January 24, 2016
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We, Though Many, Are ONE Body in Christ

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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
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2016

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”
– Luke 4:18a

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.
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.

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!)

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.

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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.
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.

MOTHERS’ PRAYER GROUP

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

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<td>Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10</td>
<td>or 9:1-22</td>
<td>2 Samuel 7:18-24</td>
<td>2 Samuel 11:1-13</td>
<td>2 Samuel 12:1-7</td>
<td>Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19</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."

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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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
Robert 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 Ruczynski ~ 860-250-0640