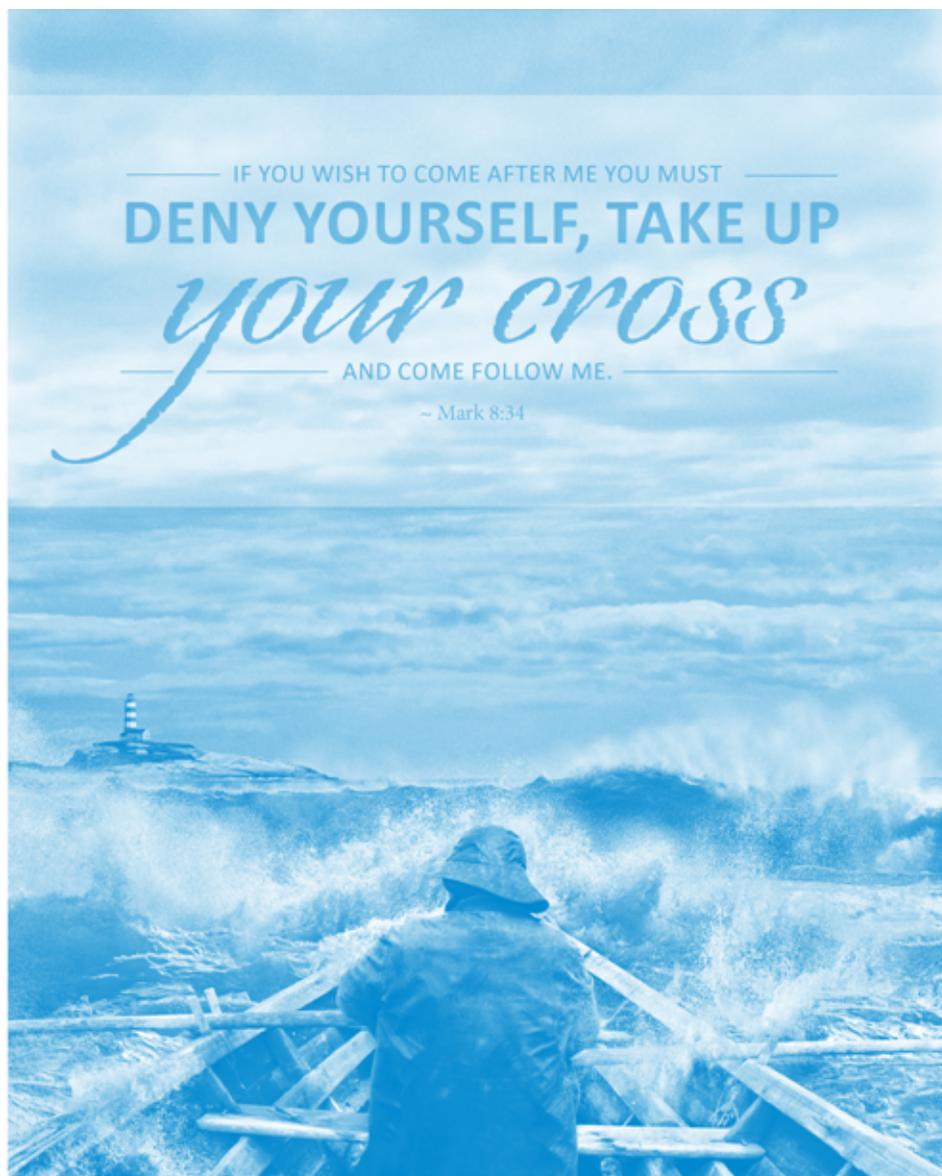


September 13, 2015 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street

East Hartford, CT 06118

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

E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stchris-eh.org



Fr. John Gwozdz, Pastor

E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

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

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m.



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.



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



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 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com



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**Twenty-fourth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 13, 2015**

“The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.”

– Isaiah 50:7

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 12 – 4:00 p.m.

Moira Traynor
In Remembrance of Her Birthday
(Ann Traynor & Family)

Sunday, September 13 – 8:00 a.m.

Rolande (Lemay) Clark
(Don & Jackie Luizzi)

Sunday, September 13 – 10:30 a.m.

Adrienne Brumbaum
(Marion Sullivan)

Monday, September 14 – 7:30 a.m.

Paul E. Franklin
(Wife Claire)

Tuesday, September 15 – 7:30 a.m.

Mark Tardiff
(Family)

Wednesday, September 16 – 7:30 a.m.

Diane Olinatz
(Family)

Thursday, September 17 – 7:30 a.m.

Jose Sousa
(Family)

Saturday, September 19 – 4:00 p.m.

Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, September 20 – 8:00 a.m.

Levi LeBlanc *(Norman & Edith Daigle)*

Sunday, September 20 – 10:30 a.m.

Stanley J. Stepien, Sr. *(Family)*

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (September 6): \$ 5,184*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

*Includes \$693 received through our Online Giving program.

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

In today’s Second Reading from the Letter of James we are challenged to have a living faith, a faith backed up by action. This is a concept which has been debated ever since Jesus invited us to be His disciples. Is our faith enough to save us, or must we do more? James certainly thinks we need to do more.

James is making reference to something termed by most theologians as “living faith.” That kind of faith is exemplified by being an active participant in building the Kingdom. It is more than attending Mass and praying. It is the kind of faith to which we are called through stewardship. Our faith communities, our parishes, are filled with ministries and ways that we can serve and reach out to those in need. Perhaps we need to find a way to be involved in something, anything, to be an active member of our communities, a focused and participating steward.

God knows who and what we are. For some of us prayer and a complete trusting faith is most likely enough. However, James is trying to let us know that if we can, we need to look for more. We need to find ways to live out our faith as stewards of our many gifts.

–www.thecatholicsteward.com

SANCTUARY LAMP

The lamp beside our church tabernacle reminds us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.



✠ The candle in our church burns this week

**In Loving Memory of
Laurette & Jean-Luc Belanger**
(Requested by Julianne Deblois)

To schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication, please call the parish office. The suggested offering is \$15.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

In case you were away when Father John introduced himself when he arrived as our new pastor back in July, here are some excerpts from the homily he delivered on his first weekend:

"Some of you might know or remember that I was once the assistant pastor and later the pastor of Saint Paul Church in Glastonbury. There were a few times when I came here to help with confessions during Advent or Lent, and I celebrated a Mass or two here as well.

I have a cat named Bridget. She's a rescue cat, an orange tabby with three legs. I got her through Protectors of Animals right here in East Hartford, and so she feels right at home.

I'm a cancer survivor. Ten years ago I was in chemotherapy for Hodgkin's Lymphoma stage-three. Praise God, I've been cancer free since that time. But if you're dealing with the disease, then please know that, in me, you have an empathetic friend.

Also, you won't be surprised to know that I never had the nickname "Speedy." I take my time when celebrating the Mass. Now, don't worry, I won't keep you long. It's just that I never saw worshipping God as something to get over with fast. I like to say "know what you're saying when you're praying," and for me the beautiful words of the Mass are packed with meaning and worthy of being said reverently and clearly.

I'm a big fan of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, better known as confession. I've seen the wonderful things it has done in my life and in the lives of others, and so I try to make it as "user friendly" as possible. You should never be afraid of coming to me for that sacrament.

(to be concluded next weekend)

GREETERS MINISTRY

Do you have a welcoming voice as well as a friendly smile to welcome long-time parishioners, new parishioners, and visitors to St. Christopher's? Consider these gifts from God an opportunity to become a "parish greeter." **This Monday, Sept. 14, there will be a training and information presentation at 7:00 p.m. in our parish hall.** If interested, please contact Anne Marie Volowski at 860-461-0449 or annemarievolowski@yahoo.com.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The first monthly Children's Liturgy of this new school year will be celebrated next Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grade 8. Everyone is invited!

TV MASS

Some of you may know that, every six weeks or so, Father John says the "TV Mass" that's broadcast every day at 10:00 a.m. on WCCT-TV. He tapes the Mass on Monday for broadcast the following Saturday. If you would like to read or simply be part of the congregation, please let Father John know. The taping begins at 11:00 a.m. so he usually leaves the Rectory by 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. to arrive at the studio in Prospect. He has room for three in his car.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

This is a friendly reminder that we are now scheduling Mass intentions for 2016. Our weekend Masses fill up quickly so if there is a particular date and Mass time for which you hope to schedule an intention, please call the parish office at your earliest convenience to avoid any disappointment. **This year's 10:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve has just become available.** The other remaining Masses in 2015 have already been booked. You can reach us at 860-568-5240. The suggested offering for a weekday Mass is \$15 and \$25 for a weekend Mass.

2015/2016 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes for students in grades K-8 begin next Sunday, September 20

If you haven't yet registered your child who is in grade K-8 for this year's religious education program, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education 860-895-8692 or at stchrisre@gmail.com. **Returning families are asked to complete a new registration form each year.** Our 2nd grade sacrament program is a two-year program beginning in 1st grade.

For information about registering your child for our Confirmation program for students entering grades 9 and 10, please send an e-mail to Kristi Gillespie, our Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation at stchrisym@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are seeking a Food Bank Coordinator for our parish. The Coordinator position can be filled by an individual, a couple of friends or a married couple. Our current coordinator, Dave Gaudreau, has been serving in this capacity for the past year and half. Due to family obligations, Dave is no longer able to keep this position. We are most grateful to him for his service to this ministry. This is an important ministry serving those in need in our community. The responsibilities of our Food Bank are shared with the members of South Congregational Church. If you would like to learn more about the responsibilities of the Coordinator, please contact Dave Gaudreau at 860-569-4325.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Our Parish Council will meet again on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory basement. This meeting is open to all parishioners. If you have any concerns or questions you would like to address to the Parish Council, please contact Parish Council President, Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367.

DISCERNMENT EVENING

Are you interested in the priesthood? Come to St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT for our monthly discernment evening on Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m. A light supper will be served. Please email Fr. LaPlante at rollomarc4@gmail.com or phone him at 860-761-7429 if you plan to attend.

HELP! 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

St. Christopher Church will again be joining parishes around the world by participating in this year's *40 Days for Life* Campaign! During this campaign, we will be engaging in 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration as well as 12 hours of prayerful vigil next to the abortion clinic in Hartford. Eucharistic Adoration in our church will be from Wed., Oct. 21 at 6:00 a.m. to Thurs., Oct. 22 at 6:00 a.m. The prayerful vigil in Hartford will be held on Sat., Oct. 17 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm. We are seeking at least 2 people for each one-hour time slot for both the Eucharistic Adoration and the prayerful vigil. I will be offering a shuttle from St. Christopher to Hartford to make it easier for folks to assist with this wonderful display of support for life. Please help us bring our prayers for life to God in this special way. For more info or to reserve a time slot, please contact me at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net. Peace, Phil Gosselin

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Begins This Monday, September 14 – 1:00 p.m.

Since 2003 the Prayer Shawl Ministry has been creating shawls to give away to anyone who needs or wants one. We have produced more than 500 – we quit counting years ago – and we continue to gather to knit and or crochet prayer shawls. These shawls continue to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, bring hope to those in despair, and welcome those who are baptized. The reasons to make a shawl are as numerous as the people who knit and receive them. Another bonus is that knitting is a therapeutic activity for arthritic hands.

We welcome anyone who would like to join our parish ministry of prayer, service and love. We gather in the church hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Our starting date is September 14, but feel free to jump in at any time. Bring a friend. We have plenty of yarn and needles for those who wish to learn. If you would like to know more or would like to receive a shawl, please contact Santa Vallone at 860-569-1772.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

We are seeking parishioners who are interested in serving on our Liturgy Committee. This committee assists Father John with planning and implementing the various aspects of liturgical activities including special liturgies and to help foster good worship in the parish on an on-going basis. If you are interested, please contact Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367.

St. Christopher Church Hall

Friday ~ September 18, 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.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot near the parish school, Father John will offer the traditional St. Francis blessing of the animals – **rain or shine**. In the spirit of St. Francis and to help our less fortunate furry friends, we will be accepting donations for Protectors of Animals, a no-kill animal rescue and shelter located here in East Hartford. Their full wish list can be found on their website: www.poinc.org.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 50: 5-9a	Numbers 21: 4b-9	1 Timothy 3: 1-13	1 Timothy 3: 14-16	1 Timothy 4: 12-16	1 Timothy 6: 2c-12	1 Timothy 6: 13-16	Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20
Psalm 116: 1-6, 8-9	Psalm 78: 1bc-2, 34-38	Psalm 101: 1b-3ab, 5-6	Psalm 111: 1-6	Psalm 111: 7-10	Psalm 49: 6-10, 17-20	Psalm 100: 1b-5	Psalm 54: 3-8
James 2: 14-18	Philippians 2: 6-11						James 3:16 - 4:3
Mark 8: 27-35	John 3: 13-17	John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35	Luke 7: 31-35	Luke 7: 36-50	Luke 8: 1-3	Luke 8: 4-15	Mark 9: 30-37

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, September 20, 2015

The disciples in today's Gospel do follow Jesus, but they want full credit for what they do. They are concerned with competition and ambition. How do I stand in relationship to the other guy? Jesus reminds them and us that his greatness flows from his complete self giving for others. He tells them and us that we must be like little children -- in his day the most powerless of all and of no public importance or status.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES

Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Richard "Mac" McCarthy

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Lori Brunette ~ 860-655-9367

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Michael Munley ~ 860-683-8594

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Bridget Messier-Cooke

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

Sue Ward
860-633-2930
toobusysue@gmail.com

*"...but she's never too busy to
receive your prayer requests!"*

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

PARISH/SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Roger Dionne

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 ~ 860-906-2618

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

GREETERS' MINISTRY

Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-461-0449

The Music Ministry

Liturgy requires music.

Good music united to the liturgical texts is an important aspect of good celebration.

People seek out liturgy that is well done, with solid preaching, good music, and clear connections to living the Gospel day to day.

Music, even more than the other arts, has a lasting influence on the way people live and receive the faith.

To sing is to engage the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

To sing a text, especially a scriptural text, makes that text more memorable.

Good teaching and leadership by an experienced qualified professional, along with a willingness to learn and grow, is key to improving skills to deliver the sacred music and scriptural text in the best possible way to contribute to well-done liturgy.

If Catholics are to be the leaven in society that we are called to be, then we need good and more memorable music as a key component of our liturgy, so that we may sing heartfelt praise to God and go forth as one walking in God's ways, always knowing what is right and good, until we enter our heavenly inheritance.

– National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NAPM)

Used with permission.

Join the Chancel Choir!

We invite all adults and middle and high school students to join the Chancel Choir. We begin rehearsals this Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the church. We sing weekly at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. New members are always welcome and no experience is necessary, only a love of singing and a willingness to learn.



For more information about our choirs, please contact:

Roberta De Fiore
Director of Music
203-630-9295
Roberta9700@yahoo.com

Join the Children's Choir!

We invite students in grades 2 and up to join the Children's Choir. We begin rehearsals on Sat., Sept. 19 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., right after the vigil Mass. We sing at the monthly Children's Liturgies, and the first one this year is Sunday, Sept. 20. All are welcome and no experience necessary. We are excited to meet new friends!

Walk with the Archbishop: Papal Pilgrimage 2015

So that we can experience Our Holy Father's first apostolic visit to America together as an Archdiocesan family, Archbishop Blair will keep a personal "Travelogue" of his experiences, impressions and inspirations as he travels to Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, Sept. 22 – 27. The Archbishop will take part in this joyous occasion with more than 250 pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Hartford along with millions of worldwide participants.

In real-time, you can read or hear the Archbishop's Travelogue at or on:

- the Archdiocesan website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org and also where you can submit your intentions and/or access a Q&A with the Archbishop.
- Twitter where @ArchbishopBlair will use #AOHCTpilgrims.
- the Archdiocesan Facebook Page for daily updates and photos. <https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofHartford>
- the *Catholic Transcript* website www.catholictranscript.org.
- WJMJ Radio (88.9 FM, Hartford 93.1 FM, Hamden and 107.1 FM, New Haven).

In addition to Archdiocesan communications channels, tune into Eternal World Television Network (EWTN) for ongoing newscasts www.ewtn.com . (Check your local cable schedule for specifics.)

Look to the October 2015 issue of the *Catholic Transcript* for extensive coverage of the Papal Pilgrimage, including Archbishop Blair's Travelogue with photos.

What do you think pilgrims will gain from this experience? *"To the extent that we come to the experience prayerfully and thoughtfully, we can expect a strengthening of faith, a deepening of love, and a renewal of hope. An overwhelming number of parishioners in the Archdiocese have told us that living a lifestyle characterized by the love of God and neighbor is the most important way in which we individually and collectively express our Catholic faith. The opportunity to hear an affirmation of this message from Pope Francis personally can only serve to strengthen us in our commitment to Christian living in union with other Catholics from around the world, gathered for the World Meeting of Families. Participating in the Pope's Mass on Sunday, in particular, will be a memorable event for us all."*

— Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

Please see the reverse side for information from our Music Ministry.