 1/27/11)

St. Stanislaus • PK-8
 81 Akron Street, Meriden 06450
 (203) 237-1005
 Sun. 1/30/11, 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. 3/9/11, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Fri. 4/8/11, During school day

St. Mary • PK-8
 72 Gulf Street, Milford 06460
 (203) 878-6539
 Tues. 2/1/11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart • PK-8
 35 Orange Street, New Britain 06053
 (860) 229-7663
 Sat. 1/22/11, following 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

St. Bernadette • PK-8
 20 Burr Street, New Haven 06512
 (203) 469-2271
 Wed. 1/19/11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. 1/26/11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. 2/2/11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Daily Open House All Year
 Contact us for after business hours/
 weekend tours

St. Mary • PK-8
 652 Willard Avenue, Newington 06111
 (860) 666-3844
 Wed. 1/26/11, 6:30 p.m.

St. Dominic • PK-5
 1050 Flanders Road, Southington 06489
 (860) 628-4678
 Sun. 1/30/11, following 11:30 a.m. Mass

St. Thomas • PK-8
 133 Bristol Street, Southington 06489
 (860) 628-2485
 Thurs. 1/20/11, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

St. Peter/St. Francis of Assisi • PK-8
 360 Prospect Street, Torrington 06790
 (860) 489-4177
 Fri. 1/14/11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Thurs. 1/27/11, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Sun. 1/30/11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity • K-8
 11 N. Whittlesey Avenue, Wallingford 06492
 (203) 269-4476
 Sun. 1/23/11, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

St. Brigid (Elmwood) • PK-8
 100 Mayflower Street, West Hartford 06110
 (860) 561-2130
 Wed. 1/26/11, 8:30 a.m. - noon

Our Lady of Victory • PK-8
 620 Jones Hill Road, West Haven 06516
 (203) 932-6457
 Sun. 1/30/11, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. Gabriel • K-8
 77 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor 06095
 (860) 688-6401
 Wed. 1/12/11, 7:00 p.m. (Gr. 6-8)
 Wed. 1/19/11, 7:00 p.m. (Gr. K-5)



Dale R. Hoyt
 Superintendent
 of Catholic Schools

Catholic schools also greatly benefit the nation by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, and serve in the government, industry, business, non-profit and educational fields. In addition, through the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and the Catholic School Support Program students in need are offered tuition scholarships so that they can attend our schools.

As taxpayers, we continue to save the State of Connecticut over four hundred million dollars annually since our students do not access public education. Instead, we provide schools that encourage students to serve and support parish life and the local civic communities, and we graduate students who are critical thinkers, productive moral citizens, and spiritual leaders.

During the 2010-2011 school year, we recognize and congratulate two A+ individuals for their distinguished service to the ministry of Catholic school education: Fr. Joseph V. DiSciaccia, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and School, Bristol, and Margaret Williamson, Principal/Chief Administrator, Northwest Catholic High School. Both contribute to the greater good of Catholic school education.

We invite you to visit our Catholic schools and witness the A+ qualities that they offer to our Church and to America.

2010 – 2011 Archdiocesan Distinguished Elementary School Pastor

Rev. Joseph V. DiSciaccia, Pastor of St. Joseph Church and School in Bristol, has been named the 2010 – 2011 Distinguished Elementary School Pastor by Superintendent Dale R. Hoyt. Fr. DiSciaccia has also been nominated for the Distinguished Pastor Award bestowed by the National Catholic Educational Association.



Father DiSciaccia has had a lifelong connection to Catholic school education, having attended Catholic schools from first grade through graduate school. After attending St. Joseph School in Enfield, he spent his high school years at St. Thomas Seminary High School and Junior College in Bloomfield. Father then received his B.A. from St. Bonaventure University in New York, and his Master's Degree in Divinity from Christ the King Seminary in New York, as well as a Master's in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Nebraska.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1973 by Archbishop John F. Whealon and has served the Archdiocese as an Associate Pastor/Parochial Vicar, Co-Pastor, and Pastor at several different parishes, including St. Peter, Torrington, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Sacred Heart/Christ the King, Bloomfield, St. Paul, Kensington, Sacred Heart, Bloomfield, St. Laurent and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Meriden. Currently, the parish and school of St. Joseph in Bristol is fortunate to have Fr. Joe, as he is known, as their pastor, spiritual leader, and resident bicyclist.

Father DiSciaccia's efforts on behalf of the Archdiocese go well beyond his parish work. He has been active in the high school retreat Search and Awareness Programs and in Spiritual Direction; Priest Chaplin for Marriage Encounter and Engagement Encounter; and Director of Spiritual Formation for the St. Thomas Seminary Formation Program. In 2007 Archbishop Henry J. Mansell appointed Fr. DiSciaccia as Minister for Priests, a position he continues to hold.

According to Superintendent Hoyt, "Fr. DiSciaccia possesses a clear philosophy and enthusiasm for Catholic schools, provides spiritual guidance to the school community, participates in school activities, collaborates with his school board, and supports his administrator. We are so fortunate to have his gifts in this Archdiocese and to have him guiding one of our schools."

The Superintendent's sentiment is certainly shared by the St. Joseph Parish and School community. Asked about his pastor, St. Joseph School principal, Mark Monnerat states, "Father Joe has shown great trust and support of St. Joseph School. He has provided me with outstanding spiritual guidance and has become a great friend in the process. He is a wonderful advocate for the advancement and continued improvement of school facilities and programs. He strives to understand issues raised, poses thoughtful questions, and has stood behind my decisions regarding the improvement of programs, curriculum, technology, and teacher development. Father Joe constantly states that I am the educator, and he believes in and supports my educational decisions."

Perhaps the best description of why Fr. Joseph DiSciaccia was selected for this honor comes from the man himself. Catholic schools "...have served me well. From the earliest days learning Bible stories about Jesus to biology and chemistry in high school and college, there has been a steady approach to learning academic subjects while developing faith...I have had the opportunity to have been gifted with teachers who loved learning and wanted to deepen faith. I remember fondly a 6th grade teacher patiently helping me to understand math and a high school religion teacher opening my eyes to a deeper understanding of the Church...Values of working hard and perseverance were present with great consistency. Being responsible for my actions and my own work helped me to concentrate on difficult subjects. When certain classes and subjects were challenging, I experienced diligent teachers who encouraged me to work beyond what I thought I could achieve...I am very grateful for my Catholic school training and background because it has enabled me to learn a lot about myself, my faith in Jesus Christ and living in a very diverse world."

Superintendent Hoyt will make the formal presentation of the Distinguished Elementary School Pastor Award to Fr. DiSciaccia following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish on January 30, 2011.

Catholic Schools: an A+ for America

In the Archdiocese of Hartford, Catholic Schools Month is an annual celebration of the important role that our Catholic elementary and secondary schools play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Our Catholic schools are proud to offer an excellent academic experience that encourages intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social growth in their students. In November 2010, two Catholic schools in the Archdiocese were awarded the highest honor given by the United States Department of Education, and were named National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence: St. James School, Manchester and St. Martha School, Enfield.

In 2010, Monsignor John P. Conte, Rev. Lawrence S. Symolon and Mary Macunas were named national pastors and principal by the National Catholic Educational Association for the contributions they have made to Catholic school education in America.

There is no doubt that Catholic schools are an added value for the nation. American society benefits greatly from the positive contributions of Catholic school graduates who have experienced high academic standards, strong moral guidance, and the educational support that results in exceptional graduation rates. Catholic schools also provide a high level of service to local communities because of the many "faith in action" activities that students undertake. "Giving back to the community" and "helping others" are values instilled in every Catholic school student as they follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Catholic schools also greatly benefit the nation by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, and serve in the government, industry, business, non-profit and educational fields. In addition, through the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and the Catholic School Support Program students in need are offered tuition scholarships so that they can attend our schools.

As taxpayers, we continue to save the State of Connecticut over four hundred million dollars annually since our students do not access public education. Instead, we provide schools that encourage students to serve and support parish life and the local civic communities, and we graduate students who are critical thinkers, productive moral citizens, and spiritual leaders.

During the 2010-2011 school year, we recognize and congratulate two A+ individuals for their distinguished service to the ministry of Catholic school education: Fr. Joseph V. DiSciaccia, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and School, Bristol, and Margaret Williamson, Principal/Chief Administrator, Northwest Catholic High School. Both contribute to the greater good of Catholic school education.

We invite you to visit our Catholic schools and witness the A+ qualities that they offer to our Church and to America.

Please Participate in the 2011
Catholic High School Collection
 Saturday and Sunday,
 January 22 and 23, 2011

Your gift will support:

- Outstanding academics
- 100% Graduation Rates
- Tuition Assistance
- Faith Centered Studies
- Future Church and community leaders

Catholic Schools
 Education for a Lifetime
www.catholicsschoolshartford.org

2010 – 2011 Archdiocesan Distinguished Principal Award

Mrs. Margaret Williamson, Principal/Chief Administrator of Northwest Catholic High School, is the 2010-2011 recipient of the Archdiocesan Distinguished Principal Award. Superintendent Dale R. Hoyt was pleased to make the announcement of Mrs. Williamson's honor at the August Administrators Convocation. He noted that "Mrs. Williamson is the first secondary administrator in the Archdiocese ever to receive this prestigious award, and it is richly deserved. We have also nominated Margie for the Distinguished Principal Award through the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington, D.C. and look forward to hearing the results of our submission."



Margie Williamson has served the spiritual and educational needs of Northwest Catholic since 1987, when she joined the school community as Vice Principal for Academics. She was named Principal in 2000, and became Principal/Chief Administrator in July 2009. A graduate of The College of New Rochelle, Mrs. Williamson earned her Master's degree from The Catholic University of America and her Sixth Year Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Connecticut. She is thrilled to have been recognized by the Archdiocese for her dedication to her chosen field stating, "I am honored to have been selected for this wonderful recognition. Being a school administrator is an extremely rewarding position, and I try to help people get the most that they can out of their high school experience."

Mrs. Williamson is considered by colleagues and school community members alike as an extremely well-rounded administrator whose efficient oversight extends to many areas at Northwest Catholic including supervising and evaluating faculty, maintaining the excellence of the curriculum, developing and monitoring the budget, overseeing the Advancement and Admissions operations, and promoting the school's numerous athletic activities.

Key among Mrs. Williamson's many accomplishments are the following: she spearheaded the integration of technology into every classroom; introduced and cultivated the Professional Learning Community model at NWC; encouraged the faith development of the faculty via both the University of Dayton distance learning program and her "First Things First" initiative during which she presents the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith at faculty meetings; initiated the student prayer group "Fire, Praise and Power;" helped coordinate the production of a school recruitment video; was instrumental in Northwest Catholic becoming involved with unified sports; and promoted diversity within the school community.

As the students' "biggest fan," Margie's attendance at all Northwest Catholic events – academic, performing arts, or athletic activities – is legendary and will, of course, include the upcoming celebration of the school's 50th anniversary. Yet, she finds the time to serve on numerous committees and boards. Until 2008 she was President of the Connecticut Association of Catholic School Presidents, Principals and Superintendents, and currently serves on the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Board of Control and on several CIAC committees and Office of Catholic Schools committees. In March 2009, CIAC dedicated the Girls' State Basketball Tournament to Mrs. Williamson in honor of her long-term commitment to high school girls' basketball as well as her dedication and support of all CIAC athletic programs.

In support of Mrs. Williamson's selection as Archdiocesan Principal of the Year, Superintendent Hoyt states, "Margie's longevity of service and her dedication to Northwest Catholic are both outstanding – she models the best qualities of Catholic school leadership. She has a genuine care for her students that permeates all she does, and she is truly 'present' to the Northwest Catholic community at all times. Her professional involvement encompasses the national, State and Archdiocesan levels, serving as an example to her colleagues. Margie's exceptional grasp of Catholic school education and her proficiency as an administrator make her an excellent choice for the Archdiocesan Distinguished Principal of the Year."

In describing the criteria for selection, Mr. Hoyt explains, "Honorees for the Distinguished Principal Award bring dedication, enthusiasm and passion to their role as administrators; they create a positive learning environment in their school, integrating best practices and welcoming diversity; they are faith-filled educators in the Catholic tradition as well as lifelong learners, making professional contributions to their school and to the Archdiocese."

Mrs. Williamson's award was officially presented to her on December 8, 2010 during festivities at Northwest Catholic High School.