Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ January 31, 2016

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.saintchristopperschool.org  860-568-4100

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

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
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2016

“Faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
– 1 Corinthians 13:13

Mass ✨ for the Week

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 Trela (Fran Juda)

Sunday, January 31 – 10:30 a.m.
Irene Amberg (Howard & Barb Wilmes)

Monday, February 1 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado (Wife Maria)

Tuesday, February 2 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz (Family)

Wednesday, February 3 – 7:30 a.m.
Helen Kosiorek Kronen – 29th Anniversary
and Stanley Walter Kronen
(Son Joe & Carolyn Kronen)

Thursday, February 4 – 7:30 a.m.
Stanley Thomas Kronen – 3rd Anniversary
(Brother Joe & Carolyn Kronen)

Saturday – February 6 – 4:00 p.m.
James Shepley – 1st Anniversary (Family)

Sunday, February 7 – 8:00 a.m.
Sophie Trela (Father John, Nephew)

Sunday, February 7 – 10:30 a.m.
Harold Matin – 4th Anniversary
(Wife Madeline & Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 24): $ 3,274*
What We Need for General Expenses: $ 6,500
*Includes $523 received through our Online Giving program and $290 from mail-in offerings.

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.

SNOWED IN?
PLEASE REMEMBER ST. CHRIS!
If the weekend weather prevents you from coming to Mass, we hope you will consider keeping up-to-date with your weekly giving to the parish. If possible, please bring your weekly envelope and gift for the Sunday you missed to Mass the following weekend. Every gift is appreciated and we will continue to use all funds received to support the parish in the best way possible for the good of all and for the glory of God. You may wish to consider online giving so that regardless of the weather, you are making a regular gift to the parish. For more information about online giving, please visit our website at www.stchris-eh.org and use the online giving link to see how easy it is to set up an online giving account. You can also use the bulletin link on our website to read any bulletins you may have missed.

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.

كهرباء
In Loving Memory of
Dean Nadeau
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(His Parents Emmanuel & Norma Nadeau)
FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE
This Wednesday, February 3, is the Feast of Saint Blaise. The traditional blessing of individual throats will take place following the daily Mass at 7:30 a.m. The words of the blessing are as follows:

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

In consideration for those who are unable to come to Mass on Wednesday morning, Father John will give a general blessing from the altar in place of the final blessing at all Masses this weekend.

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.

HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS
February 2016
Pope Francis has designated the following intentions to be prayed for during the month of February. Traditionally, one offers one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be at the end of the Rosary for the Holy Father’s Intentions. His intentions for February are:

Universal: Care for Creation – That we may take good care of creation – a gift freely given – cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

Evangelization: Asia – That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

PORTRAIT APPOINTMENTS
The portrait session scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6 is being postponed. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

PARISHIONER IN NEED BAKE SALE
February 6 and 7
Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee will host their Seventh Anniversary Bake Sale after all Masses next weekend, February 6 and 7. We celebrate seven years of operation. Since our inception, we have assisted and continue to assist several members within our parish as well as having provided resources to others within the community. Your support has helped us succeed. Please continue to watch out for those in our parish who may need assistance and may be hesitant to ask for help. Even those we have helped in the past may still be struggling and we ask that they or someone on their behalf come forward if necessary. Let’s be aware of those who need care.

Plan ahead for Valentine’s Day dinners. Donations of baked goods are very much welcomed (and needed) and can be brought to the church hall prior to each Mass. (Please indicate if there are nuts in the ingredients.) Thank you all for your continued support!

RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT
If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat weekend being held March 4-6 in Litchfield. The weekend healing process includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is totally confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness and compassion. Both women and men have participated in past retreats and have ranged in age from teens to mid-eighties. The fee for the weekend is $175.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. For more information contact Marie at 203-631-9030, e-mail her at mlaffin@prolifeministry.org, or visit their website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.
WOODEN ROSE SALE
Are you looking for that perfect Valentine’s Day gift for that perfect person in your life? The Men’s Club of St. Chris has the right gift for you...beautiful, handcrafted wooden roses. These wooden roses are unique and are timeless treasures that will last forever. You can choose from 20 different colors to make your bouquet beautiful. Available at $1.00 per rose, $6.00/dozen and $10.00/two dozen. Roses will be available for purchase after all Masses the weekends of January 30/31, February 6/7 and February 13/14.

MARIAN GARDEN
Confirmation letters have begun to go out to those who have submitted a Marian Garden brick order. As these letters indicate, St. Christopher Church is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Commemorative brick orders are classified as charitable donations by the IRS and are deductible in the calendar year in which they are purchased. Many brick options are still available, so if you are interested in placing an order, forms are available on our website at stchris-eh.org, at all the church entrances and at the Marian Garden display in the church hall. Please feel free to contact the parish office for assistance placing your order.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
The Catholic Graduates Club of Greater Hartford will award three scholarships of $1,000 each to Catholic students who are high school seniors and who plan to attend a four year college in the Fall of 2016. The applicant must reside in Hartford County. The club has awarded over $100,000 to 155 scholarship recipients during the past 64 years. Students are chosen on the basis of financial need, scholarship, character, leadership and achievement. Please visit www.catholicgraduatesct.org for more information. Deadline for submittal of scholarship applications is March 15, 2016.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4
The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly business meeting this Thursday, February 4 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.

INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE
Do you have an interest in fighting poverty and the systems that oppress people? Consider becoming a CCHD Intern! The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford is looking for interested applicants in a 2016-2017 academic year internship. Working from our office in Bloomfield, an intern will have opportunities for one-on-one interactions with local poverty focused groups, research, training and outreach, and parish interaction, under the supervision of the Archdiocesan Social Justice Director. CCHD internships are open to Catholics in the United States who have leadership abilities, community service experience, and effective writing/communication skills. Openness to the CCHD values of solidarity building, participation of the poor, and Catholic social teaching is essential. Low-income people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. To apply, complete the application which can be found by visiting www.catholicsocialjustice.org and send it to our office with your resume. Applications must be received by March 1, 2016. For more information contact Lynn.Campbell@aohct.org.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
Rave reviews greeted Jesus’ first hometown homily proclaiming a year of God’s mercy, but the mood turned violent when he went on to declare that God’s mercy embraces outsiders; it rejects distinctions between citizen and foreigner, acceptable and unworthy, even sinner and saint. Far from being anyone’s personal possession, God’s kingdom is open to everyone, God’s love unconditional, God’s mercy boundless. By this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis repeats Jesus’ challenge in today’s Gospel to broaden our horizons until our vision matches Jesus’ vision of every sinner as a potential saint, and each suffering stranger as our neighbor. Jesus, says Pope Francis, continually went beyond the law, keeping company with public sinners and even sharing meals with them to demonstrate that God’s mercy is “the beating heart of the Gospel” (Misericordiae Vultus, 12). To be truly Jesus’ disciples, such unconditional love and boundless mercy must also be at the center of all we say and do.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Papal quotes Copyright © 2015, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.
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
Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks
Used with permission of Paulist Press
www.paulistpress.com

Reflection for Next Sunday, February 7, 2016 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
In today’s Gospel, Peter feels unworthy to follow the Lord, and yet does so when Jesus encourages him. On our journey to make stewardship a way of life, drawing closer to Jesus as His disciples, we, too, encounter fear and feelings of unworthiness. Let us pray to the Lord that fear and sin do not distract us from fulfilling the vocation God has given us.