



Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2015

We are so very blessed to have talented and generous teachers in our parish and school community. Please take a moment to pray for and thank the following teachers of our children:

Caitlyn Abrahamson	Phil Gosselin	Lisa Muller
April Adams-Mejia	Paula Hannon	Kimberly Murphy
Ann Bradley	Kate Hohenthal	Sally O'Brien
Lori Brunette	Sara Hohenthal	Shannon O'Brien
John Byrnes	Debra Jenkins	Efrain Ortiz
Nancy Cadwallader	Diane Johnston	Joanna Pace
Steven Cadwallader	Anelia Maciolek	Peggy Paradis
Jacque Crusoe-Morrison	Teresa Maciolek	Monica Russo
Nicole Cumento	Kathy Madej	Kristie Sargent
Michelle DeDominicis	Alicia Mazzone	Maria Sousa
Eileen DiFilippo	Stacy McKeone	Tony Sousa
Shelly Everett	Audrey Mejia	Hilary Stevens
Maddie Gay	Mary Mitchell	Heather Weber

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



**Twenty-fifth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 20, 2015**

“The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.”

– James 3:18

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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*)

Monday, September 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Adrienne Brumbaum
(*Sister Omerine & Elmer Gendreau*)

Tuesday, September 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Marie St. Arnauld – 5th Anniversary
(*Jeanne Sciarra*)

Wednesday, September 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Mary & Adrien Brault
(*Jean Walker*)

Thursday, September 24 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo (*Wife & Family*)

Saturday, September 26 – 8:30 a.m.
**Enrollees in
St. Christopher’s Purgatorial Society**

Saturday, September 26 – 4:00 p.m.
Cecil Railton (*The Mondo Family*)

Sunday, September 27 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (*Mom & Daughters*)

Sunday, September 27 – 10:30 a.m.
Carmen Villanueva
(*Daughter Lydia Lora & Family*)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (September 6): \$ 5,294*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500
Parish School Support: \$ 1,552**

*Includes \$393 received through our Online Giving program and \$155 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes \$145 received through our Online Giving program.

HOPES COLLECTION

Pope Francis reminds us that the beauty of the Church is “The presence of Jesus Christ among us.” Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford take these words to heart and ensure that Jesus Christ is connected into every aspect of a child’s educational experience. Please help us provide students with a moral compass and an education in the faith by giving to the 2015 Catholic elementary school HOPES Collection next weekend, September 26/27. Your gift will make a positive impact on those who are the future of our Church. 25% of the gifts received remains here to benefit our parish school.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Recent research has found that one of the most quoted people of recent time is Blessed Mother Teresa. She often spoke of love and service. This is one of her better-known sayings: “Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.

✠ IN MEMORIUM ✠

Please pray for the following recently departed parishioners:

Louise Cyr • Pauline Williams

“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21

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
Sandra Leonard DeVivo – 9th Anniversary
(Family)**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

(Editor's Note: Last weekend we published the beginning portion of the homily Father John delivered on his first weekend at our parish for those who were not able to attend Mass that weekend. We conclude his introduction homily in this weekend's bulletin. If you wish to read what was published in last weekend's bulletin, you can do so on our parish website: www.stchris-eh.org.)

"I love being a priest and have never regretted, for a minute, answering God's call to serve him that way. It's not for everyone, I know, but for those who are trying to discern God's call, you have my prayers and my undivided attention.

I've learned a lot from the time I was ordained nearly twenty-nine years ago, and I'll try my best to be guided by those lessons, and by the new things the Holy Spirit wants me to learn here at Saint Christopher's.

I can tell that you have a wonderful volunteer spirit. I look forward to working with you, always keeping in mind, of course, that it is Jesus who we serve. It's all about him; it's always about him. He is the reason why you are a parish family and he is the reason why I am a priest. He calls us together and he keeps us together, so that he can work through us together, for his glory and for the good of his holy Church.

When we find ourselves standing in front of him, Jesus will ask me 'How well did you care for the people I entrusted to you as a priest?' And he'll ask you 'How well did you work with each other for the good of the people I entrusted to your care as a parish family?' So we're all in this together. And Jesus, who calls us together, and works through us together, also feeds us so that we can be strong for him. That's why we receive his very life together at Mass."

– Father John

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Religious Education classes are now underway. If you have not yet registered your child entering K-8, please contact Maria Sousa at 860-895-8692 or at stchrisre@gmail.com. To register your child entering grades 9-10 for our Confirmation program, please contact Kristie Gillespie at stchrisym@gmail.com.

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. If you are interested in following the Archbishop, please take one of the flyers that are available at all the church entrances.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Our Parish Council will meet again this 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.

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. (**Note: The next taping with Father John is scheduled for Monday, October 5.**) 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.

FAMILY DAY

Once again, the Archdiocese of Hartford is participating in "Family Day," a national campaign launched by CASAColumbia in 2001. The program reminds parents and guardians that what your kids truly want at the dinner table is YOU! On Monday, September 28th, plan a family dinner and participate in this national initiative. Use this time to engage in conversation with your children, ask questions, share memories, and have them initiate topics of conversation. These simple conversations are the key ingredient to healthier kids. To learn more about Family Day and to join families across the country, visit: www.CASAFamilyDay.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**. Bring your beloved pet for a blessing and meet Father John's cat Bridget. 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.poainc.org.

My dear friends,

In the next few months, we will be commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of our parish in various ways.

I would be interested in knowing if anyone has photographs of the celebration of that event in September 1965. Also, if anyone has photographs of the dedication of our church building when it was completed in 1955 when we were still a mission of Blessed Sacrament Church.

Feel free to contact me if you have any memories or mementos of the history of our parish family. Perhaps, some day, they will be included in a publication of our parish's history.

Yours in Christ, I am

Father John Gwozdz

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Our parish is actively seeking students in **Grades 4 and above** who are interested in becoming an Altar Server. If you would like to learn more about the Altar Server ministry, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 or send an e-mail to stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net. A training session will be held in the near future.



A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

A *Life in the Spirit* seminar will be offered at St. James Church, 896 Main Street in Manchester starting this Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. This eight-week program will show you how God is alive in your life! All are welcome. For more info., please call Jim at 860-643-1365 or Ray at 860-888-2269.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Chancel Choir

We invite all adults and middle and high school students to join our Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Thursday evenings in the church beginning at 7:30 p.m. We sing weekly at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Children's Choir

We invite students in grades 2 and up to join the Children's Choir. We rehearse on Saturdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. We sing at the monthly Children's Liturgies.

New members for both choirs are always welcome. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn.

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.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20	Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13	Ezra 6: 7-8, 12b, 14-20	Ezra 9: 5-9	Haggai 1: 1-8	Haggai 2: 1-9	Zechariah 2: 5-9, 14-15a	Numbers 11: 25-29
Psalm 54: 3-8	Psalm 19: 2-5	Psalm 122: 1-5	Tobit 13: 2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8	Psalm 149: 1b-6a, 9b	Psalm 43: 1-4	Jeremiah 31: 10-12ab, 13	Psalm 19: 8, 10, 12-14
James 3:16 - 4:3							James 5: 1-6
Mark 9: 30-37	Matthew 9: 9-13	Luke 8: 19-21	Luke 9: 1-6	Luke 9: 7-9	Luke 9: 18-22	Luke 9: 43b-45	Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

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
Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks
Used with permission of Paulist Press
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 27, 2015

You have to recognize that Jesus is using a figure of speech in today's Gospel. He is using exaggeration – hyperbole – to make a special point. Basically he is saying that you may need to take radical action right now to change your attitudes. If those attitudes are getting in the way of true discipleship, then they must go.

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