St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-568-5240 (Phone) • 860-568-0673 (Fax)
E-mail: stchris-eh@sbgbglobal.net
Website: www.stchris-eh.org

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.saintchristoperschool.org
860-568-4100

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

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Website: www.stchris-eh.org
Fr. John Gwozdz, Pastor
E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com

February 28, 2016 | Third Sunday of Lent

“Sir, leave the fig tree for another year; perhaps it will bear fruit.” - Luke 13:9

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Fr. John Gwozdz, Pastor
E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (February 21): $5,627*
What We Need for General Expenses: $6,500
*Includes $628 received through our Online Giving program and $75 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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Our Old Testament Reading, the First Reading, on this Third Sunday of Lent, relates the narrative of Moses and the Burning Bush. Like many readings which we hear throughout our lives, this is an image and a story with which most of us are familiar. Also, through Moses’ experience there is a stewardship message for each of us.

As Moses approaches the bush, God calls out “Moses, Moses!” The fact that the Lord repeats Moses’ name gives the situation a sense of urgency. Perhaps God feels the same sense of urgency in relation to each of us. God calls us, and He calls us by name, but too often we do not hear, or we do not pay attention. Probably most often we are not even listening.

The second aspect of stewardship indicated in this passage from Holy Scripture is found in God’s next statement, “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Removing sandals was an act of respect, a sign of humility. To fully live lives of stewardship requires these traits from each of us — to be alert and aware that God is speaking to us, but we must listen, and to live our lives, especially our stewardship lives, with a sense of humility. That is, after all, how we really show love for our God and for one another. —www.catholicstewards.com

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
Adrien Cyr
(Emmanuel & Norma Nadeau)
SOUP & STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 2 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 again on the following Wednesdays: March 9 and 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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
The Parish Council is scheduled to meet again this Monday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m. in our church hall. This meeting is open to all parishioners. If you have any suggestions or concerns that you would like the Parish Council to address, please contact Parish Council President, Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367.

LIVING STATIONS
Volunteers Needed
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.

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24 HOURS FOR THE LORD
Our Lenten practice this year calls us to rejoice in God who is rich in mercy. His Holiness, Pope Francis, asks that the whole Church throughout the world, including Hartford, unite on March 4-5 to pray and seek mercy for us and the world. This worldwide act of prayer is called “24 Hours for the Lord.” For 24 hours, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4 and continuing until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5 there will be exposition and adoration of the Eucharist and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the world.

In the Archdiocese of Hartford this will take place at three parishes: St. Peter Claver in West Hartford, Resurrection in Wallingford, and St. John’s in Watertown.

This initiative needs your involvement. Please come to one of these parishes to pray and unite with the whole world in seeking God’s mercy. Please come and experience the grandeur of God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and place mercy at the center of your life. Please come knowing that when you seek the mercy of God you will surely find it.

This is a time, as Pope Francis writes, “to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives.” May we all continue to be transformed by mercy.

CRS RICE BOWL
Available at all the church entrances are this year’s Rice Bowl materials. We encourage all our families to participate in this program this Lenten season. Please visit www.crsricebowl.org for more information.

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

Rediscover Jesus Book Discussion w/Father John
Tuesday, March 15 – 7:00 p.m. – Church Hall
Knights of Columbus Corned Beef Dinner
Saturday, March 19 – 5:30 p.m. – Church Hall
World Youth Day Pasta Dinner
Saturday, April 30 – 5:00 p.m. – School Gym
Retirement Party for Kathleen Madej
Friday, May 13 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – School Gym
50th Anniversary Mass & Reception
Sunday, May 15 – 10:30 a.m.
Archbishop Blair, Principal Celebrant
LENTEN CONFESSIONS

This Lenten season, the Archdiocese of Hartford is making it easier for Catholics to experience God’s love and mercy in this sacrament. All the churches of the Archdiocese will be open for Confessions every Monday evening during Lent from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

For help in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, visit Light4you.info or you may help yourself to one of the pamphlets near our Reconciliation Room entitled A Short Guide for Confession.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis wants “Twenty-four Hours for the Lord,” around-the-clock availability of the sacrament of reconciliation, implemented worldwide this Friday and Saturday. Celebrated with his oft-recommended “tenderness,” the sacrament is “a source of true interior peace,” says Francis, enabling people “to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands” (Misericordiae Vultus, 17). In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus warns us against judging others. Focus instead, Jesus says, on deepening—or restoring—our own relationship with God, for during this Lenten springtime that Master Gardener can use even life’s manure (the parable’s “fertilizer”) to coax fresh fruit from a tree that seems hopelessly barren—us! Parishes preparing catechumens may choose John’s Gospel, which likewise cautions against judging. Imagine what the Samaritan woman’s lifelong neighbors thought of her multiple relationships. But by discovering Jesus, then sharing her good news—and Jesus—with those very neighbors, she whom they had probably judged quite sinful became instead their evangelist and “missionary of mercy.”

CRAYONS FOR CANCER

During this Lenten season, the Saint Christopher Religious Education classes are supporting Crayons for Cancer. The Crayons for Cancer initiative takes in donations of old crayons and recycles them by melting them down into new crayons shaped like flowers, hearts, and butterflies. These new crayons are then sold to benefit the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Fund for Families which helps to cover expenses not covered by insurance, such as parking fees and food for visiting family members. These crayons are expected to be available for purchase at one of our Soup & Stations.

If you have some old crayons taking up space in your home, please consider donating them for this initiative. You can deposit your donation in the collection box that will be in our church hall throughout the season of Lent. Thank you!

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Six-week classes begin this week for any baptized Catholic adult who has made their First Communion and wishes to be Confirmed. For more information or to register, visit www.orehartford.org (select Our Programs – Adult Confirmation) or call the parish office.

BIDS FOR KIDS AUCTION

Saturday – March 12 – 5:00 p.m. – School Gym

Please join us for our parish school’s biggest fundraiser of the year! $25 per person... includes delicious food, open bar and lots of items to bid on in both the silent and live auctions. Invite family and friends and have a great night out! Purchase your tickets today so we can properly plan our needs for the delicious food and beverages. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the school office at 860-568-4100 or by making a safe credit card transaction at www.stchris.schoolauction.net/auction2016.

Onsite babysitting is available the night of the auction. For more information about the babysitting services or the auction, please send an e-mail message to stchriscooke@gmail.com.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Do you have a Christmas gift you received that isn’t your style? Have a gift card lying around or perhaps a gift certificate you won’t get around to using? Please consider donating to our Bids for Kids Annual Auction (see above article). Please send an e-mail to stchriscooke@gmail.com if you have a donation.

BREACKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Sunday – March 13 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The St. Chris Men’s Club will be hosting a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Sunday, March 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the school gym. The menu will include delicious pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, tea, and juice. Tickets will be available at the door – $10.00/adult; $5.00/children 5-17; Free for 4 and under. Pictures with the Easter Bunny will be available for $10. Please join us for great food, conversation, and fun for the whole family! This event will benefit the parish school’s cheer program.

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—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
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**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Psalm 103: 1-4, 6-8, 11</td>
<td>Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4</td>
<td>Psalm 25: 4-5ab, 6, 7b, 8-9</td>
<td>Psalm 147: 12-13, 15-16 19-20</td>
<td>Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-9</td>
<td>Psalm 81: 6c-11ab, 14, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 51: 3-4, 18-21ab</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, March 6, 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

We must never attempt to ration God’s mercy, because he is a “prodigal” lover. Nor should we ever judge another as unworthy of our forgiveness or of God's mercy, because all love is unconditional. When you frown at the actions and words of the Scribes and Pharisees as you read scripture, are you really frowning at yourself? Lent is a good time to adjust our attitudes and actions, with a good examination of conscience.

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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
too.busy.sue@gmail.com
“...but not too busy to take your prayer requests!”

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**
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**
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
SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
2016 PALM CROSS ORDER FORM
*Sales to benefit needed facility repairs*

Limited quantity available

ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RETURNED
**BY MARCH 16**
TO:

St. Christopher School
c/o School Facility Fundraiser
570 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT 06118-2398

ONLY CASH or CHECK CAN BE ACCEPTED
**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: St. Christopher School**
**Please note Palm Cross in memo section**

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PICK UP DETAILS:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19th</td>
<td>4:30pm – 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 20th</td>
<td>8:30am – 9am /</td>
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<td>11:15am-12pm</td>
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WHERE: St. Christopher Church Hall
538 Brewer Street
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860-568-5240 (Office)
860-568-0673 (Fax)

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CONTACT NAME: ____________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: ____________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

NUMBER OF Palm Crosses _______ x $15 = _____________

PAID BY: CHECK___ CASH___

*Special Orders/Questions*
Please contact Travis Simpson at 860-983-0764
Travis.Simpson@windstream.com

Order form with check/cash may be returned in a sealed envelope by either
mailing it to the above address or putting it into the collection basket at any Mass.

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**Please note Palm Cross in memo section**