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
Sund,
CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN
This weekend we will take up the Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). This collection communicates the Gospel through Catholic social media activities and enriches our faith through television, radio, social media, podcasts, and print media. Please be generous in this week’s collection and support this important work. Remember, half of your donation stays in our Archdiocese to support local communications needs. The CCC is how we share our experience of faith, worship, and witness to the world.

A THANK YOU FORM OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS
Our final Pasta Dinner held last Saturday, April 30, was very successful and we can’t thank our parish family enough for your kindness and generosity! We had approximately 175 people in attendance and it helped us bring our total fundraising efforts to 2/3 of our goal! Please continue to pray for us as we finalize the details of our trip and know that we will pray for all of you while we are away. We invite you to visit our website while we are away as we will be using it as a blog and (trying to) update it every day so you can journey with us.

Thanks again for all your love and support!
– Ginamarie and Joseph Garabedian

DEACON ORDINATION
We are so excited to announce that our parishioner Phil Gosselin will be ordained a deacon for the Archdiocese of Hartford during a special Mass being celebrated on Saturday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. All are invited. Phil will be ordained alongside nine of his classmates all of whom have participated in a five-year long program of spiritual, pastoral and academic courses. We offer our prayers and blessings to Phil and his wife Alice as they embark on this journey of service to the church. Congratulations Phil!

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. More details to come.

Prayer for Mother’s Day
Thank you God for all mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, and those who have provided love, support, time and talents to each of us. We ask for your blessing on those living and not living and for mothers to be. We pray they always turn to you in times of joy and sorrow and that they continue to be a source of strength in leading us to you. May all mothers know your loving and gentle presence. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Father John and the entire parish staff wish all the mothers of our parish a Happy Mother’s Day!

RETIREMENT PARTY
In Honor of Mrs. Kathleen Madej
This 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. A short program will begin the evening, but you may stop in at any time that is convenient for you to offer your best wishes to Mrs. Madej. Refreshments are being served.

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
The 2016 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, God’s Mercy at Work presents each of us with the opportunity to give back to the Lord by helping those in need in our communities. Know that your financial support will touch the lives of thousands of people who are served in our Archdiocese through the Appeal. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year’s Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. Appeal packets are available at the main entrance of the church. You may visit archdioceseofhartford.org for more information and to make an online donation.

BABY BOTTLES FOR BIRTHRIGHT
Baby bottles will be available after all Masses on this weekend. Please plan to take a bottle home, fill it with your spare change (cash or a check) and return it on the weekend of May 21/22. This is an opportunity for the St. Christopher community to have a hands-on involvement in a project that helps saves the lives of unborn children and makes a difference in their mothers’ lives, too. Thanks for your support.
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Sunday ~ May 15
Next Sunday will be a busy day here at our parish. We will welcome Archbishop Blair who will celebrate our 10:30 a.m. Mass. We will also welcome several priests and deacons who have served our parish family over the years. Immediately following the Mass, we will process out of the church to the Marian Garden for a Dedication Ceremony. After the ceremony, everyone is invited to attend a luncheon being held in our parish school’s gymnasium. Although there is no fee to attend the luncheon, a free will offering will be accepted at a suggested offering of $5 per person (12 and under are free and $20 maximum per family).

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS
We are seeking a few more volunteers to help with the various responsibilities of the St. Christopher/ South Congregational Food Bank. A detailed breakdown of the responsibilities can be found on the yellow sheet at all the church entrances. Please contact the parish office to express your interest or to get more information.

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.

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP BULLETIN
Each weekend we offer copies of the Children’s Worship Bulletin for the young people of our parish. There are two versions - one for ages 3-6 and another for ages 7-12. This bulletin contains age appropriate activities that reinforce the weekend’s Gospel message. We’re excited that these bulletins now contain a secret code that unlocks games that can be played online. You will find copies of these bulletins at the main entrance.

VOCATION OFFICE
The Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford is happy to announce the launch of a new website for vocations to the diocesan priesthood. It is www.hartfordpriest.com. There are lots of photos and valuable information for those who might be discerning the vocation to the priesthood.

In addition, you will find information on the website regarding the new St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society (SJVVPS) launched as a foundation for our work promoting vocations and asking God for the grace of perseverance for our seminarians and those already living their vocations. Included are prayers that we can all offer for priests and for vocations.

MONTHLY DISCERNMENT NIGHT
The Vocation Office will be holding their next evening of discernment on Thursday, June 2 from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Becket Church in Cheshire. There will be food, prayer, a reflection on the process of vocational discernment, and a time of fraternity. If you plan to attend, please contact the Vocations Office at 860-242-5573 or by e-mail at vocations@aohct.org. Other dates include July 11 at St. Mary in Newington and August 8 at St. Dominic in Southington.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
Between Ascension and Pentecost, the apostles “devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus.” Mary’s presence at the center of the disciples’ circle of prayer provides “a source of comfort and strength,” says Pope Francis, for Mary’s “entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh.” At the foot of the cross, Mary witnessed Jesus’ forgiveness of his executioners, a supreme expression of the depths to which God’s mercy can reach. “Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception,” Francis notes. Being able to live that unconditional forgiving mercy is the grace we pray for, the Holy Spirit to bestow. During these days of prayer before Pentecost, in this month dedicated to Our Lady, “may the sweetness of [Mary’s] countenance watch over us,” Francis prays, “so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God’s tenderness” (Misericordiae Vultus, 24).

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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
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 ~ 860-568-1772

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, May 15, 2016 – Pentecost Sunday

The real purpose of such an abundance or outpouring of gifts from God becomes clear when we meditate on today’s short Gospel (Jn 20:19-23). Jesus appears to the fearful disciples and immediately gives them his peace. He then does something very significant: he shows them his wounds, which -- as Peter would later teach (1 Pet 2:24) would remind them of Isaiah’s words, “by his wounds you were healed.” Jesus then empowers them to go forth, and to be forgiving just as he was forgiving.

PARISH CONTACTS

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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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 __________________________ State ________ Zip ________
Phone ____________________________
Email Address ______________________
Player 1 Name _____________________
  Email __________________________
  Address ________________________
  City/St _________________________
Player 2 Name _____________________
  Email __________________________
  Address ________________________
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Player 3 Name _____________________
  Email __________________________
  Address ________________________
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Player 4 Name _____________________
  Email __________________________
  Address ________________________
  City/St _________________________

Payment Information
Charge: ☐ Visa ☐ MC Account Number:

[Redacted]
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: stchrisgolf16@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,

[Signature]
Kathleen E. Madej
Principal at St. Christopher School