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.
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
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 6, 2016

“Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (February 28): $ 6,163*
What We Need for General Expenses: $ 6,500

*Includes $893 received through our Online Giving program and $210 from mail-in offerings.

TAX STATEMENTS
Please contact the parish office if you need a statement of your contributions for tax purposes.

ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM
A couple of weeks ago during the annual presentation of our parish’s financial report, our Finance Council President, Mike Munley reminded us that an Online Giving Program is available here at St. Christopher’s.

Online Giving is all about convenience for you and consistency for the parish. Online giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps you stay on track with stewardship even when you are unable to attend Mass. The parish in turn benefits from much-needed stewardship consistency and a reduction in our check processing fees.

Online Giving is done via a separate secure website and St. Christopher’s will not have access to any of your banking information at any time. An App for Apple and Android products is even available.

For more information and to register for Online Giving, please visit our website at stchris-eh.org and click on the Online Giving graphic.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal son, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he’d been given.

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
Kaitlyn Saunders Derr – 4th Anniversary
(Family)
**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 visiting the auction website at [www.stchris.schoolauction.net/auction2016](http://www.stchris.schoolauction.net/auction2016) and using your credit card to make a safe and secure transaction.

**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

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**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.

**LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

“If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:9

Do you want to let go of patterns of sin, grow in the life of virtue, and experience a joyful conversion? Let the light of God’s mercy shine on you this Lenten season by going to confession. All the churches of the Archdiocese will be open for Confessions every Monday during Lent from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For help in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, visit [Light4you.info](http://Light4you.info) or you may help yourself to one of the pamphlets entitled *A Short Guide for Confession* which are located near our Reconciliation Room.

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**SOUP & STATIONS**

Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the hall followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The Stations are led by the young people of our parish school and religious education program. The last Soup & Stations of this Lenten season will take place next Wednesday, March 16. **Volunteers are 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.**
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.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB
Monday ~ March 7 ~ 12:00 noon
Members Corned Beef or Turkey Sandwich Luncheon
After a delicious luncheon, we will be entertained by “Irish to the Last Drop.” Put on your green and don’t miss the fun.

If you, or someone you know, wants to go to the Lunch and Play on Sunday, April 3, please give Joan a call. She needs to have the head-count in ASAP.

Dues of $10 for the 2016 calendar year were due at the first of the year. 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, please 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.

THANK YOU!
A few weeks ago a generous donation was made by an anonymous donor to the PIN Ministry for the benefit of our parishioner Anne Marie Volowski. We’ve been asked by Anne Marie to publish her thank you to this anonymous donor.

Dear Donor Family,
I am writing to express my thank you for the $200.00 for the purchase of the new blue shopping carriage and for new clothes. The new carriage has been a blessing and has helped me to get around in a much better way. It is a reminder that God does provide. It’s also a reminder of what Lent is all about, loving God and others. Thank you and God bless you.

— Anne Marie Volowski

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
On Laetare Sunday, we rejoice as Luke’s Jesus proclaims that God is boundlessly merciful. The parable’s prodigal son returns home, not authentically repentant but desperate, having squandered on prostitutes (or so his older brother claims) the inheritance wrongly demanded while his father still lived. This selfish son is only spared ritual “shaming” when the father “shames” himself, running to embrace him, interrupting his prepared “act of contrition.” By doing so he challenges confessors, and all of us, to be signs, says Pope Francis, “of the primacy of mercy always, everywhere, and in every situation, no matter what.” Avoid the harshness of the elder son, Francis warns, “who stands outside, incapable of rejoicing,” his judgment “severe, unjust, and meaningless in light of the father’s boundless mercy” (Misericordiae Vultus, 17). If John’s Gospel is proclaimed, the “religiously observant” people there likewise serve to warn against harshly judging others, for the physical blindness of the man they expel from the synagogue is healed, while their own blindness of heart remains.

— Peter Saginelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Papal quotes Copyright © 2015, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent


Psalm 34: Psalm 30: Psalm 46: Psalm 145: Psalm 106: Psalm 34: Psalm 7: Psalm 126: 2-7 2, 4-6 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 19-23 17-21, 23 2-3, 9bc-12 1-6

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 Philippians 3: 8-14


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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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.

Reflection for Next Sunday, March 13, 2016 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

We pray that we might have the grace to see ourselves as we are, both graced by God and yet sometimes still sinful in thought, word and deed. We pray that we might look on others with compassion and be given the power to forgive others who have harmed us, as God has forgiven us.

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
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**  

PICK UP DETAILS:  

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19th</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 20th</td>
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WHERE: St. Christopher Church Hall  
538 Brewer Street  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
860-568-5240 (Office)  
860-568-0673 (Fax)  

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

CONTACT NAME: _____________________________________________  
PHONE NUMBER: _____________________________________________  
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____________________________________________  

NUMBER OF Palm Crosses ______ x $15 = ________________  

PAID BY: CHECK___ CASH___  

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.  

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: St. Christopher School**  
**Please note Palm Cross in memo section**