

January 24, 2016
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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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



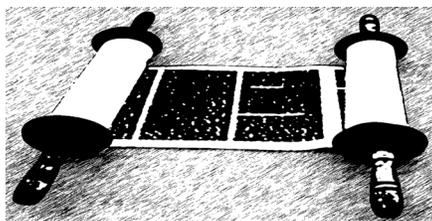
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

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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in
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“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”

– Luke 4:18a

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday – January 23 – 4:00 p.m.

Patricia “Parys” Romero

(Liz, Gene & Family)

Sunday, January 24 – 8:00 a.m.

Adrien, Rena, Jim and Louise Cyr

(Paul & Angie Parent)

Sunday, January 24 – 10:30 a.m.

**Deceased Members of
the Volowski and Muszynski Families**

(Anne Marie Volowski)

Monday, January 25 – 7:30 a.m.

Robert Audibert *(The Audibert Family)*

Tuesday, January 26 – 7:30 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo *(Mom & Daughters)*

Wednesday, January 27 – 7:30 a.m.

Rosalie Basinet *(Richard Moylan)*

Thursday, January 28 – 7:30 a.m.

Jeremiah B. Sullivan *(Daughter)*

Saturday – January 30 – 4:00 p.m.

Robert Boardman, Sr.

**In Remembrance of His Birthday
and Our Wedding Anniversary**

(Wife & Family)

Sunday, January 31 – 8:00 a.m.

Sophie Trella *(Fran Juda)*

Sunday, January 24 – 10:30 a.m.

Irene Amberg *(Howard & Barb Wilmes)*

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (January 17): \$ 4,592*

What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

*Includes \$543 received through our Online Giving program.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION

This Weekend

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 this 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
Frances Craft**

(Husband Art & Family)

If you wish to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication, please contact the parish office. The suggested offering for a dedication is \$15.

COME AND SEE YOUR SCHOOL

Sunday, January 24 ~ 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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!

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

RETREAT GOOD TIMES!

This year's Men's Retreat theme, "Into the Heart of Mercy" really struck a chord with the men in attendance. Each of the retreatants received a red stone to remind us that we are a living stone in the church with Christ as the cornerstone. We were asked to keep a vision before us of choosing mercy instead of anger or another destructive choice. It was also suggested that people sometimes act out aggressively because they don't know another way and if we respond to them with mercy it can begin to change behavior over time. We had a great group of men attend this year from St. Christopher's and I enjoyed the time we were able to spend together breaking bread and sharing lots of good conversation. The only issue I had with the retreat this year was that there were no meatballs!

– Peace, Phil Gosselin

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.



A SUCCESSFUL CONCERT

Our concert at the church last Sunday afternoon was a great success. More than eighty people from our parish and from the surrounding area came to hear classical and dance pieces performed so beautifully by The Mountain String Quartet. Special thanks to Roberta De Fiore, our Director of Music, for making these arrangements and to our Hospitality Committee for providing a wonderful reception afterwards. Hopefully, this will be the first of many such concerts hosted by Saint Christopher's in the near future. The acoustics of our church are perfect for events of this kind. Freewill offerings to benefit the East Hartford Food Banks were accepted at the concert and a total of \$430.28 was collected in addition to many donations of non-perishable food items.

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 at 860-569-4325.

THE RETIRED RELIGIOUS SAY THANKS!

During the month of December our parish, along with all other parishes in the Archdiocese, took up a special collection for the benefit of our Retired Religious. We share with you this note we received from Sr. Mariette Moan, the Vicar for Religious in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

*Dear Parishioners of St. Christopher's,
It is with gratitude and sincere appreciation that I thank you on behalf of the retired Religious Priests, Sisters and Brothers of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Your donation to our annual appeal will assist retired religious, those who taught in our schools, those who served in our hospitals, and those who gave of their talents in countless programs and ministries. Funds will be distributed through grants to help with the rising costs of retirement and health care. May God bless you in a special way during this Year of Mercy.*

– Sr. Mariette Moan, A.S.C.J.

PORTRAIT APPOINTMENTS

Did you miss the opportunity to have your picture taken for our new parish pictorial? If so, you'll want to take advantage of the makeup date that has been set for Saturday, February 6. Appointments are available beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the last appointment at 2:40 p.m. Portraits are being taken in our church hall. To schedule your appointment, please contact our parishioner Denise Rioux at 860-568-5450 (home) or 860-995-0522 (cell). You may also make your appointment by using the following link:

<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/stchristopherschurch1/index.php?page=10>

All families who have their pictures taken will receive a free 8" x 10" portrait and a complimentary parish pictorial and will also have the opportunity to purchase additional photos if desired.

MARIAN GARDEN

One Premium Brick Has Become Available!

Due to a change in someone's order, one premium brick has become available. If you had an interest in purchasing a premium brick and were disappointed when they sold out, now's your time to take advantage of purchasing this option. The premium brick is available for a donation of \$250. It's an 8" x 8" brick and includes up to six lines of text with up to 16 characters per line (spaces and punctuation marks are considered characters). If you are interested in purchasing this brick or one of the many other options available, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240.

GRINDER SUPPER & BOOK FAIR

Our parish school will be holding a Grinder Supper and Book Fair on Thurs., Jan. 28, from 5:30–7:30pm in the school's cafeteria. All are invited. \$8.00/adults, \$6.00/Gr. 5-8, \$5.00/Gr. K-4, Free for Pre-K and under. Maximum family charge of \$24 (2 adults and up to 4 children). Pre-registration is requested by Tuesday, Jan. 26. If you are planning to attend and have not turned in an order form, please pre-register by calling the school office at 860-568-4100.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday ~ February 1 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Come in and get out of the cold...enjoy a few fun games of "Friendly (Family) Feud" and some coffee and yummy desserts. It should be a lively afternoon. Dues of \$10 for the 2016 calendar year are now due. If you have not yet paid your dues, please see Regina and Ray Schultz at the Membership Table...and if you know someone who might be interested in joining the club, bring them along to see if we are a good fit for them. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229 or Nedra Gallo at 860-432-1793.

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.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

When he announced this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Pope Francis highlighted today's Gospel episode, in which Jesus proclaims in his hometown synagogue his Spirit-anointed mission to fulfill the promises of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus' mission then, says Pope Francis, is our mission now as Jesus' disciples this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*: to bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord, a year of God's mercy. Pope Francis challenges us to translate Jesus' mission to contemporary needs: to console by word and deed those materially or spiritually poor, to liberate those bound by modern society's new forms of slavery, to open the eyes of those blinded by their own self-interest, and to restore human dignity to all those from whom it has been stolen. To act with mercy in a spirit of joy! —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Here is the quote from Blessed Theresa of Calcutta (Mother Theresa) that Father John mentioned in the homily he gave on the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1:

"If you ever feel distressed during your day, then call upon our Lady. Just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me."

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday <small>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</small>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday <small>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</small>
Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10	Acts of the Apostles 22:3-16 or 9:1-22	2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5	2 Samuel 7: 4-17	2 Samuel 7: 18-19, 24-29	2 Samuel 11: 1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17	2 Samuel 12: 1-7a, 10-17	Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19
Psalm 19: 8-10, 15	Psalm 117: 1bc, 2	Psalm 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10	Psalm 89: 4-5, 27-30	Psalm 132: 1-5, 11-14	Psalm 51: 3-7, 10-11	Psalm 51: 12-17	Psalm 71: 1-6, 15, 17
1 Corinthians 12: 12-30							1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21	Mark 16: 15-18	Mark 3:31-35 or Luke 10:1-9	Mark 4: 1-20	Mark 4: 21-25	Mark 4: 26-34	Mark 4: 35-41	Luke 4: 21-30

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 31, 2016 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is doubtful that Saint Paul, when he sat down to write what we now know as the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, knew that he was penning what was to become one of the keystones of Christian ethics. In this brief passage, he set down ideals about love that have held fast through the centuries. Today we hear what this love must look like in our own actions, and how it ought to guide our relationships with others.

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