

APRIL 24, 2016 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

– JOHN 13:34



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



**Fifth Sunday
of Easter**
April 24, 2016

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.”
– Revelation 21:3

Mass Intentions  *for the Week*

Saturday, April 23 – 4:00 p.m.

Jim White
(Family Friend)

Sunday, April 24 – 8:00 a.m.

Thomas Fitzgerald
(Kevin Casey)

Sunday, April 24 – 10:30 a.m.

Cassandra Browne – 12th Anniversary
Gerard Cormier – 11th Anniversary
(Your Loving Family)

Monday, April 25 – 7:30 a.m.

Debbie (Tardiff) Fallacaro
(Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry)

Tuesday, April 26 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Ronald L. Genua

Wednesday, April 27 – 7:30 a.m.

Msgr. Daniel F. Colbert
(Family)

Thursday, April 28 – 7:30 a.m.

Manuel Machado
(Wife Maria)

Saturday, April 30 – 4:00 p.m.

Jerry Millstein – 7th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, May 1 – 8:00 a.m.

Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, May 1 – 10:30 a.m.

Vivienne Hope Renouf
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (April 17): \$ 4,714*
What We Need for General Expenses: \$ 6,500

*Includes \$553 received through our Online Giving program and \$85 from mail-in offerings.

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous support of our Holy Father’s charitable works through the Peter’s Pence Collection taken up last weekend. Our contributions, which totaled \$1,342 will be combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis provide essential relief to people in need. Your generosity is an act of solidarity with the universal Church, answering the call to become a witness of charity. May God bless you.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

God proclaims at the end of our Second Reading from the Book of Revelations, “Behold, I make all things new.” That is a good thing to remember on this Fifth Sunday of Easter. In the opening verse of this reading from Holy Scripture, John also says, “I...saw a new heaven and a new earth.” Easter reveals this newness to us, and we must always keep it in mind. We are not speaking of a heaven and earth which did not exist before, but of a heaven and earth which are fresh in their newness. This is not just a “new” perspective, but a better one.

If we strive to live out our lives as disciples of Christ, if we make a complete effort to be His disciples, we inherit this new heaven. In it, as also indicated in our Second Reading, God expresses His desire to be in close fellowship with us, and we in turn must desire to be His people. Being God’s disciple should be the whole purpose of our lives. This is not easily achieved, nor is it without obstacles and hurdles for us, but it is what our purpose should be.

– www.thecatholicsteward.com

SANCTUARY LAMP

The lamp beside our church tabernacle reminds us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication, please contact the parish office.



THANKS PETER!

If you haven't done so already, then please take a look at the beautiful landscaping on the east side and front of the rectory and in front of the church. All of it is the work of our parishioner Peter Marra of Peter's Landscaping who donated both the material and labor. It was done with the same quality craftsmanship that Peter used when building our Marian Garden. We are grateful to him for making our grounds so attractive as Spring unfolds around us.

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 this weekend and at the door, but it is helpful for planning purposes if you buy your tickets in advance.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday ~ May 2 ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Church Hall

The Social Club invites you to join us in May for a wonderful afternoon. Kandie Karle (also known as the **Victorian Lady**) will entertain us with her vintage clothing and stories of life at the turn of the century (early 1900s). We are lucky that she was able to fit us into her calendar. This program will be enjoyed by both men and women.

There will be an admittance charge of \$10 for non-members, and \$5 for members. Believe us...you will get your money's worth. If you have any questions about this program, please call Nedra Gallo at 860-432-1793.

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.

With gratitude to Almighty God
you are cordially invited
to join in the celebration of our parish's
Fiftieth Anniversary
on Pentecost Sunday ~ May 15, 2016.
The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford
will officiate at Holy Mass at
10:30 in the morning.

Following the Mass there will be a
Dedication of the Marian Garden
to Commemorate this Milestone and
to Honor our Blessed Mother.

The Festivities will conclude
at Noon with a Luncheon in the
Rev. Henry J. Murphy Hall at the School.


***Bearing Christ to the World
for a Half Century.***

PADDED PEWS

This is a gentle reminder to those who need to sit in the padded pews at the front of the church. It seems that the pew on the east side is used more than the other resulting in some overcrowding. This usually happens at the Vigil Mass. Also, family members or friends who accompany them are encouraged to sit in the pew behind them when space is at a premium. Thank you!

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ May 6, 2016
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please call **1-800-Red Cross** (1-800-733-2767)
to make an app't. or log onto redcrossblood.org.



26th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m., our parish school will host their 26th Annual Golf Tournament at the East Hartford Golf Club here in town. We invite you to participate in this year's Tournament as either a golfer or as a sponsor. A lunch only option is also available. More information can be found on the flyers at all church entrances. Please respond by May 20.

HOMEFRONT DAY IS COMING FAST!

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. Our HomeFront recipient this year is a 67 year old man here in East Hartford who is an Army veteran.

The following are some of the projects that we could be tackling if we have sufficient volunteer participation:

- Replace garage door and track
- Unclog bathtub drain
- Remove wallpaper in bathroom, sand the walls and paint
- Paint some ceilings
- Replace two storm doors
- Replace several light fixtures
- Yard cleanup and cleaning of walls in the home
- Remove clutter in basement, garage and other areas of house

We need both skilled professionals as well as folks who can rake, paint, clean and help remove clutter.

Sometimes there are needs that are outside the scope of the HomeFront project that we might be able to assist with as a parish. Our HomeFront recipient needs to have some of his existing curtains replaced if we can get some donations. Also, he has a washer and a dryer in his basement and he said they work but they are in really rough shape. Just sharing in case we can assist Jon with these.

Lastly, our Volunteer meeting will be on Thursday, April 28 at 6:30 pm in the church hall. 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 call Phil Gosselin, 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

HOMEFRONT COLLECTION

Next weekend, April 30/May 1, will be take up a special collection to help the parish offset the required Team Sponsorship Donation that helps make the HomeFront project possible. We thank you for your support of this community outreach project.

FIRST COMMUNION

Next Sunday, May 1, at our 10:30 a.m. liturgy, children from our parish's Religious Education and parish school will receive their First Communion. Please keep these children and their parents and family members in your prayers.

RETIREMENT PARTY

In Honor of Mrs. Kathleen Madej

Friday ~ May 13 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. ~ School Gym
Please join us as we celebrate Mrs. Madej and her many years of dedicated service to our parish school.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

It is important that when you give to any charitable organization you are confident that the funds are used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal only sponsors the ministries and programs indicated in the 2016 Appeal literature. For more information, please visit the Appeal website at archdioceseofhartford.org or take one of the Appeal packets found at the main entrance of our church.

SUMMER

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Mon., June 20 – Fri., June 24

This year's theme is *Barnyard Roundup* where kids will learn that Jesus loves them, always and forever, no matter what.



THE LIVING ROSARY

The Liturgy Committee of St. Paul Church in Glastonbury invites you to their Living Rosary, Novena of the Miraculous Medal and Benediction being held on Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. A candle will be lit as each bead of the rosary is prayed, forming the shape of a rosary around the church. Children are welcome and are encouraged to attend this beautiful devotion with their parents. A light reception will follow in the South Wing. Please plan to join them for this inspirational and prayerful evening.



Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Madalyn Marlee Kinsey

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14: 21-27	1 Peter 5: 5b-14	Acts 14: 19-28	Acts 15: 1-6	Acts 15: 7-21	Acts 15: 22-31	Acts 16: 1-10	Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29
Psalm 145: 8-13	Psalm 89: 2-3, 6-7, 16-17	Psalm 145: 10-13ab, 21	Psalm 122: 1-5	Psalm 96: 1-3, 10	Psalm 57: 8-10, 12	Psalm 100: 1b-3, 5	Psalm 67: 2-3, 5-6, 8
Revelation 21: 1-5a							Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23
John 13: 31-33a, 34-35	Mark 16: 15-20	John 14: 27-31a	John 15 1-8	John 15: 9-11	John 15: 12-17	John 15: 18-21	John 14: 23-29

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, May 1, 2016 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

We hear in today's Gospel how we are to prepare our homes to host a guest who is going to take up residence within our lives: Jesus, in relationship with the Spirit and the Father. How do we prepare for Jesus to abide with or in us? We do so by keeping Jesus' commandments and by loving Jesus, which inevitably and inextricably means keeping his word. We prepare for Jesus to abide in us by welcoming his gift of peace and by responding to his presence with faith in the absence of sight.

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



St. Christopher/South Congregational Church

Important Food Bank News

The St. Christopher/South Congregational Church Food Bank works in conjunction with the Social Services department of East Hartford providing a supply of food to those in need in our community. Our Food Bank, which is housed at South Congregational Church on Forbes Street, is cared for by the parishioners of each church on a rotating basis. St. Christopher's oversees the operation every *odd* month while South oversees it every *even* month. For many years we were blessed when Dick Domler and his late wife Eleanor lovingly coordinated all the efforts of the Food Bank on our behalf. When Dick was no longer able to continue, parishioner Dave Gaudreau stepped in and for the past couple of years has devotedly served as our coordinator. Earlier this year Dave needed to step down from this responsibility. Our efforts to find a replacement for this position have not been fruitful.

In order to review and discuss this situation, the parish council met with Food Bank representatives from both churches, and Father John and Bonnie took a tour of the facility earlier this week. It's an organized and efficient operation. The staff and volunteers at South Congregational Church have been patient, helpful and pleasant to work with.

The consensus during these discussions is that the responsibilities of our Food Bank should not fall onto the shoulders of one person; rather, it should be a collaborative effort. With this in mind, we've broken down the main responsibilities of the Food Bank, thereby giving more of us the opportunity to be involved. Training will be provided. We encourage you to review the responsibilities and to prayerfully consider helping us operate our Food Bank while keeping in mind that we only oversee its operation during the odd months, with some exceptions as noted below. Please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 for more information or to express interest.

Transport Non-perishable Donations

On Monday mornings as close to 9:30 as possible, transport the food donations from St. Christopher's to South Congregational.

Make Purchases at Aldi

During odd months use Food Bank funds to purchase perishable food items as needed.

Pick Up Pre-Ordered Food at Foodshare

Foodshare is located in Bloomfield and is a regional Food Bank for Hartford county. On an as needed basis, pick up pre-ordered food and deliver to South Congregational.

Pick Up Pre-Ordered Food at Bogners

Bogners is a meat outlet in Manchester. On an as needed basis, pick up pre-ordered food and deliver to South Congregational.

Weekday Pull and Pack

For one week, every couple of months, pull and pack the necessary food items for those in need as referred by the town's Social Services Dept. Only if there's a referral do you report to the Food Bank from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Weekdays only.

Paperwork/Reporting

Help maintain the paperwork and complete the necessary reports as required by the government - both local and federal.

Sort and Stock

Help is always needed to sort donations and stock the shelves. Come when you can. There is a special need for help during the food drives (i.e. USPS drive in May, the Boy Scouts Scouting for Food, holiday drives).



Saint Christopher School
570 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
www.saintchristopher.org
(860)568-4100

**Where God
and
Greatness
Are
Experienced**

April 2016

Dear Friends of St. Christopher School,

On Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 10:00 am, Saint Christopher School will host our 26th Annual Golf Tournament at the East Hartford Golf Club in East Hartford. Last year's tournament was a success and we would like for this year to be a greater success.

In the past 25 years, the money raised at this annual outing has benefited the young people of our school. We have completely revised our technology program, updated textbooks, and perhaps most importantly, have been able to offer additional tuition assistance to deserving families. This year we are hoping to make environmental changes throughout the school as well as continuing to assist deserving families with tuition.

All of this work is made possible by the generosity of many people including you. We invite you to participate as a sponsor in our Golf Tournament this year and we offer the following means to become a benefactor of this popular event:

- **Tee Signs - \$200**
- Includes 1 Tee Sponsorship and recognition in event publications
- **Bronze Sponsor - \$350**
-Includes 2 Tee Sponsorship and recognition in event publications
- **Beverage Sponsor - \$500**
-Includes Sponsorship banner at beverage cart and recognition in event publication
- **Silver Sponsor - \$650**
-Includes 2 Tee Sponsorship and recognition in event publications
-2 golfers in the tournament and all tournament activities – Buffet lunch
- **Golf Cart Sponsor - \$850**
-Includes company advertising sign in all golf cars and recognition in event publications
-2 golfers in the tournament and all tournament activities - Buffet lunch
- **Gold Sponsor - \$1200**
-Recognition as Foursome Sponsor in event publications.
-A foursome in the tournament and all tournament activities. – Buffet lunch
-All GOLD Sponsors will be recognized during Reception lunch.



*Sponsorships will be reflected on attractive Signs that are prominently displayed on the course. Each sign will recognize the level of participation and sponsors will receive special recognition in the tournament handbook and Lunch.

Schedule of Events:

*10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
 3:00 p.m. Lunch, 50/50 Raffle Drawing
 Other Raffle Prizes in the Clubhouse*

Golfers: Foursome and Individual

- Golf Foursome Sponsorship: \$525**
 - Recognition as Foursome Sponsor in event handbook
 - A Foursome in the tournament and all tournament activities
- Individual Golfer: \$150**
Please match me with a golfer.
- Lunch only option: \$40**

OUTING SPONSORS

- Gold Sponsor \$1,200
- Golf Cart Sponsor \$850
- Silver Sponsor \$650
- Beverage Cart Sponsor \$500
- Bronze Sponsor \$350
- Tee Signs \$200
- Prize Donor/ description of items _____
- Cash Donor/Amount _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Company _____
 Contact Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Email Address _____
 Player 1 Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City/St _____

Player 2 Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City/St _____

Player 3 Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City/St _____

Player 4 Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City/St _____

Payment Information Check Enclosed

Charge: Visa MC Account Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Card Holder Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Security code (3 digit code back of the card)

--	--	--

Please return a copy of this letter with a check made payable to St. Christopher School and mail by May 20, 2016 to: ***Golf Committee at St. Christopher School, 570 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT, 06118 or scan and email to: stchrsgolf16@gmail.com.*** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the committee through the school at (860) 568-4100 (weekdays between 8:00 –1:30).

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Madej

Principal at St. Christopher School