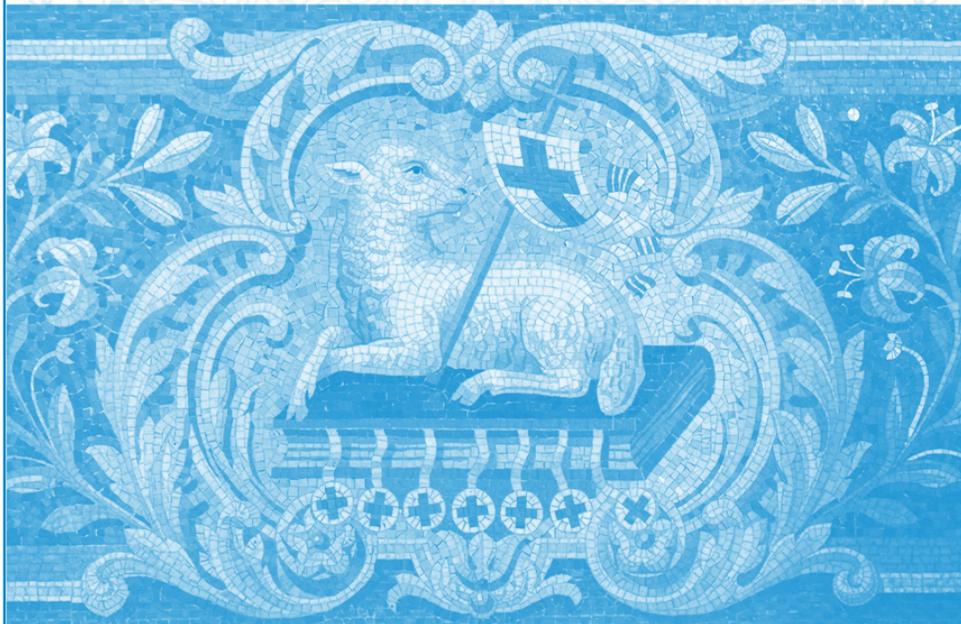


January 18, 2015 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

As John the Baptist watched Jesus walk by, he said,

"Behold, the Lamb of God."



~ John 1:36

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St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street • East Hartford, CT 06118

860-568-5240 (Office) • 860-568-0673 (Fax)

E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stchris-eh.org



Fr. Tim S. Hickey

Deacon Thomas F. Breen

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.

Holy Days: As announced



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

or by appointment



WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Exposition and
Adoration • Scriptural Rosary •
Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our
Lady of the Miraculous Medal •
Benediction



BAPTISM

By appointment; please call
the parish office at
860-568-5240 to schedule.



MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish
office at 860-568-5240
at least six months in
advance of your intended
wedding date.



OFFICE MANAGER

Bonnie Szalay

860-568-5240



ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Madej, *Principal*
Audrey Cesana, *Secretary*

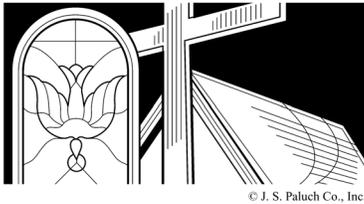
www.saintchristopherschool.org
860-568-4100



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Maria Sousa, *Coordinator*
860-895-8692

stchrisre@gmail.com



**Second Sunday
in
Ordinary Time
January 18, 2015**

“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.”

– 1 Corinthians 6:19a

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 17 – 4:00 p.m.
John St. Onge – 4th Anniversary
(Wife Simone & Family)

Sunday, January 18 – 8:00 a.m.
Carmelo Gallo (Mike & Maria Gallo)

Sunday, January 18 – 10:30 a.m.
Antonio & Filomena Freitas
Antonio & Maria Jacinta Sousa
All Deceased Members of
the Freitas & Sousa Families (Family)

Monday, January 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Emma & Vincent Mondo
Consuelo Railton
(The Mondo Family)

Tuesday, January 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Paul E. Franklin (Wife Claire)

Wednesday, January 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. David W. Lonergan

Thursday, January 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Elizabeth Barno (Grandchildren)

Friday, January 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Vincent Guccione (Marie & Bob Gesualdi)

Saturday, January 24 – 4:00 p.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, January 25 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mother & Daughters)

Sunday, January 25 – 10:30 a.m.
Maria Tonna DeMasi (The Marcin Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| What We Collected (January 11): | \$ 5,491 |
| What We Need for General Expenses: | \$ 7,317 |

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT

The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

TAX STATEMENTS

We are happy to provide tax statements to our parishioners who request one. If you regularly use your envelopes to make your offerings to our parish and wish to receive a tax statement, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 or at stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

A popular hymn used in many Catholic churches is “Here I am, Lord.” This hymn is based in part on our first reading from the Book of Samuel. The Lord wants us to respond just the way Samuel does in the reading. God calls each of us to discipleship through lives of stewardship.

Our challenge is first to hear God’s call. It is there always, but we must listen for it. Then we need to respond to that call, and we need to respond in ways that show we recognize that the call is to service and the call is for us to be disciples. It is only implied initially, but it is clear that the Lord is calling Samuel by name. In the same way God calls each of us by name. We need to hear that as Samuel did, and we need to respond as Samuel did, “Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will.” – www.thecatholicsteward.com

SNOW STORMS AND DAILY MASS

Daily Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. regardless of any overnight or early morning snow storms this winter. However, those who attend daily Mass are urged to use prudence and caution in deciding whether or not to attend.

SANCTUARY LAMPS



The lamps beside our tabernacles remind us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to schedule a weekly dedication for either the church or chapel sanctuary lamp, please call the parish office. The suggested offering for a lamp dedication is \$15.

2014 ANNUAL APPEAL SURPASSES RECENT YEARS' TOTALS!

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, our 2014 Annual Fund Appeal netted more than \$40,000. This is nearly \$8,000 more than was raised in last year's appeal. What an outstanding demonstration of support for the parish. I am heartened by the number of parishioners who responded to the appeal. In fact, nearly 25 percent of all registered parishioners responded to the appeal. It's a testament to your dedication to the parish and our many initiatives. As always, your gifts will be used fully aware of the sacrifices you have made in offering them and with principles of stewardship in mind.

I would like to thank our office manager, Bonnie Szalay, who coordinates the annual mailing at a huge cost savings to the parish, and to the volunteers who helped stuff envelopes with the appeal letter and response cards. They are: Jackie Luizzi, Jeanne Sciarra, Vivian Tardiff, Fran Tebecio and Betty Yorio.

This 50th anniversary year of St. Christopher Parish is off to a great start. We ask God to continue to pour out his blessings on us as we renew all things in Faith, Communion and through Evangelization.

– Fr. Tim

ELECTRONIC GIVING IS HERE!

We are excited to announce that our Online Giving program is up and running. We thank those of you who last weekend expressed an interest in this program and we thank Mike Munley for his presentation. All parishioners on record will receive from us a letter within the next couple of weeks which will provide more information about this initiative. In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the parish website at stchris-eh.org and use the online giving link to see how easy it is to setup an online giving account. We hope many parish families will join the nearly dozen families who in just one week already set up their accounts.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus' question in today's Gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children or parents? Families (and parishes) are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

OFFICIAL PARISH SURVEY AVAILABLE

Thanks to Parish Council President Madeline Cassarino and Dan Valente, a new parish survey has been drafted and is ready for you to complete. We're looking for your input in the programs of the parish so we can continue to be renewed in Faith, Communion and through Evangelization. Please pick up a copy of the survey available at all the church entrances, complete it and return it no later than February 1 so we will be able to compile the information prior to the next Parish Council meeting. Baskets will be available at all the entrances to the church for completed surveys beginning next weekend. We thank you in advance for your input.

2015 HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION

We ask for your support of the 2015 High School Collection being taken up next weekend, January 24 and 25. This collection assists the Catholic secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford as they foster educational excellence and prepare young people to become productive citizens and Church leaders. Your gifts is an investment that will continue to pay dividends.

BANNERS

You have likely noticed that the Christmas banners have been replaced with green banners that will hang in our sanctuary during Ordinary Time. The purchase of these banners was made possible through a generous donation by parishioner Elena Millstein in memory of her husband Jerry Millstein and the Deceased Members of the Fiengo Family. We are most grateful to Elena for her donation. If you are interested in making a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one to help us purchase banners for the Easter season, please contact the parish office.

SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, February 7, the Archdiocesan Family Life Office will hold its 8th annual marriage enrichment evening from 5-9 p.m. at Mary, Our Queen Church and Parish Center in Plantsville, CT. This year's program will begin with Mass, include dinner, prayer, reflection, fun and a keynote address "How to be Married and Stay Engaged" by Dr. Jim Healy, nationally renowned author, speaker and director of the Center for Family Ministry for the Diocese of Joliet, IL. \$25 per couple (scholarships available). To register, contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-621-7858. Please RSVP by Feb. 4, 2015.

PARISH SCHOOL AUCTION

Our Annual St. Christopher Parish School Auction is coming up on Saturday, March 21, in our school auditorium. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with great food, raffles, silent and live auctions. The Annual Auction is our parish school’s biggest fundraiser of the year and we would love the support of all our parishioners. If anyone would like to attend, place an ad in the evening’s program book, become a sponsor, or donate an item for the silent or live auction (theatre or sports tickets, electronics, golf experiences, gift items, bottles of wine and other gifts), please contact Kate Darcy Hohenthal: 860-568-4100 or darcyhohenthalk@saintchristopherschool.org. Donated items can be dropped off at the school at any time! More information is available on our school’s website at: www.saintchristopherschool.org. We hope to see many of you there!

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH

This year at St. Christopher’s we are inaugurating a new memorial program for you to honor your deceased loved ones. The “Purgatorial Society of St. Christopher Church” is an opportunity for you to have your loved one(s) remembered at a special Mass being celebrated at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of every month all throughout the year.

The suggested donation for enrolling a deceased loved one is \$20. Please submit those names as soon as possible as the monthly Mass will commence on Saturday, January 24 at 8:30 a.m. Simply place your donation and the name of your loved one in an envelope in the collection basket, or visit the parish office to enroll your deceased loved one(s). You may enroll them at any time during the year, and their name will be added to the list of remembrances. We will acknowledge your enrollee with a special certificate.

The Church considers the Mass to be the greatest possible prayer of intercession insofar as it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father. At the Purgatorial Society Masses we will ask Christ to intercede on behalf of your loved ones that *“Perpetual light will shine on them, and that their soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, will rest in peace.”*

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT EVENINGS

The Vocation Office will be holding monthly Priesthood Discernment Evenings at St Thomas Seminary (467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield CT) for men between the ages of 18 and 55 who would like to get information about the Catholic Priesthood and meet with other men who feel God might be calling them to serve as a priest. The next meeting is Thursday, January 22, 6:00-7:30. Pizza will be served. Please call the Vocation Office at 860-242-5573 for more information.

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ February 13, 2015
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.



Please call **1-800-Red Cross** (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.

A CALL TO SERVE

At the start of this new year, please consider volunteering here at St. Christopher’s. Open your heart and help serve those in need in our parish and community. We are always looking for additional lectors, choir members, “go-to” men and women for odd jobs and technical support, new members of the Knights of Columbus, etc. For more information on how you can make a difference, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240.

CATHEDRAL MASS TO HONOR MLK

This Monday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m., the Cathedral of St. Joseph will celebrate an Archdiocesan Mass in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy. Msgr. John J. McCarthy will be the celebrant and Deacon Arthur Miller will be the homilist.

PRE-K SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

St. Christopher Parish and School are exploring running a pre-K summer camp program. This would be an amazing opportunity for our school, plus a huge help to working parents who have to figure out what to do with their young ones during the day. We are putting together a committee to help get this initiative off the ground for this summer. If you want to lend your ideas and assistance, please contact school board member Travis Simpson at Travis.Simpson@windstream.com or 860-966-9824. Your input is vital and time is of the essence. Please respond this week.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

| Sunday Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19 | Hebrews 5: 1-10 | Hebrews 6: 10-20 | Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17 | Hebrews 7:25 - 8:6 | Hebrews 8: 6-13 | Hebrews 9: 2-3, 11-14 | Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 |
| Psalm 40: 2, 4, 7-10 | Psalm 110: 1 - 4 | Psalm 111: 1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c | Psalm 110: 1 - 4 | Psalm 40: 7-10, 17 | Psalm 85: 8, 10-14 | Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-9 | Psalm 25: 4-9 |
| 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20 | | | | | | | 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 |
| John 1: 35-42 | Mark 2: 18-22 | Mark 2: 23-28 | Mark 3: 1-6 | Mark 3: 7-12 | Mark 3: 13-19 | Mark 3: 20-21 | Mark 1: 14-20 |

What is Lectio Divina?

While reading sacred scripture, read the words with a love and sense of discovery until something seems to strike home. Sit with the passage as one would with a good friend-not just thinking or analyzing, but instead remaining in a quiet, listening spirit, so the word can nurture and challenge you.

Call to Prayer: "Let us take a moment in the midst of all our activity to prepare ourselves for prayer."

*Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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www.paulistpress.com*

The Word of God: Choose one of next Sunday's readings. One person reads the scripture aloud as others are attentive to a word, phrase, or theme that is meaningful to them. Allow for a minute of silent reflection. Have another person read the same scripture a second time.

Faith Sharing: Begin with an open ended question such as "What strikes you from this reading?" and/or you can use the "Reflection Question" found below. Allow time for reflection & sharing.

Closing Prayer: At the end of the faith sharing, invite participants to pray aloud for any particular petitions or praises they may have. Feel free to close with: The Lord's Prayer or spontaneous prayers or a faith-based song.

Reflection for Next Sunday, January 25, 2015

This week we have another Gospel about the call of the first disciples. Jesus invites Simon Peter and Andrew to "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." The invitation to discipleship was not made just to the first 12 men who followed Jesus. It is made to each of us every day.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES

Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Richard "Mac" McCarthy

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Madeline Cassarino ~ 860-568-5023

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Michael Munley ~ 860-683-8594

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Richard Oliveira ~ 860-568-2341

SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR

Dr. Kate Darcy Hohenthal
860-568-4975

SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

Karen Santacross ~ 860-568-4975

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION

Kristina Gillespie ~ 860-895-8692
E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

Jean Nowik-Martocci ~ 860-568-8873

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Mary Priest ~ 860-569-0087

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
toobusysue@gmail.com
*"...but she's never too busy to
receive your prayer requests!"*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roberta H. De Fiore ~ 203-630-9295
E-mail: Roberta9700@yahoo.com

MINISTRY OF GREETERS and PRAYERSHAWL MINISTRY

Toni Amberg ~ 860-568-9069

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Phil Gosselin ~ 860-568-5001

FOOD BANK MINISTRY

David Gaudreau ~ 860-569-4325

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council #4

Scott Gay, Grand Knight ~ 860-670-8898

PARISH & SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN Roger Dube