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, 3/22)
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

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

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.
Luke 4:1 – 2
**First Sunday of Lent**  
February 14, 2016

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.”

– Romans 10:8

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**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (February 7): $ 4,895*
What We Need for General Expenses: $ 6,500

*Includes $698 received through our Online Giving program and $355 from mail-in offerings.

**PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT**
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

**MARIAN GARDEN ORDERS**

Orders are Tax Deductible!

Another batch of confirmation letters were sent out this past week. If you are preparing your tax return and have not yet received your confirmation letter for your brick order placed in 2015, please remember that the total amount of your brick order is tax deductible in the year that your order was placed – so be sure you are including it as a charitable donation on your taxes.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

In today’s first reading Moses makes reference to giving of one’s first fruits. Giving of first fruits is a way to acknowledge and honor God because it provides the Lord with His portion first, before any is used for one’s self. That, of course, is an important aspect of stewardship, as challenging as that may be. Moses points out that it is more than giving first fruits, however. He recognizes that all comes from God, and we are called to return this first portion in thanksgiving for God’s grace and love and blessings.

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**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**

Marianne Harden  
(Family)
From Father John…

As part of our Lenten observance this year, we are offering a book, free of charge, with the title "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly, a well known motivational speaker.

It’s a fast-read and hopefully, as you go through it, you’ll find yourself deepening your friendship with Jesus. When I read it, it was as if Jesus himself was taking me by the hand and saying to me “I want to have a better friendship with you, a much deeper one, and I’ll help you if you let me.”

As you know, Pope Francis has declared this to be a Jubilee Year of Mercy, a special time to receive and to show the forgiving love of God, the love that came to us in Jesus, the love of God that is Jesus. And what better way is there to start doing this than to “rediscover Jesus” first, to deepen our friendship with him by reading this book.

We are grateful to the St. Christopher Knights of Columbus Council #4 for donating these books. Since the supply is limited, and if you do not wish to keep the book, we ask that you return it, gently used, to the church so that others may enjoy it as well. The books are available on a table in the sanctuary of the church.

On Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. I will lead a discussion of the book for those who wish to share the insights and inspiration they have received from it.

THANK YOU!
The Parishioner in Need Committee thanks all those who supported our 7th annual fundraising bake sale last weekend. Over $600 was raised! We particularly want to thank the Men’s Club of St. Chris for generously sharing a portion of their proceeds from last weekend’s wooden rose sale with the PIN Ministry. We not only shared a common room with our events, but a common cause to help those in need in our parish. God bless!

FOOD BANK REPORT – January 2016
Requests: 32 Families  (Adults: 42  Children: 13)
We thank those who donated non-perishable food items as well as those who made monetary donations. We appreciate your support of our food bank so we can continue to help feed those in need!

WOODEN ROSE SALE
This Weekend After All Masses
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.

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE
After All Masses This Weekend!
Gift cards will be available after all Masses this weekend. There are many gift cards to choose from and they not only make great gifts, but they also can be used by you for your everyday needs – groceries, gas, restaurants, etc. You purchase them at face value and our parish school receives a rebate for every card purchased. If you need gift cards at any other time during the month, please contact school parent and parishioner Ania Simpson at 860-966-9825 or at simpsonania@sbcglobal.net. Ania places an order every Monday.

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.

MARIAN GARDEN
We extend our appreciation to those of you who have mentioned the Marian Garden to friends and relatives resulting in their placing an order for a brick. If you know someone who might be interested in the Marian Garden, please mention it to them. 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 garden display in the church hall. Please don’t hesitate to call the parish office if you need help placing your order.
SOUP & STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the hall followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Our Soup & Stations will take place on the following Wednesday evenings during this Lenten season: Feb. 17, 24, Mar. 2, 9, 16. The young people from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations. Volunteers will be needed to prepare soup and/or bread for each Wednesday. You may simply bring with you the item you wish to share on the Wednesday evening that works best for you. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

FISH DINNER AND STATIONS
On Friday, February 26, the St. Christopher Knights of Columbus Council #4 will hold a fish dinner at 5:30 p.m. in our church hall. More information to come. On this same evening 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.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
On Ash Wednesday Pope Francis commissioned “Missionaries of Mercy,” priest-confessors sent forth worldwide as “living signs of the Father’s readiness to welcome those in search of [God’s] pardon.” In a way, though, Pope Francis challenges all of us to become “missionaries of mercy” *(Misericordiae Vultus*, 18) by living Lent in this **Jubilee Year of Mercy** “more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy” *(MV*, 17). Francis bids us make the prophet Micah’s words our own: “God . . . who does not persist in anger forever, but delights rather in clemency. You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins” (Micah 7:18, 19).

Having experienced God’s mercy ourselves in the unconditional forgiveness of our sins, how eager we should be to invite others to know the peace of God’s boundless mercy; perhaps even to experience, through our reaching out in gentle kindness and compassionate care, something of God’s unconditional love for them.

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

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT
According to the Rite of Penance, “It is therefore fitting to have several penitential celebrations during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbor and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts” (No. 13). With this in mind, churches throughout the Archdiocese, including St. Christopher’s, will be open every Monday evening during Lent from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for sacramental confession. This is in addition to our regular Saturday afternoon schedule of confessions and also by appointment as needed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Here are some events that will be taking place in the near future. Information about these events will be published in our parish bulletin as it becomes available.

- **St. Christopher School Auction**
  - Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m.
  - School Gymnasium

- **Knights of Columbus Corned Beef Dinner**
  - Saturday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m.
  - Church Hall

- **World Youth Day Pasta Dinner**
  - Saturday, April 30 at 5:00 p.m.
  - School Gymnasium

LIVING STATIONS
The dramatic presentation of our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection has become a beautiful tradition here at St. Christopher parish. The Living Stations cannot happen without the involvement of many people from our St. Christopher community. What are the needs? We need someone to portray Jesus and some folks to portray the various individuals who accompanied Jesus to the Cross: Mary, Simon, Veronica, Pilate, Roman soldiers, and various citizens of Jerusalem; these are non-speaking parts. We also need a narrator and numerous readers. The presentation will be held on Good Friday evening at 7:30 pm. We typically have an organizational meeting at the start of Holy Week and a dress rehearsal in the middle of Holy Week. If you are willing to help make this a reality, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.
### LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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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 Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks Used with permission of Paulist Press [www.paulistpress.com](http://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.

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**Reflection for Next Sunday, February 21, 2016 – Second Sunday of Lent**

St. Paul asks his followers to model their behavior after him, who, in turn, models his behavior after Christ. St. Paul warns the faithful to avoid the destructive behavior of the world, and to focus on heaven. As we grow in making discipleship a way of life, let us avoid worldly temptations that may block our relationship with Christ.

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**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**
Elizabeth Rowe ~ 203-685-0645 lawlizard80@yahoo.com

**HOMEBOUND MINISTRY**
Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

**PRAYER LINE MINISTRY**
Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930 toobusysue@gmail.com

"...but not too busy to take 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**
New Coordinator Needed

**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