

APRIL 3, 2016 | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

JESUS CAME AND STOOD
IN THEIR MIDST AND SAID TO THEM,
“ P E A C E
B E W I T H Y O U . ”

~ John 20:19



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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.

Sundays: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m.



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.



WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Exposition and
Adoration • Scriptural Rosary •
Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our
Lady of the Miraculous Medal •
Benediction



FUNERALS

We will help you plan the Mass
of Christian Burial for your loved
one after arrangements have been
made with a funeral home.



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



**Second Sunday
of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)**

April 3, 2016

“Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.” – Acts 10:43

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 2 – 4:00 p.m.

Victor “Pepe” Goslin – 5th Anniversary
(Family)

Sunday, April 3 – 8:00 a.m.

Louise Agnes
(Family)

Sunday, April 3 – 10:30 a.m.

Jeanne Russo
(Frances Nickeson)

Monday, April 4 – 7:30 a.m.

Richard Zerba
(Chickie Amberg)

Tuesday, April 5 – 7:30 a.m.

Jose Maria Sousa
(Family)

Wednesday, April 6 – 7:30 a.m.

Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Thursday, April 7 – 7:30 a.m.

Isabella Basile
(The Oliveira Family)

Saturday, April 9 – 4:00 p.m.

Biagio Governale (Fred & Pat Clark)

Sunday, April 10 – 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, April 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Jose Maria Sousa (Frances Nickeson)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (Easter): \$ 8,879*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

What We Collected (Palm Sunday): \$ 5,663**
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

*Includes \$678 received through our Online Giving program and 205 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes \$623 received through our Online Giving program and \$222 from mail-in offerings.

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION

Next weekend we will take up the Peter’s Pence Collection which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join our Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The purpose of Sacred Scripture is in part to teach us about the faith, to provide to us what the Church calls “divine revelation.” Our Second Reading from the Book of Revelation provides insights of which we need to be aware. Written by John, he tells us that he’s on the island of Patmos, the Roman Empire’s version of Alcatraz Island, a place where some were exiled and forced to work in the marble quarries found there. Ten miles long and six miles wide, Patmos has been described as lonely and desolate. Yet for John, the writer of this Book, it does not separate him from God or from his fellow Christians. He describes in today’s narrative the revelation which came to him there, but to experience such a revelation he had to be aware and open to the Words of the Lord. We may at times feel just as exiled, just as lonely, but if we remain open and conscious of God’s presence, we, too may find solace and comfort and instructions. That is what being a steward is all about — being attentive to what God is saying to us.

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 Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

As we have moved from our observance of Lent and began our celebration of the Paschal Mystery: the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, I want to thank all of those who helped make it a prayerful and powerful experience. I am grateful to those who decorated our church so beautifully, to those in our Music Ministry who helped accompany us with song the walk of Jesus from the cross to the empty tomb, to those who enriched our worship as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Ushers and Greeters and to those who organized and participated in the Living Stations. Truly, we were well prepared to proclaim that "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!" Wishing you a blessed Easter season.

– Father John

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

"Lord, when we praise You with glorious music, using our giftedness solely for You. When we return to You songs that exalt You, when they inspire all the things that we do." (Bryan Jeffrey Leech)

The Music Ministry is praying for and welcomes new or returning members at any time! Please congratulate again the Chancel and Children's Choirs for their annual Easter prelude concert and for another glorious success. With my sincerest admiration and unceasing applause for their good cheer, hard work, dedication, exceedingly long hours of practice, and love of God. Special shout outs for the "firsts" to those who sang solo to the Children's Choir for learning to sing in harmony. It is a joy, an honor, and a privilege to direct them. Hats off!

– Roberta H. De Fiore

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Join us THIS afternoon (Sunday, April 3) for the Divine Mercy event at Bushnell Park with Archbishop Blair! Meet at MCC at 12:55 to catch the bus downtown - bring \$3 for fare, a rosary, a canned good, and dress for the weather! Contact Kristi Gillespie at stchrisym@gmail.com before 12:15 to RSVP.

Meet with us on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm in the Parish Center for pizza and discussion! If possible, bring \$3 for pizza. RSVP to stchrisym@gmail.com. NO MEETING on April 13!

Follow St. Chris Youth Ministry on Facebook or contact stchrisym@gmail.com to be put on the email list!

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

This Sunday ~ April 3 ~ 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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. 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.

ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday – April 4 – 1:00 p.m. – Church Hall

Afternoon at the Movies Fundraiser

Featuring "Moonlight Bay" with Doris Day

Everyone is invited to join us for this fun afternoon...members and non-members are welcome. Admission is \$1, plus .50 for the optional use of a seat cushion (while supplies last, so come early). All refreshments will be \$1 and will include popcorn, chips, pretzels, candy, soda, and coffee. 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, 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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY PASTA DINNER

Saturday ~ April 30 ~ 5:00 p.m.

St. Christopher School Gym

Come support the young adults from our parish by attending this pasta dinner fundraiser being held to raise money for their trip to Poland this July to see Pope Francis and to celebrate their faith with millions of other young Catholics from around the world! Dinner includes pasta, meatballs (beef and vegetarian), salad, bread, dessert, etc. Lots of raffle prizes available! \$8/adults, \$5 children (ages 3-12), \$25 max for a family. Tickets will be available for purchase after all Masses the weekends of April 16/17 and April 23/24.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council #4

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly business meeting this Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in our church hall. If you are a practicing Catholic man, 18 years of age or older and are interested in learning more about becoming a Knight, please contact Scott Gay, Grand Knight, at 860-906-2618 or at scottgay95@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Saint Mary's Women's Club will hold their Annual Women's Communion Breakfast in their Parish Center, 30 Maplewood Avenue, East Hartford on Sunday, April 10 after their 9:00 a.m. Mass. Guest speaker is Sister Mary Anne Linder, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist and a professor at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. Theme: Jubilee Year of Mercy. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased by calling Saint Mary's parish office at 860-289-7916. No tickets will be sold at the door. This Breakfast is open to all women. Come and be spiritually refreshed!

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal changes lives through service to the Lord. In addition to assisting the underserved of our communities, your gift helps those cultivating a vocation to the priesthood. Your gift to the Appeal is an investment in the future of our Church and our faith. 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.

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.

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

Summer Vacation Bible Camp

Monday, June 20 – Friday, June 24

PLEASE HELP US HELP A NEIGHBOR

HomeFront Day, Saturday, May 7 is coming soon and we need help! HomeFront is a community outreach, one-day repair blitz for a neighbor in need. We expect to know the home and scope of the work we hope to achieve sometime during this coming week.

Here are some of the projects we could be tackling if we have sufficient volunteer participation:

- Prep and paint outside of the house
- Replace garage door and track
- Unclog bathtub drain
- Remove wallpaper in bathroom and paint
- Paint ceilings
- Replace a couple of light fixtures
- Yard cleanup
- Remove clutter in basement, garage and other areas of house

Stay tuned for more specific information, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars!

Please consider assisting us with this very worthy project of neighbor helping neighbor. We can make a difference but it won't happen without you. Please say **YES!** For more information or to volunteer, please contact Phil Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE

In veneration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Archdiocese of Hartford invites you to participate in a Divine Mercy Sunday Pilgrimage and Liturgy this Sunday, April 3 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Join Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and others in procession from the Bushnell Park Performance Pavilion in Hartford to the Cathedral of Saint Joseph where pilgrims will walk through the Holy Door, participate in Benediction, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and have the option to go to confession.

Free parking will be available in Aetna's Flower Street Garage. A shuttle service will be available from 1:05 to 2:00 pm for those needing a ride to Bushnell Park to begin the pilgrimage. Those who do not wish to march from Bushnell Park to the Cathedral can meet pilgrims at the Cathedral at 3:00 p.m. Donations of canned tuna, boxed rice and cereal as well as peanut butter, pasta and canned fruits and vegetables will be collected.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

| Sunday Second Sunday of Easter | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday Third Sunday of Easter |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Acts 5: 12-16 | Isaiah 7:10-14 - 8:10 | Acts 4: 32-37 | Acts 5: 17-26 | Acts 5: 27-33 | Acts 5: 34-42 | Acts 6: 1-7 | Acts 5: 27-32, 40b-41, |
| Psalm 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24 | Psalm 40: 7-11 | Psalm 93: 1-2, 5 | Psalm 34: 2-9 | Psalm 34: 2, 9, 17-20 | Psalm 27: 1, 4, 13-14 | Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19 | Psalm 30: 2, 4-6, 11-13 |
| Revelation 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 | Hebrews 10: 4-10 | | | | | | Revelation 5: 11-14 |
| John 20: 19-31 | Luke 1: 26-38 | John 3: 7b-15 | John 3: 16-21 | John 3: 31-36 | John 6: 1-15 | John 6: 16-21 | John 21: 1-19 |

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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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, April 10, 2016 – Third Sunday of Easter

Peter answered, "Lord, you know that I love you." How does Jesus know this to be true? Jesus knows because Peter and the other disciples show him they do. They bear public witness in the face of opposition and persecution; they accept martyrdom out of love for him. "If you love me," Jesus had said "keep my commandments." "Show me by loving others as I have loved you."

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 ~ 860-568-1303

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640