



*Living the Joy
of the
Gospel*

Commitment Weekend

2015 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL





**Seventh Sunday
of
Easter
May 17, 2015**

*“If God so loved us, we also must love one another.”
– 1 John 4:11*

*Mass  for the
Intentions  Week*

Saturday, May 16 – 4:00 p.m.
Ken Harrison, Jr. (Family)

Sunday, May 17 – 8:00 a.m.
James & Yolanda Gusy (Family)

Sunday, May 17 – 10:30 a.m.
**For the Children of Our Parish
Who Will be Making Their
First Holy Communion on This Day**

Monday, May 18 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz – 2nd Anniversary (Family)

Tuesday, May 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff (Family)

Wednesday, May 20 – 7:30 a.m.
**Lucien Lavertu
(Wife Joan and Children Paul & Carol)**

Thursday, May 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Paul Franklin (Wife Claire)

Friday, May 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Antonio Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Saturday, May 23 – 8:30 a.m.
**Enrollees in
St. Christopher’s Purgatorial Society**

Saturday, May 23 – 4:00 p.m.
Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Sunday, May 24 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, May 24 – 10:30 a.m.
**Deceased Members of the Carrubba Family
(The Miano Family)**

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (May 10):	\$ 5,441*
What We Need for General Expenses:	\$ 7,317
Nepal Collection:	\$ 1,229

*Includes \$463 received through our Online Giving program.

SUMMER AND ONLINE GIVING

With summer soon here, weekend getaways and lengthier vacations may be on many people’s minds. One way to guarantee that you continue to support St. Christopher’s even though you may be attending Mass somewhere else during a vacation is to enroll in our parish Online Giving program. Online Giving is a secure system that works directly with your bank account – much the same as other direct payments you may have set up for utility bills or mortgage payments. The parish benefits because we see a substantial increase in net revenue, a decrease in administrative costs, and a clearer picture of cash flow for our needs. Visit the parish Web site at www.stchris-eh.org and click on the bright blue box marked “Online Giving” to sign up today.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

In today’s Gospel, Jesus prays to the Father for his disciples’ protection and strength as he sends them forth into the world to preach God’s word. Jesus prays for acceptance of the Good News his disciples will preach and that their converts will believe in him. In communication with the Father, Jesus sets the example of prayer for us. Prayer is a fundamental principle of Christian stewardship. Our love of God and neighbor are expressed through prayer. If we, as good stewards, desire a deeper relationship with the Lord, setting aside time for daily prayer is essential. As St. Padre Pio stated, *Prayer is the oxygen for the soul.*



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 for

**Mary Harden
In Celebration of Her 95th Birthday
(Her Loving Family)**

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL COMMITMENT WEEKEND

This weekend is Commitment Weekend at St. Christopher Parish and across the Archdiocese for the 2015 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please pray about your decision and make a pledge or one-time gift this week. Please be as generous as possible. A pledge envelope is included in this weekend's bulletin for your convenience. We thank those parishioners who have pledged approximately \$25,000 to this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made your gift, please join your fellow parishioners who have, and do so today.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

Help plan, reposition and revitalize our Archdiocese

The Archdiocese of Hartford's pastoral planning survey is now available and will remain so through May 25. Visit www.research.net/s/pastoralplanning to complete the survey online or take a paper copy of the survey (copies at all church entrances). **Paper copies must be returned to the church or parish office no later than May 25.**

The survey takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Your input is essential, and your participation will help chart the future direction of the Archdiocese and help to express our mission in ways that meet the needs, challenges and opportunities of our times. In the spirit of new beginnings and open community collaboration, please make the time to complete the survey either on-line or in writing. Thank you in advance for your participation and for expressing your unique perspective.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE

There will be a Mass of healing and hope at the Archdiocesan Center/St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.; rosary will be prayed at 6:55 p.m. Msgr. Gerard Schmitz is the celebrant, and trained prayer teams will be available. For more information call the archdiocesan Charismatic Renewal Office at 860-242-5573, ext. 2696.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes from the parish council meeting held on March 19, 2015 are now available. Copies can be found at the main entrance to the church.

ARCHDIOCESE WELCOMES THREE NEW PRIEST

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to the three young men who were ordained priests of Jesus Christ for the Archdiocese of Hartford this weekend: Fathers Ramon Garcia, Mauricio Galvis and Ricardo Borja. Many of you may remember Father Borja, who served at St. Christopher one Holy Week and Easter during his time in seminary.

PILGRIMAGE PRAYER PETITIONS

Father Tim's bicycle pilgrimage from the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Litchfield, Conn., to the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will be a time of prayer for him and his brother priests. Archbishop Blair is scheduled to offer Mass for the bicycling priest-pilgrims and their safety in Litchfield on May 29, and the priests making the trip will offer Mass daily en route. A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Seton Shrine on June 4.

Father Tim will carry with him a prayer journal including your special prayer intentions. Between now and May 28, please write your intentions on the forms provided on the table near the votive candle stand in church and place them in the box there. All of your intentions will be included in the Masses during the pilgrimage.

There is still time to make a pledge of financial support for Father Tim's bike ride of 350 miles for St. Christopher School. Envelopes are available at all church entrances.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPEN

Please invite your family and friends to check out the amazing things our school is doing to see if it is the right choice for them! Registrations are now open for the 2015-16 school year as well as our first-ever St. Chris Cougar Summer Camp. For more information, please call the school office at 860-568-4100 or visit saintchristopherschool.org.

BABY BOTTLES FOR BIRTHRIGHT

We thank those of you who took a baby bottle last weekend. Please fill the bottle with your spare change (cash or a check) and return it on the weekend of May 30-31. This is an opportunity for the St. Christopher community to have hands-on involvement in a project that helps save the lives of unborn children and makes a difference in their mothers' lives, too.

THANK YOU

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Fr. Hickey and the people of St. Christopher parish for everything you did to make the parish Mass and the Mass of Christian Burial such a beautiful tribute to Fr. James Fanelli. He enjoyed his years at St. Christopher's and I know you'll remember him in your prayers.

– Eleanor Fanelli

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL'S GOLF OUTING!

On Saturday, June 13, we will host our annual golf tournament at East Hartford Golf Club on Long Hill Street. Lunch and registration start at 12:00 noon; shotgun start at 12:45 p.m. The golf event includes lunch, dinner, golf, and cart **all for \$99!** Sponsorship opportunities range from \$150 to \$1000. The golf outing is an important part of our school's fundraising efforts. Please consider having a fun day of golf with family and friends, while supporting Catholic education. For questions, please contact one of our Golf Chairs: Ernie Hutt at 860-508-3838 and Ken Brasa at 860-989-3639 or see the pamphlet that can be found at the main entrance of the church.

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE

The last bottle and can drive for this school year will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 8:00 – 12:00 noon. Please bring rinsed bottles and cans on that day to the front of the school.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

June 29 – July 3

Registrations are now being accepted for this summer's Vacation Bible Camp being held from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. each day. Please visit our parish website (stchris-eh.org) and click on the Vacation Bible Camp link on the left. Registration forms can also be found on the bulletin board in the church hall.

TRAINING DAY FOR VBC VOLUNTEERS

Sunday – June 7 – 11:30 a.m.

A training day will be held for all volunteers interested in helping with this year's Vacation Bible Camp. Volunteers are students who will be entering grade 7 through adults. If you are interested in volunteering, please join us on Sunday, June 7, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the church wing. Pizza will be served. For more information, please contact Sandy, Camp Director, at 860-895-8692.

HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

If you have knowledge or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult (an adult with an intellectual disability) has been sexually abused, in any manner, by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford, you are urged to report this information to:

Sister Dolores Lahr, CSJ

Victim Assistance Coordinator

860-541-6475

sr.lahr@aohct.org

In addition, you will be asked to follow up in writing with a detailed description of the facts involved in the incident. Specifics of this written report can be found in the Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Hartford Relating to Allegations of Sexual Misconduct Involving Minors and Vulnerable Adults. This document is also available online at www.archdioceseofhartford.org. The Archdiocese of Hartford will report any and all incidents to the proper civil authorities.

Mandated reporters in the State of Connecticut are required by law to report any incident of sexual abuse involving a minor or vulnerable adult. We encourage any Non-Mandated persons to report such incidents to the proper authorities as well. We support your right to do so.

Incidents involving sexual abuse of minors (persons under the age of 18) should be reported to:
State Department of Children and Families Care-line
1-800-842-2288

Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 18 – 59 should be reported to the:

Abuse Investigations Division
of the Office of Protection and Advocacy
for Persons with Disabilities
1-800-842-7303

Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 60 and over should be reported to:

Department of Social Services for the Elderly
1-888-385-4225

Once a written report of an incident of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult has been received, an investigation will be undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Archdiocese of Hartford.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Seventh Sunday of Easter	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Pentecost Sunday
Acts 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26	Acts 19: 1-8	Acts 20: 17-27	Acts 20: 28-38	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	Acts 25: 13b-21	Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31	Acts 2: 1-11
Psalm 103: 1-2, 11-12, 19-20	Psalm 68: 2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab	Psalm 68: 10-11, 20-21	Psalm 68: 29-30, 33-36ab	Psalm 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-11	Psalm 103: 1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab	Psalm 11: 4, 5, 7	Psalm 104: 1, 24, 29-31, 34
1 John 4: 11-16							Galatians 5: 16-25
John 17: 11b-19	John 16: 29-33	John 17: 1-11a	John 17: 11b-19	John 17: 20-26	John 21: 15-19	John 21: 20-25	John 20: 19-23

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, May 24, 2015

Today the Church celebrates the great Solemnity of Pentecost. Christ's gift of himself on the cross and in the Eucharist are brought to completion with the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works doubly in our lives: He draws us toward the Trinity but he also prepares us for our mission as Catholics in the world. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are renewed in us today: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear (reverence) of the Lord.

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
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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

First Holy Communion

*May the Holy Spirit light the way
as these young people receive
the Body of Christ for the first time.*

St. Christopher Church

May 17, 2015

Abigail Araujo

MacKenzie Rinaldo

Leland Collins

Cassandra Rolfe

Gabriella Everett

Juliana Rosario

Anna Falvo

Phoebe Scibek

Anthony Falvo

Landon Tryon

Kaylee Hernandez

Alexander Vargas

Sebastian Mardales

Casey Williams

Scarlett McKennie

