MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS
Mondays During Lent
(2/15, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21)
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS
Tuesdays During Lent
(2/16, 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15)
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Exposition and
Adoration • Scriptural Rosary •
Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our
Lady of the Miraculous Medal •
Benediction

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
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 7, 2016

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth.”
– Psalm 138:1

Mass for the Intentions for the Week
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 Martin – 4th Anniversary
(Wife Madeline & Family)

Monday, February 8 – 7:30 a.m.
God’s Comfort for the Primeau Family
(Jean Walker)

Tuesday, February 9 – 7:30 a.m.
Jose Maria Sousa (Family)

Wednesday, February 10 – 7:30 a.m.
God’s Comfort for the Flanagan Family
(Jean Walker)

Wednesday, February 10 – 9:00 a.m.
Rev. James G. Fanelli

Wednesday, February 10 – 5:30 p.m.
Rev. Peter S. Dargan

Thursday, February 11 – 7:30 a.m.
Jeanne Russo (Frances Nickeson)

Saturday – February 13 – 4:00 p.m.
Paul Crowley – In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Wife Irene)

Sunday, February 14 – 8:00 a.m.
Frank Wroniak (Grandparents)

Sunday, February 14 – 10:30 a.m.
Deceased Members of the Abejar Family
Victorino, Rosario, Benjamen, Briccio,
Arturo, Vincente, Elena, Cecelia, and Maria
(Leony Cumento & Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 31): $ 7,149*
What We Need for General Expenses: $ 6,500

*Includes $913 received through our Online Giving program and $655 from mail-in offerings.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
On behalf of our Catholic secondary school students, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Dale R. Hoyt, would like to express sincere thanks to all those who supported the 2016 High School Collection. A total of $967 was collected. Your generosity is deeply appreciated by all those whose future you have helped to shape.

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.

GOD’S CALL
In today’s scriptures we hear three instances of people receiving and responding to a call from God. These accounts follow the pattern of most scriptural call narratives: a divine presence appears and speaks; the person expresses fear or unworthiness, receives encouragement, and finally responds to God’s call. Today’s first reading shows an unworthy Isaiah responding to the Lord’s call, “Here I am; send me!” In the second reading Paul tells us that, even though he had persecuted the church, he was called to be an apostle. In the Gospel, despite Simon Peter’s protest that he is a sinner, Jesus calls James, John, and Simon to follow him. They leave everything they have and follow Jesus. These scriptures can challenge us to take stock of our lives. How do we experience Jesus’ call to discipleship in our lives? How well and faithfully are we responding?

SANCTUARY LAMP
The lamp beside our church tabernacle reminds us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Ï The candle in our church burns this week

In Loving Memory of
Jimmy Shepley – 1st Anniversary
(Grandma)
PARISHIONER IN NEED BAKE SALE
This Weekend!
Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee will host their Seventh Anniversary Bake Sale after all Masses this weekend. 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. Please plan to stop by after Mass to see what offerings are available. Thank you all for your continued support!

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ February 12   1:30 – 6:35 p.m.
Please call 1-800-Red Cross to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis calls us to share with everyone the tender compassion of God that we ourselves have experienced. In today’s Gospel, Luke uses a special Greek word conveying just such tenderness. In the other Gospels, Jesus calls the disciples to be “fishers,” haleis, the same word that means catching fish with hooks or nets, to be killed and eaten. But Luke uses zogron, from zoe or “life,” meaning “catch or gather people alive,” as animal lovers capture without harming, rescue from “the wild” for a better life, and protect in aquarium or zoo, tenderly cared for by professionals committed to the creatures’ well-being. So in Luke’s vision — and Pope Francis’ as well — we who have been “caught alive” by God’s mercy ourselves are to become “missionaries of mercy” during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, rescuing fellow sinners from danger and gathering them into Jesus’ community to enjoy fullness of life. — Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

THE LORD’S INVITATION
All of us feel insignificant and inadequate to the task when faced with a call from the Lord. This is normal; but the next step is to say ‘Yes’ to the Lord’s invitation, like Peter in today’s gospel and like Mary’s response in the obedience of faith to the angel Gabriel.

WOODEN ROSE SALE
This Weekend and Next Weekend
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 this weekend, Feb. 6/7 and next weekend, Feb. 13/14.

MARIAN GARDEN
Help Us Spread the Word!
During the past couple of weeks we have received a number of calls from folks whose families have roots here in our parish (i.e., their parents were founding members but are now deceased, their families were members but they now live out of the area). They were excited to hear about the Marian Garden through a friend or relative who are current parishioners and wanted to learn more about how they can be a part of the garden. So the next time you talk to a friend or relative who has roots here in our parish, please let them know about the Marian Garden. Commemorative brick orders are classified as charitable donations by the IRS and are tax deductible. Many brick options are still available. Order forms can be found on our website at www.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.

PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY
Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in our church hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. We meet again this Monday, February 8. New members are welcome to join anytime. You don’t need to know how to knit or crochet to join because we can teach you! For more info, please contact Santa Vallone at 860-569-1772.

SAVE THE DATES
Upcoming Knights of Columbus Dinners
Fish Dinner
Friday, February 26 – 5:30 p.m.
Corned Beef Dinner
Saturday, March 19 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Christopher Church
Friday ~ February 12   1:30 – 6:35 p.m.
Please call 1-800-Red Cross to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org
Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are three traditional disciplines by which the church observes Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening Mass of Holy Thursday, when the Paschal Triduum begins. All the faithful and catechumens are called to practice these traditions.

Catholics, ages 14 and older, are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays in Lent. The rule does not apply when health or ability to work would be impacted seriously.

In addition to abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, but have not yet marked their 59th, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday.

On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to individual needs, but together they should not equal another meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices are allowed.

Throughout Lent we should be reminded that, indeed, “We are dust, and unto dust we shall return.” Our Lenten agenda of prayer, fasting and almsgiving is not intended as a “spiritual New Year’s resolution;” rather, it is to remind us that we are creatures who, despite our best efforts to lead Christian lives, are in need of salvation, which comes only from Jesus’ saving act on the Cross on Good Friday.

ASH WEDNESDAY – Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation. It is, however, a day of universal fast and abstinence. The schedule of services on Ash Wednesday is as follows:

Masses: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. – Communion and the distribution of ashes
Liturgy of the Word Service: 12:15 p.m. – Distribution of ashes (no Communion)

FISH DINNER & STATIONS OF THE CROSS – On Friday, February 26, the Knights of Columbus will hold a fish dinner at 5:30 p.m. in our church hall. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. Father John will lead us in the Stations of the Cross. This will be the “The Way of the Cross with text from the Scriptures,” and includes the chanting of the hymn between the Stations. These Stations will last approximately 30 minutes.

MONDAYS DURING LENT – Confessions from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. This Lenten season churches throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, including St. Christopher’s, will be open every Monday during Lent for sacramental confession. This is in addition to our regular Saturday afternoon schedule of confessions and also by appointment, as needed. Monday Confessions: 2/15, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21

TUESDAYS DURING LENT – Scriptural Rosary and Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Begins at 6:30 p.m. As Father John’s schedule permits, Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction will be included in this Devotion. Dates: 2/16, 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 (Returns to Wednesday nights beginning 3/23)

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT – Soup and Stations. Join the parish community for homemade soups and fellowship, followed by the Stations of the Cross which are led by the children of our parish and school community. Soup: 5:30 p.m. Stations: 6:30 p.m. Dates: 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16
## Lectio Divina & Daily Readings

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<tr>
<td>Psalm 138:1-5, 7-8</td>
<td>Psalm 132:6-7, 8-10</td>
<td>Psalm 84:3-5, 10-11</td>
<td>Psalm 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 1:1-4, 6</td>
<td>Psalm 51:3-6ab, 18-19</td>
<td>Psalm 86:1-6</td>
<td>Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15</td>
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<td>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2</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, February 14, 2016 – First Sunday of Lent

In today’s Gospel, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, and is tempted there by the devil. The devil tempted Him in every way, but Jesus, supported by Scripture, did not fall. As stewards of our lives, are we wise and humble enough in times of temptation to call on Jesus’ grace and strength to avoid sin?

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### Parish Contacts

**Parish Trustees**
- Marie Gallo-Garabedian
- Richard “Mac” McCarthy

**Parish Council President**
- Lori Brunette ~ 860-655-9367

**Finance Council Chairmen**
- Michael Munley ~ 860-683-8594

**School Board President**
- Elizabeth Rowe ~ 203-685-0645

**Homebound Ministry**
- Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

**Prayer Line Ministry**
- Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930

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**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

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**Director of Music**
- Roberta H. De Fiore
  - 203-630-9295/Roberta9700@yahoo.com

**Pro-Life Ministry**
- Phil Gosselin ~ 860-568-5001

**Food Bank Ministry**
- New Coordinator Needed

**Knights of Columbus**
- 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