

January 25, 2015 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent
and believe in the gospel.

Mark 1:14-15

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



**Third Sunday
in
Ordinary Time**

January 25, 2015

“The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

– Mark 1:15



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*)

Monday, January 26 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. David W. Lonergan

Tuesday, January 27 – 7:30 a.m.
Jeremiah B. Sullivan (*Daughter*)

Wednesday, January 28 – 7:30 a.m.
Mr. & Mrs. John Hebert & Family
(*Adrien Hebert*)

Thursday, January 29 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz (*Family*)

Friday, January 30 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo (*Wife & Family*)

Saturday, January 31 – 4:00 p.m.
William Wade (*Wife Bonnie*)

Sunday, February 1 – 8:00 a.m.
Lauretta Skold (*Al & Sally Labieniec*)

Sunday, February 1 – 10:30 a.m.
Emele Batista (*Family & Friends*)

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.

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (January 18): \$ 5,097*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 7,317

*Includes \$305 received through our Online Giving program.

ONLINE GIVING IS HERE

We encourage you to visit the parish website at www.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 more than a dozen families who in just a couple of weeks have already set up their accounts.

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

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17) There is a reason why Jesus called these simple men – Peter, Andrew, James and John – to be His first followers. In part it is an example to each of us. They were not theologians; they were not learned; they were not known for their skills in speaking to and influencing crowds of people. They were fishermen. God has gifted each of us with various skills and stewardship calls us to use those skills to build the Kingdom of God. However, just as the Lord recognized something in those first Apostles, He sees the same in us. It was not what Jesus thought those men could accomplish, but His understanding of what they could do with Him, and Him working through them. In the same way we can accomplish much if we allow the Lord to work within us and through us. – www.thecatholicsteward.com

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.

2015 HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION

We ask for your support of the 2015 High School Collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend. 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.

CHURCH AND HALL HEATING

Since the New Year we have had some minor problems with the furnace heating the church and hall: pilot lights were not staying lit, inconsistent delivery of heat to the church and the hall, etc. Thanks to our parishioners Travis Simpson and Roger Dionne and Stephen Roczynski, who are both licensed electricians, we were able to determine the problems and get them corrected. We did have to call in a local HVAC contractor but – again – thanks to the three men mentioned above, we were able to get the work done at a reasonable price. Finally, Roger, Travis and Stephen have generously donated many hours of their weekends and evenings to install new thermostats in the church and the wing, as well as oversee the conversion of the rectory furnace from electricity to natural gas. All of this work is being done so we can see savings in the heating and cooling this summer of our facilities.

SPONSOR A CHILD CAMPAIGN

Students from our parish school and religious education program are asking for your help by donating any pennies you may have lying around at home to help them sponsor children in the Diocese of Kumbakonam, India. Containers marked “SPONSOR A CHILD CAMPAIGN” have been placed at the entrances to our church. **UPDATE:** You have already donated \$464 towards this campaign. \$200 provides a child with food, lodging and education for one full year, and \$100 provides the same for six months.

CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

Chancel Choir

(Students in Grades 6 – Adult)

Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Children’s Choir

(Students in Grades 2 – 5)

January 10 – February 7: Saturdays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

February 14: No Rehearsal

February 21 and forward: Saturdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

ARCHDIOCESE TO SPONSOR TRIP TO SEE POPE FRANCIS

We just received word this week that the Hartford Archdiocese is planning a special weekend pilgrimage to join Pope Francis in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families in September. Complete details are not yet finalized, but buses will leave Friday 9/25/15 and return on Sunday 9/27/15. This will be a two-night, three-day excursion. A complete schedule and registration forms will be forthcoming, but the plan includes a bi-lingual retreat day on Saturday and attendance at the Papal Mass on Sunday. Father Tim would like to know how many might be interested in this trip. Please contact him at the parish office. **This is not a commitment;** it is just an expression of your interest. As more information becomes available, we will share it with you.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday ~ February 2 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Our speaker for our next meeting will be John Ellsworth, Museum Director of the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum of CT. He will take us back in time when radio was an important communication tool in our lives. Dues of \$10 for 2015 are now due. If you know someone who might be interested in joining the club, bring them along to see if we are a good fit for them. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

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. You may deposit your completed survey in one of the baskets that are available at all the entrances to the church. We thank you in advance for your input.



Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Steven Mark Cecchini

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

After All Masses this Weekend



Volunteers from our parish school will be selling gift cards after all Masses this weekend. These cards not only make great gifts, but also are great for you to use to make your everyday purchases such as groceries, gas, etc. You can help support our parish school by purchasing these gift cards. For more information, please contact school volunteer Ania Simpson at 860-966-9825 or at simpsonania@sbcglobal.net.

FAIR TRADE ITEMS AVAILABLE

After All Masses This Weekend

Fair Trade items are available for sale after all Masses this weekend. We have many items available for purchase including the most popular chocolate bars. If you would like more information about Fair Trade items, please contact Scott Gay at 860-670-8898 or at scottgay95@gmail.com.

BIRTHRIGHT ASKS FOR YOUR HELP

Birthingright, located on Main Street in East Hartford, assists women in crisis pregnancy in various ways. They are in great need for maternity clothes. If you or someone you know has gently worn, current style maternity clothes that are no longer needed, please consider donating them; Birthingright would be very grateful! There is a collection box in the church wing or you can contact me for pickup. Thank you! I can be reached at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net. – Peace, Phil Gosselin

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Ninety-eight deceased loved ones have already been enrolled in the Purgatorial Society of St. Christopher Church. These loved ones will be remembered during a Special Mass celebrated at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month during 2015. You may enroll your loved one(s) 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 suggested donation to enroll a deceased loved one is \$20.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Christopher Church Hall

Friday ~ February 13, 2015 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please call **1-800-Red Cross** to make an app't

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Our parish school is holding an Open House this Tuesday, January 27. Come for a visit during the school day between 9:00-11:00 a.m. and/or in the evening between 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please see the flyers at the main entrance for more information about our parish school or visit www.saintchristopherschool.org.

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 darcyhohenthal@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!

PARISHIONER IN NEED BAKE SALE

Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee will host their Sixth Anniversary Bake Sale after all Masses the weekend of February 7 and 8. We celebrate six years of operation. Since our inception, we have assisted and continue to assist several members within our parish as well as having provided resources to others within the community. Your support has helped us succeed. Please continue to watch out for those in our parish who may need assistance and may be hesitant to ask for help. Even those we have helped in the past may still be struggling and we ask that they or someone on their behalf come forward if necessary. *Let's be aware of those who need care.*

Plan ahead for Valentine's Day dinners. Donations of baked goods are very much welcomed (and needed) and can be brought to the church hall prior to each Mass. (Please indicate if there are nuts in the ingredients.)

Thank you all for your continued support!

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jonah 3: 1-5, 10	2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5	Hebrews 10: 1-10	Hebrews 10: 11-18	Hebrews 10: 19-25	Hebrews 10: 32-39	Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
Psalm 25: 4-9	Psalm 96: 1-3, 7-8a, 10	Psalm 40: 2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11	Psalm 110: 1-4	Psalm 24: 1-6	Psalm 37: 3-6, 23-24, 39-40	Luke 1: 69-75	Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-9
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31							1 Corinthians 7: 32-35
Mark 1: 14-20	Mark 3: 22-30	Mark 3: 31-35	Mark 4: 1-20	Mark 4: 21-25	Mark 4: 26-34	Mark 4: 35-41	Mark 1: 21-28

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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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, February 1, 2015

In healing the man possessed by a demon, St. Mark tells us that Jesus' authority astonished those who heard him and amazed those who witnessed what he did. The things Jesus speaks with authority about are things he wants to create and build up in us: qualities, characteristics and gifts of the Holy Spirit that he wants to nurture in us. Allow yourself to be "amazed" and "astonished" by Jesus' work in your life this week; then share what you have learned about God's love for you with someone else.

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



**ST. CHRISTOPHER
SCHOOL
ALUM-OF-THE-YEAR
2014**

Please join us next Saturday, January 31, 2015 at the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass when we celebrate those who were nominated for Alum-of-the-Year 2014.

A Wine and Cheese Reception will follow in the school. For more information, please contact Kate Darcy Hohenthal, Advancement Director; at darcyhohenthalk@saintchristopherschool.org; or at 860-568-4100.



BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE
The next bottle and can drive to support our parish school will be

held on Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Your support is appreciated!

**BOY SCOUT
SPAGHETTI DINNER**



In just a couple of weeks, on **Saturday, February 7 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.,**

Boy Scout Troop 61 is holding their annual Spaghetti Dinner **fundraiser** at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street in East Hartford. You are all invited to this deliciously wonderful night to eat, drink, participate in a tea cup auction, reminisce with old friends, make some new friends, spend quality time with family, and most importantly to support Troop 61 Boy Scouts.

Tickets are only \$7 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12 and FREE for children ages 5 and under. Families with four members or more over the age of 5, are only \$5 each. **We hope to see you there!**