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
“[T]he love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

– Romans 5:5b

**Mass for the Week**

**Saturday, May 21 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Charles Bernard – 11th Anniversary**
(Wife & Family)

**Sunday, May 22 – 8:00 a.m.**

**Antonio Leonardo**
(Wife & Family)

**Sunday, May 22 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Morene Roadman**
(Al & Sally Labieniec)

**Monday, May 23 – 7:30 a.m.**

**Joseph Bernard Burns – 25th Anniversary**
(Son Joe & Carolyn Kronen)

**Tuesday, May 24 – 7:30 a.m.**

**Emilio & Alfonzina Marra**
(Children)

**Wednesday, May 25 – 7:30 a.m.**

**Susan Viglione – 21st Anniversary**
(Jean Walker)

**Thursday, May 26 – 7:30 a.m.**

**Debbie Fallacaro**
(Family)

**Saturday, May 28 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Deceased Members of the Carrubba Family**
(The Miano Family)

**Sunday, May 29 – 8:00 a.m.**

**Antonio Leonardo – 3rd Anniversary**
(Wife & Family)

**Sunday, May 29 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Michelle Wall**
(Al & Sally Labieniec)

**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (May 15):  $ 5,779*

*Includes $603 received through our Online Giving program and $270 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

**PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT**

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

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. That means we are celebrating God on this holy day. In the Catholic Church a solemnity is the highest ranking holy day possible (followed by a feast and a memorial). The Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our Catholic faith.

As Catholics we acknowledge the Holy Trinity when we arrive in a church, and several times during our liturgies as well as other times. Every time we make the sign of the cross we are expressing our faith in the Trinity and our faith that the Trinity was revealed by Jesus on the Cross. One part of stewardship is knowing our traditions and the meanings behind them.

Making the sign of the Cross should never be an empty gesture on our parts. Jesus told us that if we love Him, God (the Trinity) will come and dwell within us. More than once St. Paul reminds us that we are “temples of the living God.” God is within each and every one of us. Do we realize that? Do we live out that truth? Today’s feast confronts us to examine ourselves and our lives. As good stewards we need to live with the certainty that the Blessed Trinity is present in us. Then we need to reflect that presence.

Pope Francis, in his homily on the Feast of the Holy Trinity in 2013, said, “In today’s feast we praise God for His glory is immense. We praise Him and thank Him for He is love, and He calls us to embrace Him and those around us with that love.”

– www.thecatholicsteward.com

**THE HOLY TRINITY**

**Father** – Eternal Love

**Son** – Eternal Mercy

**Holy Spirit** – Eternal Power
Dear Friends,

Last Sunday we celebrated, with gratitude to God for his blessings, the fiftieth anniversary of our parish family. I was pleased that so many of you were able to join us for this celebration. It was a fitting tribute to the past half century and a great beginning to the next fifty years and more. Now I would like to express my gratitude to the many people, parishioners and non-parishioners alike, who made it such a wonderful and memorable event.

Special thanks goes to Bonnie Szalay and Mary Alice Sydor for preparing our liturgical program, to our organist Roberta De Fiore and our Chancel and Children’s Choirs, to our lectors, ushers, greeters, and altar servers and to our altar committee and parish custodian, Roger Dube.

Thank you also to those who worked tirelessly on our Marian Garden project: our parishioners Peter Marra of Peter’s Landscaping, Travis Simpson, and Stephen Roczynski of Amped Up Electric, and to Bonnie Szalay and Joan Perrone for their administrative support. Because of their efforts and the support of those who have already purchased a piece of the Garden, we have a lasting monument for future generations to enjoy.

I am grateful to Marie Gallo-Garabedian and her crew for organizing a wonderful luncheon, and to Danielle Vargas who assisted her with the administrative tasks, to Scott Gay, his parents and their crew who prepared the food, and to Fran Tebecio for securing the donation of a floral arrangement from Shop Rite in Manchester (Archbishop Blair was happy to receive it as a gift before he left and said he would put it in his private chapel).

All the events of the day are well preserved thanks to the photography of parishioner Joe Kronen who will assemble a framed collage for display.

I like to say that at Saint Christopher’s, when there’s a need, it isn’t long before people step forward to help and that was certainly the case with this celebration.

The past, present, and future all converged so beautifully on Saint Christopher’s last Sunday and I thank God for blessing us with such a memorable celebration.

May God bless you all.

– Father John

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

DEACON ORDINATION

We are honored 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!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The words of Jesus in today’s gospel, “I have many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them now.” could have been said by any parent. It can be frustrating because our desire to guide is often misinterpreted or poorly received. We cannot program our children. We can only teach, lead and trust the Spirit of truth will guide them.

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

This weekend is Commitment Weekend at our parish and across the Archdiocese of the 2016 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. Inserted into this weekend’s bulletin is a flyer/envelope to help make it convenient for you to make your gift today. (Some bulletins do not contain this insert due to a limited supply of flyers. Appeal packets can be found at the main entrance of the church.) Thank you to the parish families who have already made a gift. If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider doing so.

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.
ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED
Our parish is actively seeking students in Grades 4 and above who are interested in becoming an Altar Server. If you would like to learn more about the Altar Server ministry, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 or send an e-mail to stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net. A training session will be held in the near future.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
The word mercy, Pope Francis declared in his announcement of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, “reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity” (Misericordiae Vultus, 2). For mercy is how God comes to meet us; mercy is the fundamental law helping us recognize everyone as brothers and sisters; mercy is the bridge connecting God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness. God’s self-revelation as a life-giving, love-sharing Trinity of Persons draws us closer to God in friendship and communion. Both Judaism and Islam consider mercy one of God’s most important attributes. Israel unceasingly proclaims God boundless in mercy. Islam addresses the Creator as “Merciful and Kind,” believing divine mercy limitless, its doors always open. May this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis prays, open us to more fervent dialogue, deepen our mutual understanding, eliminate all closed-minded disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.

PIN MINISTRY NEWS
Our Parishioner in Need ministry is currently assisting a parish family who is going through a difficult time. Through your generous donations and support of our yearly bake sale, we’re able to provide this family with grocery gift cards to help ease their financial struggles. The family is also in need of the following:

- Girl’s clothing in size 2T-4T (gently used is okay)
- Outdoor yard toys (gently used is okay)
- Store coupons (i.e. diapers)

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact PIN committee member Toni Mintel at 860-569-7593 (evenings). We wish to remind you that at every church entrance there are PIN ministry donation envelopes you may to use to make a monetary donation at any time. Your donation will enable us to continue to help ease the suffering of parish families as they face difficult times. In this year of mercy and compassion, can we say, “Here I am Lord, I come to do your will?” And as always, please continue to keep our parishioners in need in your prayers.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE
The Catholic Biblical School, offered by the Archdiocese of Hartford, provides an opportunity for adults to come to know, love, and live scripture through an in-depth Bible study from a Catholic perspective. Classes will begin in mid-September and applications are due by August 15. The tuition cost is very affordable. Please contact Barbara Jean Daly Horell at 860-242-5573 for more information or to make an appointment. Phil Gosselin is our parish contact and he can be reached at 860-568-5001 if you would like talk to him about the Catholic Biblical School experience. You may also visit www.orehartford.org for more information.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS
A Memorial Day Mass will be held on Monday, May 30 at 9:00 a.m. in the mausoleum chapel at St. Mary Cemetery. The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites you to this special Celebration of the Eucharist to remember and honor our deceased veterans and other loved ones who have gone before us.

“Peace is a gift that is embodied through the Holy Spirit through the acceptance of Christ.”

–Monica Johnson
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Most Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Proverbs 8: 22-31</td>
<td>1 Peter 1: 3-9</td>
<td>1 Peter 1: 10-16</td>
<td>1 Peter 1: 18-25</td>
<td>1 Peter 2: 2-5, 9-12</td>
<td>1 Peter 4: 7-13</td>
<td>Genesis 14: 18-20</td>
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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 29, 2016 – Body and Blood of Christ

God promised that through Jesus’ death on the cross, we would be forgiven for our sins. The agreement was sealed with the Body and Blood of Jesus. At the Last Supper, when Jesus took bread and wine and blessed them, he promised to give his own body and blood as proof of God's great love for us. We remember and celebrate this promise each time we celebrate 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
lawlizard80@yahoo.com

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY
Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
tobusysue@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