



The Baptism of the Lord

**John said, "I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen
the thongs of his sandals."**

Luke 3:16

JANUARY 10, 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



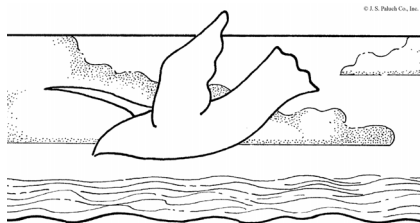
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



**The Baptism
of
the Lord
January 10, 2016**

“He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

– Titus 3:5

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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*)

Monday, January 11 – 7:30 a.m.

Robert Bourque (*Adult Social Club*)

Tuesday, January 12 – 7:30 a.m.

Salvatore Gallo (*Maria & Tony Sousa*)

Wednesday, January 13 – 7:30 a.m.

Giuseppe Pellegrino
(*Antoinette & Joe Torretta*)

Thursday, January 14 – 7:30 a.m.

Jeanne Russo (*Frances Nickeson*)

Saturday – January 16 – 4:00 p.m.

Louise Cyr
(*Nicole & Jacques Ouellette*)

Sunday, January 17 – 8:00 a.m.

Carmelo Gallo
(*Mike & Maria Gallo*)

Sunday, January 17 – 10:30 a.m.

Jose Sousa (*Family*)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (January 3): \$ 6,058*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

Holy Day: Mary, the Holy Mother of God: \$ 1,883

What We Collected (December 27): \$ 5,167**
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

Christmas Collection: \$ 8,875***

*Includes \$908 received through our Online Giving program and \$370 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes \$518 received through our Online Giving program and \$150 from mail-in offerings.

***Includes one family’s donation in the amount of \$2,500.

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

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.

SNOW STORMS AND DAILY MASS

Daily Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. regardless of any overnight or early morning snow storms this winter. However, those who attend daily Mass are urged to use prudence and caution in deciding whether or not to attend.

A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION

Make it a point to start each day of this New Year with a prayer. It works wonders.

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
John St. Onge – 5th Anniversary**
(*Wife Simone & Family*)

IN GRATITUDE

As we reach the end of the Christmas season, I want to thank all of those who helped to make it a beautiful celebration of the birth of our Lord. I am grateful to those who participated in our Giving Tree Program. Special thanks to those who decorated our church so beautifully, to those in our Music Ministry who gladdened our hearts with joyful sound, to those who enriched our worship as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Ushers and Greeters. Truly the child Jesus was given honor and praise by our parish family of Saint Christopher's. May God bless you in this new year.

– Father John

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

Fittingly, this *Jubilee Year of Mercy* is also the Lectionary's Year of Luke, for Luke's Gospel highlights God's mercy in finding the lost, healing the sick, restoring the broken, comforting the sorrowful, forgiving the sinner through Jesus' ministry. But before *doing*, Luke's Jesus is always *praying*. As practical moderns programmed to measure worth by productivity, we instinctively appreciate the Jubilee's call to embrace the practical challenges of our baptism. But today Luke focuses not on Jesus being baptized, but on Jesus praying after baptism. So must we pray to become the disciples we are called to be, that the Spirit empower us to do what disciples are called to do. Imitating Jesus' openness to the Spirit will enable us to cooperate with the grace that transforms us into "beloved sons [and daughters] . . . in whom the Father is well pleased," living out, in this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, the extraordinary potential of our baptism. —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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. Pieces that will be performed include Mozart Divertimento in D, Handel Selections from Water Music, Russian Folk Song Medley, Tangos for String Quartet. 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.

COME AND SEE YOUR SCHOOL

If you or someone you know is looking for a high quality, Catholic education for a child, then you'll find it right here at Saint Christopher's.

In a recent survey parents have given your school high marks for:

- providing an outstanding education
- maintaining a strong Catholic identity
- having an excellent environment for learning

Parents are willing to travel from as far away as Portland and Marlborough to give their child the strong foundation for learning that we provide.

Come and see for yourself!

An Open House will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT! (and spread the good word about our school!)

RALLY FOR LIFE

In observance of the 43rd Anniversary of Roe V. Wade, a Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Blair at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 9:00 a.m. Immediately following the Mass, two women well-known for their Pro-Life witness will speak: Carolyn Falcigno, Executive Director of Gianna's Pregnancy Care Center for Women in New Haven and Dr. Judith Mascolo, Pro-Life Physician, Family Practitioner in West Hartford, affiliated with St. Francis Hospital. Light refreshments will follow.

**LORD WHEN WE PRAISE
YOU WITH GLORIOUS MUSIC**

*Lord, when we praise You with glorious music,
Using our giftedness solely for You:
When we return to You songs that exalt You,
When they inspire all the things we do:
Life has a fullness, Life has excitement,
For we are learning the glory is Yours!
And in our hearts we are looking for heaven,
When we shall give You unceasing applause.*

– Bryan Jeffery Leech

Please congratulate again the St Christopher Chancel Choir and Children’s Choir for their annual Christmas prelude concerts, and another glorious success. With my sincerest admiration and unceasing applause for their good cheer, hard work dedication, and love of God. It is an honor and a privilege to direct them. Hats off!

– Roberta De Fiore, Director of Music

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.

2015 ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

I want to express my gratitude to all of you who participated in our 2015 Annual Parish Appeal.

– Father John

Parish Appeal Statistics

- Total # of Parish Families: 1,023
- Total # of Participating Families: 223
- % of Participation: 21.8%
- Total Amount Pledged: \$37,210
- Total Amount Received: \$36,760
- Average Gift Amount: \$166.86

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS,
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

We’re taking off this Friday evening, January 15, for our Parish Men’s Retreat at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. It’ll be a relaxing weekend of peace and quiet. Good rest, good food, inspiring talks to bring you closer to Christ. You’ll come away with a new perspective on your life; a wonderful inner peace to face problems with new courage. Come on out! 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: hollyfamilyretreat.org. If you don’t have internet access or if you have any questions about the retreat, please contact me. I be can reached at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

– Phil Gosselin

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council is scheduled to meet again on Monday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in our church hall. This meeting is open to all parishioners. If you have any concerns or questions you would like the Parish Council to address, please contact Parish Council President, Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367.

VOCATIONS REFLECTION

This is National Vocation Awareness Week. Celebrate our common vocation of Baptism. Pray for those who are discerning a call to live their baptismal commitment as priests, brothers or sisters. If you are one of these chosen, call Fr. Jeffrey Gubbotti, 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.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

Jesus was a young man and his Father affirmed him in front of a huge crowd saying “You are my beloved son; with you I am very pleased.” Our children are never too old to appreciate our praise.

St. Christopher Church Hall

Friday ~ February 12

1:30 – 6:35 p.m.

Please call **1-800-Red Cross** (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.



LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday <small>The Baptism of the Lord</small>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday <small>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</small>
Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11	1 Samuel 1: 1-8	1 Samuel 1: 9-20	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20	1 Samuel 4: 1-11	1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a	1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a	Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm 104: 1b-4, 24-25 27-30	Psalm 116: 12-19	1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8abcd	Psalm 40: 2, 5, 7-10	Psalm 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25	Psalm 89: 16-19	Psalm 21: 2-7	Psalm 96: 1-3, 7-10
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7							1 Corinthians 12: 4-11
Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22	Mark 1: 14-20	Mark 1: 21-28	Mark 1: 29-39	Mark 1: 40-45	Mark 2: 1-12	Mark 2: 13-17	John 2: 1-11

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, January 17, 2016 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians (and us) that all of our gifts are from God and that they are given, not for ourselves alone, but for the common good. But the generosity of God knows no limits — the miracle at Cana reminds us that whenever we faithfully do as God asks, He can change our gifts of water into wine!

(Our Sunday Visitor, *ibid.*, page 28).

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