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The Epiphany of the Lord

Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage."

Matthew 2:1-2

JANUARY 3, 2016

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



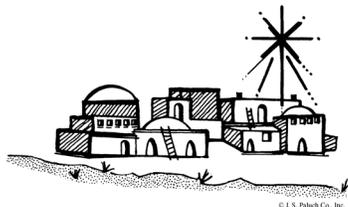
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Madej, Principal
Audrey Cesana, Secretary
www.saintchristopherschool.org
860-568-4100



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Maria Sousa 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com



**The Epiphany
of
the Lord
January 3, 2016**

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.”

– Isaiah 60:1

*Mass for the
Intentions*  *for the
Week*

Saturday – January 2 – 4:00 p.m.

Roger Messier
(Cathy & Cara)

Sunday, January 3 – 8:00 a.m.

Lauretta Skold
(Carla & Bill Merrill)

Sunday, January 3 – 10:30 a.m.

Bonnie St. Onge – 5th Anniversary
(Family)

Monday, January 4 – 7:30 a.m.

Frank Szalay
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Tony & Maria Sousa)

Tuesday, January 5 – 7:30 a.m.

Sister Ruth Koebel (Mac McCarthy)

Wednesday, January 6 – 7:30 a.m.

Diane Olinatz (Family)

Thursday, January 7 – 7:30 a.m.

Jose Maria Sousa (Family)

Saturday – January 9 – 4:00 p.m.

Thomas Cardell
(Joe & Yvonne Federico)

Sunday, January 10 – 8:00 a.m.

Frank Wroniak – 2nd Anniversary
(Grandparents)

Sunday, January 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Stan Traynor
(Wife Ann & Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (December 20): \$ 6,478
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

*Includes \$608 received through our Online Giving program and \$835 from mail-in offerings.

Due to the early transmission deadline imposed by our bulletin publisher for this weekend’s bulletin, a report of the collections taken up at our Christmas Masses and last weekend will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

YEAR-END GIFT

We express our sincere gratitude to one of our parishioners, who wishes to remain anonymous, for their most generous year-end gift of \$5,000.

2015 ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

I want to express my gratitude to all of you who participated in our 2015 Annual Parish Appeal. Your gifts express the generosity I have found in abundance in our parish family since my arrival.

– Father John

Parish Appeal Statistics

Total # of Parish Families: 1,023
Total # of Participating Families: 210
% of Participation: 20.5%
Total Amount Pledged: \$35,610
Total Amount Received: \$34,935
Average Gift Amount: \$169.57

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 by phone or e-mail.

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
Jimmy Shepley**
(Grandma)

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday – January 4 – 1:00 p.m.

Our first meeting of 2016 will be held this Monday, January 4. Should we have inclement weather, please check CBS and NBC stations for possible cancellation. We will be having a wonderful presentation by Santa Vallone's daughter Gail Davis. She trains dogs to be service animals for us humans. It should be very interesting. Just a reminder...2016 dues are payable at this meeting. We're looking forward to seeing you on the 4th. If you have questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

STRING QUARTET CONCERT

On Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m. The Mountain Road String Quartet will perform a concert here in our church. This Quartet is comprised of our parishioner Michael Hwang and three of his friends. This concert is open to the public with no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the East Hartford Food Banks. The concert will be followed by a light reception where the audience may enjoy refreshments and fellowship and an opportunity to greet the performers.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

January 2016

His Holiness Pope Francis has designated the following intentions to be prayed for this month. Traditionally, one offers one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be at the end of the Rosary for the Holy Father's Intentions. This month, his intentions are:

Universal: *Interreligious Dialogue*– That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: *Christian Unity* – That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2016 AND 2017

We are now scheduling Mass intentions for 2016 and 2017. The weekend Masses for 2016 are filling up quickly, especially the vigil Mass. If you wish to schedule a Mass for a particular date, please call or visit the parish office at your earliest convenience for a better chance that the date will be available.

FOOD BANK COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are seeking a Food Bank Coordinator for our parish. The Coordinator position can be filled by one or more persons. **Our current coordinator, Dave Gaudreau, has been serving in this capacity for the past two years but is unable to continue doing so after January 31.** 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 call Dave Gaudreau at 860-569-4325.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

In this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Epiphany celebrates God's mercy shining on the magi from a guiding star. Their kingdoms were far from Jerusalem, their religions far from God's covenant with Israel. At first the star led the magi to Jerusalem, where they could "recalculate" their quest with the help of God's own "GPS," the Jewish scriptures. How challenging and humbling for the magi to discover that they would find the world's Messiah not in a palace but with a poor couple in an insignificant village. That's where God's mercy, shining in the star, led the magi to worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Today the magi invite us to "recalculate" our life's journey during this Jubilee Year—to follow the star of God's mercy along the way of humble love, to discover a renewed personal relationship with Jesus ourselves and so become "guiding stars" leading other seekers to find Jesus, too. —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

MARIAN GARDEN

Orders for the Marian Garden continue to come in with some coming in from as far away as Colorado and Indiana! Although we have sold out of the 8" x 8" premium brick and the 1' x 1' granite slab on the wall face, there are many standard bricks and other options still available. Order forms can be found at all the church entrances, at the display in the church hall and on our website at stchris-eh.org. Please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 if you need any assistance in placing your order. If you have already purchased your piece of the Marian Garden, you may expect to receive a confirmation letter within the next few weeks with the opportunity to review your engraved text and to make any changes or corrections.

AN APPEAL TO WIVES!

I appeal to the wives of our parish to encourage your husbands to attend our parish's Men's Retreat being held January 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m. and concluding on January 17 at 12:00 noon. There's a reason there are many more retreats scheduled for men than for women; we need more help! Not only will you enjoy a football-free weekend, you'll get a shiny new husband back in return! This year's retreat being held at the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford will examine the Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy and explore ways of cultivating mercy amid life's inevitable challenges, identifying practical ways of integrating mercy into our daily lives. Please don't let the cost keep your husband from attending; his presence is more important than anything; you pay what you can. There is scholarship assistance available to assist with the cost of the retreat. Please contact me to tap into this great opportunity. You can register online at Holy Family Retreat Center's website with a credit card or you can print off the registration form and mail it in: www.holyfamilyretreat.org. If you don't have internet access, please contact me and I will get a form to you: 860-568-5001 or e-mail me at imgoose@comcast.net if you have any questions.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER FOR PEACE

Let us pray with all fervor for this peace
which our divine Redeemer came to bring us.
May He banish from the souls of all men and women
whatever might endanger peace.
May He transform them into witnesses
of truth, justice and love.
May He illumine with His light the minds of rulers,
so that, besides caring for the proper material welfare
of their peoples, they may also
guarantee them the fairest gift of peace.
May Christ inflame the desires of all
to break through the barriers which divide them,
to strengthen the bonds of mutual love,
to learn to understand one another,
and to pardon those who have done them wrong.
Through His power and inspiration may all peoples
of the earth become as brothers and sisters,
and may the most longed-for peace
blossom forth and reign always
among men and women.

– Pope John XXIII, 4/11/63

ORNAMENT PRAYER INTENTIONS

Hanging on the Christmas tree in our sanctuary are ornaments that contain prayer intentions written by parishioners. If you have an intention that you would like us to pray for during this Christmas season, we invite you to complete an ornament and hang it on our tree. Materials are available on the table next to the tree, while supplies last.

FOUND – HOUSE KEY

A house key was found amongst the many gift donations that were under our Christmas tree during the Advent season. The key is attached to a yellow daisy key chain. Please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 if this is your key.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council #4

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly business meeting this Thursday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. in our church hall. If you are a practicing Catholic man, 18 years of age or older and are interested in learning more about becoming a Knight, please contact Scott Gay, Grand Knight, at 860-906-2618 or at scottgay95@gmail.com.

VOCATIONS REFLECTION

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do I have to give to the Lord? Could my gift be to become a priest or religious? Call Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Tel. 860-242-5573, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.vocationshartford.org.

LIVING GOD'S WORD

We can pray that the divisions and hatreds will be resolved through the wisdom that is the gift of God. We pray for an increase of wise men and women who are attuned to the signs of God drawing them to join together in worship and live together in peace. The ultimate destination of all people is to arrive in the presence of God.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Our Homebound Ministry is ready to bring Communion to our parishioners who are homebound or are at home recuperating. Please call Barbara Casey at 860-568-4638 to make the necessary arrangements.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 60: 1-6	1 John 3:22 - 4:6	1 John 4: 7-10	1 John 4: 11-18	1 John 4:19 - 5:4	1 John 5: 5-13	1 John 5: 14-21	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13	Psalm 2: 7bc-8, 10-12a	Psalm 72: 1-4, 7-8	Psalm 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13	Psalm 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17	Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20	Psalm 149: 1-6a, 9b	Psalm 104: 1b-4, 24-25 27-30
Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6							Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Matthew 2: 1-12	Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25	Mark 6: 34-44	Mark 6: 45-52	Luke 4: 14-22a	Luke 5: 12-16	John 3: 22-30	Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

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, January 10, 2016 – The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus' baptism was his full acceptance of his mission. Today we are reminded that our "mission" also began with our baptism, the sacrament of faith, when we became adopted ("reborn as") sons and daughters of God. Our mission is to follow Jesus and imitate him, spreading the Good News of his salvific love and "becoming Christ" for others. May we all realize that our heavenly Father is also "well pleased" with us when he finds us at prayer.

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

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 YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION

Kristina Gillespie
860-895-8692
E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Mary Priest ~ 860-569-0087

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Jean Nowik-Martocci ~ 860-568-8873

PARISH/SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Roger Dionne

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roberta H. De Fiore
203-630-9295/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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640