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
Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 13, 2016

“I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”
— Philippians 3:8

Mass 🕍 for the Week

Saturday – March 12 – 4:00 p.m.
Francis A. Ostrowski – 15th Anniversary
Olga A. Ostrowski – 39th Anniversary
(Family)

Sunday, March 13 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, March 13 – 10:30 a.m.
Jose Maria Sousa
(Family)

Monday, March 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado Leonardo
(Maria Leonardo)

Tuesday, March 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz
(Family)

Wednesday, March 16 – 7:30 a.m.
Susan Lassen – 1st Anniversary
(Family)

Thursday, March 17 – 7:30 a.m.
Fred Schifer – 2nd Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Saturday – March 19 – 4:00 p.m.
Dominick Natalie – 6th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, March 20 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Riley
(Mom, Dad & Family)

Sunday, March 20 – 10:30 a.m.
Virginia Demers – 6th Anniversary (Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (March 6): $ 5,231*
What We Need for General Expenses: $ 6,500

*Includes $728 received through our Online Giving program and $380 from mail-in offerings.

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

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

EASTER FLOWERS
The flowers and plants that will decorate our church at Easter are a sign of our joy in the Resurrection of Christ and our hope in the resurrection of those who have gone before us. We invite you to remember deceased family members and/or friends with a donation for our Easter decorations. You may use the envelope provided with your weekly envelopes or you may simply use a plain envelope marked “Flower Fund” and note the name(s) of those who you’d like us to remember. You may place your envelope in the collection basket. The names of those received by March 20 will appear in our Easter bulletin.

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
The 2016 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Your support of this year’s Appeal ensures the essential charitable, educational and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford are carried forward. If you would like to make a gift, please mail in the pledge card you received. If you did not receive a pledge card, extra Appeal packets are available at the main entrance of our church. Together we can change the lives of thousands so they can see God’s Mercy at Work.

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
Frank Wroniak
(Grandparents)
SOUP & STATIONS
Join us for the last of our sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 16 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 this week will be led by the students in our Confirmation program. **Volunteers are needed to prepare soup and/or bread for this Wednesday.** You may simply bring with you the item you wish to share. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

BOOK DISCUSSION W/FATHER JOHN
Father John invites you to join him on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall for a discussion of the book entitled *Rediscover Jesus*. This is the book that was made available at the beginning of this Lenten season through the generosity of the St. Christopher’s Knight of Columbus Council #4.

LOST & FOUND
A bag of coins was found in the church parking lot after the 10:30 Mass last Sunday. If you believe this is yours, please contact the parish office.

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
This year, prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 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](http://Light4you.info) or you may help yourself to one of the pamphlets near our Reconciliation Room entitled *A Short Guide for Confession*.

CRAYONS FOR CANCER
The students of our religious education program are collecting used crayons to donate to the *Crayons for Cancer* initiative which helps to support the Fund for Families at the CT Children’s Medical Center. Please leave your donation in the marked box in the church hall no later than April 15.

PICTORIAL PORTRAITS MAKEUP SESSION
Did you miss the opportunity back in December to have your portrait taken for our new parish pictorial? If so, you’ll want to take advantage of the makeup date that has been set for Saturday, April 2. Portraits are taken in the church hall. Appointments are available from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and can be scheduled with a Parish Council representative in the church hall after all Masses this weekend and next weekend, at the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and at the Corned Beef dinner. All families who have their pictures taken will receive a free 8” x 10” portrait and a complimentary parish pictorial and will also have the opportunity to purchase additional photos if desired.
MINISTRY OF GREETERS
Do you have that winning smile, a strong handshake, a welcoming voice? If so, then we’d like for you to join our Greeters Ministry! On Monday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall, a Parish Greeters training and information session will be held. We invite you to come to learn more about this ministry. And then on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall, an Evening of Prayer and Reflection on the theme of the Resurrection and how this message of good news can be a part of our lives as Greeters will be held. We invite current members as well as anyone interested in this ministry to attend. If you’d like more information, please contact Ministry Coordinator, Anne Marie Volowski, at annemarievolowski@hotmail.com or at 860-568-1303.

MARIAN GARDEN
We are pleased to report that we continue to receive orders for the Marian Garden. Now that the weather is starting to warm up, placement of these bricks will begin shortly. The Garden will be dedicated by Archbishop Blair on Sunday, May 15 following our 10:30 a.m. Mass which on that day will celebrate our parish’s 50th anniversary. If you haven’t yet ordered your brick but would like to see it in place before the dedication on May 15, please place your order by April 17. Order forms can be found at all our church entrances, on the display table in the church hall and on our website at stchris-eh.org. Should you need help in placing your order, please don’t hesitate to contact Bonnie in the parish office.

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.

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, Dedication of the Marian Garden & Reception
Sunday, May 15 – 10:30 a.m.
Archbishop Blair, Principal Celebrant

CORNED BEEF DINNER
St. Christopher’s Knights of Columbus Council #4 is holding a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, Mar. 19 at 5:30 p.m. in our church hall. The menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, coffee, juice and soft drinks. BYOB. Cost is $12.50 per person payable at the door. You’re invited to bring a dessert to share if you so wish. A fiddle player will entertain us with some Irish music. Please make your reservations no later than Wednesday, March 16 by contacting Scott Gay at scottgay95@gmail.com or at 860-906-2618.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS
Volunteers are needed to help pack the Easter Food Baskets on Tuesday, March 22. If you are able to help, please arrive at 9:00 a.m. at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street in East Hartford. Due to your generosity, the Food Bank shelves are well stocked at this time. We do, however, need donations of hams. If you are able to donate a ham, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
How fitting that the first Sunday Angelus of Pope Francis, who has made mercy his papacy’s theme, took place the last time today’s Gospel about Jesus’ encounter with the adulterous woman was proclaimed. “Jesus’ attitude is striking,” Francis declared. “We do not hear words of scorn or condemnation, only words of love, of mercy, an invitation to conversion: ‘Neither do I condemn you’ ” (John 8:11). Francis continued: “God’s face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God’s patience, the patience [God] has with each one of us? That is [God’s] mercy. [God] always has patience, patience with us . . . understands us . . . waits for us . . . does not tire of forgiving us” if we return ‘with a contrite heart’” (Pope Francis, Angelus address, March 17, 2013). Parishes preparing catechumens may proclaim Jesus’ raising of Lazarus. Referring to Lazarus, and all those “raised” from the “death” of sin, Jesus defines the community’s “mission of mercy”— “Untie him and let him go” (John 11:44).
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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
Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks
Used with permission of Paulist Press
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 20, 2016 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Palm Sunday is the overture to Holy Week. The procession with palms celebrates Jesus’ coming into Jerusalem and his acclamation by the people for his miracles and teaching. But we are quickly reminded by Isaiah and St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians that Jesus’ real victory was his self-giving on the cross to open for us the way to the Father. We must pray for the grace to follow in his path.

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 toobusyusue@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
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 ~ 860-568-1303

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19th</td>
<td>4:30pm – 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 20th</td>
<td>8:30am – 9am /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:15am-12pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**