

March 22, 2015

I WILL PLACE MY LAW WITHIN THEM AND WRITE IT UPON THEIR HEARTS.



Fifth Sunday of

Lent

I WILL BE THEIR GOD

and they shall be my people.

~ Jeremiah 31:33

St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street • East Hartford, CT 06118

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

E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stchris-eh.org



Fr. Tim S. Hickey
Administrator

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

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

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.



CONFESSIONS

Mondays: 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

or by appointment



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Tuesdays: 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration •

Scriptural Rosary • Miraculous

Medal Novena • Benediction



FUNERALS

We will help you plan the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one after arrangements have been made with a funeral home.



BAPTISM

By appointment; please call the parish office to schedule.



MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office 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

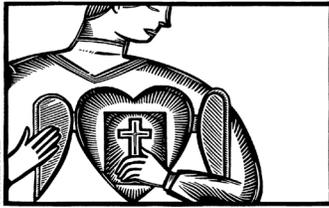


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Maria Sousa, *Coordinator*

860-895-8692

stchrisre@gmail.com



**Fifth Sunday
of
Lent**

March 22, 2015

"I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." – Jeremiah 31:33

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

Saturday, March 21 – 4:00 p.m.

Dominick Natalie – 5th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, March 22 – 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, March 22 – 10:30 a.m.

Antonio & Filomena Freitas
Antonio & Maria Jacinta Sousa
**All Deceased Members of
the Freitas & Sousa Families**
(Family)

Monday, March 23 – 7:30 a.m.

Fred Schifer – 1st Anniversary
(The Schifer Family)

Tuesday, March 24 – 7:30 a.m.

Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Wednesday, March 25 – 7:30 a.m.

John & Louise Olinatz (Children)

Thursday, March 26 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin (Wife Claire)

Friday, March 27 – 7:30 a.m.

Lea Cormier (Norman & Edith Daigle)

Saturday, March 28 – 4:00 p.m.

Douglas Fillatti – 12th Anniversary
(Mom & Kathie)

Sunday, March 29 – 8:00 a.m.

Leona Guerin (The Guerin Family)

Sunday, March 29 – 10:30 a.m.

Victor "Pepe" Goslin (Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (March 15): \$ 5,191*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 7,317

* Includes \$566 received through our Online Giving program.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.*

Blessed palms will be available after all Masses in the parish wing.

**At the 10:30 a.m. Mass, weather permitting, please assemble in the parking lot near the glass doors of the parish wing for the procession to the church.*

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

The 2015 Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2015 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need. Thanks to more than 50 families who have already pledged their support. The AAA needs everyone's support – regardless of amount. For more information, please visit archdioceseofhartford.org or call the Appeal Office at 800-781-2550. Extra pledge cards and envelopes are in the vestibule and at all exits of the church.

MUSICAL PRESENTATION

Please plan to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday for a special Resurrection morning musical presentation by our Chancel and Children's Choirs. Our 10:30 a.m. Mass will immediately follow.



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

**In Loving Memory of
Lucien Lavertu**

(Wife Joan and Children Paul & Carol)

SAVINGS BEING REALIZED!

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. Christopher’s. One of our first targeted projects to reduce operating costs and utilize parish resources wiser is complete: the replacement of electric heat in the rectory with a natural gas furnace. In the few short, snowy but cold winter months in which we have been using natural gas to heat the rectory, as well as using programmable thermostats to regulate the temperatures in the rectory, church and church wing, our parish is already seeing significant savings. For example, the electric bill in the rectory from Jan. 26 to Feb. 25 in 2014 was \$975.63; for the same time period this year, it was \$184.56. The gas bill for the rectory for Jan. 9 to Feb. 6, 2014 was \$58.33; for the same time period this year, it increased to \$222.64.

As expected, our natural gas bill has risen but is more than being offset by the nearly \$800 difference in savings between this year and last year’s electric bills. While it will take some time to pay back the parish’s Vision II funds that were used for this upgrade, it is this use of your resources with a long-term outlook that is going to help St. Christopher’s thrive for the next 50 years. This savings combined with your generous support to help offset our campus snow removal and winter heating bills has helped us from having a funding shortfall that would have otherwise negatively impacted our savings. This is the last weekend we will ask you to consider contributing to the snow removal/winter heating bills; envelopes can be found in the pews.

With your input and help from the parish council and finance council, I will continue to do what can be done to continue to cut utility costs without jeopardizing either your comfort in the church or safety on parish property. We are currently exploring LED lighting options and rebates for both inside the church and around the parking lot as our next phase of reducing electric consumption.

Gratefully yours, Fr. Tim S. Hickey, Administrator



SAVE THE DATE!
 St. Christopher’s 2015
 Vacation Bible Camp
 June 29 – July 3
 More info coming soon!

THIS WEEKEND AFTER ALL MASSES

Gift Cards

Gift cards will be available after all Masses this weekend. There are many gift cards to choose from and they not only make great gifts, but they also can be used by you for your everyday needs – groceries, gas, restaurants, etc. If you need gift cards at any other time during the month, please contact school parent and parishioner Ania Simpson at 860-966-9825 or at simpsonania@sbcglobal.net. Ania places an order every Monday. Your order helps to support St. Christopher School.

Fair Trade Items

Fair Trade items will be available after all Masses this weekend. Available are candy bars, varieties of tea and coffee and other miscellaneous food items. Please contact Scott Gay at 860-670-8898 or at scottgay95@gmail.com for more information or to purchase items from inventory at any other time during the month.

ST. JOSEPH MEDAL OF APPRECIATION

This Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral, Archbishop Blair will award the 2015 St. Joseph Medal to dedicated parishioners from across the Archdiocese who share their time and talents with their parishes. Congratulations to St. Christopher’s deserving recipient, Phil Gosselin! Phil has spent many years helping in the parish in innumerable ways, both seen and unseen. He’s currently a lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and religious ed teacher. In the community, he sits on the board of Birthright and coordinates the parish’s Homefront involvement. Phil is currently studying to become a permanent deacon. Thank you, Phil, for your compassionate and generous service to St. Christopher’s!

GUIDE TO CONFESSION AVAILABLE

On the table in front of the Reconciliation Room you will find a handy leaflet called “A Guide to Confession.” This pamphlet gives easy, how-to steps to make a good confession, especially if you haven’t been to confession in some time. It also includes an examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments. Every church in the Archdiocese is open Mondays during this Lenten season from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. for confessions.

LIVING STATIONS...We Still Need Help!

The Living Stations, a dramatic presentation of volunteers from our parish will be held on Good Friday evening at 7:30 pm. We have Jesus, Mary, Pontius Pilate, one Roman Soldier, the Narrator, a couple of readers and a couple of citizens of Jerusalem. We still need folks to portray Simon, Veronica, at least one more Roman soldier (an older teen or an adult would be great) and various citizens (adults and children) of Jerusalem; these are non-speaking parts. We also need more readers. Our organizational meeting will be held on Monday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the church wing and the dress rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 pm in the church. If you are willing to help, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

MINISTERING TO THE SICK

Extending ourselves pastorally to those who are ill (whether they are in the hospital, a skilled nursing or rehab center or at home) is always the centerpiece of the vibrant Catholic parish. Fr. Tim would be honored to support you and your family during times of illness. However, because of privacy laws the hospitals cannot give us patient names unless patients specify that they belong to St. Christopher Parish when they are admitted. Feel free to call the parish office to advise us that you are about to enter the hospital so that we can stop by to see you. Also, if you have a loved one in a local rehab, nursing home or assisted-living center, please let us know so that Father can include them on his visits. Oftentimes, you are the only person who can tell us what we need to know. Please don't hesitate to contact us. These pastoral visits are a priority.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

We will pack and deliver the Easter Food Baskets on Thursday, April 2, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street, East Hartford. We need packers and drivers, so please plan to join us!

Our Food Bank is in need of the following items to help us to be able to prepare these baskets: Macaroni & Cheese, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Muffin Mix, Jelly, Cake Mix, Canned Fruit, Frosting, Gravy, Pasta and HAMS.

Non-perishable food items may be left in the area near our candle station. If you'd like to donate a ham, please contact Dave Gaudreau at 860-569-4325. Thank you for your support!

LENTEN FISH DINNER and STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Knights of Columbus St. Christopher Council #4 is hosting another Fish Dinner on **Friday, March 27** from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Menu includes: Battered Fish Portions, Rice Pilaf, Coleslaw, Bread and Drink. If you wish, you may bring a dessert to share. \$7.50 per person. **Stations of the Cross will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the church.** These Stations will be the "The Way of the Cross with text from the Scriptures," and includes the chanting of the hymn between the Stations. **Please make your reservations for the Fish Dinner by Wednesday, March 25** by calling Scott Gay, Grand Knight, at 860-670-8898 or by e-mailing him at scottgay95@gmail.com. If you wish to eat after the Stations or would like to have a plate prepared for take out, please let Scott know in advance.

REGISTRATION FOR OUR 2015/2016 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Now is the time to register your child(ren) for next year's Religious Education program. All families (new and current) are asked to fill out a registration form for next year. Our program for children who wish to make their First Reconciliation and First Communion is a two-year program beginning in the first grade. Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, will be available in the church hall every Sunday after the 10:30 Mass during the month of March to help you register your child(ren) and answer any questions. Registration forms can be found at all the church entrances if you wish to mail one in.

ST. CHRIS SUMMER CAMP

This summer St. Christopher School will inaugurate its "St. Chris Cougar Cub Summer Program," a child-learning program for children ages 4 to 6. The summer camp will run daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning June 22 and concluding August 14. The summer camp will include plenty of fun, educational activities built around weekly themes. There will also be ample time for outdoor play. The summer camp will offer a flexible weekly option format, which meets the needs of busy families during the summer break. In addition to the camp program, before and after-care programs will also be offered to give parents the option of having their child in a safe, caring environment from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call St. Christopher School at 860-568-4100 or visit the school Web site at www.saintchristopherschool.org.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday <small>Fifth Sunday of Lent</small>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday <small>Fifth Sunday of Lent</small>
Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30 33-62	Numbers 21: 4-9	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10	Genesis 17: 3-9	Jeremiah 20: 10-13	Ezekiel 37: 21-28	Procession: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-15	Psalm 23: 1-6	Psalm 102: 2-3, 16-21	Psalm 40: 7-11	Psalm 105: 4-9	Psalm 18: 2-7	Jeremiah 31: 10, 11-13	Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Hebrews 5: 7-9			Hebrews 10: 4-10				Philippians 2: 6-11
John 12: 20-33	John 8: 1-11	John 8: 21-30	Luke 1: 26-38	John 8: 51-59	John 10: 31-42	John 11: 45-56	Mark 14:1 - 15:47

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, March 29, 2015

On Palm Sunday we read the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. We not only read the Passion, in a sense, we act it out as the priest, a lector, a narrator and the congregation all taking part in the unfolding story. Whatever "role" we're used to reading, it can be helpful to hear the story from another perspective: to voice the words of Jesus, or the narrator, or any of the other voices. That way we get a richer appreciation of the drama of Jesus' last days on earth.

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

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

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

GREETERS' MINISTRY

Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-461-0449