When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”

John 2:3–5

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

January 17, 2016
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2016

“Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory.”
– Isaiah 62:2

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 10): $5,353*
What We Need for General Expenses: $6,500
Parish School Collection: $1,456**

*Includes $568 received through our Online Giving program and $355 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $155 received through our Online Giving program.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
Our Archdiocesan High Schools are institutions of excellence firmly rooted in a vibrant Catholic identity where students are formed in faith. Students are exposed to best practices in teaching and learning with technology, enabling them as graduates to be successful in a complex world. We greatly value your support in providing the most rewarding secondary school experience for the next generation of young adults. Please plan to support the High School Collection being taken up at all Masses next weekend.

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.

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
Scott Hatje
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(His Loving Mother)
STRING QUARTET CONCERT
This 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. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken up 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. All are invited.

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.

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 next Sunday, Jan. 24, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
Mary, whom Catholic tradition names “Mother of Mercy,” at Cana intercedes with her Son to show mercy toward the bridal couple: “Son, they have no wine.” But he does more! Jesus’ transformation of water into wine is a “sign” (John’s term for “miracle”) that God’s marriage with the whole human race has begun in Jesus’ person and ministry, a marriage that will be consummated on the cross: “It is finished”—we are saved! But before Jesus acts, Mary instructs the servers to prepare the way for Jesus’ miracle of mercy: “Do whatever he tells you.” During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Mother Church, like Mother Mary, instructs us to share the Spirit’s manifold gifts—some of which Paul lists in today’s second reading—in generous service to the human family. Thus we prepare the way for Jesus’ new miracles of mercy, transforming life’s sometimes stagnant water into the refreshing wine of God’s mercy.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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.
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
The Parish Council is scheduled to meet again this 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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
In today’s gospel we hear a statement which literally says it all about stewardship as a way of life. Our Blessed Mother Mary says quite simply, “Do whatever He tells you.” Her message for those gathered at the wedding and her message for us is the same. The whole purpose of our lives is to seek and ascertain what it is that the Lord is telling us. We all understand that is not easy, and for many of us it’s a lifelong quest. Yet, that is exactly what Mary says to us, and it is exactly what we need to do. Through prayer and discernment each of us must try to discover what the Lord is “telling” us. That requires prayer on our part; it means we have to listen more than speak; and it means we need to identify, recognize, and use our gifts. —thecatholicsteward.com

MASS OF THANKSGIVING
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
To conclude the Year of Consecrated Life (November 30, 2014 – February 2, 2016), the Office of Religious for the Archdiocese of Hartford cordially invites all of you whose lives have been enriched by your spiritual shepherds to a Mass of Thanksgiving being celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

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 will soon receive a confirmation letter that will include the opportunity for you to review your engraved text and to make any changes or corrections.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
Pope Francis has emphasized that: “religious freedom is not simply freedom of thought or private worship. It is the freedom to live according to ethical principles, both privately and publicly.” If you haven’t done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

ATTENTION CATHOLIC GIRL SCOUTS
Would you like to earn your (grade-level) Religious Medal & Certificate? If the answer is “YES!” you are cordially invited to the annual Program Kick-Off at St. Thomas Seminary on Saturday, February 27 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. You will spend time working on workbook requirements and interacting with your peers from all over the Archdiocese of Hartford. To register or to get more information, please contact Jennifer McClintock, Coordinator of Catholic Scouting at Jennifer.McClintock@aohct.org or at 860-242-5573. You can also visit orehartford.org. Deadline for registration is February 19.
**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>1 Samuel 15: 16-23</td>
<td>1 Samuel 16: 1-13</td>
<td>1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51</td>
<td>1 Samuel 18:6-9 - 19:1-7</td>
<td>1 Samuel 24: 3-21</td>
<td>2 Samuel 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27</td>
<td>Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10</td>
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**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."

**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 24, 2016 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In so many words Luke says in today's gospel, "I am writing to you the most incredible story humankind has ever known." The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ and the freedom he has won for us through his death and resurrection. The gospel is God's word for us today! It's a living word that has power to change, transform, and bring freedom and healing to those who accept it as the word of God. Do you receive it with expectant faith and trust?

---

**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
tobusysue@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**
Robert H. De Fiore
203-630-9295/Robert9700@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