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
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
March 20, 2016

“The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.” – Isaiah 50:7a

PARISH SUPPORT
Due to the early transmission deadline imposed by our bulletin company for this bulletin, last weekend’s collection will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Those in Jerusalem praise Jesus, and bless His Holy Name. Yet, we know soon many will shout that He be crucified. As Christian stewards, is our belief in Jesus unwavering, or is it get caught up in moments of fervor?

LIVING GOD’S WORD
We pray to experience the compassionate love of Jesus and to be able to respond to it with all our heart and mind and soul. We ask that his spirit enter us in such a way that we will be able to pray each day as he prayed with his final breath: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46).

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
The theme of this year’s Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, God’s Mercy at Work, is the name that Pope Francis has given to the challenge facing the Church in our time. As believers we experience the joy of the gospel because we know Jesus, and because we encounter him in one another and in the least of our brothers and sisters. The Appeal is one way to share our blessings with our neighbors and express thanks for the blessings with which God has graced us. Our gifts to the Appeal benefit Catholic communities throughout the Archdiocese. 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.

HOLY WEEK
Schedule of Liturgies, Devotions and Reconciliation

The schedule of liturgies, devotions and reconciliation for the Holy Week was mailed out this past week to all families on record. Copies can be found at all the entrances for those who did not receive one in the mail. It can also be accessed on our website at www.stchris-eh.org.

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 for

Angie Nunes
In Celebration of Her 80th Birthday
(Sisters & Sister-in-Law)
LIVING STATIONS
We Still Need Help!
The Living Stations, a dramatic presentation of volunteers from our parish, will be held on Good Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. We have Jesus, two readers and two other volunteers who will likely be a Roman soldier and Simon. We still need folks to portray Mary, Pontius Pilate, Veronica, at least one more Roman soldier, and various citizens of Jerusalem (adults and children). We also need a narrator and more readers. Our organizational meeting will be held this Monday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the church wing and the dress rehearsal will be held this Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. If you are willing to help, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

SOUP AND STATIONS SUCCESS
Thanks to everyone who took part in our parish’s very popular Soup and Stations these past Wednesday evenings. We gather around the Eucharistic table of our Lord on weekends at Mass and carry his Spirit with us into the parish through events such as these. Thanks to all who brought soups and breads, helped with set up and clean up, and prepared the children in the prayerful reading of the Stations of the Cross. We are proud of the children for the wonderful job they did.

PICTORIAL PORTRAITS SESSIONS
We are pleased to have received last weekend such a great response to the makeup session scheduled for Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It was so great, in fact, that we’ve added a day! Portraits will also be taken on Friday, April 1 from 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. Portraits are taken in our church hall. Limited slots are available, so make your appointment today. Please see the Parish Council representative in the church hall after all Masses this weekend. You may also call Denise Rioux at 860-568-5450 to schedule your appointment. 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.

CHANGING TABLE NOW AVAILABLE
We’re excited to announce that for the convenience of families with infants and toddlers a changing table has been installed in the handicap/family bathroom that is located in the hallway off our church hall.

MUSICAL PRESENTATION
Please plan to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday for a special Resurrection morning musical presentation by our Chancel and Children’s Choirs. Our 10:30 a.m. Mass will immediately follow.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS
This year prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Every church in the Archdiocese of Hartford is open this Monday, March 21 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. In addition to Monday, Father John will hear confessions on Holy Saturday, March 26 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. 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. This week experience the gift of God’s boundless mercy through the sacrament of reconciliation.

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Would you like your child to experience an excellent education integrated with faith during every school day? If so, then St. Christopher School is your answer. Our parish school offers an exceptional education where students achieve one year above grade level or better on standardized tests, while learning to live their faith every day. Come and see what St. Chris can offer your Pre-K through 8th grade child by attending our Open House on Sunday, April 3 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. If you are unable to make the Open House, please call the school office at 860-568-4100 to schedule a time to visit us. The staff and students of our parish school wish you a blessed Easter season.

DAY OF REFLECTION AND ACTION
Pope Francis addresses “every person living on this planet” in the latest encyclical, Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home. The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will be hosting a day of reflection and action: “Creating a Culture of Solidarity, Encounter and Relationship” on Saturday, April 9 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Rocky Hill. This workshop will explore the vision of Pope Francis, as expressed in his new encyclical, and provide practical tools for strengthening parish ministry through relationship and advocacy efforts. The cost is $10 and includes lunch. Please visit catholicsocialjustice.org/registration for more information or call 860-242-5573, ext. 2688.
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-ch.org. Should you need help in placing your order, please don’t hesitate to contact the parish office.

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 of used crayons in the marked box in the church hall no later than April 15.

CRS RICE BOWLS
We thank the families who participated in the Rice Bowl program this Lenten season. Your prayers and gifts will provide lifesaving aid to those in need around the world. You may turn in your Rice Bowl during these next few weeks by placing it in the collection box at the front of our church.

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

EASTER FOOD BASKETS
Volunteers are needed to help pack the Easter Food Baskets this 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 later than March 21.

MINISTRY OF GREETERS
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 on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. 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 860-568-1303 or by e-mail at annemarievolowski@hotmail.com.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
Misericordiae Vultus: The Face of Mercy is Pope Francis’ official decree announcing this Jubilee Year of Mercy. But Francis had already declared that Jesus “has shown the face of God’s mercy” back in 2013 on his first Palm Sunday as pope. Francis described Luke’s account of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem: “Crowds, celebrating, praise, blessing, peace: joy fills the air. Jesus has awakened great hopes, especially in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, those who do not matter in the eyes of the world. He understands human sufferings . . . has bent down to heal body and soul.” Entering Jerusalem, Jesus looks at all of us with love, Francis continued, at our sicknesses and sins. “A beautiful scene, full of light—the light of the love of Jesus” (Pope Francis, Palm Sunday homily, March 24, 2013). May this Jubilee Year’s Holy Week and Triduum make us Jesus’ own light-bearers and love-givers to all who long to see the Face of Mercy.

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OFFERTORY GIFTS
We invite you to participate in our weekend liturgies by bringing up the gifts of bread and wine to be offered. If you’re interested, please take the wooden fish from the gift table before the start of Mass.
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
lawnlizard80@yahoo.com

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY
Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
too.busyusue@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

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

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."

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 27, 2016 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
As Christians we are called to view death in the light of the resurrection of Jesus – because in His death and resurrection lies our hope. The Holy Spirit teaches us to celebrate every liturgy in eager expectation of the return of Jesus, by praying in hope. Come Holy Spirit and help us to shape our lives so that we may truly be an Easter People. Help us to show more clearly the power of Jesus’ resurrection in our own life and in the lives of others.

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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